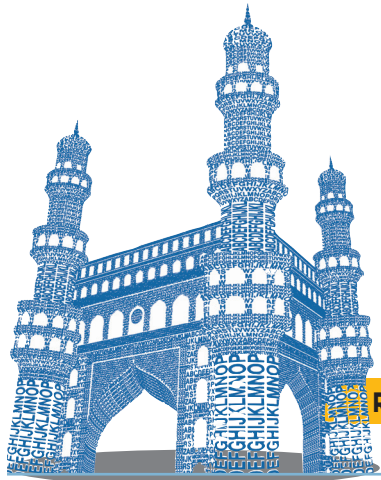




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The New Democratic Chapter of Youth

SPECIAL 02

MANASA'S GIRL-NEXT-DOOR CHARM



BOX OFFICE 12

TGSLPRB

LAUNCHES MEGA RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR 7,437 POSTS ACROSS TELANGANA

POSITIONS ACROSS MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS

POLICE

SPECIAL PROTECTION FORCE (SPF)

FIRE SERVICES

DISASTER RESPONSE, EMERGENCY & CIVIL DEFENCE

PRISONS & CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATION DETAILS VISIT: www.tgslprb.in

TELANGANA STATE POLICE

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE STATE AND BUILD A SECURE FUTURE

In one of the largest recruitment initiatives in recent years, the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TGSLPRB) has announced 7,437 vacancies across the Police, Special Protection Force (SPF), Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence, and Prisons and Correctional Services departments, offering a major employment opportunity while strengthening the State's public safety infrastructure.

02

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS? AI SURVEILLANCE ON OUR STREETS DEMOCRACY ON TRIAL

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS? WHEN AI JOINS THE POLICE, DEMOCRACY MUST ASK THE NEXT QUESTION

C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The student agitation over examination paper leaks may have ended. The political storm may have produced the resignation of a Union Minister. But another battle has only begun. This one is not about leaked question papers. It is about whether Artificial Intelligence can quietly redraw the

boundary between national security and personal liberty. The Delhi High Court now finds itself standing at a constitutional crossroads where technology, policing and democracy collide.

Every government has a duty to maintain law and order. No responsible citizen disputes that. But every democracy also carries an equally heavy responsibility.

State power must remain answerable to the Constitution. It cannot become limitless simply because technology has become limitless.

That is precisely why the legal challenge over AI-powered surveillance during the recent student protests deserves national attention.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Lok Sabha Passes Tougher Anti-Paper Leak Bill

NEW DELHI, JULY 29

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, introducing stricter punishments, time-bound investigations and fast-track trials to curb examination paper leaks. The legislation was passed amid sharp exchanges between the government and the Opposition over allegations of police excesses during the recent NEET-UG student protests in Delhi.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh firmly rejected allegations that security forces had opened fire on students during the July 20 protest. Referring to claims made by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the Minister said that "no shots were fired" and asserted that the police had exercised "utmost restraint" to ensure that there were no casualties.

Dr. Singh accused the Opposition of politicising legislation intended to protect the integrity of public examinations. He said the amendments reflected the government's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Corporation Posts Deferred; TPCC Eyes MLC Polls

NEW DELHI, JULY 29

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Coordination Committee has decided to postpone the appointment of Corporation Chairmen and board members until after September 15, as the party leadership seeks to complete internal consultations and maintain organisational balance.

The decision was taken at a high-level coordination committee meeting held on Wednesday at the AICC headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Telangana Congress affairs in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and attended by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Deputy Chief Minister Bharti Vikramarka, and senior Cabinet ministers.

According to party sources, the appointments have been deferred to allow the leadership more time to arrive at a consensus. Discussions reportedly centred on whether to continue some of the existing Corporation Chairmen who have completed their tenure or appoint new leaders to provide opportunities for party workers. The party leadership is expected to take a final decision after completing consultations with various stakeholders.

AICC Observers for DCC Appointments

The meeting also reviewed the pending appointments of District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents in Sangareddy and Rangareddy districts. To facilitate the selection process, the AICC has decided

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Tummala hits back at KTR over HYDRAA remarks

Hyderabad, July 29: Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao mounted a sharp counter-attack against BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao over the latter's criticism of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA). Dismissing KTR's claim that the agency would be thrown into the Bay of Bengal, Nageswara Rao quipped that such statements hold no weight coming from leaders who have "themselves sunk in the Bay of Bengal."

The Minister made these remarks during the weekly Minister's Face-to-Face public grievance programme held at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, where he met the people to resolve state and administrative issues. Later, speaking to the media, Tummala Nageswara Rao said the State government was creating awareness among farmers about the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and the need to shift to alternative crops. "Despite the arrival of the monsoon, the State is still facing a 30 per cent rainfall deficit. We are witnessing an unprecedented natural phenomenon. The impact of El Niño is expected to remain severe through August, September and October. We are spreading awareness about this in every village. Farmers are opting for dryland crops, and many are showing greater interest in oil palm cultivation," he said.

Speaking about the Congress party's public grievance programme, he said that people regarded Gandhi Bhavan as a place they could trust and visited it with confidence to present their grievances.

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR HUMAN-CENTRIC AI

Hyderabad, July 29: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla stressed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) should complement, not replace, human creativity during his maiden visit to Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad on Wednesday. He was received by N.V. Ramana, Deputy Director General (Engineering) and Head of Kendra, Dr. Rahul Gaulikar, Director, News Division, and other senior officials.

Appreciating the Doordarshan's role in delivering credible public service broadcasting, the Governor urged for greater focus on meaningful and creative content. He stressed that while technological

advancements should be embraced, equal importance must be accorded to producing quality, meaningful and creative content. The Governor also recorded a special interview for Doordarshan on the 'Nasha Mukti Bharat' campaign, urging citizens to actively participate in the nationwide movement against substance abuse. The interview is scheduled to be telecast across the country very soon. He planted a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, and was felicitated by officials of the DD Kendra. Joint Secretary to the Governor, K. Shashi Kiranachary, accompanied the Governor during the visit.

Rain Brings Farm Hope, Civic Woes

Mancherial/Jagtial, July 29: Moderate to heavy rainfall lashed several parts of north Telangana over the last 24 hours, bringing much-needed relief to farmers amid concerns over the impact of El Niño on the monsoon, while at the same time disrupting normal life in parts of Mancherial and Jagtial districts on Wednesday. Bellampalli mandal in Mancherial district was among the worst-affected areas. According to official sources, a tank breached at Kannala village, resulting in floodwater inundating nearby agricultural fields and causing concern among farmers in the area.

In Bellampalli town, traffic movement was severely affected in the Ramnagar area after rainwater accumulated on a bridge, making it difficult for

motorists to commute. Strong winds accompanying the rainfall uprooted several trees, damaging a number of parked vehicles. Power supply was also interrupted for some time in parts of the town due to the adverse weather conditions, sources said.

In neighbouring Jagtial district, heavy rains led to waterlogging in several areas. A government school located near a tank at Indira Priyadarshini Colony in Metpalli town was surrounded by rainwater, cre-

ating difficulties for students and staff.

Vehicular movement on the Jagtial-Dharmapuri main road was disrupted after overflowing streams crossed the roadway. In another incident, a portion of the road connecting Aksapally and Nagaram villages was reportedly damaged due to the continuous downpour, affecting transportation in the region.

Rainwater also entered several houses situated in low-lying areas of Nerella and

a number of other villages in the district, causing hardship to residents. Many villagers were forced to wade through stagnant rainwater as water accumulated in residential localities, while normal life remained affected in several parts of the district. According to rainfall data, Jagtial district recorded 18.9 cm of rainfall during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, making it one of the highest rainfall-receiving districts in the State during the period.

While the widespread rainfall has significantly improved soil moisture levels and raised hopes for the ongoing agricultural season, authorities are continuing to monitor the situation in areas affected by waterlogging, overflowing tanks and damaged roads.

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3 TIMES BETTER

Bonalu Festivities Spark Huge Turnout in Sanathnagar

Giant Cut-outs of Dr. Kota Neelima Take Centre Stage

HYDERABAD, JULY 29

Sanathnagar gears up for grand Bonalu at Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple with preparations fully in place for the annual celebrations at the historic temple in Rani Gunj, under the Rangopalpet Division of the Sanathnagar Assembly constituency. The festivities, scheduled for August 2 and 3, are expected to draw lakhs of devotees from across Telangana, turning the temple precincts into a hub of religious fervour and cultural activity.

Along with traditional Bonalu events, the highly revered Rangam ceremony—the Goddess's prophetic oracle—will also be a major highlight for pilgrims. Temple authorities and civic teams have made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth crowd management, comfortable movement of devotees, and a hassle-free experience for visitors arriving from different parts of the region.



ence for visitors arriving from different parts of the region.

Adding to the festive ambience, giant cut-outs of Dr. Kota Neelima, TPCC

Vice President and Congress in-charge for the Sanathnagar constituency, have been erected at key locations across the area. The installations, put up under the leadership of Rangopalpet Division Congress President Trikala Manoj Kumar, are being seen as a gesture of admiration and support for her public service and community-focused work.

A 30-foot cut-out has been installed near Hindu Public School, a 40-foot cut-out has been placed at Paradise Junction, and another 30-foot cut-out has been set up at the entrance arch of the Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple. Positioned along major approach routes leading to the temple, these towering displays have quickly become a visual attraction for devotees, commuters, and local residents. Throughout the day and into the night, many visitors have been stopping to view the cut-outs and take photographs, reflecting

the enthusiasm surrounding the celebrations.

Local residents noted that the strong public response to the cut-outs underscores the growing appreciation for Dr. Kota Neelima's leadership and her continued commitment to addressing issues in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Trikala Manoj Kumar said he prayed to Goddess Ujjaini Mahakali to bless the people of Telangana with peace, prosperity, and happiness. He stated that the giant cut-outs were installed purely to express admiration for Dr. Kota Neelima, in recognition of her efforts in tackling public concerns and supporting development in Sanathnagar. He also expressed the hope that the Bonalu celebrations will be conducted successfully and that every devotee visiting the temple will receive the Goddess's blessings.

Veer Ratna Foundation Organises Women Empowerment Programme for Veer Naris

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI,
29 JULY

In a heartfelt tribute to the courage and sacrifice of India's brave soldiers and security personnel, the Veer Ratna Foundation organised a special Women Empowerment and Orientation Programme for Veer Naris and their families under the aegis of the Department of Sainik Welfare, Government of Telangana.

The programme was held at the Sainik Aramghar Complex, Somajiguda, Hyderabad, with the objective of strengthening support systems for Veer Naris — the widows of personnel from the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

Veer Ratna Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to the socio-economic empowerment and welfare of Veer Naris and their children, conducted the orientation to familiarise beneficiaries with its welfare initiatives, support services, future programmes, and procedures for availing assistance.

The event was coordinated by Mrs. Deepti Sharma, representative of the Veer Ratna Foundation. Around 30 Veer Naris and their family members



bers from different parts of Telangana participated in the programme and received detailed guidance on the Foundation's objectives, values, and long-term support framework.

Brigadier N. R. Babu (Retd), Director, Department of Sainik Welfare, Government of Telangana, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the noble efforts of the Veer Ratna Foundation in creating awareness and extending meaningful support to the families of the nation's martyrs.

He said that initiatives of this nature play a vital role in empowering Veer Naris, improving their lives, and instilling confidence among the families who have given so much to

the country. He also expressed gratitude to the Veer Naris and their family members for attending the programme.

Brigadier N. R. Babu (Retd) further assured that the Department of Sainik Welfare, Government of Telangana, would continue to extend full support for the welfare and well-being of the Armed Forces fraternity and their families.

The programme stood as a reminder of the nation's enduring duty towards the families of its bravehearts. By bringing together awareness, welfare support, and empowerment, the initiative reflected the spirit of gratitude, respect, and commitment owed to those who sacrificed their loved ones for the motherland.

TGSLPRB Launches Mega Recruitment Drive for 7,437 Posts

Hyderabad, July 29: The Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TGSLPRB) on Wednesday announced one of the largest recruitment drives in the State in recent years by issuing notifications to fill 7,437 vacancies across the Police Department, Special Protection Force (SPF), Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department, and Prisons and Correctional Services Department.

The Police Department accounts for

the highest number of vacancies, with 5,000 posts notified under various categories. These include 148 Sub-Inspectors (Civil), 14 Reserve Sub-Inspectors (Armed Reserve), 12 Reserve Sub-Inspectors (Telangana Special Police), three Reserve Sub-Inspectors (SARCP), 23 Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the Fingerprint Bureau, 3,697 Police Constables (Civil), 1,052 Police Constables (Armed Reserve), 24 Police Constables (SARCP), 20 Police Constables (Driver), and seven Police

Constables (Mechanic).

The Special Protection Force (SPF) will recruit 44 Sub-Inspectors and 1,380 Constables as part of the drive.

In the Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department, the Board has notified 39 Station Fire Officer posts and 751 Fire Fighter vacancies.

The Prisons and Correctional Services Department will fill a total of 223 posts, comprising 14 Deputy Jailors (Men), one Deputy Jailor (Women),

196 Warders (Male), and 12 Warders (Female).

The TGSLPRB stated that the schedule for submission of online applications will be announced separately through a press release. Candidates have been advised to carefully verify that they meet the prescribed physical and medical standards before submitting their applications. The Board has recommended that aspirants undergo a medical examination by a Civil Surgeon to ensure their eligibility.

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Lok Sabha Passes...

➤FROM PAGE 1

willingness to strengthen the existing law based on experience gained since the enactment of the 2024 anti-paper leak legislation. According to him, 52 FIRs have been registered under the law so far, while incidents of suicides linked to paper leak controversies have shown a decline.

The Minister also criticised the Opposition for disrupting parliamentary proceedings instead of participating in a meaningful discussion on the proposed reforms.

Soon after the Bill was passed, Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcomed the legislation, describing it as a significant step towards safeguarding the future of students. In a post on social media platform X, he said the law would protect the dreams and aspirations of millions of young people and warned that those attempting to compromise public examinations would face the full force of the law.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also dismissed the Opposition's allegations, stating that decisions regarding the use of force during law and order situations are taken by Executive Magistrates or Sub-Divisional Magistrates at the spot and not by Union Ministers. He accused Rahul Gandhi of misleading the House and failing to focus on the provisions of the Bill.

Rahul Gandhi, however, reiterated his allegations, claiming that a student had

sustained pellet gun injuries during the protest. He maintained that the injuries were evidence of excessive force and challenged the government's denial of the incident.

The amended legislation significantly strengthens the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, following the nationwide outrage over the NEET-UG paper leak controversy.

Under the new provisions, investigations into paper leak cases must be completed within two months, while designated fast-track Sessions Courts will conduct day-to-day hearings and complete trials within three months of filing the charge-sheet.

The law also prescribes harsher penalties for offenders. Individuals found guilty of paper leaks or other unfair practices in public examinations can face imprisonment ranging from five to 10 years along with fines of up to ₹10 crore. The legislation further empowers the Central Government to constitute Special Task Forces whenever required to investigate major examination fraud cases.

The government said the amendments are aimed at restoring public confidence in the examination system and ensuring swift action against those involved in organised paper leak networks.

Corporation Posts Deferred; TPCC Eyes MLC Polls

➤FROM PAGE 1

to send a team of central observers to Hyderabad. Party leaders said the observers would hold discussions with local leaders and submit their recommendations to the high command. The leadership has reportedly directed that the pending DCC appointments be finalised by the end of August.

Focus on Graduate MLC Elections

The Coordination Committee also discussed preparations for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections scheduled early next year and resolved to strengthen the party's organisational network well in advance.

Responsibilities for coordi-

nating election preparations have been assigned to senior ministers. For the Mahabubnagar-Hyderabad-Rangareddy Graduate constituency, Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha will oversee the campaign along with Ministers D. Sridhar Babu and Ponnampalapati Prabhakar. The Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduate constituency will be coordinated by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.

The in-charge ministers have been asked to consult local MLAs and DCC presidents and submit a panel of prospective candidates to the party leadership by August. The party also plans to launch a large-scale

voter enrolment campaign from September as part of its election strategy.

Welfare Outreach Campaign

Following the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud said the party would intensify its grassroots outreach programme by taking the State government's welfare initiatives directly to the people.

They said party workers across Telangana would undertake door-to-door campaigns to create awareness about various welfare schemes while strengthening the organisation ahead of the forthcoming elections.

100 SMART VISION GLASSES DISTRIBUTED TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED AT UoH

Hyderabad, July 29: In one of the largest Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives hosted by the University of Hyderabad (UoH) in recent years, 100 visually impaired beneficiaries were provided with Ultra Version Smart Vision Glasses (SVGs), each valued at around Rs.48,000, at a special distribution programme organized by the Empowered committee for differently abled persons (ECDAP).

The AI-powered assistive devices enable users to read printed text in English and major Indian languages, identify people and objects, recognize currency notes, and navigate obstacles, significantly enhancing independence for persons with visual impairments.

