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MLA Calls for Review of 2BHK Allotments

SPECIAL 02



can KGF beauty shine bigger?

BOX OFFICE 12

Revanth urges Centre to allocate 11.56 LAKH HOUSES



HYDERABAD, JULY 28

(NSS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy urged Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan to allocate 11,56,915 houses to Telangana under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The Chief Minister informed the Union Minister that the People's Government in Telangana has been giving priority to the construction of houses for the poor since assuming power in the state.

Revanth Reddy met Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday. During the meeting, he briefed the details of the construction of the 'Indiramma Houses' for poorer sections. The Chief Minister apprised the Union Minister that demand for housing increased as the previous government failed to utilise the PMAY-G scheme and lakhs of poor were left without homes for the past decade.

The Chief Minister stated that a survey conducted by the state government using the 'Awaas+' app—developed by the Union Ministry of Rural Development—had identified 11,56,915 eligible rural families. The Union Minister was requested to allocate the houses to Telangana at the earliest. In view of the El Niño conditions, Revanth Reddy also requested Shivraj Singh Chouhan to include additional works under the 'Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajivika Mission (Rural)' (VB-G-RAM-G).

The Chief Minister brought to the attention of the Union Minister that the inclusion of additional activities in the scheme will improve livelihoods and promote crop diversification for SCs, STs, small and marginal farmers, and agricultural laborers, who are facing a lack of work due to deficient rainfall.

He requested Chouhan to include activities such as the construction of vegetable trellis structures, development of fodder plots, mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing sheds, kitchen

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CS Puts Districts on Rain Alert

Hyderabad, July 28: With the IMD predicting heavy rainfall across Telangana for the next two to three days, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed all District Collectors to remain vigilant and take preventive measures to avoid public inconvenience.

During a teleconference with Collectors, Police Commissioners and SPs, the CS reviewed the rainfall situation, agriculture contingency plans and other key issues. He said while five to six districts received normal rainfall, 26 districts continue to face a deficit. Jaju informed that NDRF teams have already been deployed in Bhadradri Kothagudem (Bhadrachalam), Mulugu and Nirmal districts, with additional teams kept ready for emergency deployment.

Principal Secretary Ahmed Nadeem, Secretaries Harichandana and Surendra Mohan also attended the review meeting.

GENERATION BETRAYED QUESTIONS UNANSWERED



PRIYANKA GANDHI TAKES ON POWER OVER PAPER LEAKS, POLICE BRUTALITY AND THE COLLAPSE OF TRUST

WHEN THE HOUSE FELL SILENT AND THE QUESTIONS GREW LOUDER

Priyanka Gandhi's fiercest intervention on the examination crisis was not merely an attack on the government. It was an attempt to place the anguish of millions of students at the centre of Parliament. Whether the government answers those questions now may determine how an entire generation remembers this moment.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

There are speeches that fill the parliamentary record and then disappear. There are speeches that force uncomfortable questions into the national conversation. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's intervention during the debate on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill belonged to the second category.

From the very first sentence, she anchored her argument in constitutional accountability before moving relentlessly through alleged police excesses, repeated examination paper leaks, youth unemployment and what she described as the growing collapse of public trust in India's examination system. Her address repeatedly demanded answers from the government while framing the examination crisis as far more than an administrative failure. According to her, it has become a crisis of faith between young Indians and the State itself.

Whether one agrees with her politics or not, the questions she placed before the House cannot simply be dismissed as routine opposition rhetoric.

Priyanka Gandhi deliberately avoided beginning with politics. Instead, she began with first principles.

According to her, Parliament exists because the people placed their trust in those elected to represent them. She argued that democracy survives only when governments remain accountable and that constitutional

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TELANGANA CONDUCIVE FOR HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES: CM

Congratulates Skyroot Aerospace founders

02

Heavy Rains Disrupt Hyd Traffic

Joint CP Joel Davis Inspects Waterlogging Spots



Hyderabad, July 28: Heavy rainfall across Hyderabad led to waterlogging at several key locations, slowing down traffic movement in parts of the city on Tuesday. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sri Joel Davis, IPS, conducted a field inspection at major waterlogging points, including Lakdikapul, Ayodhya Junction, and PTI Masab Tank, to review the situation and traffic management measures. During the inspection, the Joint CP assessed drainage arrangements and monitored the deployment of traffic personnel at affected locations. With rainwater accumulation causing delays and slow movement of vehicles, traffic police teams were stationed across the city to regulate traffic and assist commuters.

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Tummala hails Rythu Nestam as scientific farming platform



HYDERABAD, JULY 28

The 100th episode of the 'Rythu Nestam' programme was celebrated on a grand scale at the Telangana Secretariat in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

The event was attended by Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Agriculture Special Chief Secretary K. Surendra Mohan, Agriculture Director B. Gopi, Horticulture Managing Director Yasmin Basha, Cooperation Commissioner Rahul Raj, Vice-Chancellors of the State Agricultural and Horticultural Universities Janayya and Raji Reddy, progressive farmers from various districts, and senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion,

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THREE MISSING MINORS SAFELY RESCUED

HYDERABAD, JULY 28 (NSS)

Three minor girls who went missing from Mailardevpally were traced aboard the Dakshin Express at Bina Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh and safely reunited with their families.

After a missing complaint was filed on July 25, Mailardevpally police formed five teams, analysed CCTV footage and used technical surveillance to track the girls. The search operation was conducted under the supervision of Rajendranagar DCP.

Police found that the girls had left home on July 24 following emotional distress. Railway Police intercepted the train, rescued them and brought them back to Hyderabad. After counselling and legal procedures, the girls were handed over to their parents. Police advised parents to maintain open communication with children and address their concerns patiently.

KTR Appeals for Kazipet Railway Division

HYDERABAD, JULY 28:



BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao met Union Minister for Railways, Information Technology and Electronics Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Tuesday and submitted detailed representations seeking the establishment of the Kazipet Railway Division, expeditious completion of key railway projects in Telangana, and enhanced central government support for reviving the State's Tier-2 IT ecosystem.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, KT Rama Rao said that for the BRS, the development and progress of Telangana were more important than politics, and that the party would always raise issues concerning the interests of the people irrespective of political considerations. The BRS leader urged the Union Minister to establish a Kazipet Railway Division as part of the ongoing restructuring of the South Central Railway.

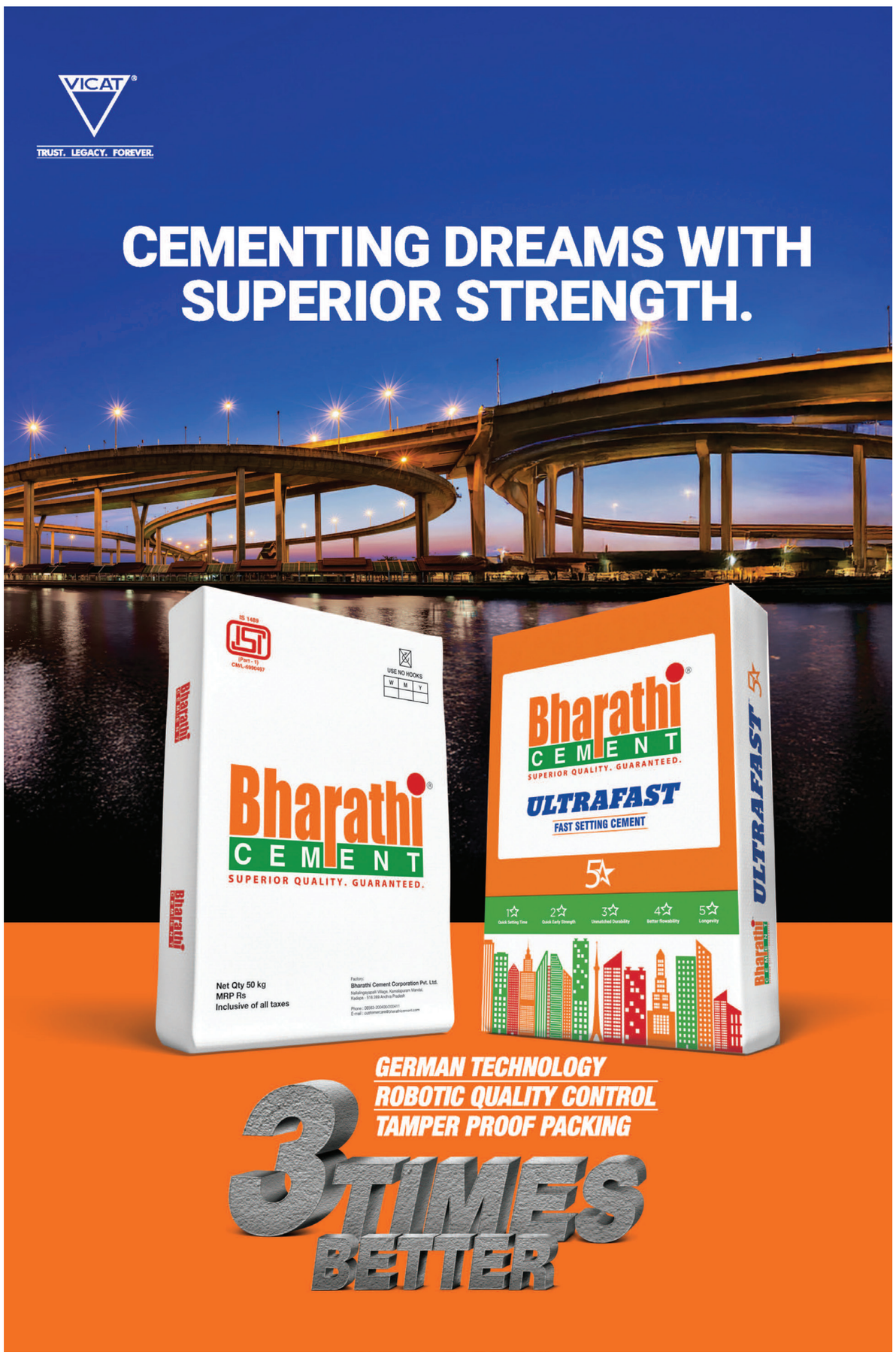
He proposed that the new division should include the Kazipet–Ballarshah, Peddapalli–Nizamabad, Kazipet–Errupalem, Dornakal–Manuguru, Mothumarri–Vishnupuram and Kazipet–Vangapalli railway sections, creating a division with nearly 2,000 track kilometres.

The BRS working president pointed out that railway employees have extended their full support to the proposal and observed that while Guntur Division functions with around 900 kilometres and Vijayawada and Guntakal Divisions have nearly 2,200 kilometres each, a Kazipet Division is both operationally feasible and strategically important.

He also requested the Centre to examine the feasibility of establishing a Kothagudem Railway Division.

KTR requested the Union Minister to accelerate

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MLA Calls for Review of 2BHK Allotments

Madhavaram Krishna Rao urges the Congress government to act responsibly, transparency and protect the rights of the poor

Medchal-Malkajgiri, July 28: Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao on Tuesday raised serious concerns over the allotment of double bedroom houses in Kukatpally and urged the ruling Congress government to ensure transparency and fairness in the process.



Speaking at a media conference, the MLA alleged that 2BHK houses meant for poor and eligible families are being allotted to persons recommended by ministers, collectors and officials. He released documents to the media and claimed that these records show irregularities in the allotment process. Krishna Rao said that 145 double bedroom houses were constructed at Khaitlapur during the KCR government. He stated that these houses were intended for poor families, especially the residents of Amruth Nagar Thanda who are living near the nala. He said efforts were made to ensure that the houses reach genuinely needy people.

He also said that a request was submitted to the Collector to allot houses to poor journalists, but there has been no response so far.

The MLA alleged that some houses were allotted through recommendations from officials and political leaders. He claimed that one house was allotted on behalf of the Housing Board Vice-Chairman, another through the Hyderabad-Rangareddy Collector's reference, and another to a woman residing in Khammam but allotted a house in Kukatpally.

He further alleged that houses were also allotted through the recommendation of the Endowment Commissioner and to Pratyusha, who is working in the Quthbullapur Revenue Department. He also mentioned the names of Naresh Kumar and Shailaja, alleging that allotments were made through political recommendations.

Questioning the process, Krishna Rao asked whether houses built for the poor should be allotted through recommendation letters. He said that if such practices continue, the genuinely poor and eligible families will lose their rightful opportunity.

The MLA said the KCR government had built double bedroom houses for poor families and provided them without collecting even one rupee. He also pointed out that earlier registrations were mainly done in the names of women, but now some houses are allegedly being registered in the names of men, which he said raises questions about the procedure.

He alleged that basic rules are not being followed and that houses are being given even to persons who did not apply. He also claimed that people are being asked to pay money in the name of applications and allotments.

Krishna Rao said the Congress government had promised one lakh double bedroom houses for Hyderabad residents, but people are now facing confusion and disappointment. He alleged that Rs. 10,000 is being collected in the name of applications and that some people are being asked to pay up to Rs. 6 lakh for allotment. He questioned how poor families could afford such amounts.

At the same time, the MLA praised the Medchal Collector, saying that the officer is available to the public and is working in an impartial manner.

Giving a smooth but firm warning to the ruling government, Krishna Rao said the Congress government still has time to correct the process, publish a transparent beneficiary list, verify eligibility and give first priority to poor families. He said the issue should not be treated politically, because housing is a basic right and a matter of dignity for the poor. He warned that if houses are allotted to recommended persons instead of eligible poor families, he would not remain silent. He said he would continue the fight until justice is done and would approach the High Court if necessary.

Krishna Rao also appealed to the government to review all allotments, cancel any irregular allocations and ensure that every double bedroom house reaches the people for whom it was originally built.

FITNESS ON WHEELS AT MERIDIAN SCHOOL

BY SAMUDRALA KIRAN , CORRESPONDENT



Medchal-Malkajgiri, July 28: Meridian School, Kukatpally, organised Pedalthon 2026 – Father & Child Duo Ride, a vibrant wellness initiative that brought together parents and children for a morning dedicated to fitness, health awareness, mindfulness and family bonding.

The event reflected the school's commitment to promoting holistic education by encouraging students and families to adopt active and healthy lifestyles. Parents and children arrived with enthusiasm, reserved their bicycles, and participated in the much-awaited cycling ride. The Pedalthon was flagged off amid cheers as father-child duos pedalled together, celebrating fitness, togetherness and the joy of outdoor activity.

After completing the ride, participants returned to the base and assembled at the designated point for the next round of wellness activities. A calming yoga session helped families relax and reconnect with themselves, while an energetic Zumba session added excitement and positivity to the morning. Parents and children danced together, turning the event into a lively celebration of health and happiness.

One of the meaningful highlights of the programme was the Pledge Tree Activity, where participants made personal commitments towards healthier and more responsible living. Families pledged to adopt simple but impactful habits such as regular physical activity, mindful eating and better lifestyle choices.

As part of the school's focus on preventive healthcare, a health camp was organised in collaboration with KIMS Hospitals. The camp offered ENT, dental, general physician and nutritionist consultations, giving parents and children access to professional medical guidance. The initiative reinforced the importance of early health awareness, nutrition and informed decision-making for overall well-being.

A wholesome breakfast was also served, allowing participants to relax, interact and refuel after the energetic morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Ms. Aakrusha L. Bellaney emphasised the importance of integrating physical fitness, mindfulness, nutrition and preventive healthcare into daily life. She encouraged parents and children to embrace healthy habits together and make wellness a shared family journey.

COO Mr. Amogh Butta appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the Meridian School community and highlighted the importance of creating meaningful platforms that bring families together through health-focused initiatives.

The event was anchored by Ms. Nandeeta and Ms. Ratna, who kept the programme lively and engaging with their energetic hosting and audience interaction.

Pedalthon 2026 concluded with smiles, renewed energy and cherished memories. The event stood as a strong reflection of Meridian School, Kukatpally's vision of "Connecting the Mind and Heart", inspiring the school community to keep moving, stay connected and choose a healthier tomorrow.

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Revanth urges Centre to allocate 11.56 LAKH HOUSES

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gardens (for leafy greens and vegetables), and bamboo plantations on farmers' lands under the VB-G-RAM-G scheme. The Chief Minister also highlighted the urgent need to incorporate works involving the construction of water-retention trenches on hill slopes, moisture-conservation trenches for existing plantations and orchards, and the restoration of lands damaged by floods and sand casting. Revanth Reddy noted that under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), beneficiaries of 'Indiramma' houses had the opportunity to undertake up to 90 days of work during the house construction process. In view of high demand for work, the Chief Minister requested the Union Minister to approve the inclusion of additional works under the VB-G-M-G scheme. The inclusion of other projects proposed by the state government to meet local needs into the scheme was also discussed in the meeting.

MPs Dr. Mallu Ravi, Vem Narendar Reddy, Porika Balaram Naik, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Suresh Shetkar, Gaddam Vamshi Krishna, and M. Anil Kumar Yadav, Chief Minister's Advisor Ramakrishna Rao and Secretary (coordination) Advait Kumar Singh were also present.

Tummala hails Rythu Nestam as scientific farming platform

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Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the government had launched the Rythu Nestam initiative by equipping Rythu Vedikas with video conferencing facilities to transform them into knowledge centres for farmers, instead of allowing them to remain underutilised as they were during the previous government's tenure. He said the programme was designed to bring scientists, agricultural experts, officials and farmers onto a common platform, enabling direct interaction and promoting scientific farming practices among cultivators.

The Minister noted that the programme, inaugurated by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on March 6, 2024, had successfully completed 100 episodes, describing it as a testament to the confidence reposed by farmers in the initiative.

He stated that a total of 24,85,581 farmers have participated in the programme so far, including 5,26,107 women farmers. Over the past two years, 2,43,830 officials have also taken part, taking the total number of beneficiaries to more than 27.30 lakh. The Minister said Telangana is the first state in the country to digitally connect Rythu Vedikas through video conferencing and facilitate direct interaction between farmers and agricultural scientists. Tummala Nageswara Rao explained that Rythu Nestam, conducted every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., enables farmers to receive real-time answers from scientists to their queries, helping them make timely decisions before crop damage occurs. The Minister felicitated progressive farmers from various districts in recognition of their contributions to agriculture.

TWO UoH PROFESSORS WIN PRESTIGIOUS ANRF JC BOSE GRANT

Hyderabad, July 28: The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has achieved a significant academic milestone with two of its senior faculty members being awarded the prestigious JC Bose Grant (JBG) by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India. The awardees are Prof Rajadurai Chandrasekar from the School of Chemistry and Prof Naresh Babu V Sepuri from the Department of Biochemistry, School of Life Sciences. Introduced by ANRF in 2025, the JC Bose Grant is among India's highest individual research honors, recognizing outstanding senior scientists and supporting high-impact, cutting-edge research. Prof. Chandrasekar's project, "Artificial Intelligence-enabled Soft Materials for Programmable Optical Communication Devices", aims to develop AI-powered soft materials for next-generation optical communication technologies. Prof. Sepuri's five-year research project, "Defining the functional Heterogeneity of Mitochondria in Modulating Metabolic Plasticity and Disease States", will explore how mitochondrial diversity influences metabolism, aging, and disease, potentially advancing the understanding of several metabolic disorders. The grant provides Rs.25 lakh annually for five years for research, along with Rs.1 lakh per year as institutional overhead.

TELANGANA CONDUCIVE FOR HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES: CM

"Skyroot Aerospace's success is a proud milestone for India and a testament to the power of innovation. Telangana will continue to support pioneers in the space and technology sectors."
— Revanth Reddy, CM

New Delhi: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the Telangana government is committed to creating a favorable environment for the establishment of advanced technology industries and startups. Skyroot Aerospace Co-founder and CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana, along with Co-founder and COO Naga Bharath Daka, paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Minister in New Delhi. During the meeting, they briefed the Chief Minister on the successful launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle. They noted that this achievement has made India the third country in the world, after the United States and China, to attain orbital launch capability through the private sector.

The meeting also included discussions on the rapid growth of Telangana's aerospace and space technology sectors, innovation, advanced manufacturing, research and development (R&D), and opportunities for collaboration between the government and private space industry. On the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated the founders of Skyroot Aerospace on their achievement. He praised their success, saying it would further strengthen India's position in the global space sector and elevate the country's standing on the world stage.

Heavy Rains Disrupt..

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The Hyderabad Traffic Police advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel and stay indoors unless required. Commuters were urged to drive cautiously at low speeds, follow instructions issued by traffic personnel, and allow additional travel time due to possible delays.

Officials also appealed to residents to stay updated through the official social media platforms of Hyderabad Traffic Police for real-time information on traffic conditions and advisories.