The beneficiaries included students and individuals from Telangana and other states such as Haryana, Odisha, and West Bengal. The initiative was supported by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPIC) under its CSR programme, implemented by the Blind Vision foundation, with the devices manufactured by SHG technology private limited.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Pammam Pavan Kumar, Coordinator of ECDAP, reaffirmed UoH's commitment to promoting accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities. Other speakers highlighted the transformative role of assistive technology in improving mobility, education, and everyday living for the visually impaired.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks acknowledging the support of NPIC, the Blind Vision Foundation, the UoH administration, and student volunteers for making the large-scale outreach programme a success.



➤FROM PAGE 1

This case is not about one political party. It is not about supporting or opposing one government. It is about defining the rules of the digital republic India is rapidly becoming.

WHEN CAMERAS STOP RECORDING AND START IDENTIFYING

Traditional policing watches events. Artificial Intelligence watches individuals. That difference changes everything.

A CCTV camera recording a crowd is one thing. An AI-enabled system that scans every face, compares identities, measures facial similarity and potentially links individuals with databases operates at an entirely different constitutional level. Technology has crossed from observation into identification. And once identification begins, the questions multiply.

Who authorised it? What data was collected? Where is that data stored? Who can access it? How long will it remain there? Can it later

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS?

be used for purposes completely unrelated to the original protest?

These are not technical questions. They are constitutional questions.

THE STATE HAS A LEGITIMATE DUTY. BUT POWER CANNOT BE WITHOUT LIMITS.

Governments frequently argue that surveillance helps identify criminals before violence erupts. That argument cannot simply be dismissed. India continues to face terrorism, organised crime, communal tensions and threats to public order. Modern policing cannot be expected to operate with outdated tools while criminals increasingly exploit sophisticated technology. But constitutional governance

demand proportionality. If extraordinary surveillance powers become routine, exceptional powers slowly become ordinary powers. History repeatedly shows that freedoms are rarely lost overnight. They disappear one technological upgrade at a time.

THE MISSING PIECE IS THE LAW ITSELF.

The most uncomfortable aspect of this controversy is not the camera. It is the absence of a clear legal framework. Artificial Intelligence has advanced much faster than legislation. Facial recognition systems, predictive policing, behavioural analytics and biometric databases are becoming increasingly available.

Yet India still lacks a comprehensive statutory framework specifically governing how police agencies may deploy facial recognition technology in public demonstrations.

That legal vacuum benefits nobody—not the citizens, not the police, not even the government. Because when rules remain unclear, every deployment invites suspicion.

TRUST CANNOT BE BUILT THROUGH SECRECY.

The surveillance vehicle reportedly displayed sophisticated AI-enabled systems capable of analysing faces in real time. Whether every capability was actually operational is ultimately less important than another question. Why should citizens be forced to discover surveillance systems through photographs posted on social media instead of through transparent public policy?

In a constitutional democracy,

public confidence grows when governments explain the rules before deploying powerful technologies rather than defending them only after controversy erupts. Transparency strengthens legitimacy. Secrecy weakens it.

TECHNOLOGY MUST NEVER OUTFRUN ACCOUNTABILITY.

Artificial Intelligence has extraordinary potential. It can help locate missing children, track dangerous offenders, prevent terror attacks, improve emergency response and enhance urban safety. No sensible society should reject these possibilities. But AI should never become an invisible authority operating beyond democratic oversight.

Every powerful technology requires equally powerful accounta-

bility.

Independent audits, judicial oversight where appropriate, clearly defined retention periods, strict limitations on data sharing, transparent operating procedures and effective remedies against misuse.

These safeguards are not obstacles to policing. They are what distinguish constitutional policing from unrestricted surveillance.

THE DELHI HIGH COURT NOW CARRIES A LARGER RESPONSIBILITY.

The litigation has already moved beyond one student protest. Whatever the final verdict, the court has an opportunity to establish principles that may shape the future relationship between Indian citizens and Artificial Intelligence.

The judgment could become one

of the earliest judicial attempts to balance privacy, public order, technological innovation and constitutional freedoms in the AI age. Its impact may extend far beyond Delhi.

MY FINAL SHOT

India is embracing Artificial Intelligence across governance, commerce, healthcare, education and security. That journey is both necessary and inevitable. But democracy cannot afford to ask only what technology can do. It must also ask what technology should be permitted to do. A confident nation does not fear innovation. Nor does it fear constitutional scrutiny.

The strongest republic is not the one with the most powerful surveillance systems. It is the one where every exercise of power, however sophisticated, remains answerable to the law. In the age of Artificial Intelligence, the ultimate safeguard is not the camera. It is the Constitution watching over everyone who operates it.



SIR process has no link to welfare schemes: CEO



HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharshan Reddy has clarified that the revision of the electoral rolls being undertaken as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process has no connection whatsoever with the welfare schemes being implemented by the government.

Reviewing the progress of the SIR process through a video conference with District Election Officers (DEOs) and District Collectors on Wednesday, the CEO said the ongoing exercise was solely

aimed at preparing an error-free electoral roll and had no linkage with any government welfare programmes.

Noting that only five days remain for the submission of Enumeration Forms, Sudharshan Reddy directed all District Collectors to ensure that the digitisation process is completed 100 per cent by August 3.

He said that 76 per cent of the digitisation process has been completed across the State so far, while the progress in rural areas has reached 90 per cent. He commended the officials of Khanapur, Balkon-

da, Yellareddy, Huzurnagar, Narsampet, Wardhannapet, Parkal and Boath Assembly constituencies, where the digitisation process has been completed in full.

The CEO instructed the District Election Officers to pay special attention to speeding up digitisation in urban areas, particularly in Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy, Medchal, the GHMC limits, and the urban regions of Nizamabad, Warangal and Khammam, so that the exercise is completed within the stipulated deadline.

He also directed Booth

Level Officers (BLOs) and supervisors to ensure that voters' names are uploaded accurately without any errors during the digitisation of Enumeration Forms. Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) were asked to closely monitor the process and ensure that no mistakes occur.

Warning against negligence, the CEO said disciplinary action would be initiated against BLOs and supervisors found to be careless in carrying out the digitisation process.

Telangana prepares proposals for 4 industrial parks under BHAVYA scheme

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is preparing proposals to submit to the Union government for setting up four new industrial parks under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) scheme, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said.

Reviewing the progress of the proposed industrial parks at a meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Chief Secretary said the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the four parks under the first phase of the BHAVYA scheme would be submitted to the Centre by the end of this month.

He said each industrial park would span more than 500 acres and that land acquisition and other preparatory works had already been completed. The proposed locations are Thimmapur in Kanadukur mandal, Eliminedu in Ibrahimpatnam, Madaram in Ghatkesar mandal, and Dandu Mylaram in Choutuppal mandal.

The Chief Secretary said several leading companies have already expressed interest in setting up industries in sectors such as electronics and software in these parks. He added that the State government is also preparing proposals for the development of industrial parks at another 16 locations.

Telangana announces mega recruitment drive for 7,437 posts



HYDERABAD

In a major recruitment drive, the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) on Wednesday issued four recruitment notifications to fill 7,437 vacancies across the Police, Special Protection Force (SPF), Fire Services, and Prisons & Correctional Services departments.

The recruitment includes 200 Sub-Inspector-level posts, 4,800 police constable posts, 1424 SPF posts, 790 fire services posts and 223 prisons department posts.

As for the vacancy breakdown:

- police department: 5,000 posts, including 148 Sub Inspectors (Civil), 14 Reserve SIs (AR), 12 Reserve SIs (TGSP), 3 Reserve SIs (SARCPL), 23 Assistant Sub Inspectors (FPB), 3,697 Police Constables (Civil), 1,052 Constables (AR), 24 Constables (SARCPL), 20 Driver Constables and 7 Mechanic Constables.

- special protection force: 44 Sub Inspectors and 1,380 Constables.
- fire, disaster response, emergency and civil defence: 39 Station Fire Officers and 751 Fire Fighters.
- prisons & correctional service: 14 Deputy Jailors (Men), 1 Deputy Jailor (Women), 196 Warders (Male) and 12 Warders (Female).

The Board said the online application schedule will be announced separately. Candidates can apply through the official TSLPRB website once the application portal is opened. TSLPRB Chairman V.V. Srinivasa Rao advised the aspirants to undergo a medical examination by a Civil Surgeon before applying to ensure they meet the prescribed physical and medical standards. Candidates have also been asked to keep required documents, including caste, EWS, non-creamy layer, local candidature and other applicable certificates, ready for the application process. (NSS)

GITAM Schools of Pharmacy Secure Prestigious 'A' Grade in PCI-QCI National Rankings

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University has achieved a significant milestone with both its Schools of Pharmacy at Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam being awarded the prestigious 'A' Grade, the highest rating, in the National Ranking & Rating of Pharmacy Colleges (1st Edition) conducted by the Pharmacy Council

of India (PCI) in association with the Quality Council of India (QCI) through NABET for the academic year 2025-26, informed Prof. Kumar G. S., Principal, School of Pharmacy, GITAM Hyderabad.

The national evaluation assessed 398 institutions offering B.Pharmacy programmes across India. Of these, only 64 institutions (16.1%) earned the

coveted 'A' Grade, underscoring the highly competitive nature of the assessment.

In this prestigious national ranking, GITAM Visakhapatnam secured Rank 43, placing it among the Top 10.8% of pharmacy institutions in the country, while GITAM Hyderabad secured Rank 54, placing it within the Top 13.6% nationally. The achievement re-



affirms GITAM's commitment to excellence in pharmaceu-

tical education, research, infrastructure, governance, and student outcomes.

The recognition reflects the University's unwavering focus on quality, innovation, and academic excellence, and stands as a testament to the visionary leadership of the University, the dedication of the faculty, staff, students, and research scholars, and the sustained

institutional quality initiatives undertaken by both Schools of Pharmacy.

The GITAM leadership congratulated the principal, faculty members, students, research scholars, and supporting staff of the Schools of Pharmacy at both campuses for this remarkable national achievement and appreciated their continued commitment to excellence.

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CPR training for boat drivers strengthens water tourist safety

HYDERABAD

In a significant step towards enhancing emergency preparedness, Lodge Keys No. 297, a primary wing of Freemasonry, in association with GVK Green Health Services and with the support of the Telangana Tourism department, conducted a CPR and AED training programme for boat drivers at Husain Sagar Lake here on Tuesday. Held aboard the stationary boat "Khair-Un-Nissa", the three-hour hands-on training equipped 32 boat drivers and support staff from major water tourism destinations across Telangana with life-saving skills, including CPR, AED usage, rescue breathing, choking management and emergency response.

With this batch, the initiative has trained 818 CPR brand



ambassadors under its mission to create 1,000 trained lifesavers. Organisers also revealed that awareness seminars have already reached over 1,800 people, with a target of 10,000 beneficiaries. Participants received

certificates upon successful completion of the programme.

The training was led by Dr. Raja Bharath, Senior Clinical Instructor, Dr. Seem Sunil, Emergency Physician, and Ms. Deepa, Clinical Instructor, all

from GVK Green Health Services. Participants received extensive hands-on training using eight advanced CPR mannequins, enabling them to practice life-saving skills under expert supervision.

Telangana to mechanize paddy procurement centres to tackle hamali shortage



HYDERABAD

Telangana's Civil Supplies Department has unveiled a comprehensive mechanization plan to modernize Procurement Purchase Centres (PPCs), address recurring Hamali labour shortages, and accelerate the paddy procurement process.

The decision was taken at a high-level review meeting at Civil Supplies Bhavan, chaired by M. Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner of Civil Supplies & Ex-Officio Principal Secretary. The meeting was attended by Agriculture Production Commissioner K. Surendra Mohan, and TG MARKFED Managing Director Rahul Raj.

Under the new strategy, high-volume pro-

curement centres will be equipped with automated stackers and cleaner-cum-bagging machines, reducing reliance on manual labour, speeding up vehicle loading and unloading, improving transport turnaround, and ensuring smoother procurement operations.

To strengthen storage infrastructure, the department has also directed Agricultural Market Committees (AMCs) to earmark and clear dedicated godown space for incoming Custom Milled Rice (CMR).

The meeting also reviewed the prices of essential commodities across Telangana. Officials reported that monitoring at all 11 Price Monitoring Centres indicates a stable market, with no alarming rise in prices.

Hyd CCS arrests interstate fraudster in Rs. 2-cr fake gold scam

HYDERABAD

The Central Crime Station (CCS), Hyderabad, has arrested an alleged interstate fraudster for cheating people of nearly Rs.2 crore by promising cheap imported gold from Dubai and Sri Lanka. The accused, Kondapuram Laxmi-kanth Reddy, allegedly lured victims by sharing videos of gold biscuits and claiming access to low-cost imported gold, promising huge profits. Acting on a complaint from a Sanathnagar resident, the CCS registered a case and arrested the accused, who has been remanded to judicial custody.

Police said the accused is a habitual offender with six previous criminal cases across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh involving fraud, criminal breach of trust, kidnapping and intimidation. Owing to his criminal history, the present case has been booked under BNS provisions relating to organized crime.

CCS has advised the public to avoid offers of gold or investment schemes promising unusually high returns at below-market prices and to verify claims before investing money.

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SHORT
TAKES

CS takes oath as
ex-officio member of
Yadagirigutta Board

HYDERABAD: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju offered prayers at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam in Yadagirigutta on Wednesday, accompanied by his family members. Following the darshan and traditional blessings from temple priests, Jaju was formally sworn in as an ex-officio member of the temple's newly constituted Trust Board. Temple Executive Officer J. Bhavani Shankar administered the oath of office and secrecy, after which Jaju officially assumed his responsibilities on the board.

AMD celebrates
77th Foundation Day

HYDERABAD: The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), under the Department of Atomic Energy, celebrated its 77th Foundation Day here at its Begumpet headquarters and regional centres located at New Delhi, Bengaluru, Jamshedpur, Shillong, Jaipur, Nagpur and Cherlapally (Hyderabad), as well as its three Sectional Offices at Thiruvananthapuram, Visakhapatnam and Kolkata. The main function was organised at the Dr. Homi J. Bhabha Auditorium at the Headquarters. On this occasion, AMD director Dheeraj Pande highlighted AMD's achievements in atomic and critical mineral exploration, emphasising its role in supporting India's Nuclear Energy Mission and the National Critical Mineral Mission under the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision. Former senior AMD scientists lauded the organisation's legacy and future role in strengthening the nation's strategic mineral security. A vibrant cultural programme presented by AMD employees added colour and enthusiasm to the celebrations and received widespread appreciation from the audience.

BRAOU 27th convocation
in October; registration
ends Sept. 9

HYDERABAD: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) will hold its 27th Convocation in October 2026. Students who completed Degree, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D., Diploma and Certificate programmes during June 2024 and June 2025 are eligible to apply. Candidates attending the convocation in person must pay a registration fee of Rs.500, while those opting for Degree in Absentia can apply by paying Rs.600, with certificates to be dispatched via Speed Post. The last date for online registration is September 9. Applications can be submitted through the university's official websites - www.braou.ac.in or www.braouonline.in, and the late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. For further details, contact 040-23680333 or 040-23680555.

Collect Details of Migrant Voters at the
Earliest: Ramireddy Sarvotham Reddy



- Congress workers should cooperate with BLOs to achieve 100% completion
- Voter details must be re-verified ward-wise in every village

SURYAPET

AICC Member Ramireddy Sarvotham Reddy urged that details of people who have migrated to other places for employment should be collected without delay. He called upon Congress Party Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and local leaders to extend full cooperation to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in completing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. On Wednesday, accompanied by Congress Mandal President Koti Gopal Reddy, he inspected the voter verification work carried out by BLOs under the SIR process in Rajanayak Thanda, Lakshmi Thanda, Erkaram, Pinnayipalem, and Pillalamarri villages of the mandal. He instructed officials and party workers to collect the details of pending voters as well as those who had migrated to other regions for employment and ensure that the verification process is com-

pleted transparently and 100% in every village. Speaking on the occasion, Ramireddy Sarvotham Reddy said that the voter information already collected and the remaining data to be gathered should be re-examined by Sarpanches, Ward Members, Congress BLAs, and Congress Party leaders. He stressed that no eligible voter should lose their voting rights. He also emphasized that people who have temporarily migrated to cities like Hyderabad for work should retain their voter registration in their native villages. He stated that the constituency has 271 polling booths, of which the verification process has been completed 100% in 113 booths. More than 95% completion has been achieved in 138 booths, while the remaining 20 booths have recorded less than 95% completion. He explained that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is conducted by the Election Commission periodically to update electoral rolls by removing the names of deceased persons and eliminating duplicate voter registrations. He added that Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties also monitor the process to ensure transparency. Ramireddy Sarvotham Reddy said

that the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has been continuously issuing guidelines to ensure that every eligible voter registers their details. He recalled that irregularities in a similar voter revision exercise in some northern states had allegedly resulted in sections of voters being excluded from the electoral rolls. To prevent such lapses, he said, the Congress Party has appointed BLAs and supervisors in every village to monitor the process closely. He appealed to all Congress leaders and workers to ensure that every eligible voter completes the registration process within the stipulated deadline. Among those who participated in the programme were Sarpanches Loonawat Shantabai Pandu Naik, Loonawat Vishnu Naik, Chinta Bhavani Madhu, Councillor Kodi Nagaraju, Congress District Working President Abdul Rahim, Municipal Floor Leader Kummurikuntla Venugopal, Councillors Kondapalli Dileep Reddy and Chilumula Sunil Reddy, Sri Dandumaisamma Temple Chairman Tangella Karunakar Reddy, Edla Veeramallu Yadav, Pedda Pandu, Ravi, Raparathi Srinivas, and several other party leaders and workers.



Konda Surekha calls for
collective responsibility
in tiger conservation

HYDERABAD

Minister for Forests and Environment Konda Surekha called upon all the people to act responsibly towards tiger conservation, stressing that the Earth is not the habitat of humans alone but a shared home for all living beings. She urged everyone to take responsibility for protecting nature and preserving ecological balance. The Minister was speaking after participating as the chief guest at the International Tiger Day celebrations held at the Telangana State Forest Academy in Dulapally, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Konda Surekha said the tiger symbolises the richness of forests and that protecting the big cat means safeguarding forests, the environment, biodiversity and the future of coming generations. She said Telangana occupies a prominent position in tiger conservation, with the Amrabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves being recognised among the country's important tiger habitats. The Minister said the tiger population in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve has increased

significantly due to the development of water resources, habitat improvement and the adoption of modern protection measures. She further said the government has initiated a tiger reintroduction programme to increase the tiger population in the Kawal Tiger Reserve. As part of the initiative, the Kawal Tiger Reserve has been linked with the Tadoba Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to facilitate the natural movement of tigers. She added that the Forest Department is also implementing programmes to create greater public awareness about environmental conservation. On the occasion, the Minister presented certificates of appreciation and cash awards to Forest department personnel for their outstanding contribution to forest and wildlife conservation. Konda Surekha also distributed certificates and prizes to students who won the drawing competition organised as part of the International Tiger Day celebrations. Konda Surekha also visited a photo exhibition organised to mark the occasion and watched a short film highlighting tiger conservation efforts.(NSS).

Taiwanese industry delegation
explores investment in AP



AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday held talks with a high-level delegation of Taiwanese companies to strengthen cooperation in advanced manufacturing, electronics, semiconductors, technology and investment. The delegation included representatives from leading firms such as Delta electronics, BenQ, CTBC Bank, DIMERCO, Nan Pao Resins, ever-Clear environmental engineering, Sheng Huei Tech, Tech-Top engineering, KS Terminals, Sandsun, Zilei construction and engineering, Cappella sports and others. The Chief Minister showcased Andhra Pradesh's investor-friendly policies, robust infrastructure, logistics network, and growing man-

ufacturing ecosystem, reaffirming the state's commitment to policy stability, speedy approvals, and proactive investor support. Later, IT minister Nara Lokesh met the delegation to discuss workforce development and educational collaboration. The talks focused on industry-aligned skill development, semiconductor and electronics manufacturing industrial automation, faculty exchanges, joint research and workplace-readiness programmes to prepare Andhra Pradesh's youth for global employment opportunities. Both sides expressed confidence that deeper collaboration in investment, manufacturing, skilling and talent development would generate new industrial growth and employment opportunities for the state.

BRS to move HC over 'discriminatory' VIP security, says RS Praveen

HYDERABAD

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar on Wednesday alleged that the Telangana government was discriminating against BRS leaders in providing VIP security and warned that the party would approach the Telangana High Court if the Security Review Committee's report was not made public. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here, Praveen Kumar claimed that the security cover of several BRS leaders, including former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, had been withdrawn despite longstanding threat perceptions. Sudarshan Reddy, who had enjoyed security for 25 years, was informed that the matter fell un-



der the State Intelligence wing and not the jurisdiction of the Warangal Police Commissioner, he added. Praveen Kumar also said he had received a notice from the

DGP informing him that his bulletproof vehicle would be withdrawn and his security cover reduced, citing the absence of a specific threat. He questioned the basis on which several Con-

gress leaders, including Mynampally Hanumanth Rao, Konda Murali, Jagga Reddy and SA Sampath Kumar, as well as the Chief Minister's brothers, were provided enhanced security. Is there one rule for the BRS party leaders and another for the Congress party leaders, he asked. Alleviating double standards, he pointed out that the security of former BRS ministers Satyavathi Rathod, Jogu Ramanna and former MP Maloth Kavitha had been withdrawn, while security cover continued for some Congress leaders. He demanded that the government release the Security Review Committee's report and warned that the BRS would seek legal intervention if it failed to do so.

SCCL CMD inaugurates 300 KW solar power plant at APHME

HYDERABAD

Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, Chairman and Managing Director of The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), virtually inaugurated a 300 KW solar power plant at Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery & Engineering Limited (APHMEL) in Vijayawada on Wednesday. APHME is a subsidiary of SCCL.

As part of the company's Golden Jubilee celebrations, the CMD also inaugurated the newly constructed CC and RCC internal roads developed to strengthen the plant's infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion, the C&MD said that under the guidance of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the SCCL

is moving ahead with a comprehensive plan to diversify and strengthen APHME along with its parent organisation. Congratulating the employees, Buddhaprakash Jyoti expressed happiness that APHME had achieved its highest-ever turnover of ₹63.13 crore and a record net profit of ₹23.33 crore, the best performance in the company's 50-year history. He described this

achievement as a result of the vision, guidance and encouragement extended by the Deputy Chief Minister during his visit to APHME last year. The Singareni CMD further recalled that the Deputy Chief Minister had assured support for improving infrastructure at the plant, following which the CC and RCC internal roads were taken up and completed.(NSS)

Vivek calls for safety culture to prevent industrial accidents



HYDERABAD

Reaffirming the Telangana government's commitment to ensuring the highest safety standards across industries, Minister for SHAKTI (Labour, Employment, Training & Factories), Mines & Geology, Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy, said the government is taking industrial safety with utmost seriousness. He called for a strong safety culture through coordinated efforts by

the government, industrial managements, and workers to eliminate industrial accidents. The Minister inaugurated the two-day national workshop on "Process Safety of Combustible Dusts", organised by the National Safety Council (NSC), Telangana Chapter, at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) in Lakdikapul on Wednesday. He also released a special publication on combustible dust

during the event. Addressing the gathering, Vivek Venkatswamy expressed concern over industrial accidents caused by combustible dust explosions and gas leakages across the country. While comprehensive safety rules and regulations are already in place, he observed that their implementation often remains inadequate. The Minister said that under the Ease of Doing Business framework, industries have been given greater operational freedom, but

this freedom must be accompanied by greater responsibility. Industries, he said, should voluntarily adopt and strictly adhere to the highest safety standards without requiring constant government intervention. Referring to the recent Sigachi incident, the Minister said it should serve as a wake-up call for every industry. He noted that the failure to invest merely ₹15 lakh to ₹20 lakh in essential safety measures had ultimately resulted in the loss of precious lives and caused financial losses running into hundreds of crores of rupees for the company. Attempts to save relatively small amounts on safety, he warned, often lead to devastating human and financial consequences. The Minister directed that industrial safety should become a mandatory agenda item in every company board meeting. Factory occupiers and board members, he said, must continuously monitor compliance with safety standards and treat expenditure on safety not as a cost but as a long-term investment.

TTD strongly condemns false publicity

TIRUMALA

Seeking strict action against the company "SCP Developers", which is promoting schemes on social media under the title "Lifetime VIP Break Darshan", TTD is set to deal with the issue legally. Strongly condemning such false advertisements, TTD said action will be taken against those who make such false ad publicity. TTD has also condemned the reels being circulated on social media by some individuals in the name of "SCP Developers", in which they claim that if people buy plots on the Tirupati highway, they will be given "Lifetime Srivari VIP Break Darshan". TTD stated that it has absolutely no connection with this publicity. It has also affirmed that no private company or individual has any authority to give such assurances. All procedures, services, and tickets related to Srivari darshan are implemented strictly in accordance with TTD rules and guide-



lines. It is a highly irresponsible act for any person or organization to use the name of TTD, the name of Srivaru, or the term "darshan" to attract devotees by making false promotional claims. TTD appeals to devotees not to believe such false advertisements, social media reels, or commercial promotions, and not to be deceived by them. For official information related

to Srivari darshan, devotees are requested to verify on TTD's official announcements, its website, and its official social media platforms. During the inquiry into this advertisement, TTD Vigilance officials found that the company had removed its business promotion from social media. Despite this, strict legal action will still be taken against them.



MP govt
eases moong
procurement
norms after
farmer talks
BHOPAL, JULY 29

Facing mounting pressure from protesting farmers, the Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday announced a slew of concessions for moong growers, including raising the procurement limit to 60 per cent of eligible produce, extending the slot booking deadline by 10 days, and suspending the controversial e-token system with immediate effect. The decisions were taken during a meeting between a group of ministers and representatives of the agitating farmers in Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Minister Aidal Singh Kansana announced the measures after the meeting. The development came after hundreds of farmers, led by the Congress, marched from Narmadapuram to Bhopal demanding better procurement arrangements for moong, extension of the procurement period, and withdrawal of the e-token system. The protesters attempted to march towards Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's residence before being stopped by police, following which the government invited farmer representatives for talks. Announcing the decisions, Kansana said the state government had accepted several key demands of the farmers. "While the Government of India's scheme provides for procurement of up to 25 per cent of production, the Madhya Pradesh government has decided to increase the procurement limit to 60 per cent.

Chandrababu Naidu assures policy
stability, speedy clearances to investors

AMARAVATI, JULY 29

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said that his government's commitment is to provide policy stability, speedy clearances and proactive support to investors. He held discussions with a high-level delegation of leading Taiwanese companies and industry representatives to strengthen cooperation in investment, advanced manufacturing, electronics, semiconductors and technology. During the discussions, Andhra Pradesh showcased its investor-friendly policies, world-class infrastructure, strong logistics network and rapidly expanding manufacturing ecosystem.

The Chief Minister high-



lighted the State's focus on electronics, semiconductors, IT, advanced manufacturing and export-oriented industries. According to an official release, the delegation included representatives from leading global companies and institutions. The Taiwanese industry representatives shared their investment experiences in India and explored opportunities to expand their presence in

Andhra Pradesh. Both sides agreed to strengthen institutional engagement and facilitate greater collaboration in manufacturing, technology and industrial development.

Later, Minister for HRD, IT, Electronics & Communications and RTGS Nara Lokesh held a dedicated interaction with the delegation on workforce development, skilling and educational co-operation. Discussions fo-

cused on preparing Andhra Pradesh's youth for employment opportunities in Taiwan's growing manufacturing and technology sectors through industry-aligned skill development, technical training and higher education partnerships.

The meeting explored collaboration in electronics and semiconductor manufacturing, precision engineering, industrial automa-

tion, healthcare and other high-skill sectors. Discussions also covered Mandarin language training, industry-specific certification, internships, student and faculty exchanges, joint research and workplace-readiness programmes to build a globally competitive talent pipeline.

According to the official release, the meetings marked another significant step in Andhra Pradesh's growing partnership with Taiwanese industry, with both sides expressing confidence that closer collaboration in investment, manufacturing, skilling and talent development will create new opportunities for industry and employment in the years ahead.

Pawan Kalyan inaugurates Kumki camp
to mitigate human-elephant conflict

AMARAVATI, JULY 29

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Environment and Forests, Pawan Kalyan, on Wednesday inaugurated a Kumki elephant camp in Parvathipuram-Manyam district and termed it a new chapter in mitigating human-elephant conflict in North Andhra.

The camp aims to effectively manage the movement of wild elephants, protect human lives and farmers' crops, and resolve the long-standing human-elephant conflict.

He stated that the government has the responsibility for both public safety and wildlife conservation.

Virtually inaugurating the camp which has been set up at Gutchimi in Seethanagar mandal of Parvathipuram-Manyam district, he said that sustainable progress is possible only when there is a balance between development and environmental conservation. "Nature does not belong to us; we belong to nature. Therefore, we must live in harmony with it," he said. District In-charge Minister and Minister for Agriculture, K. Atchannaidu, and Minister for Tribal Welfare, Gummadi Sandhya Rani, participated in the event. Pawan Kalyan said issues such as elephants straying from forest areas into villages, destroying farm-



ers' crops, and people living in fear at night have persisted for a long time in Parvathipuram-Manyam district. "Viewing it as the government's responsibility to provide a permanent solution, we established the

Gutchimi Elephant Holding Area. This centre marks the beginning of a new chapter in mitigating human-elephant conflict in North Andhra," he said. The Deputy CM mentioned that during complex operations in the Palamaner region of Chittoor district, Kumki elephants—Jayantha and Abhimanyu—worked effectively in coordination with Forest Department officials and staff. By utilising modern technology, they managed to reduce fatalities caused by human-elephant conflict by over 70 per cent and significantly minimise crop losses.

He stated that the government is determined to achieve similar success in Parvathipuram-Manyam district. I dedicate this elephant camp to the people of Andhra Pradesh, hoping it will serve as a platform for harmonious coexistence between humans and elephants, he said.

He thanked the government of Karnataka and its people for sending four kumki elephants to Andhra Pradesh and termed this as a testament to their generosity and spirit of friendship. "People there regard the gifting of elephants as akin to sharing wealth. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Karnataka for sending these elephants out of love and concern for the safety of the Telugu people," he said.

He also looked at passenger facilities, including last-mile connectivity and feeder transport, and reviewed the readiness of a new corridor ahead of its expected opening. The inspection included a Metro journey, a visit to the Operations Control Centre, site visits to ongoing Phase II works and a trial run on an Unattended Train Operation driverless Metro train. Accompanied by Finance, Planning and Development Minister N Marie Wilson, Alandur MLA M Harish, Maduravoyal MLA P Rhevanth Charan, Chief Secretary M Saikumar and senior Chennai Metro Rail Limited officials, Vijay began his inspection by travelling from Government Estate Metro Station to Nandanam Metro Station. He bought a ticket for the journey and interacted with commuters, taking selfies with them. According to a

Special Trains for
Velankanni Festival Rush

To manage the surge in passenger traffic during the annual Velankanni Festival, South Western Railway will operate special train services between Vasco Da Gama and Velankanni. Train No. 07361 Vasco Da Gama-Velankanni Express Special will depart from Vasco Da Gama at 9.55 pm on August 27 and September 1, 2026, and arrive at Velankanni at 3.45 am on the third day. Two special services will be operated in this direction. In the return direction, Train No. 07362 Velankanni-Vasco Da Gama Express Special will leave

Velankanni at 11.55 pm on August 29 and September 3, 2026, reaching Vasco Da Gama at 3.00 am on the third day. Two return services have been scheduled. The special trains will comprise six AC Three-Tier coaches, seven Sleeper Class coaches, four General Second Class coaches, one Divyangjan-friendly Second Class coach, and one luggage-cum-brake van.

The special services are expected to provide additional travel capacity and ensure a smoother journey for devotees visiting the Velankanni Festival.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay
reviews Chennai Metro
expansion, driverless train

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday reviewed the progress of Chennai Metro Rail's Phase I and Phase II projects, including key construction work, operational preparedness and plans for future expansion. During the review, he inspected train operating areas, major work sites and new corridors, and issued directions to officials.

He also looked at passenger facilities, including last-mile connectivity and feeder transport, and reviewed the readiness of a new corridor ahead of its expected opening. The inspection included a Metro journey, a visit to the Operations Control Centre, site visits to ongoing Phase II works and a trial run on an Unattended Train Operation driverless Metro train. Accompanied by Finance, Planning and Development Minister N Marie Wilson, Alandur MLA M Harish, Maduravoyal MLA P Rhevanth Charan, Chief Secretary M Saikumar and senior Chennai Metro Rail Limited officials, Vijay began his inspection by travelling from Government Estate Metro Station to Nandanam Metro Station. He bought a ticket for the journey and interacted with commuters, taking selfies with them. According to a

press release, he later visited the Operations Control Centre at the Chennai Metro Rail Limited headquarters in Nandanam and reviewed with officials the monitoring and management of train operations. While reviewing Phase I and Phase II works, he discussed future Metro expansion plans and feasibility studies, and enquired about the last-mile connectivity and feeder transport arrangements for passengers travelling from stations to their final destinations. Vijay then inspected the 101-foot-high Metro bridge at Kathipara under Corridor 5 of Phase II, which runs from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur. He reviewed the construction of the "balanced cantilever" elevated bridge and asked about its construction methodology and progress. The press release said the work was being carried out without ground support pillars, through careful planning and strict safety measures, without disrupting Phase I Metro services or road traffic. He then inspected the Porur Bypass Metro Station under Corridor 4 of Phase II and travelled on a trial run of the Unattended Train Operation driverless Metro train between Porur Bypass and Poonamallee Bypass Metro stations. The review covered current operations, expansion work and readiness for new services across the Chennai Metro network.