KTR Appeals for Kazipet Railway Division

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the 151-kilometre Manoharabad–Siddipet–Sircilla–Vemulawada–Kothapalli Broad Gauge Railway Line, describing it as a long-standing aspiration of the people of Telangana.

The 76-kilometre Manoharabad–Siddipet section was completed. However, the construction of the remaining 75 kilometres from Siddipet to Sircilla, Vemulawada and Kothapalli has slowed considerably after the Congress government assumed office, he pointed out.

The BRS leader stated that the Union Minister informed him that the project has been delayed because the Telangana government has not released its pending contribution of ₹511 crore, while nearly 96



hectares of land acquisition also remain pending. KTR noted that project costs have escalated from ₹1,160 crore to nearly ₹2,780 crore, underscoring the need for immediate intervention.

He emphasised that the railway line is crucial for Sircilla, one of Telangana's major textile hubs, and Vemulawada, home to the famous Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple, which attracts lakhs of devotees every year.

KT Rama Rao also requested the Centre to include Sircilla and Vemulawada Railway Stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, approve a Rail-cum-Road Bridge across the Mid Manair Reservoir, complete electrification of the Kothapalli–Manoharabad Railway Line, and constitute a high-level coordination committee comprising officials from South Central Railway and the Telangana government for continuous monitoring of the project in line with the Prime Minister's PM Gati Shakti vision.

The BRS working president further informed that he also submitted a separate representation seeking Central government support for strengthening Telangana's Tier-2 IT ecosystem.

KTR expressed concern that IT expansion has slowed over the past two years, occupancy levels in IT Towers have declined and some companies have scaled down their operations.

He requested the Union Minister to establish an IndiaAI Centre/IndiaAI Data Lab in Warangal, sanction an STPI Centre of Entrepreneurship in Karimnagar or Khammam focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Semiconductor Design and Deep Tech, and establish an additional STPI Centre in another Tier-2 city.

GENERATION BETRAYED..

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responsibility cannot become a slogan reserved only for ceremonial occasions.

Her opening argument established the framework for everything that followed. The debate, she suggested, was not merely about legislation to prevent examination malpractice. It was about whether those exercising power were prepared to answer uncomfortable questions when public institutions fail.

That opening gave the speech unusual moral weight before it entered the political battlefield.

THE STUDENTS AT THE CENTRE OF HER ARGUMENT

The emotional core of the address rested on students. Priyanka Gandhi described thousands of young people who had protested in recent days, portraying them as ordinary students whose families had invested their savings, jewellery, land and years of sacrifice in the hope of securing a better future through education.

She argued that repeated examination controversies have created a dangerous perception among many young people that merit alone no longer guarantees opportunity.

That observation strikes at something much deeper than politics. Every paper leak chips away at public confidence. Every cancelled examination creates another layer of uncertainty. Every delay forces families into another cycle of expense and anxiety.

The real damage extends far beyond one examination. It reaches into public trust itself.

THE QUESTIONS PRIYANKA GANDHI DEMANDED THE GOVERNMENT ANSWER

Who authorised the police response against protesting students?

Why were peaceful protesters allegedly subjected to force?

Why has the examination system witnessed repeated paper leaks?

Why has accountability remained elusive despite recurring controversies?

What concrete reforms will restore public confidence?

THE MOST EXPLOSIVE MOMENT OF THE SPEECH

The sharpest political confrontation came when Priyanka Gandhi questioned the reported use of force against protesting students.

She alleged that students had faced tear gas, water cannons, lathi charges and other forms of police action. She also questioned reports concerning the use of pellet guns and demanded to know who authorised such measures.

These assertions formed part of her speech in Parliament and represented allegations and demands directed at the government. They require independent verification and have become matters of political dispute.

Her challenge inside the House was direct. If such force was indeed authorised, she demanded to know by whom. If it was not, she demanded that the government clarify the record. The questions were aimed squarely at the Union government and sought a political explanation rather than a procedural one.

"The Constitution of this country is above all for us and democracy is supreme." — Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

"Who gave the order to use pellet guns?" — Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

"The Prime Minister needs to change the angle of his heart, not the angle of the camera." — Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

FROM THE HOSPITAL TO THE FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT

One of the speech's most restrained passages became one of its most powerful. Priyanka Gandhi recounted visiting Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and meeting an injured student receiving treatment after the protests. She spoke of the student's mother and said that her anguish continued to stay with her.

Unlike several other portions of the speech, this section relied less on political attack and more on personal testimony. The effect was unmistakable. Instead of discussing statistics alone, she attempted to humanise the cost of the confrontation.

THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM UNDER THE SCANNER

Priyanka Gandhi widened the debate beyond the protests themselves. She argued that repeated paper leaks, escalating educational costs, coaching expenses and unemployment together have created deep frustration among students.

She cited figures relating to paper leaks and students allegedly affected over the past decade while arguing that those responsible had largely escaped punishment. These figures formed part of her parliamentary intervention and should be read in that context unless independently verified through official records.

Her larger political argument, however, was unmistakable. If the examination system repeatedly fails, public confidence inevitably erodes.

THE POLITICS OF RESIGNATION

Priyanka Gandhi also targeted the political messaging surrounding the resignation of the Education Minister. She contrasted what she described as celebratory scenes among ruling party MPs with the continuing distress of protesting students. For her, the symbolism mattered. Governments, she suggested, should demonstrate empathy before celebration.

Whether that characterisation is accepted or rejected politically, it became one of the defining images of her address.

THE BIGGER QUESTION BEYOND PARTY LINES

Long after today's political exchanges fade, one question will remain:

How does India restore credibility to public examinations?

Students are not concerned with parliamentary slogans.

They want examinations conducted fairly.

They want results declared on time.

They want recruitment completed without endless litigation.

Most importantly, they want confidence that effort, preparation and merit will not be defeated by organised malpractice. That challenge belongs to every government, irrespective of political affiliation.

MY LAST SHOT

Parliament witnessed many accusations.

The government will undoubtedly reject several of them.

Some allegations may become subjects of official clarification, investigation or political contest. That is the nature of democracy.

But beneath the confrontation lies an issue no responsible government, opposition or institution can afford to ignore.

India's young generation measures democracy differently from previous generations. It measures it through examination halls, recruitment notices, answer sheets, interview lists and employment opportunities. Every paper leak damages more than an examination. It damages belief.

Priyanka Gandhi's speech sought to convert that loss of belief into a demand for accountability. Whether the government accepts her arguments or rejects them entirely is a matter of politics.

Whether India succeeds in rebuilding confidence in its examination system is a matter of national importance.

On that question, the country deserves clear answers, not because one opposition leader demanded them, but because millions of students continue to wait for them.

GITAM Hyderabad Hosts Indian Air Force Career Guidance Seminar





HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized a one-day seminar on "Indian Air Force Placement: Enhancement Vehicle – Career Guidance" on Tuesday. The programme was conducted by the Department of Aerospace Engineering in collaboration with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to create awareness among students about career opportunities in the armed forces.

Master Warrant Officer Deepak Bhardwaj of the Indian Air Force attended the programme as the chief guest along with a team of IAF personnel. A mobile exhibition showcasing the Indian Air Force's capabilities was also displayed, and the simulation facility arranged for the benefit of students. Addressing the gathering, Deepak Bhardwaj provided comprehensive information on career opportunities in the Indian Air Force, explaining various entry routes, including UPSC, AFCAT, and NCC Special Entry, as well as Permanent Commission and Short Service Commission. He outlined career progression from entry-level officer to the position of Chief of the Air Staff and elaborated on the Flying, Technical, and Ground Duty branches, along with the eligibility criteria and required qualifications for each stream.

He also explained the Air Force Selection Board (AFSB) process, covering written examinations, personality assessment, psychological tests, group tasks, interviews, medical examinations, and merit-based selection. Emphasizing the scientific and transparent selection procedure, he encouraged students to prepare themselves with confidence and commitment. Highlighting the benefits of an Air Force career, he spoke about attractive pay and allowances, furnished accommodation, comprehensive medical care, education opportunities, leave benefits, insurance coverage, adventure activities, and professional growth. He motivated students to consider serving the nation by joining the Indian Air Force either as officers or as Agniveers, and advised them to visit the official Indian Air Force careers portal for detailed information.

Deepak Bhardwaj also presented an overview of the evolution of the Indian Air Force, its vital role in national security, military logistics, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, casualty evacuation, and its contributions during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars. He introduced students to the IAF's modern fleet of fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters, and airborne surveillance systems. Earlier, Prof. Venu Kumar Nathi, Head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering, welcomed, and felicitated the guests, while Dr. Md. Akhtar Khan, Convener of the programme, highlighted the importance of career awareness initiatives for engineering students. Faculty members and students actively participated in the interactive session and clarified their queries with the IAF officers.

Skyroot founders meet Revanth after historic Vikram-1 launch

HYDERABAD

Pavan Kumar Chandana, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Nagaland Bharath Daka, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Skyroot Aerospace, called on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Delhi camp office on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the Skyroot Aerospace founders briefed the Chief Minister on the company's recent landmark achievement of successfully launching Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle, on July 18, 2026. The historic mission made India the third country, after the United States and China, to achieve private-sector orbital launch capability.

The meeting also featured discussions on Telangana's growing aerospace and space technology ecosystem, innovation, advanced manufacturing, research and development, and opportunities for collaboration between the Government of Telangana and the private space industry. The Chief Minister congratulated the founders on their remarkable achievement and appreciated their contribution to strengthening India's position in the global space sector. He reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to fostering innovation and creating a world-class ecosystem for startups and high-technology industries in the State.

Age Limit Should Be Increased Equally for Candidates of All Categories: EBC Welfare Association

HYDERABAD



In view of the ongoing government recruitment process in the state, the EBC Welfare Association's Central Committee has urged the state government to increase the upper age limit for all categories of candidates to ensure equal justice and equal opportunities.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the National President of the EBC Welfare Association, Vallapureddy Ravinder Reddy, said that because government recruitment had not taken place for a long time, thousands of unemployed candidates had crossed the existing age limit.

He appealed to the government to raise the age limit so that candidates from all sections of society receive equal opportunities. As recruitment notifications for government jobs are now being issued, he requested the government to provide equal age relaxation for candidates belonging to OC, BC, SC, ST, and all other categories.

He stated that such a decision would provide justice to unemployed youth who have been waiting for government job opportunities for many years. The EBC Welfare Association also demanded that the state government take an immediate positive decision on the matter and issue the necessary orders.

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Tender Notice No.: RNY-EL-T-05-2026-27; Dated: 22-07-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.**: RNY-EL-T-05-2026-27; **Name of Work**: Rangiya Division - Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract of Roof Mounted package units (RMPUs) for a period of 02 years - **(1)** LHB AC coaches including Escorting, Operation, maintenance & Troubleshooting of Naharlagun based trains at Naharlagun coaching depot. **(2)** schedule maintenance & Troubleshooting of RMPU of LHB SPIC (self propelled inspection Car) **(3)** Schedule maintenance & Troubleshooting of RMPU of ICF Coaches at Rangapara North Coaching Depot. Advertised Value: ₹2,24,21,542.19; Earnest Money: ₹2,62,100.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 15.00 hrs. on 14-08-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender is available at **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SUPPLY WORKS

E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work:

1. E-Tender No.: NB265553, **Dated**:24-07-2026; **Item Description**: Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Proving out of Airless Shot Blasting Machine Swing Table 2400 mm Type with Double Door. Dust collector-Auto shaking arrangement as per Technical Specification as per Annexure-A (Attached), Make-Surfex, Kuber Engg., Shankar Engg. or EQUIVALENTS [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Qty**.: 01 Set; **PL Code (Group):** 654401620015; **Earnest Money**: ₹1,16,710/-; Date and time of **closing** of tender at **14:30** hrs. on **21-08-2026**.

2. E-Tender No.: NB261534, **Dated**: 24-07-2026; **Item Description**: Sealed maintenance free battery 1100 AH VRLA type with inter cell and end cell connector conforming to RDSO's Specn No: RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0009-2014 (Rev-2) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Qty**.: 3 Sets. **PL Code (Group):** 45170393; **Earnest Money**: ₹80,210/-. Date and time of **closing** of tender at **14:30** hrs. on **24-08-2026**.

For details please visit IREPS website **https://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. CMM/New Bongaigaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Two UoH professors win prestigious ANRF JC Bose grant

HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has achieved a significant academic milestone with two of its senior faculty members being awarded the prestigious JC Bose Grant (JBG) by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India.

The awardees are Prof Rajadurai Chandrasekar from the School of Chemistry and Prof Naresh Babu V Sepuri from the Department of Biochemistry, School of Life Sciences. Introduced by ANRF in 2025, the JC Bose Grant is among India's highest individual research honors, recognizing outstanding senior scientists and supporting high-impact, cutting-edge research.

Prof. Chandrasekar's project, "Artificial Intelligence-enabled Soft Materials for Programmable Optical Communication Devices", aims to develop AI-powered soft materials for next-generation optical communication technologies.





Prof. Sepuri's five-year research project, "Defining the functional Heterogeneity of Mitochondria in Modulating Metabolic Plasticity and Disease States", will explore how mitochondrial diversity influences metabolism, aging, and disease, potentially advancing the understanding of several metabolic disorders.

The grant provides Rs.25 lakh annually for five years for research, along with Rs.1 lakh per year as institutional overhead. The recognition underscores the University of Hyderabad's growing prominence in frontier scientific research and innovation.

Welfare of persons with disabilities reflects society's true progress: Governor

HYDERABAD



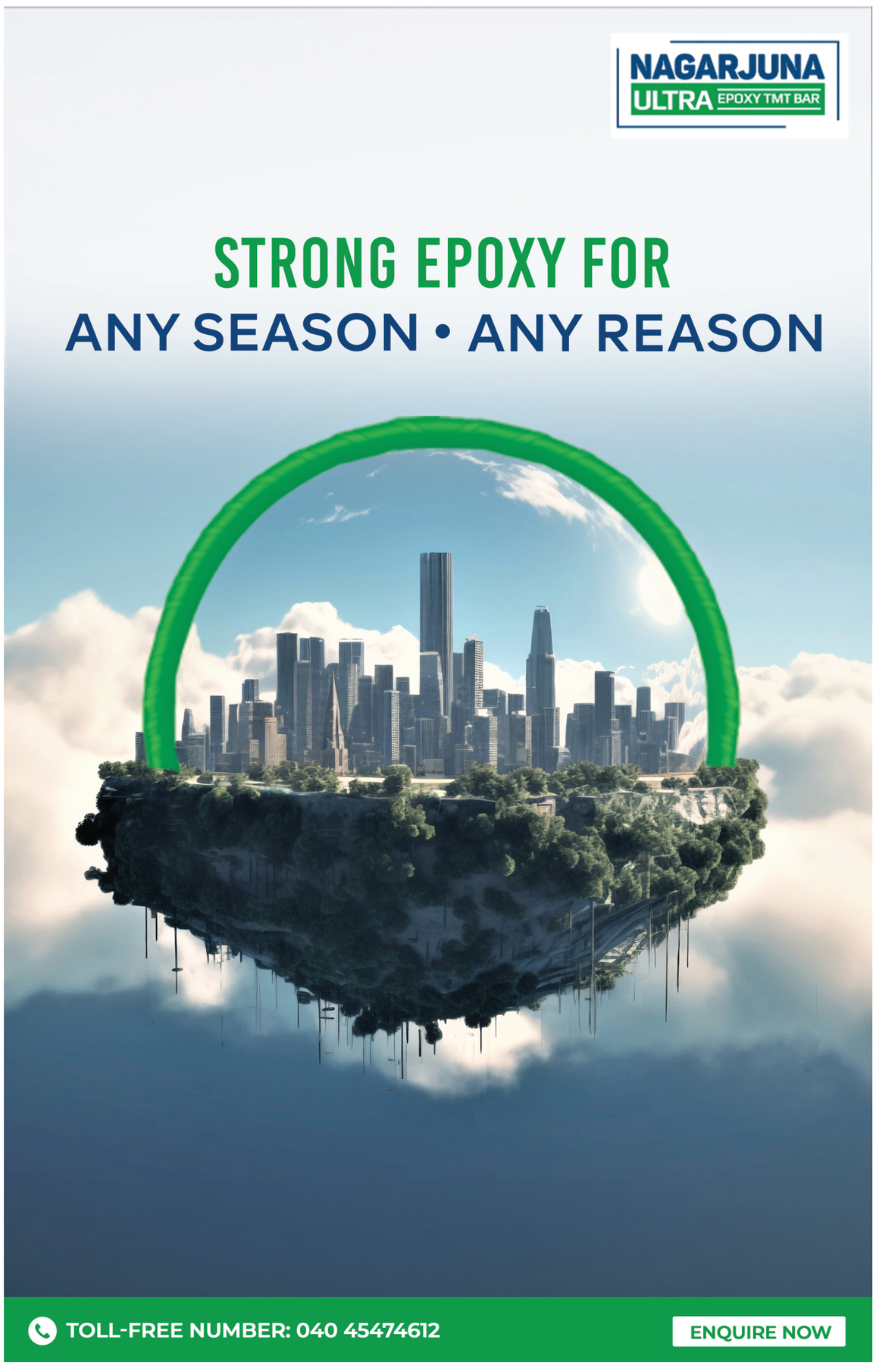
Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday said the welfare of persons with disabilities is the true measure of a civilized and progressive society while addressing the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Sweekaar multi-speciality rehabilitation centre in Secunderabad. The Governor praised Sweekaar as a model institution providing integrated medical care, rehabilitation, special education, counselling and vocational training under one roof. He stressed that ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities is a shared responsibility and called for building a more inclusive society.

Recalling the words of Lord Buddha that "Compassion is the heart of humanity", the Governor urged everyone to uphold the timeless Indian ideal of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah" and work towards building an inclusive society where every individual enjoys equal opportunities.

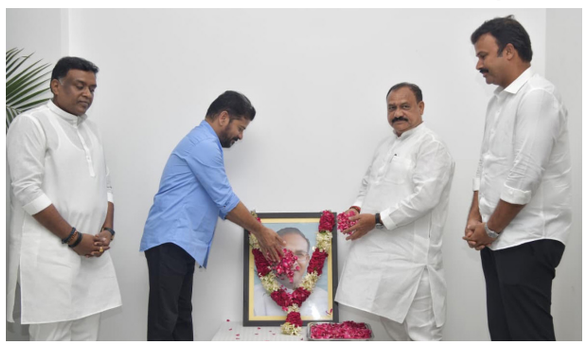
Shukla lauded the Centre's outreach to rural communities and its role in training rehabilitation professionals. Citing India's 33-medal haul at the Special Olympics, he said persons with disabilities can achieve extraordinary success when given the right support.

On this occasion, the Governor appealed to all sections of society to contribute towards creating an inclusive environment in which no individual is left behind on account of physical or intellectual limitations. He announced Rs.5 lakh financial assistance from Lok Bhavan to the institution for procuring essential equipment and assured continued support for its initiatives.

During the event, he felicitated the Centre's management, doctors, teachers, donors and volunteers for their dedicated service. Among those present were Dr. P. Hanumantha Rao, President of Sweekaar Multispeciality Rehabilitation Centre; Dr. V.V.S. Sharma, Founder Member; members of the Board, patrons, donors, trainers, doctors and other distinguished guests.



Jaipal Reddy: A Symbol of Political Ethics, says CM Revanth Reddy



DELHI

Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy hailed former Union Minister S. Jaipal Reddy as a symbol of ethics in politics.

On the occasion of the death anniversary of the former Union Minister, the Chief Minister paid a rich tribute by garlanding the leader's portrait. The CM remembered that the national leader started his political journey as a student leader and remained steadfast in his commitment to values and principles until his last breath. CM Revanth Reddy highlighted Jaipal Reddy's distinction of leaving a lasting mark on both the public and the Parliament through his profound knowledge and eloquence. The Chief Minister affirmed that the state government would carry forward his ideals. TPCC President Mahesh Goud and Congress leaders Rohin Reddy and Thummala Yugandhar are also present.

Vivek urges Centre to expedite environmental nod for Tadicherla block-II mine

HYDERABAD

Minister for SHAKTI (Labour, Employment, Training & Factories) and Mines & Geology, Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy has urged Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav to expedite the environmental clearances for the Tadicherla Block-II coal mine, a project of strategic importance to Telangana's industrial development.

During a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday, Vivek Venkatswamy, accompanied by Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar, discussed several priority mining projects that are vital for the state's economic growth.