Uddhav Thackeray criticises
Centre over delimitation

MUMBAI, JULY 29

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday launched a fierce attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at a book release event, Thackeray targeted the central government over the Delimitation Bill and accused it of trying to alter the Constitution. Addressing the gathering, Thackeray alleged that political parties and MPs were being split deliberately to pass the Delimitation Bill. "To change the Constitution, political parties are being engineered to split," he asserted. Directing a sharp critique at the BJP's political tactics, Thackeray said they used political parties and discarded them once their work was done. He added, "You have even used Lord Ram and cast him aside. Don't you feel ashamed looting the temple of the very Lord Ram

whose name brought you to power?" Responding to accusations of abandoning Hindutva, he said that when real issues were raised, the BJP claimed Shiv Sena (UBT) had abandoned Hindutva. "But what have they given up? The real question is what were they holding onto in the first place? They had already abandoned dignity, shame, and morality—so what difference does it make now?" Addressing the ongoing debate on dynasty politics, Thackeray openly embraced his family legacy while questioning PM Modi's background. "They keep talking about dynastic politics. Yes, my family has a heritage, and I am proud of it. Our family history is documented on record for at least a hundred years. What about their lineage? Where did they come from? Which station did they actually sell tea at? There is no record, and even less accountability," he noted.

Indian Railways Steps Up
Mission-Mode Hiring

- 5.56 Lakh Recruitments Done Since 2014 (Up to June 2026), Including 50,485 in Southern Railway: Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Approximately 4.5 Crore Candidates Appeared in Computer-Based Test in 2024 and 2025 Exam Cycle
- Recruitment Exams Conducted Over 150 Cities in 15 Languages to Ensure Wider Access and Greater Convenience for Railway Aspirants
- Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-05 to 2013-14 vis-à-vis during 2014-15 to 2025-26 is given as under:

Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes on Indian Railways considering its size,

spatial distribution and criticality of operation. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to the regular operations, changes in technology, mechanisations and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements. The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilization of men and resources and training of manpower. Railway overcame all these challenges and successfully conducted the recruitment in a transparent manner following all laid down guidelines.

Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of

Railways has introduced a system of publishing the Annual Calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' posts. The introduction of the Annual Calendar is benefitting the aspirants in the following manner:

- More opportunities for candidates:
- Opportunities to those becoming eligible every year;
- Certainty of exams;
- Faster Recruitment process, Training and Appointments

Presently, recruitment against 1,61,889 vacancies (including 11,387 vacancies for Southern Railway) of non-gazetted personnel has been taken up on Indian Railways as per Annual Calendar

2024, 2025 and 2026.

During January to December 2024, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116 vacancies (including 6,927 vacancies for Southern Railway) were notified for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), Technicians, Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JEs)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA), Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate), Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate), Ministerial & Isolated Categories and Level-1 categories such as Assistants, Track Maintainers and Pointsman.



Odisha govt orders
immediate repair of flood-
damaged roads, buildings

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 29

Taking serious note of the damage caused by incessant rainfall and flooding across Odisha, Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Wednesday directed departmental officials to undertake the immediate repair and restoration of roads and highways under the Works Department to restore traffic connectivity.

The minister has also directed the officials to take steps for repair of damaged government buildings. He also reviewed the situation arising out of the low-pressure-induced rainfall and floods with Works Department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh and other senior officials. The officials informed that Harichandan stressed the need for the speedy restoration and repair of damaged roads, bridges and government buildings in the affected areas. Subsequently, the department issued directions to various agencies asking them to implement the state government's instructions. The department sent letters to the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited (OBCC), the Engineer-in-Chief

(Civil-cum-Roads), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the regional office of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), and all Chief Engineers of road, bridge and National Highway organisations, directing them to undertake the repair and restoration of damaged roads on a war footing. The state government has also emphasised the need to restore normal traffic movement in the flood-affected areas at the earliest. The department has further treated the matter as "most urgent" and, through an official communication, instructed all field-level officers and engineers to continuously monitor the situation, take immediate necessary measures, and ensure the safe movement of the public by restoring damaged infrastructure without delay. Notably, severe floods triggered by incessant rainfall and swelling rivers have claimed at least three lives and affected over 2 lakh people across several districts of Odisha. The Revenue and Disaster Department revealed that as of Wednesday afternoon, as many as 748 villages in several districts of the state have been affected in these districts.

Mamata Asks
EC to Wrap Up
TMC Dispute

KOLKATA: (Jul 29) Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday urged the EC to conclude its inquiry into the dispute over the ownership of the TMC's name, poll symbol and organisational control, contending that the rival faction led by Ritabrata Banerjee had failed to respond despite repeated extensions and should not be granted any further opportunity. In a letter addressed to Election Commission secretary Ashwani Kumar Mohal on Wednesday, the TMC founder-chairperson said the commission should bring the proceedings to a close "as early as possible" as the dispute has "serious political ramifications in West Bengal".

Counterfeit Propylene Glycol Racket
Busted in Faridabad, Manager Arrested

CHANDIGARH, JULY 29

The Haryana Food and Drugs Administration has cracked a counterfeit pharmaceutical-grade chemical racket in Faridabad, with officials warning that the seized consignment could pose a life-threatening risk if contaminated beyond permissible limits. Propylene Glycol is widely used as an excipient in the manufacture of cough syrups and several other pharmaceutical formulations, making its quality and purity critical for patient safety. Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra, disclosed on Wednesday. Dr.

Misra said the crackdown comes under the department's zero-tolerance policy against the manufacture, distribution and sale of spurious and counterfeit medicines, being steered under the guidance of Health Minister Aarti Rao, along with Food and Drugs Administration Commissioner Dr. Manoj Kumar and State Drugs Controller Ripan Mehta. Dr. Misra said that, to the best of the department's knowledge, this is the first case in India involving the alleged counterfeiting and repackaging of pharmaceutical-grade Propylene Glycol under the brand identity of an established manufacturer. She added that contami-

nation of Propylene Glycol with Diethylene Glycol (DEG) or Ethylene Glycol (EG) has been linked to deaths reported in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in recent months. According to the disclosure, a team of FDA officers from Faridabad raided the premises of M/s Kokana Asia Ingredients Private Limited at Plot No. 910, Sector-69, IMT, Faridabad, on July 28, acting on a specific complaint that counterfeit Propylene Glycol was being sold under the reputed Manali brand name.

Officials said the inspection exposed an alleged repackaging operation in which industrial-grade Propylene Glycol was being decanted

into drums bearing the labels and markings of M/s Manali Petrochemicals Limited, passing off the product as genuine output of the established manufacturer. The raiding team seized 42 drums of Propylene Glycol, empty Chinese-origin industrial-grade Propylene Glycol drums, a transfer pump, sealing covers carrying the Manali Petrochemicals name, and sealing wire under Form-16, while one sample was drawn under Form-17 for laboratory analysis. The total seizure amounting to Rs. 24,83,250/-. Dr. Misra flagged the gravity of the find, noting that the sample has been sent for testing to

determine whether it contains Diethylene Glycol or Ethylene Glycol impurities beyond permissible limits. Contamination of this kind, she said, can trigger severe toxicity, including acute kidney injury and neurological complications, and can prove fatal particularly among children and other vulnerable patients. Citing prima facie evidence of the manufacture and sale of spurious and counterfeit drugs, officials confirmed that the firm's Manager was arrested under the applicable provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and produced before the competent court for further legal proceedings.

EDITORIAL

Building Climate-Resilient Cities Before the Next Storm

Every monsoon serves as a reminder that nature cannot be controlled, but its impact can certainly be managed. Heavy rains across several parts of India have once again led to waterlogging, traffic disruptions, damage to infrastructure, and inconvenience to millions of people. While seasonal rainfall is essential for agriculture, water resources, and ecological balance, the challenges it poses to urban areas highlight the urgent need for better planning and preparedness. India's cities have expanded rapidly over the past few decades. Urban growth has created new opportunities, but it has also placed tremendous pressure on drainage systems, roads, public transport, and civic infrastructure. Many cities continue to struggle with outdated stormwater networks that are unable to handle intense rainfall. As a result, even a few hours of heavy rain can bring normal life to a standstill.

Climate scientists have repeatedly pointed out that extreme weather events are becoming more frequent due to climate change. This means cities can no longer rely on old assumptions about rainfall patterns. Urban planning must now be based on future climate realities rather than past experiences. Investing in resilient infrastructure is no longer an option—it is a necessity. Governments at the Centre, states, and local bodies have taken several steps in recent years to improve disaster preparedness. Weather forecasting has become more accurate, early warning systems have improved, and emergency response agencies have become better equipped. These efforts have undoubtedly helped reduce the loss of lives during floods and other natural disasters. However, prevention remains far more effective than post-disaster response. One of the biggest priorities should be protecting and restoring natural water bodies. Lakes, ponds, wetlands, and drainage channels act as natural buffers during heavy rainfall. Their encroachment or neglect reduces the city's capacity to absorb excess water, increasing the risk of flooding. Sustainable urban development must ensure that these natural assets are preserved rather than sacrificed for short-term expansion.

Technology can also play a transformative role. Smart sensors, real-time flood monitoring, GIS mapping, and artificial intelligence can help authorities predict vulnerable areas, manage traffic, and respond more quickly during emergencies. Digital tools, when combined with efficient governance, can significantly improve urban resilience. Citizens, too, have an important role to play. Responsible waste disposal, avoiding plastic litter that blocks drains, and following official advisories during heavy rains contribute to smoother civic management. Public awareness campaigns can strengthen community participation and reduce avoidable risks.

Infrastructure projects should also be designed with resilience in mind. Roads, bridges, drainage systems, public transport, and housing projects must incorporate climate adaptation measures from the planning stage itself. Investments made today in durable and sustainable infrastructure will save enormous economic and social costs in the future.

The goal should not merely be to recover after every spell of heavy rain but to create cities that continue functioning safely even during extreme weather. Urban resilience is not built overnight; it requires long-term vision, scientific planning, coordinated governance, and active public participation.

As India continues its journey of rapid urbanisation, building climate-resilient cities must become a national priority. Preparing before the next storm arrives is far wiser—and far less costly—than rebuilding after it has passed. Stronger cities today will ensure a safer, more sustainable tomorrow for every citizen.



REALLY SEEMS TO ME...



A teacher must nurture, with wisdom and grace,
Like a father who guides in life's vast race.
But what if the hands that are meant to protect,
Shatter the trust and demand blind respect?

Last night, in the hostel's hollowed air,
A child was broken — stripped bare.
Called a "machine," with a voice so cold,
Where love should be, power took hold.
Oh! Eye drops were never meant to kill,
Yet silence wounds, and silence will.

At dawn today, at the bus stand line,
A boy passed by — without a sign.
His hand brushed a girl from behind,
Whispered "sorry," and left her confined.
She sat down quietly, swallowed the sting,
"With laws like these, what do they bring?"

So many rules, but do they shield?
When justice hides and scars are sealed?
When every breath a girl must weigh,
When dreams are stolen in bright of day?

I bow my head, in shame I see,
The threat to her — is often me.
No beast, no storm, no monstrous cry,
But man — her pain walks by.

Yet woman — she's no flickering flame,
She's fire, she's force, she owns no shame.
She's the mother who feeds even demons with grace,
She walks through ashes and sets the pace.

And still I pray, if fate be kind,
In my next life, with open mind—
Let me be born a daughter, strong and wild,
Unchained, unbroken, freedom's child.
For if no change begins with me,
Then let me rise — as she.



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



OPINION

The New Democratic Chapter of Youth Power

Indian democracy has once again proved that if the voice of the people is organized, peaceful, and persistent, it can compel even the most powerful authority to introspect. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation is not merely a minister stepping down from office, but also the acknowledgment of that democratic pressure which millions of youth across the country have built over the past several weeks with their patience, discipline, and steadfastness. In recent developments, following talks between the government and the protestors, the termination of the movement was announced, and the leadership of the movement claimed that their major demands had been accepted. This event will not remain confined to the Ministry of Education alone. In the coming years, it will be remembered as that turning point when India's Gen-Z delivered the message that democracy does not run on elections alone, but is also operated by accountability, transparency, and citizen participation.

The biggest feature of this entire movement was that it was not initiated by any established political party. This movement emerged from the world of social media, started with satire, and before long became a symbol of the collective consciousness of crores of youth. The word "cockroach," which was allegedly used for insult, was transformed by the youth into a symbol of their self-respect and resistance. This is the greatest beauty of democracy—that it turns even insult into the power of resistance. This movement has taught a new lesson to Indian politics. For a long time, it was believed that campaigns run on social media are mere sensations of a few days, but this time the "digital campaign" descended onto the streets, transformed into a peaceful mass movement, and ultimately compelled authority to make a decision. This makes it clear that India's new generation is not limited to "likes" and "shares"; it is writing a new language of democratic participation.

However, the greatest credit for this victory goes not only to the success of the movement but also to its restraint. Despite tension and police action in numerous places, the leadership of the movement consistently appealed for constitutional and peaceful protest. This is the reason why this movement received widespread social support. In a democracy, the moral strength of any mass movement stems entirely from its non-violence and discipline. However, along with this victory, some serious questions also arise. Will the resignation of a single minister resolve those deep-seated problems of the education system that gave birth to this movement?

considering it a political conspiracy can never be a visionary policy. In the beginning, if the grievances of the youth had been heard more seriously, dialogue established, and a clear timeline for reforms declared, the situation perhaps would not have reached this point. Ultimately, the government chose the path of dialogue, and this is also the correct direction of democracy.

For the opposition too, this is an opportunity for introspection. The most notable thing about this movement was that its energy came not from any traditional political party, but from the spontaneous participation of the youth. This gives a clear message



Will incidents of question paper leaks come to an end automatically? Will the years-long delays in recruitment exams come to an end? Will millions of youth find new employment opportunities? The answers to these questions still lie in the womb of the future.

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation is undoubtedly an important example of political accountability, but considering it the final solution would be a mistake. If the structural flaws of the examination system remain unchanged, if transparency and technical security in national testing agencies do not increase, if the culprits do not receive time-bound punishment, and if recruitment processes remain stalled for years like before, this public discontent of today may emerge in a new form in the future. For the government too, this is an opportunity for introspection. In a democracy, dismissing any movement simply by

that today's generation wants concrete solutions, not just political speeches. If the opposition too remains confined to political gain and fails to show seriousness on a concrete agenda of education reform, it will also fail to live up to the expectations of the youth. Questions are also raised on the role of the media, especially electronic media. In the initial days, many platforms that mistook the movement for social media sensationalism were later compelled to acknowledge its seriousness. In a democracy, the responsibility of the media is not merely to show scenes of confrontation, but also to investigate the causes that compel millions of youth to take to the streets.

This entire sequence of events has also initiated a new political culture in Indian democracy. This culture is based on issues rather than hero worship. This movement was not based on caste, lan-

guage, region, or religion, but on universal democratic demands such as equal opportunities, fair examinations, and accountable governance. This has been its greatest strength. Today, the need is more to understand the message of this victory than to celebrate it. The government will have to prioritize systems such as artificial intelligence-based monitoring, digital security, time-bound recruitment, an independent examination regulator, and prompt punishment for culprits in the examination system. Trust in the education system will return only when the student feels that their hard work will not fall victim to a corrupt system. India is the youngest country in the world. These very youth are the greatest capital of the coming developed India. If this very generation loses faith in the system, the importance of any economic achievement will diminish, but if this very generation raises its voice democratically, the government listens to it, the opposition fulfills its responsibility, and institutions reform themselves, this very energy can take India to new heights.

However, Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation is therefore not just a political event; it is proof of that vitality of democracy in which the trust of the people is more powerful than power itself. Gen-Z has proved that peaceful mass power remains the greatest strength of democracy today. Now the next test is for the government—whether it will forget this mandate by treating it as merely a political crisis, or make it an opportunity for historic reforms in the education system. If only the face changed and the system did not change from this movement, history will call it an incomplete victory, but if this makes the examination system transparent, restores the trust of the youth, and gives institutional form to accountability, then this movement will be recorded in the history of Indian democracy as the moment when the country's new generation did not defeat power, but strengthened democracy.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL
senior journalist

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

INDIA'S REVISED CORE INDUSTRIES INDEX SIGNALS A QUIET SHIFT IN ECONOMIC MEASUREMENT

India's recent overhaul of the Index of Core Industries (ICI) is one such moment. At first glance, the revision appears to be a routine statistical exercise—a new base year, a revised methodology and an additional sector. In reality, it reflects a broader effort to align India's statistical framework with the changing structure of its industrial economy. As the country pursues its ambition of becoming a developed economy by 2047, updating the tools that measure economic activity may prove almost as important as the policies that drive it.

Compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Index of Core Industries is released every month and tracks output in nine foundational sectors—coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, electricity and, for the first time, iron ore. These industries together account for nearly 40 per cent of the weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), making them the backbone of India's manufacturing ecosystem. Because they provide essential raw materials, energy and construction inputs to a wide range of industries, their performance often offers one of the earliest indications of changes in industrial activity.

The most significant reform in the revised series is the shift in the base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23. This is far more than a statistical update. Over the past decade, India's industrial landscape has changed substantially. Public investment in highways, railways, ports, airports, defence manufacturing, renewable energy and industrial corridors has expanded dramatically. Measuring today's economy with a benchmark rooted in the production structure of 2011–12 would inevitably fail to capture these transformations. The revised series, benchmarked to updated official datasets including the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2022–23, is therefore intended to provide a more accurate representation of the contemporary industrial economy.

The inclusion of iron ore as the ninth core industry is equally significant. It is not merely the addition of another commodity to the index but an acknowledgement of its strategic

importance in India's industrial value chain. Iron ore is the primary input for steel production, while steel remains indispensable for infrastructure, transportation, construction, power transmission and defence manufacturing. By incorporating iron ore into the index, policymakers and analysts gain an earlier insight into sectors closely linked to investment and infrastructure creation, strengthening the index's usefulness as a high-frequency indicator.

The revision also introduces methodological improvements. Steel output is now measured on the basis of gross production, bringing the series into closer alignment with the Index of Industrial Production. Certain coal-derived products, such as washed coal and coal middlings, have been excluded to avoid double counting, while sectoral weights have been recalibrated to reflect the current industrial structure. These changes enhance both the consistency and credibility of the index.

The usefulness of the revised methodology is already evident in the latest data. Core industries expanded by 5 per cent in June 2026, marking the strongest growth in five months. Yet the headline number tells only part of the story. Iron ore output surged by 43.9 per cent, while cement and electricity each grew by 9.8 per cent, steel by 4.6 per cent, and coal by 1.4 per cent. In contrast, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products and fertilisers recorded contractions. During the April–June quarter, cumulative core sector growth stood at 3.6 per cent, significantly higher than the corresponding period a year earlier. The data suggest that infrastructure-related activity continues to provide momentum to industrial growth even as challenges persist in the energy sector.

The revised Index of Core Industries should therefore be viewed as more than a monthly production indicator. Increasingly, it provides an earlier window into sectors that are closely linked to India's investment cycle, particularly infrastructure and construction. Strong performance in iron ore, cement, steel and electricity often accompanies large-scale capital formation. While the index cannot—and should not—be interpreted

ed as a report card on government performance, it does offer valuable evidence on how public infrastructure spending is translating into productive economic activity. Equally, it reminds policymakers that sustaining long-term industrial growth will ultimately require stronger private investment alongside public expenditure.

At the same time, the revision also underscores the limitations of existing industrial statistics. India's economy is increasingly shaped by electronics manufacturing, semiconductors, battery technologies, digital infrastructure and green hydrogen. Meanwhile, the services sector contributes well over half of the country's GDP. These emerging drivers of growth remain outside the scope of the Core Industries Index. As India's economy continues to diversify, its statistical architecture will also need to evolve to capture these structural shifts more comprehensively.

The significance of the revised Core Industries Index, therefore, lies not merely in the monthly numbers it produces but in what those numbers represent. They reflect an effort to align India's statistical framework more closely with the realities of a changing industrial economy. In the years ahead, the credibility of India's economic ambitions will depend not only on what the economy achieves, but also on how accurately those achievements are measured. The revision of the ICI is a reminder that sound economic governance begins with sound economic measurement.



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Jharkhand
Police arrests
Misir Besra, the
last remaining
Maoist leader
RANCHI, JULY 29

Major success for the 290th Battalion of the CRPF CoBRA unit in Jharkhand Naxal commander Misir Besra active in Jharkhand, arrested Misir Besra is a member of the Naxals' Central Committee Two other Naxals Mochhu and Gaurav Hansda were also arrested alongside Misir Besra Several major operations had been launched in Jharkhand in search of Misir Besra With Besra now in custody, both the central committee & politburo of CPI (Maoist) are defunct. In other words, it marks the end of the Maoist movement in the country. Security forces Tuesday arrested the last known absconding Maoist leader, Misir Besra, in Jharkhand. A member of both the central committee and politburo of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), Besra was the only Naxal leader to have evaded the security forces so far. Anoop Bitharary, Inspector General for the Jharkhand Jaguran elite special force of the state confirmed Besra's arrest.

Delhi High
Court Directs
Parliament
Street SHO to
Record Students'
Complaint by 5
PM Today

New Delhi, July 29: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Station House Officer (SHO) of Parliament Street Police Station to record the petitioners' complaint regarding alleged police action against students in the case diary by 5 PM today. The petitioners have sought the registration of an FIR against Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar, Joint Commissioner Sandeep Lamba, and other police officials. They informed the court that although a complaint was submitted on July 23, they had neither received a diary number nor an acknowledgment receipt. Delhi Police told the High Court that the delay was caused by technical glitches and assured the court that the complaint would be entered in the case diary and the diary number and acknowledgment receipt would be issued to the petitioners by 5 PM

Meta Details
Safeguards
for Prominent
Accounts

NEW DELHI: (Jul 29) Meta has written to the government outlining the specifics of enhanced and rigorous safeguards it has now implemented for content posted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other prominent accounts, sources said on Wednesday. The move assumes significance as the government on Tuesday summoned a top Meta executive after Modi's recent post addressing India's youth and promising stringent measures against paper leaks was briefly restricted on Facebook.

CET-Qualified Youth to Receive Allowance Under
Saksham Yuva Yojana from November 1: CM Nayab

Haryana Secures Place Among Top Ten States Under Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Yojana: Chief Minister
Regional Centre of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University to be Established in Fatehabad

CHANDIGARH, JULY 29

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Haryana has secured a place among the top ten states under the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Yojana. Under the scheme, employment opportunities have been facilitated for 51,000 youth. The Chief Minister was presiding over a review meeting of the Employment, Skill Development and Industrial Training Department and the Haryana Skill Development Mission under the Viksit Bharat Vision 2047. The Chief Minister said that five youth from the state have been selected for a world level skill competition. Youth who win medals



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini presiding over the review meeting of Haryana Vision 2047 Action Plans, at Chandigarh on July 29, 2026.

in this competition, to be held in China in September, will be provided financial assistance of ₹10 lakh and assured employment. He further said that a State Level Art and Culture Centre for Skill Faculty Training will be established at Umri village in Kurukshetra. In addition, Entrepreneurship Development Centres will be set up at Fatehabad, Sultanpur and

Antehri.

The Chief Minister directed that an AI portal be developed on which the complete data of ITIs and Skill Development programmes should be uploaded so that it can be utilised immediately as per requirements. He said that review meetings on ITI and Skill Development initiatives will be held every three months to ensure time-

ly implementation of these schemes and make youth employment ready.

He said that Haryana will be developed as a global education hub. AI hubs are being established in Panchkula and Gurugram. Youth will be made fully aware of Artificial Intelligence and 2 lakh youth will also be provided hard skills training. He further said that all existing ITIs in the state will be upgraded and a regional centre of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University will be established in Fatehabad, which will function as a Centre of Excellence.

The Chief Minister directed that a survey of youth be conducted, with special identification of technically skilled youth. He said new courses should be intro-

duced in ITIs to equip more youth with technical skills in line with industry requirements, thereby enhancing their employability. Financial assistance is also being provided to youth for self employment under the PM SVANidhi Yojana.

The Chief Minister said that CET qualified youth will be provided 100 hours of work. If they do not receive employment for two years, they will be provided an allowance under the Saksham Yuva Yojana. During the survey, 5,40,428 CET qualified youth were identified. He said that these youth will start receiving the benefits of the scheme from November 1.

The Chief Minister said that the government plans

to establish a Model ITI in every district to introduce new training programmes for youth. In addition, ITIs will also be opened at the block level. Out of 143 blocks in the state, 117 blocks already have functioning ITIs. New ITIs will be established at Jhohju Kalan, Kari Rupa and Rankauli in Charkhi Dadri district, as well as at Pillukhera. The Women's ITI at Narnaul is also being upgraded. Construction of ITIs is also underway at Barwala in Panchkula district, Bassantpur in Kurukshetra district and Nalvi Khurd.

The Chief Minister said that centres are being established in Karnal, Panchkula and Panipat to provide training in AI, robotics and drone technologies. These centres will be equipped with modern machinery for trainees, and an amount of ₹20 crore is being spent on the project.

Principal Secretaries Vijay Dahiya, Amneet P. Kumar, Deputy Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Yashpal Yadav, OSD Raj Nehru and other senior officers were present at the meeting.

MP Eases
Procurement,
Farmers End Stir
BHOPAL: (JUL 29)

The Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday agreed to procure 60 per cent of the moong crop from eligible farmers, extended the procurement deadline and suspended the e-token system for fertiliser distribution pending a review, prompting agitating farmers to call off their protest in Bhopal. The announcement came after talks between representatives of the state government and farmer leaders at the state secretariat, hours after thousands of protesters marched to within about a km of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's residence after staging a demonstration outside Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's house. In an official statement, the government said it had decided to increase procurement from each eligible farmer from the existing 25 per cent to 60 per cent of the moong crop in the larger interest of farmers.

NFR Extends Operation of
Six Pairs of Special Trains

MALIGAON, 29 JULY, 2026

To ensure uninterrupted travel and facilitate passengers affected by the prevailing flood situation in parts of Assam, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to extend the operation of six pairs of special trains (12 train services) over the Tinsukia, Lumding and Rangiya Divisions. These include train nos. 05831/05832 (Mariani - Rangiya - Mariani), train no. 05911/05912 (Tinsukia - Bhojo - New Tinsukia), train no. 05913/05914 (New Tinsukia - Moranhat - Tinsukia), train no. 05932/05931 (Dibrugarh - Kolkata - Dibrugarh), train no. 07641/07642 (Lumding - Mariani - Lumding) and train no. 07643/07644 (Lumding - Mariani - Lumding). All these special trains will continue to operate with their existing schedule, timings, composition and stoppages to cater to the additional passenger



requirements arising from waterlogging and the disruption of normal train services.

The services of train no. 05831 (Mariani - Rangiya) and train no. 05832 (Rangiya - Mariani) Special Special have been extended for one additional trip each on 31st July, 2026. Similarly, train no. 05911 (Tinsukia - Bhojo) Special and train no. 05912 (Bhojo - New Tinsukia) Special have been extended for two additional trips each on 30th & 31st July, 2026. Accordingly, train no. 05913 (New Tinsukia - Moranhat) Special and train no. 05914

(Moranhat - Tinsukia) Special have been extended for three additional trips each from 29th July to 31st July, 2026. Further, Train No. 07641 (Lumding - Mariani) Special and train no. 07642 (Mariani - Lumding) Special have been extended for three additional trips each from 29th July to 31st July, 2026. In addition, Train No. 07643 (Lumding - Mariani) Special will operate for two additional trips on 30th & 31st July, 2026. In return direction, train no. 07644 (Mariani - Lumding) Special will operate for two additional trips

on 31st July & 1st August, 2026. To facilitate long distance passengers, train no. 05932 (Dibrugarh - Kolkata) Special and train no. 05931 (Kolkata - Dibrugarh) Special have also been extended for five additional trips each. Train No. 05932 will run every Saturday from 1st August to 29th August, 2026, while train no. 05931 will run every Monday from 3rd August to 31st August, 2026. In addition, the scheduled timings of train no. 05931 (Kolkata - Dibrugarh) Special at Rangiya railway station have been revised with effect from 3rd August, 2026. The train will now arrive at Rangiya at 20:30 hours and depart from Rangiya at 20:40 hours. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Yogda Ashram Hosts Narayan
Seva on Guru Purnima

Crowds flocked for Guru Langar



BY SACHCHIDANANDA
VERMA

Noida: On the occasion of Guru Purnima, Narayan Seva was organised in the afternoon at Yogda Ashram Noida located in Sector 62. Despite the organisation of Guru Langar in the institutional sector, hundreds of people participated in it and received delicious offerings. Devotees kept coming till late afternoon. Swami Madhavananda



Swami Lalitananda at the inauguration of Narayan Seva. Swami Swarupananda and Brahmachari Nirliptananda were especially present.

It is known that on the occasion of Guru Purnima, Narayan Seva is organised every year in Noida Ashram. In which a large number of people from the surrounding poor, rural, labourers and employed people come to have lunch at the Bhandara organised at the

entrance of the ashram.

A grand event has been organised in the ashram to celebrate Guru Purnima. The ashram has been decorated very beautifully.

As you know Guru Purnima is celebrated as an occasion to express reverence, faith, gratitude towards Guru. Guru Purnima is being celebrated in all the ashrams, kendras and mandalas of the world to pay respect to our guru Paramahansa Yogananda

Pride-Worthy Progress: The
Journey of Tiger Reserves in India

In the lap of nature, biodiversity is a delicate web. Every creature in this web has a unique place and an essential responsibility. Among them, the tiger, standing as the king of the forest and a symbol of species balance, holds a very special position. To assess a country's environmental health and the greatness of its forest wealth, the population of tigers roaming there serves as a standard benchmark. Exactly to remind the world of the responsibility to protect such a magnificent and powerful creature, 'International Tiger Day' (Global Tiger Day) is organized with utmost grandeur and awareness every year on July 29th. Tomorrow, July 29, 2026, the importance of this day has gained even more significance. Marking this special occasion, the history of tiger conservation, the threats they face, their role in the environment, and future action plans spark great interest.

The Historical Background Behind Its
Origin: Saint Petersburg Summit

Tigers, which once roamed freely in millions across the earth, gradually reached a state of near extinction due to human selfishness, deforestation, and indiscriminate hunting. In the early 20th century, the global tiger population of around 100,000 plummet-

ed drastically to just a few thousand by the 21st century. Recognizing this alarming situation, world countries immediately awoke and held the historic 'Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit' in 2010 in the city of Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Leaders from 13 tiger-range countries across the globe participated in this summit. They decided to turn tiger conservation into an international movement. As part of this, July 29th was officially declared as 'International Tiger Day' every year. In this very summit, the highly ambitious 'Tx2' target was set. This meant starting a journey with the grand objective of doubling the wild tiger population worldwide by the year 2022 (the Chinese Year of the Tiger). Through political will, resource mobilization, and cross-border cooperation, this day transformed into a strong platform to save the tiger species.

Forest Guardian - Apex
Predator: The Role of the
Tiger in the Environment

Many people view the tiger merely as a beautiful, terrifying wild beast. However, from an ecological perspective, a tiger is an 'Apex Predator', meaning an animal at the highest position in the food chain. The presence of a tiger in a forest means that complete biodiversity is properly intact there.

If tigers disappear, the population of herbivorous animals increases abnormally. If animals like deer and wild boars multiply excessively, the small plants, trees, and grass in the forest get completely destroyed. Consequently, the forest gradually loses its natural state and moves towards desertification. Tigers help in the breeding of healthy animals by preying on weak or diseased herbivores. Furthermore, protecting tiger habitats means protecting the vast forests, river origins, and water sources of that region. Forests inhabited by tigers absorb large amounts of carbon, reducing the impact of global warming on Earth and maintaining ecological balance.

Threats Faced by Tigers:
Invisible Dangers

Even though protection measures are increasing at the international level, challenges threatening the survival of tigers continue to persist. Specifically, the following factors are questioning the existence of tigers:

Habitat Loss: Due to urbanization, expansion of roads and railway lines, mega projects, and deforestation, tiger movement areas are fragmenting into smaller patches. Because of this, pathways for tigers to move to other regions (Wildlife Corridors) are getting blocked.

Poaching and Illegal

Trade: Driven by the international market demand for tiger skins, claws, bones, and other body parts for traditional medicine and decorative items, poachers are running rampant, making this illegal trade an unprecedented threat to tiger lives.

Human-Wildlife Conflict: As forests shrink, tigers are moving towards villages and human settlements in search of food. Incidents of local people retaliating and killing tigers due to attacks on livestock frequently occur.

Climate Change: Changing weather conditions, water scarcity in forest areas, and forest fires are also severely damaging tiger habitats.

India's Role - Project
Tiger and Pride-Worthy
Progress

India stands at the forefront globally as the country with the highest number of wild tigers. The measures taken by the Indian government for tiger conservation have served as a global role model. Launched in 1973 under the tenure of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, 'Project Tiger' is a milestone in Indian wildlife history. Under the aegis of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, numerous tiger reserves have been established across the country. India has successfully managed to steadily increase the tiger population by enforcing

strict laws, continuous patrolling by forest guards, and utilizing modern technology (camera traps, drones, GPS tracking). All-India tiger estimation censuses, conducted once every four years, prove that tiger growth in the country is continuous.