The Minister explained that early environmental clearance for the Tadicherla Block-II Coal Mine would generate more than 1,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities while significantly strengthening Telangana's industrial sector. He noted that increased coal production would not only meet the growing requirements of industries but also boost the local economy and create sustainable livelihoods.

Vivek Venkatswamy also requested the Union Minister to expedite environmental approvals for the RKP Mines Project, another key mining initiative of the state. He stated that timely clearances for both projects would accelerate the growth of Telangana's mining sector, attract fresh investments, and expand employment opportunities across the region.

The Minister reiterated that the Telangana government would continue to work in close coordination with the Union government to secure timely approvals for projects that are crucial to the state's development. He emphasised that protecting the interests of Telangana, accelerating industrial growth, and creating employment opportunities for the youth remain the government's top priorities, and every necessary effort will be made to achieve these objectives.

Govt to launch television awards to honour excellence in TV industry: Komatireddy

HYDERABAD



The Telangana government has announced the institution of the prestigious Telangana State Television Awards (TGSTA) to celebrate and encourage excellence across the regional television industry.

The announcement was made by Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, following a comprehensive review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Tuesday.

During the session with members of the TGSTA Committee, the Minister finalised key framework elements, including award categories, logo design, title guidelines, and venue selection for the upcoming presentation ceremony.

"Television is a powerful medium with deep social impact, particularly among women and senior citizens," Minister Venkat Reddy stated, underscoring the government's commitment to promoting higher quality and impactful television content.

The high-level meeting was attended by MLC Shankar Naik, Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC) Managing Director Mukund Reddy, Director Kishore Babu, alongside the TGSTA Committee chairman and senior members.

Addressing the meeting, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the government would extend special encouragement to creators producing serials, programmes, children's films and socially relevant content that conveys positive messages.

The Minister said awards would be presented across a wide range of categories, including television non-fiction programmes, daily serials, children's films, documentaries, films of social significance and educational films. Individual awards will also be presented to outstanding directors, actors, writers, music directors, cinematographers, anchors, dubbing artists, editors, art directors, costume designers, makeup artists and other technical and creative professionals, he said.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that non-fiction television programmes must have completed at least 13 episodes, while daily serials should have aired a minimum of 100 episodes to qualify. Children's films, documentaries, educational films and socially relevant films should have a duration of 20 to 60 minutes. The Minister also suggested including separate award categories for male and female anchors and presenters from news channels.

He said only entries meeting these eligibility criteria would be considered for evaluation and stressed that the selection process should be completely transparent, as the committee comprises eminent experts from the television industry. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy further said the committee had proposed associating the name of former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao with television works that reflect Telangana's language, history, culture, traditions and heritage.

He directed the committee to finalise proposals for the guidelines, logo and award titles at the earliest.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also asked TFDC Managing Director Mukund Reddy to identify and propose two or three alternative venues for the award ceremony. The Minister said the government would take a final decision on all aspects of the awards after consultations with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.



HYDRAA turned into tool of intimidation and extortion: KTR

HYDERABAD

BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over the functioning of HYDRAA, accusing the Congress government of using the agency as an instrument of political intimidation, selective demolitions and extortion rather than lawful governance.

Calling upon the Chief Minister to respect the judiciary, KTR said it was shameful that Revanth Reddy continued to defend HYDRAA despite the Telangana High Court's strong observations.

"A government that refuses to respect judicial institutions has no moral authority to speak about the rule of law," he said.

Describing HYDRAA as a "nine-headed monster", KT Rama Rao alleged that the agency had transformed into a tool for blackmail, intimidation and political vendetta. He said that if BRS is voted back to power, HYDRAA would be abolished on the very first day, in line with the spirit of the High Court's observations. Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Tuesday, the BRS leader alleged that HYDRAA had selectively targeted the houses of ordinary people while turning a blind eye to alleged encroachments by influential politicians, ministers, MPs and powerful builders.

He questioned why structures belonging to politically connected individuals in lake beds and FTL areas had escaped action while homes of poor families were demolished despite court protections. "If the government is genuinely committed to protecting public lands, it should first demolish the illegal structures belonging to its own leaders, ministers and influential individuals. The law must be equal for everyone; it cannot become a shield for Congress leaders and a weapon against the poor," he asserted.

The BRS working president accused the Chief Minister of creating large-scale destruction in Hyderabad in the name of HYDRAA. He said that despite being in office for two years, the government had failed to build homes for people but had demolished thousands of houses instead. Alleging that HYDRAA had become an extortion mechanism, KTR claimed the agency was being used to threaten builders and collect money.

People joining BJP attracted by PM Modi's vision



HYDERABAD

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today said that all walks of people joining BJP after attracting developmental and welfare schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was addressing a meeting of " Atmiya Sammelan" in Huzurabad where he welcomed Sudhakar Reddy who resigned from the IRS and joined BJP.

Educated and experienced people like Sudhakar Reddy who sincerely want to work for the nation, are choosing the BJP as the right platform. Even Shanti Kumar, presently state party vice president, had resigned as a Income tax officer and joined the BJP.

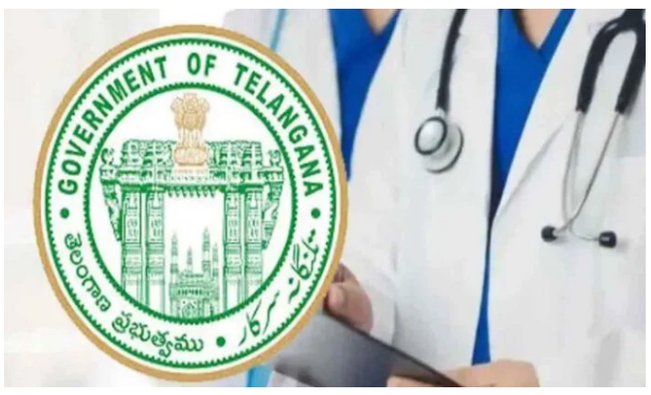
Recalling the 1980s period when people used to ask about BJP are now people joining BJP as the most suitable platform for national service, Rao said BJP is now growing and steadily gaining the confidence of people in villages.

Citing example of Tripura, Haryana and Odisha states where the party has came to power, he expressed confidence that BJP would come to power in Telangana as people of the state are going to bless the BJP in coming days. Rao alleged that certain forces are trying to weaken India by creating a North–South divide, spreading anarchy and encouraging internal conflict. Foreign-funded players are conspiring to destabilize and divide the country. In the past too, organisations such as the Ford Foundation sent enormous amounts of funding to influence India's political landscape. He cautioned people to remain united and vigilant against such division forces.

On the issue of SIR, BJP state chief alleged that The Congress–MIM combine has stoop to a new low in its attempt to protect its alleged Bangladeshi and Rohingya vote bank in Telangana. He alleged that the Telangana Congress government has completely surrendered before AIMIM. Following MIM's demand, the Revanth Reddy government has rushed to issue Family Register Certificates and is projecting them as acceptable documents under SIR for so-called "undocumented people." This was a calculated attempt to shield illegal Bangladeshi and Rohigya migrants from deletion from the electoral rolls.

Results Released for 500 Specialist Doctor Posts

HYDERABAD





The Medical and Health Services Recruitment Board (MHSRB) has announced the final results for the recruitment of 500 Specialist Doctor posts in government hospitals under the Directorate of Secondary Health Care (Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad).

The results cover the following specialties

General Surgery: 174 posts
General Medicine: 166 posts
Orthopedics: 89 posts
Radiology: 71 posts

A total of 500 posts have been filled across these four specialties. Earlier, the Telangana government had issued a notification to recruit 1,616 Civil Assistant Surgeon (Specialist) posts across 24 specialties to address the shortage of specialist doctors in government hospitals and improve healthcare services for the public. The recruitment process for 692 posts in Anesthesiology, Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Orthopedics had already been completed. Appointment letters were handed over to the selected candidates by Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, and they have already been assigned their postings. Following the release of the provisional merit list, the MHSRB completed the verification of candidates' certificates and has now announced the final results for these 500 posts.

Officials said that the details of the selected candidates are available on the MHSRB website.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha congratulated the newly selected doctors and expressed hope that they would serve with dedication and provide quality healthcare to poor and middle-class patients who depend on government hospitals.

The Minister also reiterated that the government's goal is to eliminate the shortage of specialist doctors in government hospitals by filling all 1,616 specialist doctor posts across 24 specialties. With the latest recruitment, the appointment process for 1,192 posts has been completed. He directed recruitment board officials to complete the recruitment for the remaining posts as quickly as possible.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Reviews Special Intensive Revision (SIR) with BLAs

HYDERABAD

State Minister Vakiti Srihari today held a review meeting with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at his camp office in Makthal to ensure the successful conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister advised the BLAs to work vigilantly at the field level to ensure that every eligible voter's name is included in the list and added that the names of ineligible individuals are removed in accordance with regulations.

He instructed the BLAs to undertake door-to-door verification and submit necessary applications in a timely manner. The Minister emphasized that the role of the BLAs was crucial in creating a transparent and error-free voter list. He urged them to raise public awareness and strive to ensure justice for every eligible voter. He noted that the Makthal assembly constituency ranks high in development, second only to the Chief Minister's assembly constituency.

He stated that Makthal leads in various welfare initiatives including the construction of roads, bridges, and 'Indiramma' houses. He recalled that the party secured victories for the majority of Sarpanches and won all three municipalities in the assembly constituency during the recent elections thanks to the hard work of the Congress party workers. The Minister mentioned that development works worth ₹1,890 crore were currently underway in the Makthal constituency alone. The Minister noted that while the voter list revision process is a routine affair, the current Special Intensive Revision (SIR) holds great significance. He warned that the voters risk losing their voting rights if they remain complacent. In this context, he reminded the party's Booth Level Agents (BLAs) that 9 million votes had gone missing prior to the recent assembly elections in West Bengal state .

The Minister stated that a core principle of the Congress party was ensuring that no poor person in the country loses their right to vote for any reason. He emphasized that it was the responsibility of the Congress party workers to safeguard every individual's voting rights and warned that failing to verify one's voter status could lead to significant difficulties in the future. He urged the party presidents and leaders across the assembly constituency's seven mandals and three municipalities to remain vigilant regarding the voter list revision process. He called upon all the Booth Level Agents to work diligently during these final six days and stressed that the village-level leaders must have a thorough understanding of the voter list. He remarked that, as public figures, it is the duty of leaders to protect everyone's right to vote. The Minister highlighted that while the constituency received a total of ₹398 crore over the 72 years spanning from its first MLA Shanthabai, to the present, he had secured ₹1,890 crore for Makthal's development in just the two-and-a-half years since he took office.

Former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy in Critical Condition



- Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad, issues health bulletin
- On ventilator support; no neurological response
- Another neurological assessment scheduled today

HYDERABAD

Former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy (54) is in critical condition after suffering a serious medical emergency. He is currently undergoing treatment under continuous medical supervision in the Advanced Critical Care Unit at Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad. On Tuesday, the hospital's Chief Operating Officer, Dr. G. Vijay Kumar, released a health bulletin regarding his condition.

Heart Stopped for 45 Minutes

Sudarshan Reddy was initially admitted to Rohini Hospital in Warangal, where he suffered a severe drop in blood pressure and a cardiac arrest (hemodynamic collapse) caused by pulmonary embolism (blood clots in the lungs).

Doctors at Rohini Hospital performed CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support) continuously for about 45 minutes, successfully restoring his heartbeat. After providing initial treatment, including thrombolysis (clot-dissolving therapy), he was shifted to Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad for advanced care.

TTD Contemplating promote Srivari Seva at village level, says EO

TIRUMALA



Tirumala Tirupati Devsthanams(TTD) is intensifying efforts to expand Srivari Seva from grassroot level across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, asserted TTD Executive Officer M Ravichandra. The EO made this statement while gracing the second phase of the Group Supervisors' Training programme held om Tuesday at the Srivari Seva Sadan 2 in Tirumala.

In his interaction with Supervisors, he said the move follows directions from the Chief Minister of AP N. Chandrababu Naidu to enhance quality and broaden access to devotional service.

Highlighting that the two Telugu states host nearly 50,000 temples, he urged Group Supervisors and Srivari Sevakulu to identify and mobilize opportunities for providing seva at local temples and community shrines.

To strengthen service standards and ensure fair task allocation, TTD is developing a cibil score style rating system to assess performance of Sevaks and assign duties accordingly. The EO emphasized that while many Sevaks travel to Tirumala to serve, the initiative aims to empower them to serve their home communities as well.

Group Supervisors shared suggestions during the session, and the EO sought practical recommendations from them for implementing the village level expansion of Srivari Seva and also some amendments required to enhance pilgrim facilities in Tirumala.

Later the EO also felicitated scholars Dr SLNT Srinivas and Sharat for effectively executing all training sessions on the occasion.

The Chief PRO of TTD Dr. T. Ravi, PRO Kumari Neelima and staff of the Srivari Seva Sadan were also present.

Ponguleti directs time-bound completion of land re-survey

HYDERABAD



Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Tuesday directed the officials to complete the state's ambitious land re-survey programme within the stipulated time frame, stressing that the initiative is aimed at permanently resolving land disputes and ensuring clear ownership records. Reviewing the programme's progress at the Secretariat, the minister said the first phase is being implemented in 2,240 villages across the state, with 70 villages selected in each district. He instructed officials to conduct Gram Sabhas to create awareness among farmers and landowners and ensure active public participation.

Ponguleti directed the district collectors to closely monitor the exercise, while Revenue and Survey department officials were asked to work in coordination and maintain complete transparency during boundary demarcation. He said advanced technologies such as DGPS, GIS and rovers are being used to ensure scientific and accurate surveys. The minister said each survey number would receive a unique "Bhu-Aadhaar" ID linked to the "Bhu Bharati" portal, bringing greater transparency to land ownership, registrations and mutations.

He also instructed officials to expedite surveys in 373 villages that currently lack cadastral maps, issue advance notices to landowners before commencing the survey in these villages, to mark the government lands and to undertake the survey only after establishing the Gramakantam (village settlement area) boundaries, and to complete the exercise without causing inconvenience to the public.

Odisha govt orders evacuation as over 1 lakh hit by floods

BHUBANESWAR: (JUL 28)

The Odisha government has launched a massive evacuation drive from low-lying areas as over 1 lakh people remained affected by floods, officials said on Tuesday.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, after reviewing the situation this evening, said the next 24 hours remained crucial for the three north Odisha districts of Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur due to a rise in water levels in rivers triggered by heavy rainfall induced by a deep depression.

Over 1 lakh people were affected in Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur districts, while the government has so far evacuated 23,673 people from low-lying areas, an official said.

YSRCP Protests Alleged Teacher Recruitment Irregularities

AMARAVATI, JULY 28



The YSR Congress Party on Tuesday held protests across Andhra Pradesh against the irregularities in the Mega DSC-2025 for recruitment of teachers.

Large-scale protests were organised simultaneously across the state under the party's student and youth wings.

Demonstrations were held in Vijayawada, Nellore, Tirupati, Nandyal, and several other districts, while police prevented a proposed rally in Narasannapeta, leading to a tense situation.

The opposition party is demanding the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, holding him morally responsible for the alleged Mega DSC (District Selection Committee) irregularities. Protesters also sought a CBI investigation into the DSC recruitment process, alleging question paper leaks, irregular sports quota appointments, and denial of opportunities to deserving candidates.

According to the party, the protests also highlighted the NEET paper leak controversy, pending fee reimbursement dues running into thousands of crores, and the coalition government's failure to fulfil its promise of unemployment allowance. In Vijayawada, a massive rally organised by the YSRCP youth and student wings proceeded from Sambamurthy Nagar to Dharna Chowk, led by NTR District President Devineni Avinash, former minister Vellampalli Srinivas, former MLA Malladi Vishnu, and students wing state Working President Ravichandra.

In Nellore, hundreds of students and youth marched from the Dr B.R. Ambedkar statue to Gandhi Bomma Centre, demanding Lokesh's resignation and justice for unemployed youth. The protest was led by former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy and MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy.

In Tirupati, former minister R.K. Roja addressed protesters, demanding Lokesh's resignation and a CBI inquiry into the alleged DSC irregularities. She alleged that the recruitment process was marred by paper leaks and irregular Sports Quota appointments. Stating that Rs. 7,000 crore in fee reimbursement dues remain pending, she also criticised the government's failure to provide the promised unemployment allowance. She said the party's agitation would continue until accountability is fixed.

In Nandyal, YSRCP leaders, students and unemployed youth staged a protest rally demanding Lokesh's resignation over the alleged Mega DSC irregularities. The demonstrators condemned the reported question paper leak and raised objections over irregularities in Sports Quota recruitment. The protest was attended by Katasani Ram Bhupal Reddy, Rami Reddy, and MLC Isaq Basha.

Meanwhile, Narasannapeta witnessed tense scenes after police blocked a proposed YSRCP student-youth rally. Hundreds of students and youth from four mandals gathered under the leadership of Dr Dharmana Krishna Chaitanya and were preparing to leave in a convoy of nearly 50 vehicles when a heavy police contingent prevented the rally from proceeding. Dr Chaitanya demanded written reasons for the restrictions, while police cited prohibitory orders on large public rallies. YSRCP leaders condemned the police action as an attempt to suppress democratic protests.



Andhra devotee gifts Rs 1.03-crore gold crown to Shirdi Sai Baba

A devotee from Andhra Pradesh offered a gold crown worth Rs 1.03 crore to the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple on the occasion of Guru Purnima, one of the most significant festivals for followers of Sai Baba.

The crown, made with 642 grams of gold, was presented as Guru Dakshina by Malladi Srinivasa Rao, a devotee from Nellore, during the opening day of the Guru Purnima celebrations at the temple. According to the Shri Sai Baba Temple Trust, the intricately crafted crown features depictions of the Dashavatara, the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu, making it a unique offering. Speaking to India Today TV, Rao said the crown was inspired by his belief that Sai Baba embodies the Navgraha, or the nine celestial deities in Hindu tradition. "On the occasion of Guru Purnima, I am offering this Navgraha crown to Baba. It is valued at around Rs 1 crore. Sai Baba himself represents the Navgraha. I had the opportunity to serve and donate, so I offered it," he said. He added that Sai Baba represents multiple divine forms, including Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva, Lord Brahma, Dattatreya and Mother Shakti, and described the offering as an expression of gratitude and devotion.

Temple Trust CEO Gorakasha Gadilkar thanked the devotee for the donation and said Guru Purnima is a special occasion when devotees offer Guru Dakshina to Sai Baba, whom they regard as their spiritual guide. He added that Rao has been a long-time devotee who visits Shirdi several times a year and has previously contributed generously to the temple trust's charitable and social initiatives, including donations for the Sai Baba hospital and facilities for devotees. The gold crown is among the most valuable offerings made to the temple during this year's Guru Purnima celebrations, which draw thousands of devotees from across the country to Shirdi every year.

Youth Should Focus on Achieving Their Goals

- **Discipline can help one reach great heights**
- **Lokesh's reforms in the education system are commendable**
- **Failing an exam is not the end of life; no one should resort to suicide**
- **The Super Six schemes have been a great success**
- **YSRCP is spreading false propaganda about the Mega DSC recruitment**
- **Nara Bhuvaneswari participated in various programs on the second day of her Kuppam tour**

KUPPAM, JULY 28



Nara Bhuvaneswari, Managing Trustee of the NTR Memorial Trust, said that students can achieve remarkable success if they excel in the field they choose. She advised young people not to worry about pleasing everyone but to concentrate on achieving their goals. She also emphasized that when women are financially empowered, families prosper. As part of her four-day tour of the Kuppam constituency, she attended several events on the second day.

Success Comes Through Continuous Effort

Bhuvaneswari participated in a student quiz program held at the PES Medical College auditorium in Kuppam and also watched students participate in sports activities. During the quiz, she asked students several questions and addressed them.

She said that the future of the nation lies in the hands of its youth and that the students present could become the country's future leaders. She expressed happiness at meeting students and motivating them to achieve their ambitions.

She said that with determination, students can become teachers, engineers, doctors, businesspersons, police officers, IAS or IPS officers, or succeed in any profession they choose. She praised the invaluable service of the police in protecting the nation.

Bhuvaneswari encouraged students to develop habits such as waking up early and helping their parents with household work. She described parents as living gods whose sacrifices can never truly be repaid and urged students to respect their teachers as guides. Even if teachers are strict at times, she said, it is only to instill discipline.

She shared that she studied at Church Park Presentation Convent in Chennai and credited the discipline she developed during her student days for her success. She advised students not to seek everyone's approval but to stay focused on their goals, make the best use of opportunities, take thoughtful decisions, and support their parents during difficult times.

Students Should Embrace Technology

Bhuvaneswari said she transformed challenges in her own life into opportunities. Whether in the classroom or in business, she encouraged students to ask questions without fear whenever they have doubts. She mentioned that even while managing Heritage Foods, she never hesitates to seek clarification when needed.

She said making mistakes is natural, but what matters is correcting them and ensuring they are not repeated. Good friendships, she added, contribute to personal growth.

She encouraged students to cultivate the habit of reading books and to use mobile phones and tablets only when necessary. She mentioned that her grandson, Devansh, enjoys reading books and stays away from excessive television and mobile phone use. She stressed the importance of honesty, courage to admit mistakes, and serving both the nation and society. She urged students to help the elderly and said government schools in Andhra Pradesh are providing quality education. She noted that under the "Talliki Vandanam" scheme, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is providing ₹15,000 in financial assistance to support students' education. She also praised Education Minister Nara Lokesh, stating that due to his efforts, around 106,000 students have returned from private schools to government schools.

Bhuvaneswari urged students—especially girls—to make full use of technology to enhance their knowledge. She warned young people to stay away from drugs, saying addiction destroys lives and is extremely difficult to overcome.

She emphasized that failing an examination is not the end of life and appealed to students never to commit suicide, pointing out the immense pain such actions cause parents. She said her mother always taught her about the precautions young girls should take during adolescence.

She encouraged students to draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to develop a spirit of service toward society. She concluded by expressing her hope that students would study well, reach high positions in the future, and help make India a global leader.

"The People of Kuppam Are Our Family"

Later, Bhuvaneswari interacted with women in Agaram village of Gudupalle mandal. She said the people of Kuppam are like family and that her family would never forget the affection shown by them.

She alleged that under the previous government, people did not have the confidence to speak freely, and despite cases being filed against TDP workers, they remained steadfast and did not abandon the party.

She said the TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena formed an alliance to improve the state, and that the people elected the coalition because they believed it would provide good governance. She praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's efforts to make Andhra Pradesh a leading state.

Bhuvaneswari said the DWCRA system was introduced to promote women's financial independence, adding that economically empowered women can better support their families. She also said the P4 initiative was launched to support poor families.

According to her, the government has successfully implemented the Super Six welfare promises made during the elections. She further praised Education Minister Nara Lokesh for taking steps to improve educational standards in government schools and said it is encouraging that students are choosing to move from private schools back to government schools.

Extend support to farmers during El Niño-induced drought conditions:CM

- **Awareness campaigns to begin on August 3 for promoting alternative crops**
- **Chief Minister makes it clear that every crop must be covered under crop insurance**
- **Establish a dedicated El Niño control room for continuous monitoring:CM**
- **AP records 69 percent deficit rainfall during July:Officials**

AMARAVATI :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to extend all possible support to farmers during the El Niño-induced drought conditions by providing timely information, guidance and assistance. The Chief Minister assessed the likely impact of El Niño, the government's preparedness and awareness initiatives for farmers during a reviewmeeting at Secretariat today. The fficials briefed the Chief Minister on the impact of El Niño and the proposed action plan. They informed him that the State recorded a 69 percent rainfall deficit in July and that rainfall over the next three months is expected to remain 35–40 percent below normal. Against the normal rainfall of 844 mm between June and November, only about 551 mm is likely to be received this season.Officials stated that the El Niño impact is expected to be more severe than earlier projections and is likely to affect all districts including West Godavari, Prakasam, Annamayya, Krishna and YSR Kadapa which are expected to face acute drought conditions. Around 2.78 lakh hectares of cotton and 1.07 lakh hectares of paddy are projected to be affected. Paddy cultivation in Srikakulam district is likely to suffer the highest losses.

The Chief Minister directed officials to make optimum use of Vamsadhara river waters wherever available to protect standing crops. Officials informed him that 122 high-risk mandals have been identified across the State. The Chief Minister instructed officials to explore borewell-based irrigation options in these vulnerable areas.Officials also informed the meeting that awareness campaigns would begin on August 3, with special emphasis on promoting alternative crops to paddy and implementing an emergency seed plan. Pulses such as red gram, castor, and black gram are already being promoted as alternative crops. Regarding crop insurance, officials stated that enrolment under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme will continue until July 31, while paddy farmers have time until August 15. So far, crops covering 6.30 lakh hectares have been insured.

The Chief Minister made it clear that every crop must be covered under crop insurance and warned that District Collectors would be held accountable if any cultivated crop is left uninsured.He also instructed officials to ensure that no drinking water shortage arises anywhere in the State.Officials informed the meeting that 286.30 lakh metric tonnes of fodder, sufficient for five months, had been arranged. However, the Chief Minister said that considering the possibility of prolonged El Niño conditions, the government should prepare fodder stocks sufficient for an entire year. The Chief Minister directed officials to establish a dedicated El Niño Control Room for continuous monitoring. Conditions should be assessed regularly, data should be analysed and advisories must be issued based on scientific analysis. Farmers should receive timely guidance through the Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs). Officials should identify land parcels where crops are under stress, assess the availability of borewells and groundwater and provide location-specific advice to farmers. The Chief Minister stressed that there should be no shortage of fodder for livestock, and milk production should not decline under any circumstances.He directed officials to fully utilise the VBG Ram G Scheme for El Niño mitigation and to use G Ram G funds to protect horticulture crops."The entire administrative machinery must treat the El Niño situation as a major challenge. Market Committees and Water Users' Associations should actively participate in awareness programmes.

Delhi SIR: Over 75 lakh voter verification forms digitised

NEW DELHI: (JUL 28)

More than 75 lakh enumeration forms have been digitised under Delhi's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with over 52 per cent of the electorate covered, according to the official data released on Tuesday. The Election Commission's latest status report showed that 75,72,315 enumeration forms had been digitised, accounting for 52.19 per cent of Delhi's 1,45,10,298 electors. Enumeration forms have been distributed to 1,44,92,544 voters, or 99.88 per cent of the electorate. Among the 13 districts, Outer North leads the digitisation drive with 64.34 per cent of forms uploaded, followed by South West (62.45 per cent), West (59.46 per cent), North West (58.53 per cent) and Central North (56.72 per cent).

Telangana Seeks Allocation of 1.156 Million Houses from the Centre

NEW DELHI:

CM Revanth Reddy requests inclusion of works based on local needs under Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood (Rural)
Appeal made to Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has requested Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan to allocate 1,156,915 houses to the state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G). During a meeting held on Tuesday at Krishi Bhavan, the Chief Minister informed the Union Minister that since assuming office, his government has given top priority to providing permanent houses for poor families. He explained that because the previous state government did not effectively utilize the PMAY-G scheme, many poor rural families were unable to build their own homes over the past decade, resulting in a significant demand for housing today. The Chief Minister said that a survey conducted through the Awaas+ mobile application, developed by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, identified 1,156,915 eligible rural families in Telangana. He requested the Centre to sanction these houses as early as possible.

Request for Additional Works Under VBG-RAMJ

In view of the El Niño conditions and the resulting drought-like situation, CM Revanth Reddy also urged the Union Minister to include additional works under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Rural) (VBG-RAMJ).

He said the proposed works would help improve the livelihoods of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), small and marginal farmers, and agricultural labourers, while also encouraging crop diversification.

The Chief Minister requested that the following activities be made eligible under the scheme:

- Construction of vegetable trellises on farmers' lands.
- Development of fodder plots for livestock.
- Cultivation of mulberry plantations.
- Construction of sheds for sericulture (silkworm rearing).
- Establishment of kitchen gardens for leafy vegetables and vegetables near homes.
- Development of bamboo plantations.

He also requested the inclusion of:

- Construction of water-harvesting trenches in hilly areas and hill slopes.
- Moisture conservation trenches in existing plantations and orchards.
- Restoration of agricultural land damaged by floods and sand deposition.
- Request for Employment During House Construction

The Chief Minister noted that under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), beneficiaries of the Indiramma Housing Scheme were earlier eligible for up to 90 days of wage employment while constructing their houses.

He requested the Union Minister to extend the same provision under VBG-RAMJ as well. The Chief Minister further urged the Centre to allow Telangana to include additional works proposed by the state government under the scheme, based on local needs. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Members of Parliament Dr. Mallu Ravi, Vem Narender Reddy, Porika Balaram Naik, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Suresh Shetkar, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, M. Anil Kumar Yadav, along with the Chief Minister's Adviser Ramakrishna Rao and Coordination Secretary Advait Kumar Singh.

EDITORIAL

Examinations Must Inspire Confidence

A fair and credible examination system is one of the strongest pillars of a nation's education framework. For millions of students, examinations are not merely assessments of knowledge; they are gateways to higher education, meaningful careers, and a better future. Every answer written in an examination hall represents months, and often years, of hard work, discipline, and hope. Protecting the integrity of this process is, therefore, essential.

India conducts some of the largest examinations in the world, bringing together candidates from every corner of the country. Managing such a vast exercise is an enormous responsibility that demands precision, transparency, and constant vigilance. As the number of examinees continues to rise, so do the expectations for a system that is secure, efficient, and worthy of public trust.

The need of the hour is continuous modernization. Advances in technology offer practical solutions that can make examinations more secure and reliable. Encrypted digital systems, biometric verification, artificial intelligence-assisted monitoring, and robust cybersecurity measures can significantly strengthen every stage of the examination process. Investing in these technologies is not merely an administrative upgrade; it is an investment in the future of the nation's youth.

However, technology alone cannot guarantee success. Equally important is the human element. Officials entrusted with conducting examinations must receive regular training and follow clearly defined procedures. Periodic audits, mock drills, and independent evaluations can help identify gaps before they become problems. A culture of preparedness is far more effective than responding after challenges arise.

Transparency is another cornerstone of a trustworthy system. Students and parents deserve timely updates, clear guidelines, and prompt communication whenever changes occur. Accessible support systems, responsive helplines, and efficient grievance redressal mechanisms can reduce uncertainty and reinforce confidence. A well-informed candidate is more likely to approach examinations with assurance rather than anxiety. Educational institutions also have a responsibility that extends beyond classrooms. They must continue to nurture values such as honesty, integrity, and respect for fair competition. Success achieved through genuine effort is far more meaningful than shortcuts, and these principles should remain at the heart of every learning environment. Building ethical awareness among students is as important as strengthening security measures.

India's young population is one of its greatest strengths. Their talent and determination deserve an examination system that rewards merit without compromise. Every improvement made today contributes to a future where students can focus entirely on preparation, confident that the process is fair and dependable.

A nation's progress depends not only on the quality of its education but also on the credibility of the systems that evaluate it. By embracing innovation, maintaining high standards, and placing fairness at the centre of every examination, India can continue to build an environment where ability is recognized, opportunity is earned, and public trust remains unwavering. That is the true measure of an examination system worthy of the aspirations of a rising nation.

India's Strong Disaster Response Keeps Flood Damage in Check



Many states in the country are currently under the grip of floods. The situation looks especially severe in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir. There has been loss of life and property. People have left their homes and taken shelter in relief camps. The good news is that the army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and fire and emergency service personnel were quickly deployed for rescue and relief work. Because of this, the damage in the flood-affected areas was kept to a minimum.

A Regular Challenge

Floods in Assam happen almost every year. Millions of people get affected. Floods have become a regular part of life there. According to the National Flood Commission, about 40 percent of the state falls in the flood-prone area. This is because the state lies in the basin of the Brahmaputra River, and more than 50 rivers that start from the Himalayas join it. Even though floods are part of a natural cycle, India has a strong system to reduce the damage as much as possible.

A Strong Ecosystem for Disaster Management

We must give credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for building a disaster management system that not only meets global standards but also provides leadership to many other countries. Today, India ranks among the top six countries in the world for disaster management. The loss from natural disasters in India is only 0.45 percent of the total GDP.

Figures from the Last Two Decades: A Story of Improvement

If we look at the numbers from the past twenty years, it is clear that disaster management in the country has been improving every year. In 2013–14, natural disasters caused 5,677 deaths. In 2024–25, the number came down to 3,080. The highest loss of cattle was in 2006–07, when 4.55 lakh animals died. In 2023–24, this number was 1.19 lakh. In 2007–08, more than 35 lakh houses were affected by natural disasters. In 2023–24, only 1.4 lakh houses suffered damage. These figures clearly show that preparation, coordination, and quick response have improved a lot.

The responsibility for disaster management in the country lies with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He keeps saying that India is moving towards zero deaths from natural disasters. He is not only talking about physical measures. He is giving more importance to reducing the effects of climate change that cause these disasters. To reduce disasters, we must deal with the conditions that cause climate change.

Global Leadership and Institutional Framework

India is now seen as a global leader in disaster management. In the last 12 years, the Indian government has set high standards in capacity building, speed, efficiency, and accuracy. Disaster management plans are being prepared for every district in the states. Action plans are ready for dealing with every kind of natural disaster. As a result, India has achieved zero human deaths in several disasters. The record of dealing with cyclones with very little damage shows how the Centre, states, and local bodies can work together and achieve big success.

The Modi government has built strong institutions like the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Because of these, India has established itself as a global leader in disaster management.

We have seen the readiness and efficiency of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) many times. In every disaster, the NDRF's response has been praiseworthy. Their record of saving lives is excellent. So far, this force has saved the lives of more than 1,68,000 people who were in danger.

India is now working on predicting future disasters in advance, doing research beforehand, and adopting global standards while adapting them to India's geographical conditions. Even before the monsoon started, Home Minister Amit Shah had directed all states to strengthen their arrangements for any possible disaster. He also ordered the formation and activation of flood management teams. An integrated system for flood forecasting was made active at both central and state levels. Special attention was given to Himalayan regions and high-risk states, which were kept on alert mode. Early warning systems were specially linked to Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim.

Talking only about the monsoon, after Assam, Uttar Pradesh is considered the most flood-prone area in India. Bihar is also one of the highest-risk states. In Uttar Pradesh, about 7.34 million hectares of land come under the threat of floods. In Bihar, 73 percent of the total area remains under flood risk. Here also, the Home Minister has taken charge himself. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been sent to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Extra rescue workers are also being deployed. We cannot stop natural disasters completely, but it is our responsibility to protect ourselves from them and reduce the damage.



VIVEK SHUKLA

SAFE FOOD: THE KEY TO BETTER HEALTH



Safe food is the foundation of good health, yet millions of people around the world continue to fall ill each year because of contaminated food. From farms and factories to kitchens and dining tables, maintaining food safety at every stage of the food chain is essential to prevent disease, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure a healthier future for all.

The saying "Food is medicine" highlights the vital role of a healthy diet in maintaining good health. However, food can protect our health only when it is safe to eat. Unsafe or contaminated food remains one of the leading causes of preventable illness worldwide. According to the latest estimates of the World Health Organization (WHO), unsafe food causes about 866 million illnesses and 1.5 million deaths every year, with young children bearing a disproportionate share of the burden.

Food can become contaminated at any stage of the food chain—from farming and processing to transportation, storage, preparation, and serving. Harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, chemicals, toxins, and other environmental contaminants can enter food if appropriate safety measures are not followed. In addition, environmental contaminants, including microplastics, may also enter the food chain, and their potential health impacts continue to be studied. Consumption of contaminated food can cause food poisoning, diarrhoea, kidney damage, long-term health complications, and even death. Children, pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable.

Ensuring food safety begins on the farm. Farmers should use clean water, apply pesticides responsibly, and follow good agricultural practices. Food manufacturers must maintain high standards of hygiene, quality control, safe storage, and proper packaging. Modern technologies such as rapid food testing, digital traceability systems, artificial intelligence, and blockchain are increasingly being adopted in parts of the food supply chain to strengthen food safety, improve traceability, and enable faster responses to contamination incidents.

Consumers also have an essential role in preventing foodborne diseases. Washing hands before handling food, thoroughly cleaning fruits and vegetables, cooking food completely, keeping raw and cooked foods separate, refrigerating leftovers promptly, and checking expiry dates are simple yet highly effective measures. Following the "Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill" principle remains one of the best ways to ensure food safety at home.

In the digital era, the way people access food has changed dramatically. The rapid expansion of online food delivery services, cloud kitchens, and packaged foods has made food safety more important than ever. Food businesses must strictly adhere to hygiene and food safety standards, while consumers should purchase or order food only from licensed and reputable establishments, check packaging and expiry dates whenever applicable, and promptly report suspected food safety violations to the appropriate authorities. Responsible practices by both food providers and consumers are essential for ensuring safe food for everyone.

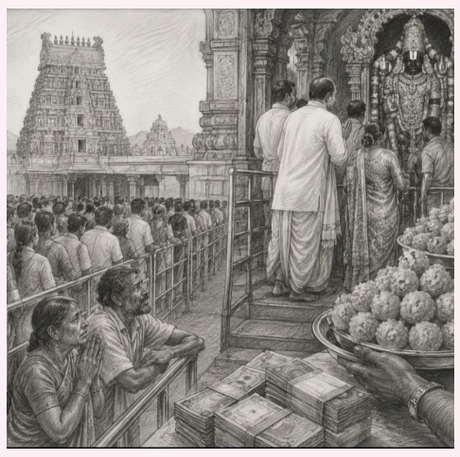
Governments and food safety regulators also play a pivotal role in protecting public health. Effective food safety laws, regular inspections, scientific surveillance, laboratory testing, and public awareness campaigns are essential for preventing foodborne diseases. Schools, healthcare institutions, and community organisations can further strengthen food safety by educating people about safe food handling and responsible consumption.

Safe food is fundamental to good health, food security, economic development, and sustainable communities. Every safe meal contributes to healthier families, reduces the burden of disease, and strengthens society. Food safety is a shared responsibility—from farm to fork. By embracing science, technology, responsible practices, and informed choices, we can make our food safer, our communities healthier, and our future more secure.



DR. KRISHNA KUMAR VEPAKOMMA
Professor & Principal (Retd.)
Columnist

ONE IS MANY



One is many, they often say,
But gold walks first to clear the way.
With recommendations, wealth in hand,
First-time pilgrims proudly stand.

They reach the seat where sages rest,
Soft whispers guide them, guest by guest.
They take their oath — then sweets unfold,
Laddus stacked like bricks of gold.

Loans repaid in sugared grace,
While commoners wait in their place.
They come with hope, they bow and plead,
Yet find delay in every need.

Long are the lines, the darshan slow,
While "some" like wind are let to go.
Coins arrive before the cries,
Even before the prayers rise.

The rich sit close, the poor stay far,
Yet every soul seeks the same star.
Still, laddus fall and time is sold,
For visions seen, but rarely told.

But Venkanna — He sees it all,
From temple gate to marble hall.
Though queues are long, and hours grow late,
His grace is vast — for all He'll wait.

Perhaps one day the roles may turn,
And truth won't wait for wealth to earn.
Till then, the laddus come and go,
And darshan flows, serene and slow.

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



Village in Uttarkashi Without Electricity for Seven Days

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand : Residents of Dhuik Gram Panchayat in Naugaon Block, Uttarkashi district, have been living without electricity for more than a week after a burnt transformer and severely damaged power lines disrupted the village's electricity supply. According to villagers, power has remained completely cut off since July 20, 2026, severely affecting daily life, including drinking water supply, children's education, mobile charging and other essential activities. They allege that despite repeated complaints, the electricity department has failed to take effective action. On July 23, five cattle reportedly suffered electric shocks after coming into contact with damaged power lines, while one cow died on the spot. The incident was immediately reported to the Executive Engineer of the Electricity Distribution Division, Barkot. However, villagers claim that no concrete steps have yet been taken to repair the damaged infrastructure.

Residents said it was fortunate that no human casualty occurred. They warned that had any villager come into contact with the live wires, the incident could have resulted in a major tragedy. They alleged that the incident has exposed serious negligence in the maintenance of the electricity network and cautioned that another accident could occur if repairs are further delayed. 53 Singh Rawat, Pradhan of Dhuik Gram Panchayat and President of the Pradhan Sangathan, said that on July 27 he informed the District Disaster Control Room, the District Magistrate of Uttarkashi and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Barkot about the situation over the phone. Although the authorities assured prompt action, electricity had not been restored till the filing of this report. With damaged power lines still lying in the area during the monsoon, fear and anger continue to grow among villagers, who say the exposed infrastructure poses a constant threat to public safety. The villagers have urged the District Magistrate and senior officials of the Energy Department to immediately install a new transformer, replace the damaged power lines, restore electricity supply and provide compensation to the owner of the deceased cow as well as financial assistance to other affected livestock owners. They have warned that if immediate action is not taken, they will be forced to launch a public agitation.