The growth of India's tiger population from 1,411 in 2006 to over 3,600 according to recent estimates can be called a magnificent victory in the nation's history. States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu are in the forefront of tiger conservation. In our Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as well, forest department officials are making intensive efforts to protect tiger numbers in the Kawal, Amrabad, and Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserves.

International Cooperation
and Successful
Initiatives

No single nation can save the tiger species on its own. 13 tiger-range countries including Russia, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand are moving forward with mutual cooperation. Tx2 Initiative: Many voluntary organizations and international nature conservation bodies (such as WWF) have supported this goal of doubling the global tiger population. SMART Pa-

trolling: Security in forests has been tightened by providing advanced training to forest personnel and implementing the 'Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool' (SMART) method to detect poacher movements in advance.

Community Participation: Promoting 'eco-tourism' by involving local tribal communities and people living around forests, rather than relying solely on governments. This provides livelihoods to locals while instilling a mindset to protect tigers as their own wealth.

Future Action Plan: What
Must We Do?

International Tiger Day is not just a single-day celebration; it is a warning bell reminding us of our responsibility. Although the tiger population has increased to some extent, the threats to their survival have not completely disappeared. The measures we need to take in the future are crucial:

Corridor Protection: Human interference in corridors between different forests must be reduced, and measures must be taken to ensure tigers can easily migrate from one region to another. Iron Fist Against Wildlife Trafficking: Interpol and intelligence agencies of various countries must work with greater coordination to completely eradicate the illegal wildlife black

market operating internationally.

Youth Awareness: Youth should be attracted towards wildlife conservation by organizing special programs through social media platforms, in schools and colleges. Digital campaigns with hashtags like #InternationalTigerDay and #SaveTigers should be intensified. A tiger is not just an animal; it is the breath of our forests, the courage of our biodiversity. If tigers go extinct, that impact will indirectly fall upon the survival of the human race. Loving nature and coexisting with other creatures is our ancient culture. If future generations are to have the fortune of hearing the roar of a tiger in the forest, everyone must step up responsibly. Let us all take a firm pledge on this International Tiger Day with the slogan—"Save the Tiger - Sustain the Environment!"



Dr Chityala Ravinder
7798891795



Shocking human rights record, massive gaps in governance put Pakistan's GSP+ status under scrutiny

ISLAMABAD

The Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus, commonly known as GSP+, is a special trade arrangement offered by the European Union that grants full duty-free access to its 27-member single market for select developing economies, contingent on their ratification and effective implementation of 27 international conventions covering human rights, labour rights, environmental protection, climate action and good governance.

Pakistan has been the largest beneficiary of this scheme since 2014, and the arrangement has become structurally embedded in its export economy, particularly in textiles and clothing.

On July 16, the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy jointly published the Joint Staff Working Document assessing Pakistan's compliance with GSP+

obligations for the 2023-2025 monitoring period. The report carries considerable weight because it is the final monitoring assessment under the existing GSP regulation before a revised, more stringent framework takes effect on January 1 in 2027 under which all beneficiaries, including Pakistan, must re-apply under tighter sustainability and governance criteria. Its significance lies not merely in trade arithmetic but in the fact that continued market access, worth billions of euros annually, is now explicitly conditioned on measurable improvements in human rights, rule of law and labour practices, rather than legislative promises alone.

The scale of what is at stake underscores the report's importance. Pakistan's GSP+-eligible exports to the EU stood at EUR 7.5 billion in 2024, and the country saved an estimated EUR 732 million in tariff exemptions that year alone, equivalent to roughly nine per cent of its total export value to the bloc. The EU remains Pakistan's single largest export market, absorbing 28 per cent of its total exports, with textiles and clothing constituting between 70 and 76 per cent of that trade.

The document's tone is calibrated but unmistakably concerned, first acknowledging genuine legislative progress before turning to a longer list of unresolved and, in several areas, worsening problems.

The Commission acknowl-

ed several important reforms by Pakistan during the reporting period. It noted legislation to establish a National Commission for Minorities, a further narrowing of capital punishment by removing four offences from the death penalty, and the continuation of a de facto moratorium on executions since December 2019. Pakistan adopted implementing rules under the Anti-Torture Act, passed a Domestic Violence Bill for Islamabad Capital Territory, and secured the country's first conviction for marital rape in Sindh in February 2024, regarded as a symbolic milestone under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The National Commission for Human Rights obtained "A status" accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in 2024, while labour rights advanced through ratification of the ILO's 2014 Forced Labour Protocol and enhanced monitoring. In the environmental sphere, Pakistan maintained regular reporting, ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Yet the report is explicit that "most progress is of legislative and administrative nature and needs to be translated into real improvements on the ground" - a formulation that, in diplomatic language, signals skepticism about implementation. Beneath the acknowledged reforms lies a



13 killed in Kumamoto earthquake: Japanese PM Takaichi

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Wednesday said that 13 people were killed after an earthquake of magnitude 7.1 jolted Kumamoto prefecture. She said that extensive damage, including human injuries, building collapses, fires, and road damage, has been confirmed following Tuesday's earthquake. The earthquake of magnitude 7.1 struck Kumamoto Prefecture at a depth of 10 kilometres at 4:27 pm (local time) on Tuesday, Japan's Kyodo News reported, citing the country's Meteorological Agency. Takaichi offered condolences to the victims and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families. She assured that the Japanese government is working swiftly to assess the damage caused by the earthquake, while relevant ministries and agencies are working to address initial responses.

The Japanese PM expressed the government's commitment to restore essential infrastructure like electricity in regions impacted by power outages and water shortages. The Self-Defence Forces have, meanwhile, been conducting water supply operations and carrying patients.

Takaichi held the Second Extraordinary Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters Meeting for the Kumamoto earthquake on Wednesday.

Kumamoto Prefecture Governor Kimura, as well as Deputy Minister Tsushima of the Cabinet Office, attended the meeting virtually. Following the meeting, Takaichi, in a post on X, wrote, "Regarding search and rescue operations, the Self-Defense Forces have been reinforced to approximately 4,600 personnel, the police to approximately 2,000, and the fire services to approximately 1,400, with tireless search and rescue activities underway."

"Search and rescue operations are a race against time. At sites including 'ION Mall Kumamoto' and the 'Nippon Paper Yatsushiro Mill,' there are still people awaiting rescue. I requested that each operational unit, while strengthening personnel and equipment, devote every effort to saving and rescuing as many lives as possible," she added.

Japanese PM said that evacuation shelters have been established at approximately 450 locations, with around 7,700 people taking refuge. She said that the ministries and agencies are working to provide support to shelters, including essential items like food and water, cardboard beds, hygiene products, and toilet paper, as well as arranging air conditioners and power supply vehicles. "I once again requested that they accurately grasp the needs of affected individuals and municipalities."

Pakistan's Middle East exports fall over 2 pc to \$3 billion in Finance Year 2026

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's exports to the Middle East declined by over 2 per cent year-on-year to \$3.093 billion in financial year 2025-26, showing the impact of ongoing regional conflicts and geopolitical uncertainties on trade flows, according to a report.

A report published in Dawn -- citing State Bank of Pakistan -- highlighted that exports to key regional markets, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Jordan, recorded a decline during FY26, while shipments to Kuwait increased. Exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Pakistan's largest export market in the region, remained largely unchanged.

Pakistan's imports from the Middle East also contracted by

Pakistan continues to remain heavily dependent on energy imports from the Middle East, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia accounting for around 90 per cent of such supplies. Other countries, including Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain, remain secondary contributors despite their export potential.

The country's trade deficit with the Middle East narrowed by 4.48 per cent to \$13.32 billion in FY26 from \$13.94 billion in the previous fiscal year.

In FY25, Pakistan's trade deficit with the region had widened by 7.37 per cent to \$13.974 billion from \$13.014 billion in FY24. Among key markets, exports to Saudi Arabia declined by 3 per cent to \$682.56 million in FY26 from \$706.04 million in the previous year.

kistan's trade flows remained sensitive to geopolitical developments, particularly disruptions affecting energy corridors. June marked the fourth month after March to witness a contraction in imports, highlighting the impact of regional uncertainties on trade activity.

Trump vows force after Iranian missile attack on American forces in Jordan

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has warned that the United States will respond with force after what he described as a surprise Iranian missile attack on American forces in Jordan.

"We're going to beat the out of them," Trump told Fox News, according to the network. He also warned that Iran was "going to get a beating." The President said the United States would strike back hard following the attack on its forces. "We'll be hitting them hard," Trump said in separate remarks reported by Fox News. "They're going to get a beating."

Trump said US forces had successfully intercepted the incoming ballistic missiles. The material provided by Fox News did not include details about the number of missiles launched, when the



Opposition to Ukraine's EU membership hits record high in Poland: Poll

WARSAW

The proportion of Poles opposed to Ukraine joining the European Union (EU) has risen to a record 40 per cent, according to a survey released by Poland's Public Opinion Research Centre (CBOS). CBOS said public attitudes had undergone a "very large change unfavorable to Ukraine" since its previous survey in 2023, although supporters of Ukraine's accession still outnumbered opponents.

Opposition to Ukraine's EU membership rose from 17 per cent in 2023 to 40 per cent this year, while the proportion favouring Ukraine's accession as soon as possible fell from 18 per cent to 9 per cent, Xinhua news agency reported. Poland introduced special measures following the escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022, giving eligible Ukrainians access to employment, public healthcare and social benefits.

UN chief announces plans for new enlarged meeting on Cyprus issue

NICOSIA

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday announced plans to convene another enlarged meeting on the Cyprus issue following a tripartite meeting with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides and Turkish Cypriot leader Tufan Erhurban.

Guterres arrived in Cyprus on Monday evening for his first visit to the island since taking office as UN Secretary-General. It was also the first visit by a sitting UN chief since Ban Ki-moon travelled to Cyprus in early 2010. Guterres said the enlarged meeting on the Cyprus issue will be convened "after adequate progress" is achieved on the matters of confidence-building measures, the meeting's methodology, and the substance of the talks, Xinhua news agency reported. He did not set a deadline, but said there was a "consensus" among



referring to Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.

Cyprus gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960. Under the arrangements governing its independence, Britain, Greece and Turkey were designated guarantor powers. In 1974, a coup by Greek army officers aimed at uniting Cyprus with Greece prompted a Turkish military intervention, leaving the island divided.

The United Nations has maintained a long-standing peacekeeping force in Cyprus and has repeatedly mediated talks between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. A UN-led Conference on Cyprus opened in Geneva in January 1977, followed by further negotiations later that year. The talks ended without agreement amid differences over issues including security arrangements and the role of the guarantor powers.

Balochistan: Tactical Interaction Possible Between BLA, ISKP

QUETTA

The killing of a judge in Mastung district of Pakistan's Balochistan province last week may not have yet proved a link between Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) but it does demonstrate a change in contemporary terrorism, a report has highlighted.

District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar and his police guard were killed while Additional Sessions Judge Tariq Lashari was injured in Mastung after armed assailants targetted vehicle carrying judicial officers from Quetta to Mastung on July 23. Shortly afterwards, reports claimed that ISKP had taken responsibility for the attack, though the claim could not be verified and an investigation is yet to be completed to find the attack-



"Against this backdrop, the Mastung assassination matters not only because a judge was killed, but because it illustrates the growing relationship between violence and information. Judicial officers occupy one of the most sensitive positions in a state's counterterrorism system. They oversee trials, assess evidence and uphold the legal process through which terrorist violence is prosecuted," the report mentioned.

The attack took place amid a series of incidents targeting security personnel, civilian infrastructure and transport in Mastung. These incidents were part of a coordinated campaign is not known yet. However, taken together, these showcase how insecurity can put pressure on governance, limit mobility and weaken people's trust in public institutions. The Asia Times

report detailed that narratives emerging following the attack highlight possibilities that ISKP might have actually attacked the judge or may have taken responsibility for an attack conducted by another organisation to boost its profile. The reported claim may signal logistical assistance, shared propaganda interests or restricted tactical connection between different militant groups. None of these possibilities has been proven by available evidence, and an investigation needs to be conducted on each possibility.

Traditionally, militant groups were classified as per their ideology. The BLA is an ethno-nationalist separatist movement while ISKP is the Islamic State's regional affiliate that operates in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The ideologies of the two groups are different;

however, the ideological difference does not remove the possibility of limited tactical interaction. The incident occurred amid a rise in attacks targeting law enforcement personnel in Pakistan, especially in the border provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On July 22, a police personnel was killed after unidentified assailants opened fire on him in the Sarveikai area of Upper South Waziristan district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The officials said police constable, deployed at Sarveikai police station, was heading to perform his duty when unidentified assailants opened fire on him near a stream in the Moley Khan Sarai area, leading Pakistani daily Dawn reported. He succumbed to his injuries at the site of the incident before medical assistance could reach him.



Concerns grow over fair trial standards at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal

NEW YORK

Leading US advocacy group Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday accused Bangladesh authorities of failing to uphold international legal standards at the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), warning that such failures risk denying justice to victims, undermine the rule of law and result in unjust imprisonment of political opponents. The remarks came after ICT prosecution on Monday filed formal charges against former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 40 others in a crimes against humanity case linked to the 2013 crackdown on the Hefazat-e-Islam rally at Shapla Chattar in Dhaka.

"Those responsible for the many abuses committed under the Sheikh Hasina government should be appropriately held to account, but many prosecutions are falling short of international fair trial standards. Bangladesh needs to urgently reform its criminal justice system, and the new government should ensure that there is no room for political vendettas through shoddy investigations and arbitrary allegations," said Meenakshi Ganguly, Deputy Asia Director at HRW.

The tribunal was established by the former Hasina-led Awami League government in March 2010 to prosecute individuals accused of committing crimes under international law, such as crimes against humanity, in support of the Pakistan military during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence.

After the Awami League government was toppled by protesters in 2024, an interim government led by Muhammad Yunus amended the law governing the tribunal, altering the definition of offences. However, these amendments fell short of ensuring due process and procedural standards equivalent to international courts dealing with similar offences, the HRW mentioned. The current Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) administration led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, which assumed office in February 2026, has not introduced any changes to those amendments.

The rights body noted that the law governing the tribunal allowed prosecutors to seek the arrest of individuals without meeting any evidential threshold, to detain individuals for months without providing written reasons, while denying the detainees the right of interlocutory appeal to a separate court.

"Trials can begin three weeks after the prosecution discloses its evidence, leaving little time for adequate defence preparation. Trials in absentia are held without appropriate safeguards, including defendants' right to choose lawyers to represent them. And the tribunal restricts defence lawyers' ability to cross-examine witnesses," it added.

LIC OF INDIA
HANDS OVER
DIVIDEND
MUMBAI, JULY 29:

Shri R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC of India, today presented the Dividend cheque of ₹ 12,207.25 Crore to Honourable Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, as the Government of India's share of Dividend, approved by the Shareholders in the Annual General Meeting held on 27th July, 2026 Shri Sanjay ohiya, Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India was present along with the officials from Life Insurance Corporation of India, Shri Ratnakar Patnaik, MD, Shri R. Chander, MD and Shri N.S. Raghava, ZM (I/C), Northern Zone. LIC is completing 70 glorious years since its incorporation and as at 31.03.2026 has an asset base of ₹ 59.03 Lakh Crore. It continues to be the market leader in the Indian Life Insurance market.



Use of broken
rice for ethanol
production is
not impacting
inflation: Govt
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

The diversion of surplus broken rice to produce ethanol is not impacting food inflation, as ethanol production is allowed only after maintaining adequate buffer stocks and meeting the requirements under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Food Nimbuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya said that after maintaining buffer stocks and providing for requirements under the NFSA, the government sells only excess rice from the Central Pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme, which is then allocated as feedstock for ethanol production. She also stated that the inclusion of maize as a feedstock for ethanol production has helped to provide an assured market and better prices to the country's farmers growing the crop.

The minister highlighted that the third advance estimates of foodgrain production for 2025-26 project India's maize output at 55 million tonnes, which is sufficient to meet the demand for ethanol production, feed for poultry and cattle as well as other purposes. "To maintain feed availability, the poultry feed industry is also adopting other domestically available ingredients such as rice bran, broken rice, bajra and wheat offal," she added. The minister further stated that in the ethanol supply year 2024-25, which ended in November, around 13.1 million tonnes of maize was used for ethanol production, while the quantity of surplus rice with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was around 3.18 million tonnes. India produces ethanol from rice, maize and sugarcane, with maize accounting for the largest share in recent years, surpassing sugarcane. The government has also issued a factsheet earlier this month to explain that the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has emerged as a key pillar of India's energy transition and biofuel strategy, which has saved India's foreign exchange by reducing crude oil imports, lowered greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthened farmers' incomes through new market opportunities.



Sensex, Nifty jump over 1% as IT stocks
power rebound despite Asia AI selloff

Benchmark indices ended more than 1% higher on Wednesday, led by a strong rally in information technology and metal stocks, as investors continued rotating into Indian equities amid a global selloff in AI-linked technology shares and awaited the US Federal Reserve's policy decision later in the day.