Jharkhand: Top Maoist Misir Besra, carrying bounty of over Rs 1 cr, arrested

RANCHI: Top Maoist Misir Besra, who carried a bounty of over Rs 1 crore, was arrested from Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Tuesday evening, police said. Besra was wanted in various cases related to Maoist activities in several states, including Jharkhand and Odisha, a police officer said. Besra, a resident of Harladih in Giridih district, was arrested from Maniadih area in Barwadda police station area in Dhanbad district, he said.

Reliance Foundation Launches Flood Relief in Upper Assam

The entire Reliance family including Reliance Foundation, Vantara, Reliance Retail and Jio are delivering immediate on-ground response Relief to reach 10,000 families in Sivasagar and Charaideo, the worst affected areas of the state The strategic relief efforts include public health, nutrition and food supplies, drinking water, emergency shelter kits, livestock care and protection





Vantara deploys a 39-member team to help in livestock protection

Mumbai / Guwahati, July 28, 2026: Responding to the severe floods that have wreaked havoc across Upper Assam, Reliance Foundation has launched a comprehensive multi-sectoral response for communities impacted due to this devastating tragedy. Working to provide support to vulnerable families in the worst-affected districts of Sivasagar and Charaideo, Reliance Foundation, in discussion with government authorities, aims to reach at least 10,000 flood-affected families with critical relief and recovery support. Triggered by intense rainfall and flash flooding, the disaster has caused loss of life, damaged homes and infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and heightened public health risks across the region. Sivasagar and Charaideo are the worst-affected districts, where over 5,00,000 people have been impacted, with damage to infrastructure, livelihoods livestock, and essential services.

The response and relief activities by Reliance Foundation are being implemented after on-ground rapid needs assessment by its Disaster Management professionals, in consultation with district authorities and local stakeholders. Key interventions under the relief work will include – public health risk management, food and nutrition support, emergency shelter assistance, and livestock protection.

Public Health Risk Management:

Cleaning and restoration of Community Health Centres has begun. This will ensure healthcare services resume on the ground. Reliance Foundation is also providing safe drinking water and access to hygiene and sanitation supplies for displaced and affected families.

Food supply and Nutrition support:

Reliance Foundation has established and is running community kitchens to provide food to families without access to any rations or supplies. Simultaneously dry ration kits will also be distributed to families to ensure nutritional support.

Emergency Shelter:

Emergency shelter kits with tarpaulins, groundsheets, mosquito nets, ropes, and bedding are being organised to protect displaced families.

Livestock Protection:

A 39-member team from Vantara is on the ground for livestock protection, veterinary services and to also support other community animals. Reliance Foundation will provide feed support to approximately 4,000 livestock affected by the floods. Reliance Foundation's team of professionals is working closely with the district administrations, relevant government departments, local community institutions, and partner organizations to ensure relief reaches those most in need.

Katihar-Amritsar Special Extended by Five Trips

MALIGAON, 28 JULY, 2026:

In order to cater to the continued increase in passenger demand and to facilitate convenient travel and clear the extra rush, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to extend the services of the 05736/05735 Katihar-Amritsar-Katihar Special Train for five additional trips in each direction. The train will continue to operate with its existing composition, timings, stoppages and maintenance schedule, thereby ensuring uninterrupted connectivity for passengers travelling between Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and other important stations en-route.

Train No. 05736 (Katihar-Amritsar) Special will depart from Katihar at 21:00 hrs every Wednesday from 5th August to 2ndSeptember, 2026, while Train No. 05735 (Amritsar-Katihar) Special will depart from Amritsar at 13:25, every Friday from 7th August to 4th September, 2026, to reach their respective destinations. NFR remains committed towards enhancing passenger convenience by introducing and extending special train services whenever required. Such initiatives not only help in ease ofcongestions on regular trains but also ensure smoother, safer and more comfortable travel for passengers across the region. Passengers are advised to verify the detailed schedule and stoppages through the IRCTC & NTES website or other official social media platforms of NFR before commencing their journey.

Flooding Disrupts Train Services at Simaluguri

MALIGAON, 28 JULY, 2026

In continuation to earlier releases on the subject, on account of disruption of train services due to the incessant heavy rainfall & flood at Simaluguri (SLGR) and adjoining areas in Sivasagar district under Tinsukia Division of NFR, few trains are further cancelled, partially cancelled and diverted in view of passenger safety and operational requirements.

The affected train services are as follows:

Diversions of Trains via Dibrugarh – North Lakhimpur – RanaparaNorth - Rangiya – New Bongaigaon:

Train No. 12423 (Dibrugarh - New Delhi) Rajdhani Expresscommencing journey on 30.07.26 & 31.07.26, Train No. 20503 (Dibrugarh - New Delhi) Rajdhani Express commencing journey on30.07.26, Train No. 15903 (Dibrugarh -Chandigarh) commencing journey on 31.07.26, Train No. 15909 (Dibrugarh – Lalgarh) Avadh Assam Express commencing journey from 31.07.26, Train No. 15960 (Dibrugarh – Howrah) Kamrup Express commencing journey on 31.07.26, Train No. 22504 (Dibrugarh – Kanniyakumari) VivekExpress commencing journey on 30.07.26 & 31.07.26; Train No. 15949 (Dibrugarh – Gomti Nagar) Amrit Bharat Express commencing journey on 31.07.26.

Diversions of Trains via New Tinsikia – North Lakhimpur – Ranapara North - Rangiya – New Bongaigaon:

Train No. 22502 (New Tinsukia – SMVT Bengaluru) Superfast Express commencing journey on 31.07.26 will be diverted via New Tinsukia- North Lakhimpur – Ranapara North - Rangiya – New Bongaigaon

Diversions of Trains via Rangiya - Ranapara North - North Lakhimpur – Dibrugarh:

Train No. 15959 (Howrah – Dibrugarh) Kamrup Expresscommencing journey on 30.07.2026, Train No. 22503 (Kanniyakumari – Dibrugarh) Vivek Express commencing journey on 28.07.26, Train No. 12424 (New Delhi - Dibrugarh) RajdhaniExpress commencing journey on 29.07.26 & 30.07.26, Train No. 15910 (Lalgarh – Dibrugarh) Avadh Assam Express commencing journey on 28.07.2026 & 29.07.2026, Train No. 20504 (New Delhi – Dibrugarh) Rajdhani Express commencing journey on 29.07.26.

Short Termination/Short Origination of Trains:

Train no. 15669 (Guwahati – Dibrugarh) Nagaland Express commencing journey on 30.07.26 will be short terminated at Mariani and will remain cancel between Mariani and Dibrugarh

Train no. 15670 (Dibrugarh – Guwahati) Nagaland Express commencing journey on 31.07.26 will be short originated from Mariani and will remain cancelled between Dibrugarh and Mariani

Cancellation of Trains:

- Train No. 55913/ 55914 (Jorhat Town – Tinsukia- Jorhat Town) Passenger commencing journey on 31.07.26
- Train No. 75602/75601 (Tinsukia – Lumding – Tinsukia) DEMU commencing journey on 31.07.26
- Train No. 15603 (Guwahati - Ledo) Intercity Express commencing journey on 30.07.26
- Train No. 15604 (Ledo - Guwahati) Intercity Express commencing journey on 31.07.26
- Train No. 15927 (Rangiya – New Tinsukia) Intercity Express commencing journey on 31.07.26
- Train No. 15968 (Ledo – Rangiya) Intercity Express commencing journey on 31.07.26
- Train No. 55909/55910 (Simaluguri – Dibrugarh – Simaluguri) Passenger commencing journey on 31.07.26

Despite the challenging conditions, NFR is working 24X7 for restoration of train services at the flood affected areas to the earliest. Engineering teams led by senior railway officials of division have been working continuously on a war footing to restore and ensure safe railway services in those flood hit areas.



25–30 Metre Stretch of Yamunotri Trek Collapses Near Ram Temple

Alternative Route Under Construction

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand : Continuous rainfall has triggered another incident of road subsidence on the Yamunotri pilgrimage route, raising safety concerns for pilgrims undertaking the Char Dham Yatra. According to officials, a 25–30 metre stretch of the Janki Chatti–Yamunotri pedestrian track at Km 2, Hm 10, near Ram Temple, has caved in by approximately 2 to 2.5 metres following a rise in the river's water level. The damage has disrupted the trekking route and poses a potential risk to pilgrims. Soon after the incident, the district administration and concerned departments launched restoration work. A team comprising six personnel from the Public Works Department (PWD), Barkot, and three Forest Department workers has been deployed at the site to construct an alternative pedestrian route and restore safe movement. To ensure the safety of pilgrims, SDRF and police personnel have also been stationed at the affected location. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation and advising devotees to follow official instructions and exercise caution while travelling in the rain-affected hill region. Officials said work on the alternative route is progressing on a war footing to minimise inconvenience to pilgrims and ensure the smooth continuation of the ongoing Char Dham Yatra. The administration has appealed to all pilgrims to remain alert and strictly adhere to safety advisories issued by the authorities.

Haryana Waives Stamp Duty for PMAY-U 2.0 Beneficiaries

EWS beneficiaries to pay just Rs. 500 each as Stamp Duty and Registration Fee for eligible dwelling units

Cabinet gives nod to exemption or fixation of Stamp Duty and Registration Fee under PMAY-U 2.0

CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

The Council of Ministers, which met under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini here today, approved a proposal regarding exemption or fixation of Stamp Duty and Registration Fee under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0.

The present exemption/ fixation of Stamp Duty and Registration Fee under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 related to dwelling units up to 60 sqm registered under PMAY-U 2.0 for EWS beneficiaries.

The concession in Stamp Duty and Registration Fee is a targeted measure to facilitate affordable home ownership for economically weaker households under this time-bound flagship scheme. As per the proposal conveyance deeds executed for such dwelling units, a nominal Registration Fee of Rs. 500 per deed will be levied. Furthermore, the Stamp Duty under Article 23-A of Schedule 1-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, as applicable to Haryana, has also been reduced to a nominal amount of Rs. 500 per deed. The move aims to reduce the transaction cost and financial burden on EWS beneficiaries, thereby promoting the objective of "Housing for All" under PMAY-U 2.0.

Notably, at present, Stamp Duty on conveyance deeds in Haryana is chargeable at 5 percent under Article 23-A of Schedule 1-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, along with 2 percent additional duty. A rebate of 2 percent is available where the conveyance is executed in favour of a woman. Registration Fee is chargeable on a slab basis, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000.

In view of the objective of promoting affordable housing for EWS beneficiaries under PMAY-U 2.0, grant of concession in Stamp Duty and Registration Fee on eligible conveyance deeds has been approved.

Akhilesh Mocks Pradhan During Parliament Debate

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday took a jibe at the government in Parliament over the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan in the wake of student protests, asserting it saved a "Pradhan Mantri (Prime Minister) by removing a Pradhan".



Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday took a swipe at the government over the resignation of former Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, saying it had "saved the Pradhan Mantri (Prime Minister) by removing a Pradhan". Participating in the 10-hour discussion on the anti-paper leak amendment bill, Akhilesh Yadav linked Pradhan's resignation to the nationwide student protests over the NEET paper leak controversy and claimed the government was forced to bow before public pressure. "When the minister (Dharmendra Pradhan) arrived in Parliament, he was welcomed outside the House. Imagine the immense relief the members must have felt and the major crisis from which they were saved. By removing one 'Pradhan', you effectively saved the 'Pradhan Mantri'," the Kannauj MP said.

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He credited the youth-led agitation for forcing the government to act. "I salute the youngsters for their morale and unity, which forced the government to bow down. The government thought it was invincible, but the youth proved that 'jhukti hai duniya, jhukane wala chahiye' (the world will bend if you know how to make it bend). The government bowed down and made the minister resign," he said. Akhilesh Yadav said the protests marked the first student movement that received widespread support from parents and asserted that governments concede demands only when they come under pressure. "When the government gets panicked and scared, it accepts demands. We saw this during the farmers' protest as well. The government withdrew the three farm laws when elections approached," he said. Referring to the protests, he said that what initially appeared to be a joke eventually turned into a movement significant enough to compel the government to respond. "I hope all the demands raised by the youths are accepted. The government must have realised that even a party that begins as a joke can become a major force," he added. The SP chief also accused the BJP of damaging India's education system. "Ever since the BJP came to power, it has tried to destroy education, examinations and universities by painting them in one colour. This created anger among students, which is why the protests became so massive that the world's biggest party had to budge. The approach should change," he said. Akhilesh Yadav further alleged that the government had "snatched the rights of Dalits and backward classes in recruitments" and quipped that the Opposition feared the Centre would eventually "outsource the entire government", just as it had outsourced examinations to the National Testing Agency (NTA). His remarks came days after Pradhan resigned as the Union Education Minister after weeks of mounting protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) over the irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026 examination. The protesters had demanded Pradhan's removal, a court-monitored probe into the paper leak, Rs 1 crore compensation for the families of students who died by suicide, and reforms to the examination system. Pradhan's resignation was accepted by President Droupadi Murmu ahead of the Monsoon Session. On Monday, the government introduced the anti-paper leak bill in the Lok Sabha, aimed at strengthening safeguards against examination malpractices and tightening penalties for those involved in paper leaks. However, the House was adjourned for the day amid sloganeering by Opposition members.



Rajasthan IT Delegation Visits RTGS

AMARAVATI:

A high-level delegation of senior officials from the Information Technology Department of the Government of Rajasthan visited the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Command and Control Centre at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on Tuesday to study its governance and technology initiatives. The delegation was led by Lakshmikant Katara, General Manager of RajCOMP Info Services Limited, Ramesh Dawand, Nodal Officer at the Brahmagupta Centre of Frontier Technologies under the Rajasthan Information Technology Department, and Nitish Kumar Jangid, Deputy Director, along with other officials. The visiting team was welcomed by RTGS CEO Prakhar Jain, who delivered a comprehensive presentation on the functioning and capabilities of RTGS. He explained the State Government's vision of data-driven governance, highlighting the development of one of the country's largest Data Lakes, which integrates data from over 40 government departments onto a single platform. He further explained that RTGS leverages Artificial Intelligence (AI) to develop multiple governance use cases that simplify administration, enhance decision-making, and improve public service delivery. The CEO also briefed the delegation on RTGS CCTV360, which provides advanced technological support to the Police Department for strengthening law and order through intelligent surveillance and analytics. Speaking about the AWARE (Advanced Weather and Environmental Response) Division, he said the platform continuously monitors weather conditions and natural hazards. The system provides early warnings to government agencies and citizens, enabling timely preparedness and minimizing the loss of life and property during natural disasters. He added that AWARE has expanded beyond weather monitoring by offering Agro Advisory Services to farmers. The platform also monitors real-time water storage levels in reservoirs, rainfall patterns, and water availability across the State, helping authorities make informed water resource management decisions.

Over 40 suspected bandits killed in northern Nigeria

ABUJA

At least 40 suspected bandits, including eight suspected senior commanders, were killed after Nigerian security forces repelled an attack on a village in the northern state of Katsina, a state government official said Tuesday.

Nasir Mu'azu, commissioner for internal security and home affairs in Katsina State, said in a statement that joint security operatives engaged the bandits after the group attacked Guga village in Bakori Local Government Area on Sunday.

According to Mu'azu, intelligence reports had indicated that the bandits planned to attack several villages before launching coordinated assaults on Bakori town, Xinhua News Agency reported.

He said Idi Abasu Aiki, the alleged leader of the bandit group, was believed to have sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds during the exchange of fire, as security forces forced the attackers to retreat in disarray.

The attempted attack, believed to be linked to an earlier operation in the same area on July 7 during which security forces reportedly inflicted heavy losses on the bandits, was aimed at regaining lost ground and undermining the community-based security architecture established by the state government, Mu'azu said.

According to the official, security forces have launched clearance operations to recover weapons and other items abandoned by the fleeing attackers, while surveillance has been intensified to prevent further attacks.

North Korea and Russia united by bridge, least visible connection to satellites: Report

MOSCOW/PYONGYANG



Russia and North Korea are completing the first direct road connection, with the construction of a two-lane bridge, one kilometre long and about seven metres wide, over the Tumen River, between the localities of Khasan and Tumangang, which runs alongside the already existing railway connection.

The infrastructure, the result of a project launched after the strategic partnership agreement signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Supreme Leader of North Korea Kim Jong-un in June 2024 - and which should have been inaugurated last June but is not yet completed on the Russian side - seems to signal Moscow and Pyongyang's intention to strengthen their military cooperation, with the transport of North Korean soldiers and engineers to Russia, and Russian high-tech military components to North Korea, Italian News Agency Adnkronos reported.

North Korea's road network is much more extensive than its railway network, making it more difficult to monitor in its entirety. Loading and unloading operations can be done anywhere and faster, so loads are less exposed to satellite passage.

And while trucks always appear the same in satellite images, train wagons reveal much of their content in satellite-taken images. In addition, the new infrastructure cost 100 million dollars against a trade exchange of 34 million (2024 data). Tourism is also limited to escorted tours for no more than 10,000 people per year (in 2025), with a final destination 500 kilometres from the crossing. The railway tracks in the two countries have different gauges, so trains must be modified before crossing the border.

North Korea had sent 14,000 soldiers to fight alongside the Russians in Kursk, after the incursion of Ukrainian forces in August 2024, two thousand of whom reportedly fell on the front. Volodymyr Zelensky has announced that Pyongyang intends to send another 30,000 troops now.

From kitchen to public transport: Bangladesh's gas crisis disrupts public life in Dhaka

DHAKA

As Bangladesh grapples with a worsening gas crisis, the disruption has extended far beyond household kitchens, paralysing public transport across Dhaka as hundreds of CNG-powered buses, auto-rickshaws and ride-sharing vehicles spend hours waiting for fuel, leaving commuters stranded and increasing transport costs, local media reported.

Commuters on major corridors in Dhaka such as Rampura, Badda, Airport Road, Banasree and Mirpur faced hours-long delays on Monday, with fewer buses on the roads, inflated CNG auto-rickshaw fares and a shortage of app-based transport.

According to drivers and transport workers, fuel shortages have severely disrupted services, with buses that once made multiple daily trips now struggling to complete a single trip, reducing fleet availability across the city.

Additionally, the Gulshan-Mirpur, Gabtoli, Shahbag, Airport and Sayedabad routes also witnessed similar shortages, leaving commuters to endure long queues and overcrowded buses amid a sharp decline in available services, Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported. The crisis has severely affected CNG auto-rickshaw drivers, who say that after waiting five hours at a filling station, they receive only Bangladeshi Taka (Tk) 100 to Tk150 worth of gas --barely enough to complete a few trips.

"If the vehicle cannot run, how will we pay the owner or feed our families?" Dhaka Tribune quoted



drivers Kawsar Ahmed and Rahim as saying while waiting at a filling station. With no certainty over when gas supplies will return to normal, many voiced frustration at the lack of a clear government plan, while calling for coordinated action to restore fuel availability and reduce the growing disruption to daily life.

The ongoing gas crisis in Bangladesh has reportedly been caused by a fire at a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) in Cox's Bazar on July 21, which damaged one of its two boilers and forced the facility to stop operations.

The incident reduced Bangladesh's gas supply to below 2,150 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd), down from an average of around 2,700 mmcfd that had been maintained over the past year, despite the national daily demand standing at nearly 3,800 mmcfd, Bangladeshi media outlet UNB reported. The gas supply reduction has impacted household kitchens the most, with gas pressure reducing to near zero or flickering feebly in many parts of Dhaka.

Residents in areas like Mirpur, Badda, Kalabagan, Kafrul, Mohammadpur, Kazipara, West Tejturi Bazar and Rampura said that gas stoves remained unlit or unusable for days.

Harmonious Coexistence between Humans and Tigers

(On the occasion of "International Tiger Day" on 29 July)

One of the best-known animals on the planet Earth is a beautiful wild Tiger, called as biggest cat found in forests and grasslands of Asia, spread in 13 different countries. Tigers are not only iconic animals but also play a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance. Sadly, their numbers are drastically decreasing due to human activities. As top predators, they manage herbivore populations to avoid overgrazing and land damage. With illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict and habitat loss, the number of Tigers in the world dropped by 95 percent since the early 20th century. To support the cause, you can adopt a Tiger to focus on finding projects with local communities, monitoring Tigers, reducing poaching, and educating people.