The BSE Sensex surged 888.68 points, or 1.16%, to close at 77,654.60, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 264.85 points, or 1.10%, to settle at 24,250.20. The rally was broad-based, with 13 of the 16 sectoral indices ending in the green. The Nifty IT index rose 2.32%, extending its winning streak to a fourth straight session, while the Metal index gained 2.31%. FMCG, Pharma, Media and Healthcare indices also posted healthy gains. Technology stocks once again remained the biggest support



for the benchmarks. Infosys jumped 4.50%, Hindustan Unilever gained 4.70%, TCS advanced 1.99% and HCLTech rose 1.86%. Larsen & Toubro climbed 2.55%, while Bharati Airtel, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Eternal also ended with strong gains. The IT rally extended beyond the frontline names. Corforge climbed over 4%, while Infosys, LTIMindtree, Persistent Systems, Oracle Financial Services Software, TCS, HCLTech and Tech Mahindra all closed firmly higher as investors continued to favour Indian technology services companies over global AI-linked hardware stocks. The gains came despite another rise in crude oil prices, with Brent crude climbing 4.23% to \$87.65 a barrel and WTI crude advancing 4.08% to \$82.49 following renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said the rally reflected improving prospects for foreign fund inflows as

investors unwind crowded AI trades globally. "Given India's diversified market structure, the case for FII inflows is strengthening with the unwinding of crowded AI trades," he said. He noted that despite Wednesday's rebound in crude oil prices, the broader weekly decline in oil has eased inflation concerns and strengthened confidence in India's growth outlook. "Meanwhile, despite the intraday uptick in crude prices driven by renewed tensions in West Asia, the broader decline in oil prices over the week has eased inflation concerns and reinforced optimism around the growth outlook and reduction in operational costs. Domestically, while stronger-than-expected IIP data provided the catalyst for a positive start, the renewed risk appetite helped sustain the gains throughout the session, with IT and metal stocks emerging as key beneficiar-

ies," Nair added. He said investors are now focused on the US Federal Reserve's policy decision later tonight, although the widely expected pause in interest rates has largely been priced into markets. Market breadth remained positive. The Nifty 100, Nifty 200 and Nifty 500 gained around 1%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 rose 0.82% and the Smallcap 100 climbed 1.48%, indicating broad participation across segments. India VIX, the market's fear gauge, declined 4.41% to 12.01, signalling easing volatility and improving investor confidence. Meanwhile, the rupee strengthened for a second consecutive session, ending 0.2% higher at 95.6475 against the US dollar compared with Tuesday's close of 95.8525, supported by sustained foreign inflows and overall positive market sentiment.

Medicover Woman and Child Hospitals
Doctors Save 41-Year-Old Woman

Medicover Woman and Child Hospitals Doctors Save 41-Year-Old Woman from Life-Threatening Bleeding Caused by Rare Vaginal Tumour — Without Major Surgery
HYDERABAD, 29 JULY, 2026



Doctors at Medicover Woman & Child Hospital, HITEC City, successfully treated a 41-year-old woman suffering from life-threatening vaginal bleeding caused by a rare vaginal hemangioma—a benign tumour of blood vessels in the genital tract—using an advanced image-guided minimally invasive embolisation procedure, avoiding the need for major surgery. The patient was admitted with profuse vaginal bleeding and severe blood loss. Following a detailed clinical evaluation, doctors diagnosed the bleeding to be caused by a vaginal hemangioma, an extremely rare vascular tumour that can

lead to sudden and potentially fatal haemorrhage if not treated promptly. Due to the significant blood loss, the patient was first stabilised with blood transfusions and intensive medical care. Once her condition improved, the multidisciplinary team performed uterine artery and vaginal artery embolisation, a minimally invasive image-guided procedure in which tiny catheters are used to selectively block the blood vessels supplying the tumour. The procedure successfully controlled the bleeding without the need for open surgery. The patient recovered well and is currently in stable condition. The complex case was jointly managed by Dr. T. Raghu Thejaswi, Consultant Obstetrician, Gynaecologist & Laparoscopic Surgeon, Dr. J. Shalini Narayan, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Laparoscopic Surgeon, and Dr. Saiteja Namala, Interventional Radiologist. Dr. T. Raghu Thejaswi said, "Vaginal hemangioma is an extremely rare condition and can become life-threatening because it often presents as severe bleeding. Our imme-

diate priority was to stabilise the patient with blood transfusions and then treat the source of bleeding through the least invasive approach. The close collaboration with our Interventional Radiology team helped us achieve an excellent outcome while avoiding major surgery." Dr. J. Shalini Narayan added, "Early diagnosis and timely multidisciplinary intervention are crucial in managing such rare and high-risk gynaecological emergencies. By combining expertise in gynaecology and minimally invasive techniques, we were able to provide safe, effective treatment and ensure a faster recovery for the patient." Dr. Saiteja Namala, Consultant Interventional Radiologist, said: "Interventional Radiology plays a pivotal role in the management of life-threatening bleeding by offering precise, image-guided, minimally invasive treatments. Using advanced catheter-based techniques,

we were able to selectively embolise the uterine and vaginal arteries supplying the haemangioma, achieving immediate control of haemorrhage while preserving surrounding healthy tissues. Such procedures avoid major surgery, reduce blood loss, minimise complications, shorten hospital stay, and enable faster recovery. This case highlights how Interventional Radiology has become an indispensable specialty in the management of complex vascular and gynaecological emergencies, working seamlessly alongside other clinical specialties to provide the best possible patient outcomes." This successful case highlights the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration between Gynaecology and Interventional Radiology, enabling complex and life-threatening conditions to be managed through advanced, minimally invasive techniques while ensuring better patient outcomes and faster recovery.

Bengaluru Restaurants
Threaten Swiggy, Zomato Boycott

Bengaluru's hotel and restaurant associations have told Swiggy and Zomato to address concerns over commissions, discounts and deductions by August 15. The groups say they could stop accepting orders through the platforms after the deadline if no written response or corrective action follows.

Hotel and restaurant associations in Bengaluru have warned that restaurants across the city could stop accepting orders through Swiggy and Zomato after August 15 if the food delivery platforms fail to address long-standing concerns over commissions, discounting practices and payment deductions. Restaurant bodies, including the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association (BBHA), have decided to give the two platforms until August 15 to respond to their demands. They plan to submit a formal representation seeking corrective action and a written response before taking any further steps. "We have asked the online aggregators to streamline their commission structure and given them time until August 15. If there is no



resolution, we will boycott the platforms," BBHA President S Subramanya Holla told Moneycontrol. WHY ARE RESTAURANTS PROTESTING? Restaurant owners say commissions charged by food delivery platforms have become unsustainable. According to BBHA, commissions range from 8-10% to as high as 28%, besides additional charges for advertising, payment gateways and app visibility. The associations argue that these deductions significantly reduce restaurant earnings, especially for smaller businesses. Holla said restaurants do not have margins of 28%, forcing many of them to increase menu prices to recover platform charges. He claimed that to realise Rs 100 after paying commissions, some restaurants may have to raise menu prices by as much as 43%, ultimately increasing costs for customers as well. WHAT ARE RESTAURANTS DEMANDING? The restaurant bodies have sought greater transparency in pricing and settlement practices. Their key demands include an end to automatic payment deductions following customer complaints, compensation when orders are cancelled after food has already been prepared, detailed settlement statements explaining every deduction, removal of one-sided contractual clauses, and dedicated relationship managers for restaurant partners. They have

also objected to discount campaigns and promotional offers being introduced without the consent of restaurants, arguing that such initiatives hurt their profitability. PC Rao, honorary president of BBHA, told Moneycontrol that commissions, advertising expenses, payment gateway charges and other deductions have made it increasingly difficult for restaurants to reconcile settlement statements and understand how much they actually receive after each order. He said smaller establishments have been the worst affected. NEW FOOD DELIVERY PLAYERS CHANGE THE EQUATION The protest comes at a time when competition in India's food delivery market is expected to intensify. According to the report, restaurant owners believe new entrants such as Rapido's Ownly, Flipkart's upcoming food delivery service and ONDC-based platforms could offer viable alternatives to the Swiggy-Zomato duopoly if they are able to scale their operations. Arun Adiga, Managing Partner of Bengaluru's iconic Vidyarthi Bhavan, said marketing, execution and last-mile delivery

would determine whether these new players can succeed, adding that increased competition could benefit restaurants. Holla dismissed suggestions that the proposed boycott was linked to the arrival of new players. Instead, he said the association was seeking a more competitive market. He pointed out that Rapido's Ownly currently operates on a zero-commission model, while Flipkart is expected to charge around 11% when it launches its food delivery service. "Those rates are acceptable, although it will take time for them to scale," he said. Despite the warning, the association said it is not asking restaurants to immediately move away from Swiggy and Zomato, acknowledging that the two platforms continue to have the largest customer base. Instead, restaurant bodies hope the companies will respond before August 15 and address their concerns over commissions, discounts and payment practices. If no agreement is reached, restaurants across Bengaluru could stop accepting orders through the platforms after the deadline, potentially disrupting one of India's biggest food delivery markets.

BHEL fortifies its
global footprint

International Operations Division secures prestigious order in the Gas segment
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), a Government of India enterprise, has re-affirmed its engineering & manufacturing prowess in the international market by securing a significant order for supply & supervision of Erection & Commissioning of eight (8) Gas Turbine Generator packages from Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals Free Zone Enterprise, Nigeria

The order, secured amidst intense international competition, has been placed by Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals Free Zone Enterprise, Nigeria - part of the Dangote Group. The group is one of Africa's largest and most diversified business conglomerates with interests spanning oil refining, petrochemicals, fertilizers, cement, sugar, packaging and other sectors. The scope of work includes the manufacture and supply of eight Gas Turbine Generator packages along with supervision of erection and commissioning activities at site. The equipment shall be manufactured by BHEL's facilities at Hyderabad & Bengaluru. The order marks a significant milestone for BHEL, being the company's largest

ever single order on Supply & Supervision basis for Gas Turbine Generator packages in terms of both quantity and value. This order will further enhance BHEL's visibility worldwide and demonstrate BHEL's capabilities as a Global Engineering Enterprise. BHEL has established a strong presence across Africa through the successful execution of power sector projects in countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Rwanda, Senegal & Sudan besides supplying a wide range of products and equipment to several other African nations. The company has previously executed an order for the supply and supervision of erection & commissioning of 26 MW Gas Turbine Generator package to Government of Cross River State, Nigeria. The company has been manufacturing and supplying Gas Turbines to various customers in India and abroad for over 4 decades and is among the world's reliable manufacturers of Gas Turbines and Generators. BHEL has an impressive record of supplying almost 250 Gas Turbines with more than 20% of its supplies to overseas customers, demonstrating its impressive engineering & manufacturing competencies in the sector.



'Solar' Lights Up SCCL
Subsidiary APHMEL

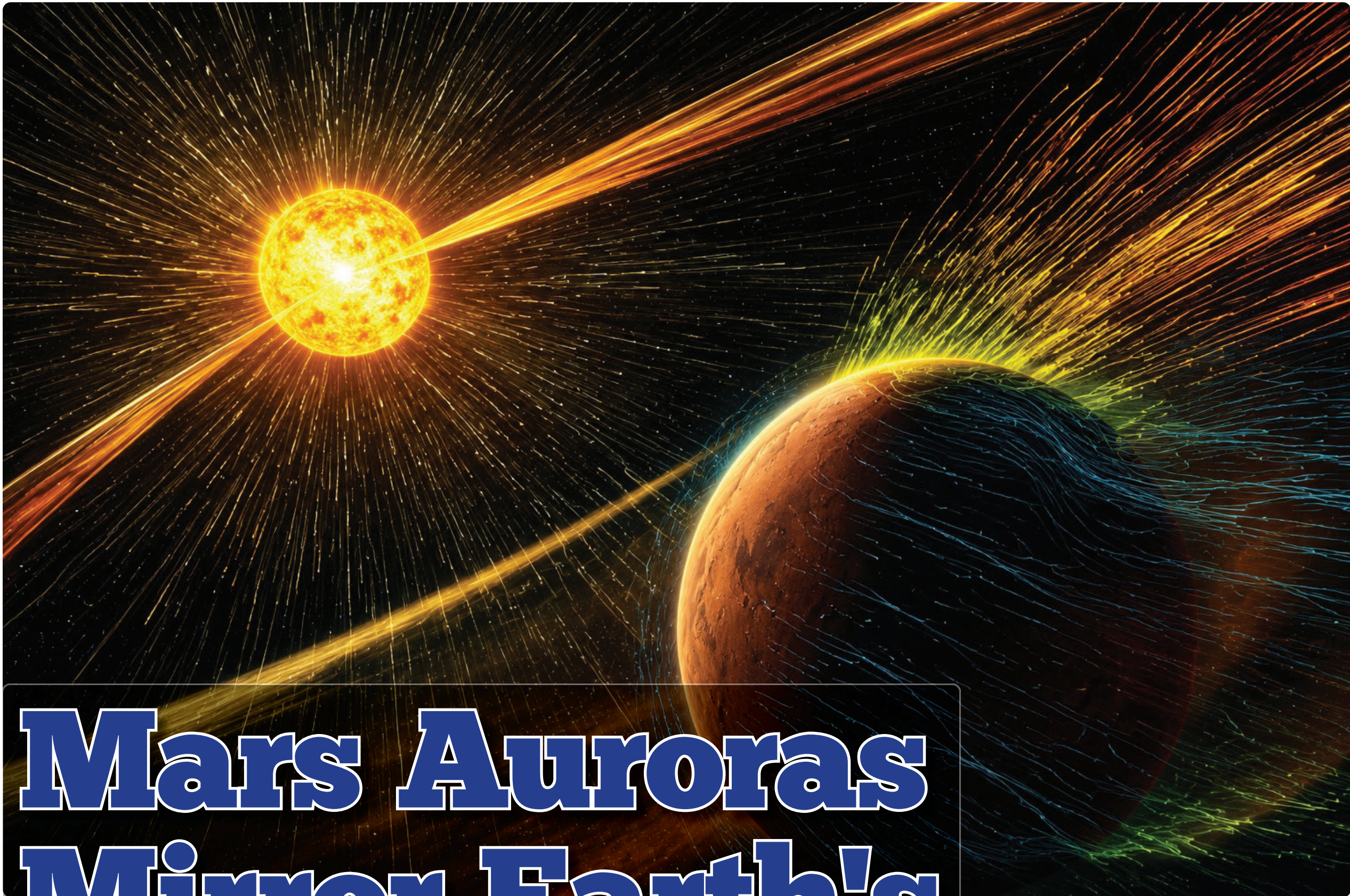
SCCL CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti Virtually Inaugurates 300 kW Solar Power Plant C & RCC Internal Roads Inaugurated Solar Plant to Save ₹24 Lakh Annually in Electricity Costs CMD Appreciates Record Net Profit of ₹23.33 Crore Achieved This Year Calls for Business Diversification in APHMEL's Golden Jubilee Year

SINGARENI BHAVAN, JULY 29, 2026:

Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director of The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), virtually inaugurated the 300 KW Solar Power Plant established at Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery & Engineering Limited (APHMEL), an SCCL subsidiary located in Vijayawada, on Wednesday from Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad, as part of the company's Golden Jubilee celebrations. He also inaugurated the newly constructed CC and RCC internal roads developed to strengthen the plant's infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion, the C&MD said that under the guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Energy Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, SCCL is moving ahead with a comprehensive plan to diversify and strengthen APHMEL along with its parent organization. Congratulating the employees, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti expressed happiness that APHMEL had achieved its highest-ever turnover of ₹63.13 crore and a record net profit of ₹23.33 crore, the best performance in the company's 50-year history. He described this achievement as a result of the vision, guidance and encouragement extended by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister during his visit to APHMEL last year. He further recalled that the Deputy Chief Minister had assured support for improving infrastructure at the plant, following which the CC and RCC internal roads were taken up and completed. Established on September 1, 1976, APHMEL has entered its Golden Jubilee

Year. The C&MD called upon the management to focus on business diversification by exploring opportunities beyond the machinery, equipment, and spare parts currently being manufactured, keeping in view the evolving requirements of various industries. He assured that SCCL would continue to extend all necessary support to APHMEL, particularly in adopting modern technologies and achieving higher levels of industrial growth. Solar Plant to Generate Significant Savings APHMEL presently spends around ₹60 lakh annually* towards electricity consumption for both its manufacturing plant and residential colony. The newly commissioned 300 KW Solar Power Plant, established at a cost of ₹1.24 crore, is expected to reduce electricity expenditure by approximately ₹24 lakh every year. The investment is expected to be recovered within five years while also promoting renewable energy and environmentally sustainable practices. Speaking at the programme, APHMEL Chairman Sri N.V.K. Srinivas outlined the company's future development plans. He stated that APHMEL has successfully completed orders received from SCCL, Coal India Limited, and NMDC within the stipulated timelines. The programme was attended by SCCL Directors Sri L.V. Suryanarayana, Sri K. Venkateswarlu, Sri Gowtham Potru, and Sri M. Tirumala Rao, Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri B. Venkanna, and General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) Sri T. Srinivas, Managing Director Sri M. Yerranna from APHMEL, Vijayawada along with senior officers and employees, participated in the event.