Theme of International Tiger Day-2026

"International Tiger Day", also known as "Global Tiger Day" is an annua observance on 29 July, to raise awareness about the threats tigers encounter in the wild, including habitat loss, poaching, illegal trade there by reducing their populations. It also celebrates the ongoing conservation efforts and encourage collective action to protect these magnificent animals and their natural habitats. Let's share the responsibility to protect tigers and to ensure that future generations can witness their beauty in the wild. World Tiger Day is also important because it draws attention to the urgent need for their conservation, mobilises resources, and educates the public about how everyone can contribute to saving this endangered species. The theme of International Tiger Day-2026 is "Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart", emphasises the need for their conservation and their shared ecosystems.

Highest Tiger Population in India

Tigers are currently found in 13 countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. Nearly 1,00,000 tigers roamed Asia a century ago. The wild tiger country-wise population is 3,682 in India, 750 in Russia, 400 in Indonesia, 355 in Nepal, 189 in Thailand, 151 in Bhutan, 150 in Malaysia, 146 in Bangladesh, and 22 in Myanmar, 20 in China, 05 in Vietnam, and 02 in Laos. Today, only around 5,574 tigers are found in their natural habitat worldwide. Tigers are often killed for their skin and their claws and teeth, which are used in jewellery making. Sadly, people buy tiger whiskers, bones, and meat also. Tigers run as fast as 40 mph, weigh up to 660 pounds with their life span is up to 15 years, powerful swimmers, and consumes up to 88 pounds of meat in one meal.

Conservation Efforts of Tigers In India

In 1973, India launched "Project Tiger" and "National Tiger Conservation Authority" established in 2006, to revive the tiger population. As per all India tiger estimates 3,682 tigers are found in 2022, 2,967 in 2018, and 2,226 in 2014. India has over 70 percent of global tiger population. The number of tigers today shows a growth rate of nearly 6.1 percent. There are 58 tiger reserves in India spanning 2.3 percent of India's total land area. On this day, the programs like awareness, social media campaigns, donation to tiger protection projects, responsible tourism, and teaching future generations about the importance of wildlife protection and tiger conservation.

- Prof : Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
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Pakistani forces forcibly disappear four civilians in Balochistan

QUETTA



At least four civilians were forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan, a leading human rights organisation said on Tuesday. Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, revealed that 19 -year-old labourer Saeed Ahmed was subjected to enforced disappearance from Nigar area in Surab district on July 12 by Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Frontier Corps (FC) personnel.

Additionally, 25-year-old police personnel Sanaullah Baloch and 38-year-old property dealer Khalil Baloch were taken from Killi Rehki area in Mastung on July 3 by ISI and FC personnel.

Condemning the incidents, Paank said, "Enforced disappearance is a grave violation of international human rights law. The practice places individuals outside the protection of the law, inflicts severe psychological suffering on their families, and fosters a climate of fear and impunity."

Paank called on the Pakistani authorities to immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of Sanaullah Baloch, Khalil Baloch, and Saeed Ahmed, ensure their prompt release if they are being held unlawfully, or bring them before an independent civilian court if there is a lawful basis for their detention.

It further urged the authorities to conduct prompt, impartial, independent, and transparent investigations into these allegations, hold those responsible accountable in accordance with the law, and ensure justice and effective remedies for the victims and their families. Paank expressed grave concern over the enforced disappearance of Osman, a resident of Gobard Mand area in Kech district of Balochistan. The rights body noted that Osman was abducted from Chabahar in Iran last month by Pakistani intelligence agencies operating through local informants, while his whereabouts remain unknown.

According to his family, Osman is an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) residing in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province for a couple of years. They insisted that if any allegations exist against him, he should be charged under the law and brought before a competent civilian court, rather than being subjected to secret detention or enforced disappearance.

Paank called on the Pakistani authorities to immediately reveal Osman's whereabouts, ensure his safety, grant him access to his family and legal counsel, and bring him before a court in accordance with due process or release him without delay. Amid escalating violence in Balochistan, another two bodies were recovered from the Mashkai area of Awaran district, local media reported. According to the police, one was identified as Imran, a resident of Khuzdar district, while the identity of the second person had not yet been established, The Balochistan Post reported.

Pray for safety and recovery of those affected by Japan earthquake: EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Tuesday expressed concern at the news of the earthquake that struck Kumamoto prefecture in Japan earlier in the day.

"Deeply concerned at the news of the earthquake that struck Kumamoto prefecture in Japan. Express our solidarity and support to the Government and people of Japan as they respond to it. Pray for the safety and recovery of those affected by the earthquake," the EAM wrote on X.

An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude jolted southwestern Japan on Tuesday, killing one person and injuring dozens of others, local media reported.

Many people are feared trapped, with up to 30 employees unaccounted for after an explosion occurred at an Aeon Co.-operated shopping mall in Kashima, Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyodo News reported. According to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency and police, the building's second floor collapsed. The facility exploded after about 200 people evacuated.

At Yatsushiro Station, a cargo train was derailed and overturned, leaving the driver uninjured. According to the reports, around 50 people were taken to a hospital in Kumamoto, and local firefighting authorities have received reports of people trapped inside their homes.

"It shook vertically and sideways for about 10 to 20 seconds. It was worse than during the Kumamoto earthquake (in 2016)," said an 89-year-old man in Uki, one of the hardest hit cities, reported Kyodo.

Brief alert issued after US military reports low-risk white phosphorus leak at air base

PYEONGTAEK (SOUTH KOREA)



A brief evacuation alert was issued Tuesday in the regional city of Pyeongtaek, home to the US Forces Korea, following a report of a minor white phosphorus leak at the US base that officials say posed a low risk.

Police and fire authorities said they received calls from the US military at around 5:07 pm reporting the leak of the toxic chemical substance at the K-55 US Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, about 60 kilometres south of Seoul.

The Pyeongtaek city government issued the alert notifying the public of the possible white phosphorus leak and advising residents nearby to evacuate to a safe location to prevent skin exposure, Yonhap News Agency reported.

White phosphorus is an extremely toxic substance capable of burning human tissue down to the bone upon contact. Its military use is tightly regulated and discouraged by the international community.

Officials said white phosphorus leaked from two munitions, although the exact amount released remains unconfirmed. No casualties have been reported, they said. The US military reportedly informed the city that the leaked substance had been roughly 80 per cent diluted and that it poses a low risk to public health and the surrounding environment. Pyeongtaek authorities subsequently lifted the evacuation advisory, about 36 minutes after the initial alert, informing residents that it was safe to return to normal after necessary measures were completed at the US base.

The US military confirmed a "ground mishap" had occurred and cordoned off the area to protect the base and local residents, saying the situation is being addressed swiftly. "Our emergency response professionals are currently managing an isolated situation on the installation. We are handling this matter with the utmost care and expediency," the US 51st Fighter Wing said in a statement.

The unit added that some reports of a general evacuation of Osan Air Base were incorrect. The leak report had prompted authorities to send firefighters and related equipment to the scene and coordinate joint responses with the US military, officials said. Police had set up a cordon with patrol vehicles about 300 to 500 meters from the base as a precaution, and blocked civilian access and detoured traffic.

Guru is an awakened God



BY SACHCHIDANANDA VERMA



Guru Purnima is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Ashadha. In the yoga tradition, this day is celebrated as the occasion when Shiva first became a guru, as he started giving knowledge of yoga to the seven sages. This day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great sage Ved Vyas and the compilation of the four Vedas by him. He gave a precious treasure of knowledge to humanity by creating Mahabharata and Puranas, that is why it is also called 'Vyas Purnima' in his honour. Gurupurnima is a day to express reverence, devotion, respect and gratitude towards the Guru. Here we are talking about those gurus who have attained God and who show their disciples the path of self-realisation. The Guru is an awakened God, who is awakening the sleeping God within the disciple. Guru silence is the express voice of God.

Guru Gita (verse 17) interprets the Guru correctly. "The ""blinder"" (Gu, ""the ""blinder"" and the ""remover"")." A true, God-attained Guru is one who has attained unity with the all-encompassing Brahman. According to a verse for equality in guru and deity - Yesya Deve Para Bhaktitha Deve and Guru i.e. the need for devotion is for the deity as well as the guru is for the guru. Rather, it is also possible to realise God by the grace of Sadhguru. Nothing is possible without the grace of the Guru.

Guru Brahma Guruvishnu Rgurudevo Maheshwar

Guru: Satshat Param Brahma Tasmai Shri Gurve Namah.

Due to his importance, the guru has been given a higher position than God. In the scriptures, Guru has been recognised as various forms of God - Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar.

Saint Kabir says - Hari Ruhe Guru Thaur Hai, Guru Ruhe Nahin Thaur. That is, when God gets angry, the shelter of the guru can protect, but when the guru gets angry, it is not possible to get shelter anywhere. In his second couplet, Kabir Das says that the glory of Satguru is infinite, the infinite favour of Lochan Anant, infinite appearance defeat - that is, the glory of Sadhguru is infinite.

He has done infinite favours to the disciple. He has not only calmed him but also made him see the infinite element Brahma by opening the closed eyes of the disciple who was closed by the knowledge. He writes further in this context. Good brother Jugurmilya, it is not there. Deepak Dishti Kite Jyun, It Would Have Been Full Of Janni. That is, it was good that Sadhguru got it, otherwise it would have been very hurt. Like ordinary people like moths, they fall into the glitter of Maya and get destroyed. In the same way, I would also be destroyed.

(Special on Guru Purnima)

As far as spiritual gurus are concerned, they are the representatives of God himself in the form of Brahma. It is not necessary for a divine councillor (messenger) to be born with him, but his most beloved and official disciples carry on his work (mission) in the future. In many saint traditions, these disciples are considered to be the extension of their work. Not only in ancient times but also in the 19th century, there have been many great saints in India who have shown the way to the devotees who wanted to attain God. Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Lahiri Mahasaya, Swami Shriyuktashwar, Maharshiraman, Anandamoyi Maa, Acharya Ramchandra and Paramhansa Yogananda not only made many disciples meet God but the organisation established by them is still showing the way of the seekers.

Paramahansa Yogananda was such a true guru who was from the tradition of divine gurus and who has also given scientific technology to spread the knowledge of Kriya Yoga path all over the world. There are followers of Paramahansa Yogananda all over the world who are happy in God's experience by following the path of Raja Yoga indicated by him. He has given the store of knowledge to the whole world. He has written commentaries on many books and scriptures. There is also a special curriculum for devotees who want to attain God. Paramahansa Yogananda had opened many ashrams and centres for his disciples by establishing Yogda Satsangs Association in India and Self-Realisation Fellowship in America. Where many of his disciples are being trained for self-realisation. Yogananda has said that an average devotee cannot attain God without a guru. The devotee has to make 25 percent effort through the practice of the guru-given meditation methods, 25 percent of the effort is through the blessings of the guru, and 50 percent is obtained through the grace of God. How can a person find a true guru? It is said that we do not search for the guru, but the guru himself finds us. It is believed that if a devout person's longing to know God is intense and the longing to know God is untiring, then a true guru himself comes to guide his disciple. According to Paramahansa Yogananda, friendship between guru and disciple is eternal. When a disciple accepts the training of the master, there is complete surrender, no compulsion. They are one with God and receive divine acceptance to preach as a representative of God on earth. Guru silence is the express voice of God.

(The writer is an independent journalist and columnist)

Tata Sons gets 12% less in FY26: Biggest TCS payout drop since Covid

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the Tata Group's largest company, paid a lower dividend to Tata Sons in FY26, marking the sharpest decline in payouts since the Covid-affected FY21. At the same time, losses at Tata Sons' three biggest new businesses nearly doubled, increasing the pressure on the holding company's cash flows.

According to Tata Sons' annual report, the holding company received Rs 28,291 crore in dividends from TCS in FY26, down 12% from a record Rs 32,184 crore in FY25. TCS did not carry out a share buyback in either financial year.

SHARPEST DECLINE SINCE FY21

The fall in TCS' payout is significant because dividends and share buybacks from the IT major have long been one of Tata Sons' biggest sources of cash. These funds are used to invest in group companies, pay dividends to shareholders and support businesses that are yet to become profitable.

The FY26 decline is the steepest since FY21, when TCS' total payout to Tata Sons fell 22% to Rs 17,815 crore from Rs 22,971 crore during the pandemic. Since then, payouts had recovered and stayed in the Rs 28,000 crore to Rs 32,000 crore range from FY23 onwards.

Between FY20 and FY26, Tata Sons received a cumulative Rs 1.81 lakh crore from TCS through dividends and buybacks. However, payouts grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of only around 3.5% over the period and declined in three of the six years.

IT SECTOR FACES A TOUGHER ENVIRONMENT

The decline in payouts comes as India's information technology sector faces a more challenging business environment. Companies are reviewing traditional outsourcing spending as the adoption of artificial intelligence gathers pace. In FY26, TCS reported revenue of Rs 2.67 lakh crore, up 4.58% from the previous year. Net profit rose 1.34% to Rs 49,454 crore.

LOSSES AT NEW BUSINESSES INCREASE SHARPLY

At the same time, Tata Sons' investments in its newer businesses became more expensive. Air India, Tata Digital and Tata Electronics reported combined losses of Rs 28,823 crore in FY26, up 85% from Rs 15,539 crore in FY25. Air India's loss more than doubled to Rs 22,238 crore from Rs 10,859 crore. Tata Digital's loss widened to Rs 4,974 crore from Rs 4,610 crore. Tata Electronics reported a loss of Rs 1,611 crore, compared with Rs 70 crore a year earlier. However, the company nearly doubled its revenue during the year and achieved operating-profit break-even.

Sensex, Nifty ends marginally lower as IT stocks cushion market fall

Benchmark equity indices ended marginally lower on Tuesday as a rally in information technology stocks helped cushion losses in banking, FMCG and power shares, while investors remained cautious ahead of this week's policy decisions by the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England and Bank of Japan.



The BSE Sensex settled 69.86 points, or 0.09%, lower at 76,765.92, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped 10.60 points, or 0.04%, to close at 23,985.35 after trading above the 24,000 mark during the session. Despite the muted finish, IT stocks stood out as the biggest gainers. The Nifty IT index surged 3.32%, outperforming all other sectoral indices. TCS climbed 4.39%, Tech Mahindra gained 3.53%, Infosys rose 2.40% and HCLTech added 1.91%, while Eternal advanced 3.92%.

Mayank Jain, Market Analyst at Share.Market by PhonePe, said the rally reflected a shift in investor preference rather than improving sentiment towards global technology stocks. "Amid a sharp sell-off across East Asian technology hubs driven by escalating fears over debt-fueled artificial intelligence (AI) capital expenditure and uncertain return-on-investment timelines, India's technology services sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience," he said.

He noted that while semiconductor companies across South Korea, Taiwan and Japan faced heavy selling, investors rotated into Indian IT companies because they operate an asset-light services model and have limited exposure to expensive AI infrastructure investments. Having already undergone a significant valuation correction over the past few quarters, Indian IT stocks are now being viewed as attractive defensive bets. The strength in technology stocks, however, was not enough to offset weakness elsewhere. Hindustan Unilever tumbled 7.12% to emerge as the biggest loser on the Sensex after its quarterly earnings, while BEL declined 4.47%. NTPC fell 2.11%, ICICI Bank lost 1.81%, Power Grid dropped 1.19% and SBI, Tata Steel and Reliance Industries also ended in the red. Sectoral trends remained mixed. Alongside IT, Realty gained 2.17%, Auto rose 0.69% and Consumer Durables advanced 1.08%. On the other hand, FMCG fell 1.38%, Chemicals lost 1.25%, PSU Bank slipped 0.96% and Metal declined 0.61%. Broader markets also painted a mixed picture, with the Nifty Midcap 50 rising 0.22%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 fell 0.22%. India VIX eased 1.75% to 12.44, indicating lower volatility. Lower crude oil prices continued to lend support to domestic markets. Brent crude dropped nearly 3% to $85.86 a barrel, while WTI crude slipped 2.53% to $80.52. The decline also boosted the rupee, which strengthened to 95.8525 against the US dollar, its strongest closing level in two weeks, helped by softer oil prices and likely intervention by the Reserve Bank of India. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said easing crude prices offered relief, although investors remained cautious ahead of key macro events. "The respite in crude oil prices provided relief to markets by easing concerns over inflation and input cost pressures. However, investor sentiment remained cautious ahead of key central bank policy meetings this week, including those of the Fed, BoE, and BoJ," he said.

He added that expectations of status quo on interest rates, India's relative advantage under the revised US tariff framework, improving monsoon conditions and gradually better first-quarter earnings have supported the broader market outlook, while attractive valuations continue to keep IT stocks in favour.

From a technical perspective, Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said the Nifty continued to trade in a narrow range, reflecting indecision among traders.

"The index remained range-bound during the day, with the regular monthly expiry volatility largely absent. A decisive move above 24,050 could open the door towards 24,500 in the short term, while immediate support is seen around 23,920, followed by 23,800," he said.

Jio Strengthens Market Leadership in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Leads Wireline 5G FWA and Active Subscriber Growth

HYDERABAD, JULY 28, 2026

Reliance Jio has further strengthened its leadership across key telecom segments in the unified Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), comprising Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, according to the latest Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) subscriber data for June 2026.

The latest data highlights Jio's market leadership in wireline broadband, 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), and active wireless subscriber additions, reflecting strong customer engagement and sustained momentum in next-generation connectivity.

Jio's overall wireless subscriber base stood at 3.26 crore, accounting for 36.9% market share, while adding 1,78,546 net wireless subscribers during the month.

Jio retained its position as the largest wireline broadband service provider in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with a 42.7% market share. It ended June with 21 lacs wireline subscribers, after adding 28,267 new connections during the month, further widening its lead in the rapidly expanding home broadband segment.

Dominating the 5G Fixed Broadband Market

Jio continues to lead the transition to next-generation broadband through its 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services.

According to TRAI, Jio commands a 70.5% market share in the region's 5G FWA segment, serving 7,75,442 subscribers out of nearly 11 lacs total users. During June alone, the company added 8,629 new FWA subscribers.

The company also remains the only operator reporting subscribers under the 5G Unlicensed Band Radio (UBR) category. Jio's UBR subscriber base reached 4,18,347, with 19,799 additions during the month, underscoring its early leadership in emerging fixed wireless technologies.

The June 2026 TRAI data reinforce Jio's strong competitive position in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. While continuing to grow its wireless subscriber base, the company is consolidating its leadership in high-value broadband segments, driven by sustained expansion in wireline services, rapid adoption of 5G-based home broadband, and the highest growth in active wireless users. The latest performance underscores Jio's strategy of building a future-ready digital infrastructure while strengthening customer engagement across both mobile and fixed broadband services.



Over 39.7 lakh rooftop solar systems installed under PM Surya Ghar scheme: Minister

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

As many as 18.71 lakh rooftop solar (RTS) systems were installed during 2025–26, adding a cumulative installed solar capacity of 6.7 GW and benefitting 22.71 lakh households nationwide under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the government said on Tuesday.

A total of 39,72,447 RTS systems has been installed, since the scheme's launch in February 2024, benefitting 48,02,717 households across the country, including rural households, MoS New & Renewable Energy, Shripad Yesso Naik said in Rajya Sabha.

While the electricity bills of consumers installed RTS under the scheme have been largely reduced, over 18.93 lakh beneficiaries have been reported by DISCOMs across the country, including the rural households to receive zero electricity bill after installation of RTS systems under the scheme during at least a billing period. The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG: MBY) is a demand-driven scheme wherein all residential consumers in the country including the rural households, holding a grid-connected electricity connection with the local DISCOM, can avail the benefits of the scheme.

Benefits for installation of rooftop solar systems can be availed by applying on the National Portal of the scheme.

Apart from installation of rooftop solar plants in the residential sector, the PMSG: MBY also envisages installation of RTS plants in Government and commercial buildings including educational and health institutions.

Centre clears RBI field trial of 2 billion polymer Rs 10, Rs 20 currency notes

The Centre has cleared the RBI's proposal to test 2 billion polymer Rs 10 and Rs 20 notes in field trials. The move keeps paper notes in circulation while assessing durability, costs and any impact on payments.



The centre has approved the Reserve Bank of India's proposal under the RBI Act 1934, to introduce 2 billion polymer currency notes in Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations for field trials. A successful completion of the initial phase of field trials will be followed by consideration of regular issuance of the polymer currency notes. With no definite launch date in sight, the centre has stated that the proposal does not seek to replace the presently existing paper-based notes.

WILL CURRENT NOTES BE REPLACED?

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Monday, replying to a question in the monsoon session of the Lok Sabha, said that these two billion plastic-substrate notes will exist alongside the already circulated currency. "RBI has informed that as per international studies, the life span of polymer currency notes is significantly higher than that of paper banknotes. The introduction of polymer banknotes is currently in a preliminary phase," Chaudhary said. In addition, Chaudhary dismissed any concerns of hampering the robust digital transaction system of India. "The impact on digital payments, if any, could be ascertained only after the regular issuance of these notes. Moreover, currency notes and digital payment systems are complementary payment tools available to the public," Chaudhary told Parliament. During the authorised trial, the non-porous polymer notes will be tested under varying climatic conditions for parameters such as durability, crease and condition resistance, handling, public feedback, etc. This environmental stress-testing ensures the currency notes can survive intense heat, humidity, dust, and heavy wear before a nationwide rollout.

ADVANCE PREPARARTION FOR THE TRIAL

On July 17, weeks before Centre's decision, the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt Ltd (BRBNMPL), the RBI's currency printing arm floated a global Expression of Interest for procurement of 68000 reams of opacified polymer substrate sheets. It invited the manufacturers to supply these sheets with embedded security features to evaluate components such as texture variation and substrate integration. Officials note that the initiative could take several months to come to fruition, given the government's focus on secure and uncompromised transactions. While polymer notes cost roughly 20% to 24% more to manufacture initially, they last 2.5 to 4 times longer than cotton-rag paper notes. This is important in reducing the annual printing expenses, which climbed to 6,372.8 crore. Over a standard lifecycle, extending the durability of 10 and 20 bills with trial polymer currency notes will save the central bank thousands of crores in print, transport, and other disposal costs.



End of the road for Paytm Payments Bank as court orders winding up

The Delhi High Court has ordered Paytm Payments Bank to be wound up after the RBI cancelled its licence. The move begins formal liquidation and closes a regulatory crackdown that ran for over four years.

Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) will be wound up after the Delhi High Court ordered its liquidation, marking the final chapter in the payments bank's closure months after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled its banking licence. In a press release issued on Tuesday, the RBI said the Delhi High Court, through orders dated July 8 and July 22, directed that Paytm Payments Bank be wound up under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, read with the Companies Act, 2013. The court also appointed Girikumar M. Nair, former Chief General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI), as the official liquidator to oversee the process.\ The official liquidator will exercise all the powers of the bank's board with effect from July 8, 2026, the RBI said.

WHY IS PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK BEING CLOSED?

The winding-up order follows the RBI's decision on April 24, 2026, to cancel Paytm Payments Bank's banking licence under Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act. Following the licence cancellation, the central bank approached the Delhi High Court under Sections 38 and 39 of the Banking Regulation Act, seeking the winding up of the bank and the appointment of an official liquidator. At the time of cancelling the licence, the RBI had said the affairs of the bank were being conducted in a manner "detrimental to the interest of the bank and its depositors."

A LONG REGULATORY CRACKDOWN

Paytm Payments Bank, backed by One 97 Communications, was among the first entities to receive a payments bank licence in 2015 and played a key role in India's rapidly growing digital payments ecosystem. A payments bank is a specialised category of bank that can accept deposits and facilitate payments but is not allowed to lend money. However, the lender came under increasing regulatory scrutiny over the past few years. In March 2022, the RBI directed Paytm Payments Bank to stop onboarding new customers, citing supervisory concerns. The restrictions were tightened further in January 2024, when the central bank barred the lender from accepting fresh deposits and credit transactions after identifying persistent compliance issues. The RBI eventually cancelled the bank's licence in April this year, paving the way for the winding-up proceedings. With the High Court appointing an official liquidator, the formal process of winding up Paytm Payments Bank will now begin. According to the RBI, Girikumar M. Nair will oversee the liquidation process and exercise all powers of the bank's board in accordance with the Banking Regulation Act and applicable provisions of the Companies Act. The court's order effectively marks the final stage in the closure of what was once India's largest payments bank, bringing to an end a regulatory action that unfolded over more than four years.

India plans to source up to 25% of LPG imports from US in 2027

India plans to source up to a quarter of its LPG imports from the United States in 2027, according to Reuters. The shift follows supply disruptions in the Middle East and could also support trade talks with Washington.



India plans to source up to a quarter of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports from the United States in 2027 as it looks to reduce its dependence on the Middle East, strengthen energy security and support ongoing trade negotiations with Washington, reported news agency Reuters. The move comes after India faced its worst LPG shortage earlier this year when the Iran conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz disrupted supplies from the Middle East. The government was forced to divert LPG feedstock meant for industries to households, where the fuel is widely used for cooking.

WHY INDIA IS LOOKING TO THE US

India, the world's third-largest importer and consumer of oil, currently depends heavily on the Middle East for its LPG needs. Around 90% of the country's 21.85 million metric tonnes of LPG imports in 2025 came from the region, while imports met nearly two-thirds of domestic LPG demand, according to government data mentioned in the report. To diversify supplies, state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) are expected to issue tenders within the next one to two months to procure US LPG supplies for 2027, the report said. A delegation from the three companies is also likely to visit the United States next month to hold discussions with suppliers, according to the sources.

MOVE MAY ALSO SUPPORT INDIA-US TRADE TALKS

The planned increase in US energy purchases is also expected to support efforts to conclude a long-awaited India-US trade agreement. As per the report, higher imports of US energy could help narrow India's trade surplus with the United States, one of the key demands of US President Donald Trump. India has already committed to increasing its purchases of US energy by $10 billion to $25 billion in the near future. Both countries have also set a target of raising bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

LPG IMPORTS FROM US ALREADY RISING

India has already stepped up spot purchases of LPG from the United States and other countries after supplies from the Middle East declined. Imports of US LPG crossed 1 million tonnes in June for the first time and are likely to exceed India's initial annual contract target of 2.2 million tonnes for 2026. Lower supplies from the iddle East also affected domestic consumption. Government data cited by Reuters showed that India's LPG consumption fell about 8% year-on-year to around 14.7 million tonnes during January-June 2026, while imports declined about 28% to around 7.5 million tonnes. One of the sources told Reuters that India's total LPG consumption is expected to fall to around 30 million tonnes this year because of supply constraints. However, demand is expected to recover to around 31 million tonnes in 2027, with imports rising to nearly 20 million tonnes. The government's push to diversify LPG imports was also reiterated in Parliament. "Diversification of LPG imports is being pursued to ensure supply security and mitigate risks arising from regional disruptions or geopolitical events," Junior Oil Minister Suresh Gopi told lawmakers on Monday, according to Reuters.

Agriculture in India

Current Situation, Challenges and Future Prospects

Agriculture remains the backbone of India's economy, supporting the livelihoods of nearly half of the country's population while ensuring food security for over 1.4 billion people. Although its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has gradually declined with the expansion of industry and services, the sector continues to play a vital role in employment, rural development, exports, and overall economic stability. India is among the world's largest producers of rice, wheat, pulses, milk, fruits, vegetables, cotton, sugarcane, spices, tea, and several other agricultural commodities. The country's agricultural landscape is highly diverse, ranging from irrigated plains in Punjab and Haryana to rain-fed farms in central India and plantation crops in the southern and northeastern states.

Importance of Agriculture

Agriculture contributes around 15-18% to India's GDP, but it provides employment to approximately 45% of the workforce. The sector supplies raw materials to industries such as textiles, food processing, sugar, paper, dairy, leather, and pharmaceuticals. It also generates substantial export earnings through products like rice, spices, tea, coffee, marine products, cotton, fruits, and vegetables.

Agriculture plays a major role in reducing poverty, promoting rural development, maintaining food security, and supporting allied sectors such as dairy, fisheries, poultry, and horticulture. A good agricultural season often boosts rural consumption and strengthens the overall economy.



Cropping Seasons

Indian agriculture follows three major cropping seasons.

Kharif Season (June-October): Crops are sown with the arrival of the southwest monsoon and harvested during autumn. Major crops include rice, maize, cotton, soybean, sugarcane, groundnut, and millets.

Rabi Season (October-March): Crops are sown after the monsoon and harvested during spring. Wheat, mustard, gram, barley, peas, and lentils are the principal Rabi crops.

Zaid Season (March-June): Short-duration crops such as watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables, and fodder are cultivated during this period.

Current Agricultural Scenario

Indian agriculture has undergone remarkable transformation since the Green Revolution. Food grain production has reached record levels in recent years due to improved seeds, better irrigation, mechanization, scientific farming, and government support.

The country has also witnessed significant growth in horticulture, dairy production, fisheries, poultry, and allied agricultural activities. India is the world's largest milk producer, reflecting the success of cooperative dairy movements and improved livestock management.

Digital agriculture is emerging rapidly with the use of drones, satellite monitoring, GPS-based soil mapping, artificial intelligence, and mobile applications that provide weather forecasts, market prices, pest alerts, and advisory services to farmers.

Government Support

The Government of India has introduced several schemes to strengthen agriculture and improve farmers' incomes.

PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi

Eligible farmers receive direct income support through annual financial assistance credited directly to their bank accounts.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

The government announces MSP for major crops to protect farmers from sharp price fluctuations and ensure remunerative prices.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

This crop insurance scheme provides financial protection against crop losses caused by natural disasters, drought, floods, pests, and diseases.

PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana

The programme promotes efficient irrigation through the concept of "More Crop per Drop" and encourages micro-irrigation techniques like drip and sprinkler systems.

Soil Health Card Scheme

Farmers receive soil health reports with recommendations on nutrient management to improve productivity and reduce excessive fertilizer use.

e-NAM (National Agriculture Market)

This online trading platform connects agricultural markets across states, enabling farmers to access better prices through transparent electronic trading.

Kisan Credit Card

The scheme provides affordable institutional credit to farmers for agricultural and allied activities.

Technological Advancements

Technology is gradually transforming Indian agriculture.

Mechanization has increased through tractors, harvesters, seed drills, laser land levellers, and precision farming equipment. Drone technology is being used for pesticide spraying, crop monitoring, and fertilizer application.

Artificial Intelligence helps detect crop diseases, estimate yields, and improve farm management. Remote sensing and satellite imagery assist governments and researchers in monitoring crop health and weather patterns.

Mobile applications provide real-time weather updates, fertilizer recommendations, market information, and expert advice directly to farmers.

Irrigation

Nearly half of India's cultivated land still depends on rainfall, making agriculture highly vulnerable to monsoon variability. Major irrigation sources include canals, tube wells, tanks, reservoirs, and groundwater.

The expansion of micro-irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler irrigation has improved water-use efficiency, particularly in water-scarce regions. Water conservation through rainwater harvesting and watershed development is becoming increasingly important due to declining groundwater levels.

Major Challenges

Despite impressive achievements, Indian agriculture faces several structural and environmental challenges.

Climate Change

Climate change has become one of the biggest threats to Indian agriculture. Rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, droughts, floods, cyclones, and heatwaves affect crop yields and increase production risks. Extreme weather events have become more frequent, causing uncertainty for farmers.

Small Land Holdings

Most Indian farmers own less than two hectares of land. Fragmented landholdings make mechanization difficult and reduce economies of scale. Small farmers often face higher production costs and lower profitability.

Water Scarcity

Groundwater depletion is becoming a serious concern in several states. Over-extraction for irrigation has lowered water tables, while changing rainfall patterns further aggravate water shortages.

Soil Degradation

Continuous cultivation, excessive use of chemical fertilizers, soil erosion, salinity, and declining organic matter have reduced soil fertility in many regions.

Market Fluctuations

Farmers often experience sharp price fluctuations due to seasonal oversupply, inadequate storage facilities, and weak market linkages. Price volatility affects farm incomes and investment decisions.

Post-Harvest Losses

Insufficient cold storage, transportation, grading, packaging, and processing infrastructure lead to significant losses, especially for fruits and vegetables.

Credit and Indebtedness

Although institutional credit has expanded, many small farmers still depend on informal lenders charging high interest rates. Crop failures and low prices sometimes lead to financial distress.

Labour Shortages

Migration of rural workers to urban areas has increased labour shortages in agriculture, especially during peak sowing and harvesting seasons. This has accelerated the adoption of farm mechanization.

Opportunities for Growth

India possesses enormous opportunities to strengthen its agricultural sector.

Diversification towards horticulture, floriculture, medicinal plants, organic farming, dairy, fisheries, poultry, and agroforestry can increase farmers' incomes. Export-oriented agriculture offers substantial growth potential due to rising global demand for quality food products.

Food processing industries can reduce post-harvest losses while creating employment and adding value to agricultural products. Better storage, logistics, cold chains, and modern supply chains can significantly improve farmers' earnings.

Natural farming and sustainable agricultural practices are gaining popularity due to increasing consumer demand for chemical-free food and environmental conservation.

Role of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Farmer Producer Organizations enable small farmers to work collectively. By pooling resources, FPOs improve bargaining power, reduce input costs, facilitate access to credit, and help farmers market their produce more efficiently. Collective farming also supports value addition and direct market access.

Agricultural Exports

India is a major exporter of rice, spices, tea, coffee, marine products, sugar, cotton, fruits, vegetables, and processed food. Agricultural exports contribute significantly to foreign exchange earnings and strengthen India's position in global food markets.

Maintaining quality standards, improving traceability, and complying with international food safety regulations are essential for expanding export opportunities.

Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainability has become a key priority for Indian agriculture. Farmers are increasingly adopting practices such as crop rotation, integrated pest management, organic farming, natural farming, precision agriculture, conservation tillage, and balanced fertilizer use.

Water-efficient irrigation, renewable energy through solar-powered pumps, climate-resilient crop varieties, and better resource management can improve productivity while protecting the environment.

Future Outlook

The future of Indian agriculture lies in combining traditional knowledge with modern science and technology. Digital farming, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, climate-resilient seeds, precision agriculture, smart irrigation, and improved market infrastructure will shape the next phase of agricultural growth.

Major Crops

India grows a wide variety of crops due to its diverse climate and soil conditions.

Food Grains

Rice and wheat are the staple food crops of the country. India is the second-largest producer of both crops globally. Rice is mainly cultivated in eastern, southern, and northeastern states, while wheat is concentrated in northern states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Pulses

India is the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses. Major pulse crops include gram, turad (pigeon pea), moong, urad, and lentils. Pulses are an important source of protein and contribute significantly to nutritional security.

Oilseeds

Groundnut, soybean, mustard, sunflower, sesame, and castor are major oilseed crops. India continues to import a significant quantity of edible oils due to the gap between domestic production and demand.

Cash Crops

Sugarcane, cotton, jute, tobacco, tea, coffee, rubber, and spices are important commercial crops. Cotton supports India's textile industry, while sugarcane drives the sugar and ethanol sectors.

Horticulture

India is one of the world's largest producers of fruits and vegetables. Mangoes, bananas, grapes, apples, oranges, potatoes, onions, and tomatoes are among the major horticultural products. The horticulture sector has shown faster growth than traditional crop farming over the past decade.

Conclusion

Agriculture continues to be the foundation of India's rural economy and an essential pillar of national development. While the sector has achieved remarkable success in ensuring food security and becoming a global leader in the production of several commodities, it faces persistent challenges such as climate change, fragmented landholdings, water scarcity, soil degradation, market volatility, and post-harvest losses.

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts involving governments, research institutions, private enterprises, cooperatives, and farmers. Investments in irrigation, technology, sustainable farming, infrastructure, agricultural marketing, and value addition can significantly improve productivity and farm incomes. With continued innovation, policy support, and climate-resilient practices, Indian agriculture is well-positioned to become more productive, profitable, sustainable, and globally competitive while ensuring food and nutritional security for future generations.



SHORT NEWS

Jr Men's Hockey Nationals

Himachal, Uttarakhand, AP start with wins on Day 1



COIMBATORE: Teams from Himachal, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Chandigarh began their campaigns with wins in Division B on the opening day of the 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 at the Coimbatore Hockey Ground on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Telangana and Le Puducherry secured victories in Division C as the day witnessed exciting hockey action. In Pool A of Division B, Shubhdeep Singh's (9') lone goal helped Hockey Himachal clinch a 1-0 win against Hockey Maharashtra. In the same pool, Hockey Uttarakhand recorded a 5-2 victory against Kerala Hockey. Suraj Kumar (2', 10') and Ankit (15', 33') scored twice, while Viraj Choudhary (56') scored for the winners. For Kerala Hockey, Ashique Muhammed (25') and V Sreejith K (57') found the back of the net.

CWG 2026

India's Priya enters women's 60kg boxing semifinals, assures medal



GLASGOW: Indian boxer Priya stormed into the women's 60kg semifinals at the Commonwealth Games 2026 after defeating Scotland's Niamh Mitchell 4-1 on points in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. She joined fellow pugilist Preeti in assuring a medal for India. Competing in front of a partisan home crowd, Priya showed remarkable composure after dropping the opening round on four of the five judges' scorecards. She bounced back strongly to dominate the second and third rounds with sharp combinations, effective counter-attacks and superior ring control. Four judges scored the contest 28-27 in Priya's favour, while the fifth awarded her a commanding 29-26 verdict, sealing a convincing 4-1 split decision victory. With the win, the Indian boxer progressed to the semifinals and moved within one victory of securing a place in the gold medal bout.

Harjinder Kaur wins silver in women's 69kg weightlifting





GLASGOW

India's Harjinder Kaur added another medal to the country's tally at the Commonwealth Games 2026, clinching the silver medal in the women's 69kg weightlifting competition on Tuesday. Harjinder registered a combined lift of 227kg, opening with 101kg in the snatch before producing a best effort of 126kg in the clean and jerk.

Canada's Charlotte Simoneau claimed the gold medal with a total lift of 240kg (108kg snatch + 132kg clean and jerk), while Australia's Nya Phebe Hayman secured the bronze with 218kg. Harjinder stayed in medal contention throughout the competition and sealed second place with a successful 126kg lift in her final clean and jerk attempt, ensuring India another podium finish in Glasgow.

The silver further strengthens India's medal haul in weightlifting, a discipline that has consistently delivered success for the country at the Commonwealth Games. Harjinder's composed performance and consistent lifts under pressure once again highlighted India's depth in the sport.

This is the seventh medal for India in weightlifting, with one gold, five silver and one bronze medal. Mirabai Chanu has won the gold medal for India in the women's 49 kg. Rishikanta Singh Chanambam, Raja Muthupandi, Valluri Ajaya Babu, Gyaneshwari Yadav and Harjinder Kaur bagged silver medals while Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam claimed the lone bronze so far.

Born on October 14, 1996, into a modest, landless farming family in Mehas village near Nabha in Punjab, Harjinder Kaur grew up in a single-room house. She faced severe financial constraints, as her father struggled to afford basic training expenses.

Despite these hurdles, her rural upbringing laid the foundation for her athletic success. For hours each day, she manually operated a heavy chaff-cutting machine (toka) to prepare cattle fodder. This gruelling manual labour unintentionally built exceptional upper-body strength and muscular power, which later became her biggest asset on the lifting platform.

Her sporting journey began late and unexpectedly. Harjinder was initially a passionate Kabaddi player, training as a raider and even cycling five kilometres daily just to practice. It was only in 2016, at the age of 20, that her life changed at Punjabi University in Patiala.

Gulveer Singh wins historic silver medal in 10,000m with late final-lap surge

India's Gulveer Singh produced a sensational late kick and surged to a silver medal in the men's 10,000m, adding the Commonwealth Games medal to the Asian Games bronze and twin gold medals in the Asian Championships he has won so far.

India's top long-distance runner came up with a fine performance, pulling off a brilliant 'kick' in the final lap and sprinting to the finish line in 27:49.78 to secure his maiden Commonwealth Games medal in Glasgow on Tuesday night. With this medal, Gulveer made history, becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the Commonwealth Games. Starting with a slow first 400m, Gulveer stayed in the leading pack for most of the race before producing a devastating surge in the last lap to finish behind Australia's Ky Robinson (27:48.93) and ahead of Isle of Man's David Mullarkey, who claimed the bronze in 27:50.28. Edwin Kurgat of Kenya ended a close fourth in 27:50.98, which was his season's best time.

The 28-year-old Gulveer started the race in 2nd position and remained in the top three positions till just before the halfway mark, when he slipped to the sixth rank. He went further down to 9th position as the pace picked up past the 5600m before picking up pace in the final 1000m of the race. He moved up to third position going into the final lap and produced a tremendous kick to eventually finish second. This is a slower time and does not come close to his personal best of 27:00.22, the national record that he set in 2025,

Gulveer Singh, who is one of India's greatest-ever long-distance runners, holds national records in 3000m and 5000m besides the 10,000m. A serving Naib Subedar in the Grenadiers Regiment of the Indian Army, Gulveer was born in Sirsa village of Aligarh district in Uttar Pradesh. He started his running journey on village roads and farmland trails as he prepared for recruitment into the Indian Army. Gulveer made his international breakthrough with a bronze medal in the 5000m at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships and followed it with a bronze medal in the 10,000m at the 2022 Asian Games.

Athapaththu, Samarawickrama shine as Sri Lanka beat Pakistan to seal ODI series 2-1

HAMBANTOTA



Half-centuries from captain Chamari Athapaththu, Harshitha Samarawickrama and Hasini Perera powered Sri Lanka to a commanding eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in the third and final ODI in Hambantota on Tuesday, sealing the three-match series 2-1 ahead of the T20I leg starting on Tuesday.

Having dismissed Pakistan for 187, Sri Lanka completed the chase with two wickets lost, Samarawickrama finishing on 71 not out and Hasini Perera also finishing on 50, after the third-wicket partnership of 106 runs had gone on without interruption.

Sri Lanka began well before Vishmi Gunaratne, who had scored a century in the second ODI, was out for 12 after having accumulated 46 runs with Athapaththu on the opening wicket. The Sri Lankan captain then formed a 39-run partnership with Samarawickrama off 48 balls and reached her 20th ODI half-century before being dismissed for a fluent 52 off 38 balls. Since the required run rate had been firmly brought under control, Samarawickrama and Hasini managed to avoid any further problems.

Hasini reached her fifty during the penultimate over, and Samarawickrama then scored the winning run through extra cover, finishing the chase in style. As Samarawickrama had scored 173 runs in the series, including a century that won the match in the second ODI, he was awarded Player of the Series, while Athapaththu received the Player of the Match award for her all-round performance. Previously, Sri Lanka's bowlers had laid the foundation for a win with a brilliant start.

Chethana Vimukthi dealt a heavy blow to Pakistan's top order in the second over, getting rid of three of the top four batters within five balls. She got rid of Sadaf Shamas and Sidra Amin with deliveries that seamed away and produced edges to the wicketkeeper behind, and then caught Ayesha Zafar lbw on the very first ball, leaving Pakistan at 10 for 3.

Army Chief attends inauguration of Imphal Chapter of Durand Cup

NEW DELHI

Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth attended the inauguration of the Imphal chapter of the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in Imphal on Tuesday, along with Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and the state's Chief Minister. The opening ceremony celebrated Manipur's rich sporting heritage, the martial traditions of the Indian armed forces, and the enduring legacy of Asia's oldest football tournament. Among those present were Lt Gen V.M.B. Krishnan, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command and patron of the Durand Cup Organising Committee; Lt Gen Girish Kalia, GOC, 3 Corps; and Maj Gen Dinesh Kumar Singh, GOC, Bengal Sub Area and vice chairman.

The ceremony commenced with the arrival of the participating teams, TRAU FC and NEROCA FC, followed by recorded video messages from Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani and General Seth. Military band performances preceded the arrival of dignitaries.

The National Song and National Anthem were played, followed by the felicitation of the Governor and Chief Minister. The cultural programme featured patriotic songs by Silentliu Kamei, a skydiving display, and a ceremonial flypast by Army helicopters and fighter aircraft. The audience also witnessed performances by Manipuri singer Sadananda, a military jazz band fusion.

CWG 2026: Nirupama Devi suffers heartbreak in women's 63kg class

GLASGOW



Indian weightlifter Nirupama Devi Seram had a disappointing outing in the women's 63kg, failing to complete her clean and jerk routine, ending with a did not finish (DNF) in the Commonwealth Games 2026 at Glasgow on Tuesday.

Nirupama, who was a medal contender, lifted 93 kg in snatch and then failed at all three attempts at 123kg in clean and jerk, becoming the first Indian weightlifter to fail to medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2026. India have secured seven medals – one gold, four silver and two bronze thus far -- in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games 2026. In snatch, Nirupama failed to lift her entry lift of 93kg in the first attempt but lifted it on the second turn. She failed to lift 95kg in the third and last turn. The clean and jerk was a total disaster as the Indian weightlifter finished with a DNF. Even having India's three-time gold medallist Mirabai Chanu and constantly cheering for her teammate did not help as Nirupama finished the event in disappointment.

Former Olympic champion Maude Charron of Canada came up with a dominant performance in winning the Women's Weightlifting 63kg, producing Games-record lifts in both the snatch (102kg) and clean and jerk (130kg).

Sarah Davies Smale took silver for England with a total weight of 217kg (95+122kg), while Femily-Crystie Notte picked up Nauru's second bronze in as many days with 216kg (100+116).

Earlier, India enjoyed a productive day in weightlifting on Monday, winning three medals, with Valluri Ajaya Babu narrowly missing gold in the men's 79kg competition after finishing just 1kg behind Malaysia's Muhammad Erry Hidayat. Earlier in the day, Gyaneshwari Yadav bagged silver in the women's 53kg event on her CWG debut.

Ten Doeschate, Dilip's contracts are over, BCCI will pick replacements soon, says secy Saikia

NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has allowed the annual contracts of assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate and fielding coach T. Dilip with the Indian men's cricket team to run their course and will announce replacements soon, the board secretary Devajit Saikia told IANS on Tuesday. The BCCI has decided to replace the two key members of the support staff as their contracts are already over, thus ending undue speculation over the matter.

"T Dilip's contract was on extension for the last one year. His contract was over last year, but we gave him an extension of one additional year. As far as Ryan ten Doeschate is concerned, it was over on June 10. So, once their contract periods were over, they continued till the India-England series was over on July 19. That is over now, and their contracts have been given no further extension," Saikia told IANS on Tuesday.

"As a result, we are now releasing them.



So, a lot of theories and speculations were going on that there was some resignation, etc - that is not the case. Once their contract periods were over, we were not extending them. We are now going to recruit new people and are in the process of it. In a day or two, we will announce the replacement - I mean the persons who will take their positions," Saikia said.

Ryan ten Doeschate has ended his stint as the Indian team's assistant coach following the conclusion of the white-ball tour of England and informed the BCCI of his decision while the team was still in the United Kingdom, shortly after India suffered defeats in both the T20I and ODI series against England.

Ten Doeschate joined the Indian support staff after Gautam Gambhir succeeded Rahul Dravid as head coach in the aftermath of India's victorious 2024 T20 World Cup campaign. Regarded as one of Gambhir's trusted lieutenants, the former all-rounder worked across multiple areas of the setup, contributing to both the batting and fielding units as part of the team's coaching group.

During his tenure, India enjoyed notable success in white-ball cricket, lifting the 2025 Asia Cup before successfully defending the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2026. The Test side, however, endured a difficult period during the same phase. India relinquished the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on their tour of Australia before suffering successive home series defeats, including a 3-0 loss to New Zealand and a 2-0 defeat against South Africa, as the team navigated a transition in the longest format.

Imphal Hosts 135th IndianOil Durand Cup Opener

Imphal Derby Ends in Goalless Draw

IMPHAL



The Imphal Chapter of the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup, organised by the Indian Armed Forces with the support of the Government of Manipur, got underway in grand fashion at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium on Tuesday. The spectacular opening ceremony celebrated Manipur's rich sporting heritage, the martial traditions of the Indian Armed Forces and the enduring legacy of Asia's oldest football tournament, ahead of the opening fixture between TRAU FC and NEROCA FC.

The opening ceremony was graced by Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur; Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur; General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, Chief of the Army Staff; Dr. Losii Dikho, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Manipur; Shri Konthoujam Govindas Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports; Lieutenant General V. M. B. Krishnan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, GOC-in-C Eastern Command and Patron, Durand Cup Organising Committee; Lieutenant General Girish Kalia, AVSM, VSM, GOC 3 Corps; and Major General Dinesh Kumar Singh, SM, VSM, GOC Bengal Sub Area and Vice Chairman, Durand Cup Organising Committee, along with senior civil and military officials and members of the football fraternity.

The cultural programme featured patriotic songs by Silentliu Kamei, a skydiving display, flypast by Army helicopters and fighter aircraft, performances by Sadananda, Military Jazz Band Fusion, demonstrations of Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu and Chenda, Manipuri dance, and Thang-Ta. The highlight was the ceremonial Trophy Drill showcasing the Durand Cup, President's Cup and Simla Trophy, followed by an AV on Manipur's sporting legacy.

In a heart-warming moment, specially abled child Wanglembam Ocenao of BB Paul Mental Development House joined the Hon'ble Governor for the ceremonial kick-off. The Governor then officially inaugurated the Imphal Chapter.

MATCH RESULT

Following the ceremony, the Imphal Derby between TRAU FC and NEROCA FC ended in a 0-0 draw before a packed Khuman Lampak crowd. Both teams played an intense 4-2-3-1 formation.

TRAU were reduced to 10 men after Adriko Rogers received a second yellow, but held firm as NEROCA pressed late with multiple corners. Goalkeeper Sapam Nongpokngamba made crucial saves to keep the scoreline goalless.

The opening ceremony underlined Manipur's deep-rooted association with Indian football. The state continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing talent and providing one of the tournament's most passionate atmospheres. Organised by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army, the Durand Cup is Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament, established in 1888.

The 135th IndianOil Durand Cup will be played from July 25 to August 23, 2026, across five host cities — Kolkata, Ranchi, Guwahati, Shillong and Imphal. The tournament features 24 teams, including the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, competing across 43 matches. Matches will be streamed live on SonyLIV and telecast on Sony TEN 5 HD and SD.

Pratika Rawal signs for Warwickshire Women ahead of One-Day Cup run-in

NEW DELHI

India opener Pratika Rawal has signed for Warwickshire Women and will join the squad ahead of the club's next round of One-Day Cup fixtures beginning on August 19, marking another significant step in the 25-year-old's rapidly rising career.

Since her debut for India in 2024, Rawal has become one of the most promising figures in international cricket. As an opener, she has had an outstanding beginning to her one-day international career, accumulating over 600 runs at an average of just under 70 in her first 10 games and thus positioning herself as one of the leading opening batters in the world in the 50-over format.

She played a pivotal role in India's successful campaign at the 2025 Women's World Cup, ending the tournament as the top run-scorer with 308 runs; Rawal also scored her second century in one-day international cricket in a match which the team needed to win before missing the final due to injury. This year Rawal made



her Test debut for India against Australia, where she scored 68 in the second innings; her transfer to Warwickshire will also represent her second period of playing cricket in England since India had won a 2-1 ODI series against England the previous year.

Ali Maiden, who is the head coach of Warwickshire Women, has welcomed Rawal's signing and thinks that Rawal's joining will help the team with its efforts in the latter part of the competition.

"It's a great signing for the team, and we are most pleased to be able to welcome Pratika to Edgbaston. Our position in the One Day Cup table at the moment is a good one, and that bringing in a player of Pratika's calibre can only serve to strengthen our team as we aim to end the season on a positive note," the club said in a release on Tuesday.

Rawal said that she is looking forward to taking on the challenge of playing county cricket and is excited by the opportunity to play at one of the sport's most famous grounds.

"I am most pleased to be joining Warwickshire; I have heard many positive things about the club and am excited to get going and do all I can to assist the team. Testing myself by playing in England will be a great experience for me, and I'm also looking forward to walking out at Edgbaston, which is such an iconic ground in world cricket," Rawal said.

It is expected that the Indian opener will be available for the One-Day Cup match between Warwickshire and Yorkshire at Edgbaston on August 19 as she starts her time with the county.

Is Trivikram's Magic Missing In AK Promos?



Trivikram is a writer-turned-director who changed the way a generation looks at films. His writings are so immersed in audiences' lives that they use his lines in day-to-day life. When he became a director, he made classics that stayed with a generation and inspired many. However, in recent years, that golden mark in Trivikram's writing seems to be missing. A lot of people are complaining that Trivikram's magic isn't being felt on celluloid. The recent promos of Adarsha Kutumbam is also slightly disappointing for some, but did Guruji really lose the Midas touch? Trivikram wrote Nuvvu Naku Nachhav and Malleshwari, which had Venkatesh in the lead role. Both the films have become huge hits. More than that, the films' dialogue is highly popular. For a long time, Trivikram was planning to direct Venkatesh, and it finally happened with Adarsha Kutumbam. Hence, the expectations are naturally high on this combination, and there is a chance that the audiences might expect another Nuvvu Naku Nachhav or even a Malleshwari. Cut to reality, Trivikram seems to have crafted yet another unique subject that will again stay close to the families who are the target audience for the film. Of late, audiences' tastes and preferences have shifted drastically, and the way comedy is perceived has changed as well. People are criticizing the artificiality in Trivikram's films, as the emotional connect has gone for a toss. What has changed in recent years is how people accept films, and there was a time when audiences criticized Trivikram for repeatedly using his signature phrases while expecting stronger storytelling. Over the years, he seems to have started looking at filmmaking differently. While some viewers have embraced that evolution, others remain unconvinced, leading to a mismatch in expectations. The power of Trivikram's writing is still evident in his public speeches, but his approach to cinema appears to have changed. Going by the promotional material of Adarsha Kutumbam AK47, the character arcs also look relatively moderate compared to the layered and emotionally rich protagonists that once defined his films, making fans curious about whether the film has more to offer than what the promos reveal. At the same time, some fans believe it is too early to judge the film based only on character introduction teasers. They feel the real picture will become clear only after the teaser and trailer are released. The trailer really speaks for the film and the craft of Trivikram. With the film scheduled to hit theatres on October 2, the makers still have enough time to build the hype. The focus is now on the upcoming promotional content, which is expected to raise excitement ahead of the release. Most of the time, the promotional content is not designed by the director himself, but having said that, the name Trivikram Srinivas associated with any film is enough for the audience to give it a try. So, to arrive at a conclusion if Trivikram's magic is really missing, it will not hold for today but rather can be debated when Trivikram delivers back to back box office failures.

Can KGF Beauty Shine Bigger?



Srinidhi Shetty swooned audiences with her charm and glamour alongside Yash in the cult film KGF. The film made her dear to the masses. After both KGF Chapters 1 and 2, Srinidhi lacked the big push to move to the next level. Even after the pan-India success, she hasn't bagged any big offers, and she didn't move up the ladder. Even her Telugu outings, HIT 3 and Telugu Kadaa, failed to give her a big break, regardless of their box office results. However, Trivikram Srinivas has interestingly found Srinidhi suitable for his family film, Aadarsha Kutumbam – AK 47. Srinidhi is set to be seen as Swarna, a promising role in the film alongside Venkatesh Daggubati, who plays Chitti Babu. As Srinidhi's look as Swarna is going to be unveiled, Given that Trivikram has largely penned solid women characters and his films portray female leads in prominent ways, Srinidhi Shetty is also expected to get such a strong character as Swarna in Aadarsha Kutumbam. If this film works big like Trivikram's previous blockbusters Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, Attarintiki Daredi, and Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava, and Srinidhi's role stands out, she is expected to get the much-needed push to move to the next league. Let's wait and see what's in store for the Kannada beauty.

DQ, Pooja's Magical Romance



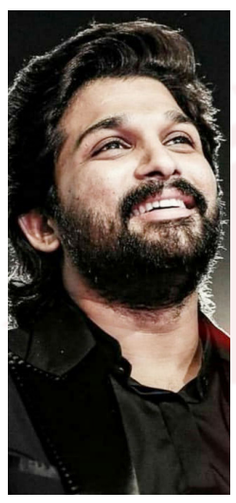
The musical promotions of Dulquer Salmaan's Pan-India entertainer Sri Sri has begun with the launch of its first single, Bomma Bomma. Directed by newcomer Ravi Nelakuditi, the film is produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under SLV Cinemas. Bringing together Dulquer Salmaan and Pooja Hegde for the first time, the film has already generated significant excitement through its working stills and first-look poster. Composer GV Prakash Kumar once again proves his flair for melodies with a breezy romantic track that's easy on the ears and instantly memorable. Anantha Sriram's poetic lyrics beautifully express affection for the girl's charm, while Kapil Kapilan's soulful vocals add emotional depth. The song captures the magical instant when Dulquer Salmaan notices Pooja Hegde and is instantly mesmerized. From that unforgettable first meeting, the visuals unfold into a colourful romantic journey celebrating companionship, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Dulquer and Pooja indeed are the soul of the song. Their fresh pairing, effortless chemistry, and expressive performances make every frame sparkle. Combined with scenic locations and appealing cinematography, Bomma Bomma is set to become one of the biggest romantic hits.

After Balayya, NTR Suffers an On Set Injury!



NTR is currently busy shooting for his next film, in the direction of Prashanth Neel. Titled Dragon, the shoot is happening at a brisk pace. However, NTR's team revealed today that the actor has met with a shoulder injury, resulting in him undergoing a rest phase. Coincidentally, NTR's babai, Balakrishna also met with a leg injury recently while shooting for his next film. A while ago, an official statement from NTR's office confirmed the news of injury. The doctors advised NTR to take complete rest for 6 to 8 weeks. The team also confirmed that there is absolutely no need to panic and assured the fans that NTR is keeping well. Balakrishna, who underwent surgery at Hyderabad AIG Hospitals, is currently on the path of recovery. NTR is also expected to follow the path of recovery, but he has to stay away from work and take complete rest. Tarak might use this time to catch up on pending things and might also listen to some new stories. Moreover, there is 10 months to go for Dragon and this break may not affect the film's progress. We wish NTR a speedy recovery and further health updates on NTR's condition will be out soon.

No Heroine For Allu Arjun-Lokesh's Film?





Allu Arjun and critically acclaimed filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj's collaboration, AA23, has already raised several eyebrows in the film industry. Adding to the excitement, every update related to the film is generating immense curiosity among movie buffs and Allu Arjun fans alike. Recent reports suggested that Pooja Hegde would be roped in as the female lead opposite Allu Arjun. However, the latest buzz indicates that there may not be a major heroine in the film, as the story reportedly has no scope for a strong female character. According to reports, Lokesh has penned a solid and gripping script that is driven entirely by the story, with every character serving the narrative. As a result, the focus is expected to remain firmly on Lokesh's signature raw storytelling and Allu Arjun's powerful screen presence. This would be in line with Lokesh Kanagaraj's previous cult classics such as Khaidi (Kaithi in Tamil) and Vikram, where the narrative revolved around strong male protagonists and antagonists, while the female characters had relatively limited importance or no major presence at all. Reports further suggest that AA23 may not feature a full-fledged heroine, making it an interesting creative choice. On the other hand, Allu Arjun recently shot for Raaka, directed by Atlee, in which Deepika Padukone plays the female lead and has several crucial scenes. Meanwhile, the shoot for AA23 is expected to commence in August.

Pavala Shyamala Finally Finds Peace



Popular Telugu character artist Pavala Shyamala passed away in Hyderabad. She was 75 years old. She died at Osmania General Hospital due to a heart attack early on July 28, 2026. She had been suffering with several health ailments for some time now. She started her career in stage plays and gained her famous screen name from a play called 'Pavala'. She made her movie debut in 1985 with the film Babai Abbai. Over three decades, she acted in hundreds of movies as a comedian and supporting actress. Her popular movies include Khadgam, Andhrawala, Varsham, and Golimaar. She worked with major stars like Chiranjeevi, Prabhas, Jr NTR, and Allu Arjun. She earned wide popularity for her natural acting and unique timing. In her later years, she faced severe health issues and financial struggles. She suffered from Parkinson's disease, high blood pressure, and heart ailments. Her daughter Madhavi was also ill, which made their living conditions very difficult. Several film industry members and fans helped her financially over the years. However, her health continued to worsen until her passing. Many actors, directors, and fans expressed deep grief over her death. After enduring years of physical and mental struggles, the veteran actress has finally found peace.

KJQ Trailer: Intense Clash Of Friendship & Fate

The theatrical trailer of King Jackie Queen is out, giving audiences a closer look at a gritty crime drama rooted in the 1990s. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, the film stars Deekshith Shetty, debutant Shashi Odela, and Yukti Thareja. It also holds special emotional value as it is the final film directed by the late KK. The trailer opens by drawing comparisons between Dawood Ibrahim, Ajmal Kasab, and Mother Teresa to explain how destiny and circumstances can transform people into completely different individuals. That intriguing setup gradually leads into a story driven by friendship, ego, violence, and vandetta. The central conflict between two close companions appears to be the heart of the narrative. Packed with emotional confrontations and action, the trailer promises a drama where relationships are tested in the harshest situations. Deekshith Shetty stands out with a fierce and emotionally charged performance, carrying the story with confidence. Shashi Odela looks promising with a mature debut, while Yukti Thareja leaves a mark by handling an important role effectively. Director KK seems to have balanced emotion and action beautifully. Nagesh Banell captures the period setting in an authentic manner, while Poornachandra Tejaswi's powerful score elevates the narrative. With its gripping storytelling and solid performances, the trailer has successfully heightened anticipation for the movie scheduled for a theatrical release on August 7.



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