Mars Auroras Mirror Earth's Process

Understanding Auroras on Earth

Auroras are among the most beautiful natural phenomena observed in Earth's atmosphere. Commonly known as the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) in the Arctic and the Southern Lights (Aurora Australis) in the Antarctic, they occur when electrically charged particles emitted by the Sun collide with gases in Earth's upper atmosphere.

The Sun constantly releases a stream of charged particles known as the solar wind. These particles travel across the Solar System and eventually encounter Earth's magnetic field, also called the magnetosphere. Earth's magnetic field acts like a protective shield, deflecting most of the harmful solar radiation while guiding some charged particles toward the polar regions.

As these energetic particles collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms high above Earth's surface, they release energy in the form of colourful light. Depending on the atmospheric gases involved and their altitude, auroras can appear green, red, purple, blue, or pink.

The process is driven by complex interactions between the Sun's magnetic field and Earth's own magnetic field. One of the key mechanisms responsible for this interaction is called the **Dungey cycle**, named after British physicist James Dungey, who first proposed the theory in 1961.

What Is the Dungey Cycle?

The Dungey cycle describes how magnetic fields from the Sun and Earth connect and reconnect in space through a process known as magnetic reconnection. When the solar wind reaches Earth, its magnetic field sometimes links with Earth's magnetic field.

This temporary connection allows energy and charged particles from the solar wind to enter Earth's magnetic environment. These particles are then transported around the planet before eventually being accelerated into the upper atmosphere near the poles.

As they collide with atmospheric

gases, the familiar shimmering curtains of light appear in the night sky.

The Dungey cycle is considered one of the most important processes in space physics because it explains how energy from the Sun enters Earth's magnetosphere and influences space weather.

Until now, scientists believed this mechanism was unique to planets possessing a strong global magnetic field, such as Earth.

Mars: A Planet Without a Global Magnetic Field

Unlike Earth, Mars no longer has a planet-wide magnetic field. Billions of years ago, Mars likely possessed a magnetic field generated by its molten interior, much like Earth's magnetic field today. However, over time the Martian core cooled, and the internal dynamo responsible for producing the magnetic field gradually shut down.

Without this protective magnetic shield, the solar wind has been directly interacting with the Martian atmosphere for billions of years. Scientists believe this constant bombardment stripped away much of Mars' atmosphere, transforming what may once have been a warm, wet planet into the cold, dry desert world seen today. Although Mars lacks a global magnetic field, it still possesses small patches of magnetized crust. These ancient magnetic regions formed approximately four billion years ago when molten lava cooled in the presence of the planet's original magnetic field. These crustal magnetic fields are scattered across the Martian surface and vary greatly in strength and size. For years, scientists suspected these localized magnetic regions might somehow produce auroras, but the exact mechanism remained unknown.

NASA's New Discovery

NASA's latest research has finally revealed how these mysterious Martian auroras are formed.

Using observations collected by the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft, researchers found that magnetic reconnection occurs above Mars'

crustal magnetic fields in a way strikingly similar to Earth's Dungey cycle.

Although the Martian version operates on a much smaller scale, it follows the same basic principles.

When the solar wind reaches Mars, its magnetic field reconnects with localized magnetic fields embedded within the planet's crust. This reconnection creates pathways that guide energetic electrons toward the Martian atmosphere.

As these charged particles collide with atmospheric gases, localized auroras are produced.

The discovery demonstrates that even without a global magnetic field, Mars can still generate auroras through localized magnetic interactions.

Instruments That Solved the Mystery

The study relied on several sophisticated scientific instruments carried aboard MAVEN. One of the most important was the Magnetometer, which measured the strength and direction of magnetic fields surrounding Mars.

Researchers also used the Solar Wind Electron Analyzer to study electrons arriving from the Sun and understand how they behaved near the planet.

Another crucial instrument was STATIC (SupraThermal and Thermal Ion Composition), which measures ions and plasma flows within the Martian environment.

Together, these instruments enabled scientists to monitor magnetic fields, electrical currents, plasma movement, and energetic particles simultaneously. Combining these observations allowed researchers to reconstruct the complex chain of events responsible for generating localized auroras.

Mars has long fascinated scientists because of its mysterious landscapes, ancient riverbeds, towering volcanoes, and evidence suggesting that it may once have been a much warmer and wetter world. Among its many mysteries, one of the most intriguing has been the appearance of auroras—natural light displays usually associated with Earth's polar regions. Unlike Earth, Mars does not possess a strong global magnetic field, leaving scientists puzzled about how auroras could form there.

A groundbreaking study by NASA has now provided an important answer. Researchers have discovered that some auroras on Mars are created through a process remarkably similar to the one responsible

for auroras on Earth. The findings reveal that a smaller version of Earth's well-known Dungey cycle operates on Mars, allowing charged particles from the Sun to interact with localized magnetic fields in the Martian crust and produce spectacular atmospheric light displays.

Published in the journal **Nature Communications**, the study marks a significant step forward in planetary science. It not only explains how Martian auroras form but also sheds new light on the evolution of Mars, its atmosphere, and its interaction with space weather. The discovery also highlights how the same laws of physics shape different planets in unique ways depending on their magnetic environments.

Pushing Scientific Instruments to Their Limits

Lead author Dr. Shaosui Xu, an associate research physicist at the Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, explained that the research team already knew magnetic reconnection occurred

According to Xu, the scientists had to push the capabilities of the STATIC instrument beyond its routine operating methods to obtain the necessary measurements. These observations became the final piece of evidence needed to fully understand the localized auroral process.

The findings illustrate how innovative analysis techniques can reveal entirely new scientific insights from existing spacecraft data.

Why the Discovery Matters

The discovery fundamentally changes scientists' understanding of Martian auroras. Previously, researchers believed Mars produced auroras through entirely different mechanisms because of its lack of a global magnetic field.

The new findings show that the underlying physical processes governing aurora formation are far more universal than previously thought.

Even though Earth and Mars have dramatically different magnetic environments, the same fundamental physics still applies.

This demonstrates that magnetic reconnection is a powerful natural process capable of operating under a wide variety of planetary conditions.

The study also strengthens scientists' understanding of how the solar wind interacts with planetary atmospheres throughout the Solar System.

Understanding the Evolution of Mars

One of the biggest questions in planetary science concerns why Earth and Mars evolved so differently. Billions of years ago, both planets may have shared several characteristics. Each likely possessed liquid water, volcanic activity, and thicker atmospheres. However, while Earth remained habitable, Mars gradually lost most of its atmosphere and surface water. Understanding how the solar wind interacts with Mars is essential for explaining this transformation. The new research offers another important clue. By better understanding magnetic reconnection and particle transport, scientists can more accurately model how atmospheric particles escaped into space over billions of years. These insights contribute directly to broader efforts aimed at reconstructing the climatic history of Mars.

Implications for Future Human Exploration

The findings are also important for future robotic and human missions to Mars. Space weather presents one of the major challenges for astronauts travelling beyond Earth's protective magnetic field. Solar storms can expose spacecraft and astronauts to dangerous levels of radiation. Understanding how charged particles interact with Mars' atmosphere helps mission planners better assess environmental hazards. Knowledge gained from MAVEN may help future missions design safer habitats, improve radiation forecasting, and identify regions where localized magnetic fields could provide limited natural protection.

As international space agencies prepare for eventual human missions to Mars, understanding the planet's space environment becomes increasingly important.

A New Perspective on Planetary Physics

The discovery reinforces the idea that universal physical laws govern planets throughout the Solar System.

Although Earth and Mars appear very different today, both remain influenced by the same interactions between magnetic fields, plasma, and solar particles.

The Martian version of the Dungey

cycle demonstrates that magnetic reconnection does not require a planet-wide magnetic field to occur.

Instead, even isolated pockets of magnetized crust can participate in these powerful space weather processes.

This realization may influence future studies of other planets and moons that possess unusual magnetic environments.

Scientists may now begin searching for similar localized auroral mechanisms elsewhere in the Solar System.

Continuing the Legacy of MAVEN

Despite the end of MAVEN's operational mission, its scientific contributions continue to expand. Years of carefully collected observations remain available to researchers around the world.

Every new analysis has the potential to reveal additional discoveries about Mars' atmosphere, magnetic environment, and geological history.

NASA scientists expect MAVEN's dataset to remain one of the most valuable resources for Martian atmospheric research for many years.

Its findings will also complement observations from current and future missions exploring the Red Planet.

Looking Ahead

NASA's latest study represents a major milestone in understanding Mars and its relationship with the Sun. By revealing that some Martian auroras form through a miniature version of Earth's Dungey cycle, researchers have solved a long-standing mystery and demonstrated that the same fundamental physical processes operate on both planets despite their vastly different magnetic environments.

The discovery deepens our understanding of magnetic reconnection, atmospheric evolution, and planetary space weather while opening new avenues for future research. It also highlights the enduring value of data collected by the MAVEN mission, proving that even after a spacecraft's operational life has ended, its observations can continue transforming our knowledge of the Solar System.

As scientists continue exploring Mars through orbiters, landers, and future crewed missions, discoveries like this bring humanity one step closer to fully understanding the Red Planet's past, present, and future. They also remind us that although Earth and Mars followed different evolutionary paths, both remain connected by the same universal laws of physics that govern the cosmos.





LA LIGA 2026-27

Barca weigh more transfer moves as title defence approaches



MADRID: Holders FC Barcelona are training in England as Hansi Flick's side continues preparations for the new La Liga season in which they will defend their title. It has been a relatively quiet summer at the Camp Nou. Robert Lewandowski has left after his contract expired, while Joao Cancelo and Marcus Rashford have returned to their parent clubs after their loan spells ended. Removing Lewandowski's salary from the wage bill has given Barcelona greater financial flexibility than in recent years. The club has already signed England winger Anthony Gordon from Newcastle United and Germany forward Karim Adeyemi from Borussia Dortmund as they look to refresh an attack that will again be built around Lamine Yamal, reports Xinhua.

Malaysia Ladies Golf

Ceerat, Guntas inside top-10 after second round



SELANGOR (MALAYSIA): Ceerat Kang and Guntas Kaur Sandhu, part of the two-member Indian team sent by the Indian Golf Union (IGU), kept themselves in title contention by remaining inside the top-10 after the second round of the coveted Malaysia Ladies Amateur Open in Selangor, Malaysia, on Tuesday. In the team championship, India are placed third with a combined total of four-over 292, trailing leaders Malaysia by four strokes. While Panchkula's Ceerat carded a one-under 71 for an overall one-over 145 to end Day 2 in solo sixth position at the Glenmarie Golf & Country Club, Chandigarh girl Guntas posted a two-over 74 to lie joint seventh. Malaysia's Amberly Zaira Binti Zamra set the course ablaze with a five-under 67 to capture the overall.

SPORTS

AC Milan bolster defence with signing of French youngster Sankhoun Diawara



MILAN: AC Milan have completed the signing of highly-rated French defender Sankhoun Diawara from Ligue 2 champions Troyes, with the 20-year-old putting pen to paper on a long-term contract that will keep him at the San Siro until June 30, 2031, with an option to extend for a further season. The Rossoneri confirmed the transfer on Wednesday, adding another promising young talent to new head coach Ruben Amorim's squad ahead of the 2026-27 campaign. Diawara becomes Milan's third signing of the summer after the club invested a reported record fee of around 74 million euros (USD 84 million) to sign Portuguese forward Goncalo Ramos from Paris Saint-Germain and also brought in Spanish defender Mario Gila from Lazio.

Jaismine Lamboria wins, secures medal for India in Women's 57kg

GLASGOW

Jaismine Lamboria continued India's perfect day in the boxing ring at the Commonwealth Games 2026 on Wednesday, winning by a 4-1 split decision against Elise Glynn of England in a quarterfinal bout of Women's 57 kg and confirming another medal for India.

The 24-year-old Jaismine, who won a bronze medal in the Lightweight category in Birmingham four years ago, won the bout on the cards of four of the five judges. Fighting from the Blue corner, Jaismine was scored the winner 29-28, 29-28, 30-27 and 30-27 by four judges, while one judge gave it to Elise Glynn 29-28.

The boxer from Bhiwani, Haryana, has won a gold medal at the 2025 World Championship in Liverpool, two World Boxing Cup gold medals in Featherweight at Astana and New Delhi in 2025, and a bronze at the Asian Championships in Dubai in 2021.

Jaismine's progress to the semifinals made it six out of six victories for India in the quarterfinals on Wednesday as she joined Narender (90+ kg), Ankush (80 kg), Sachin Siwach (60 kg), Arundhati Chaudhary (70 kg) and Sakshi (51kg) in assuring a medal for the country.

Narender assured the country of a medal after defeating Samoa's



Michael Seko by a hard-fought 3-2 split decision in the men's 90kg+ quarterfinals. Ankush displayed excellent ring control, sharp combinations and effective counter-attacking throughout the bout, leaving Micock with little opportunity to make an impact. The judges scored the contest 30-26, 30-27, 30-27, 30-27 and 30-27 in favour of the Indian. With the victory, Ankush progressed to the semifinals, thereby assuring himself of at least a bronze medal under the Commonwealth Games boxing format, where both losing semifinalists receive bronze medals.

Earlier in the day, Sachin Siwach, Arundhati Chaudhary and

Sakshi cleared the quarterfinals hurdles, assuring the country medals in their respective weight categories. Sakshi assured the country of another medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 after registering a dominant 5-0 unanimous decision over Northern Ireland's Caitlin Fryers in the women's quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Sakshi was in complete control throughout the contest, winning all three rounds on the judges' scorecards. Four judges awarded her 29-27, while one scored it 29-25, reflecting her dominance in the bout. She also benefited from a point deduction against her opponent. Arundhati Choudhary

assured the country of another boxing medal after defeating Morgan Henderson (NZL) by a 3-1 split decision in the women's 70kg quarterfinals. The Indian pugilist displayed composure and tactical discipline throughout the three-round contest to edge past Henderson in a closely fought bout. Three judges scored all three rounds in Arundhati's favour (30-26), while one judge awarded the contest to the New Zealander 29-27. The fifth judge had the scores level at 28-28, but a one-point deduction against Henderson tilted the verdict in Arundhati's favour.

Sachin Siwach delivered a composed and clinical performance to

register a unanimous 5-0 victory and book his place in the semifinals, guaranteeing the country at least a bronze medal.

India are assured of more medals at the Commonwealth Games 2026, with three boxers securing medals on Tuesday.

Mandengbam Jadumani Singh assured the country of at least a bronze medal after outclassing Mwale Mwengo in the men's 55kg quarterfinals in the boxing competitions at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow on Tuesday. He is the third Indian boxer to reach the semifinals on Tuesday, joining Preeti and Priya in the last-four stage of their respective weight categories.

Jadumani delivered a composed and technically sound performance to register a unanimous 5-0 victory on points, booking his place in the semifinals. Since both losing semifinalists receive bronze medals in boxing at the Commonwealth Games, the Manipur boxer has guaranteed India another podium finish.

Before that, Priya stormed into the women's 60kg semifinals 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.

Meanwhile, Preeti secured a bronze medal after cruising into the women's 54kg semifinals with a dominant, unanimous-decision victory over Nicole Clyde of Northern Ireland. The Indian pugilist outclassed Clyde in every round to register a comprehensive 5-0 win on points in the quarterfinal bout at SEC Hall 5.

Preeti dictated the contest from the opening bell, using her superior speed, accuracy and ring control to keep her opponent on the back foot. She won all three rounds on the scorecards of each of the five judges, leaving no doubt about the outcome.

The scoreboard reflected her dominance, with the judges awarding the bout 30-25, 30-25, 30-26, 30-26 and 30-27 in favour of the Indian boxer. Clyde also suffered three knockdowns during the contest, underlining Preeti's complete control of the bout.

135th Durand Cup: Indian Air Force edge past Defenders FC for hard-fought win

RANCHI

Naorem Somananda Singh's stunning first-half strike and a second-half own-goal guided the Indian Air Force Football Team to a deserved 2-1 victory over Sri Lankan outfit Defenders FC in a Group C fixture of the 135th Durand Cup at the Birsamunda Football Stadium in Ranchi on Wednesday.

Despite a late rally and a consolation goal from N. M. Afzal, the Airmen dominated proceedings for long spells and claimed all three points with an assured performance. The defeat also condemned Defenders FC to a second consecutive loss in their maiden Durand Cup campaign.

Both sides lined up in a 4-4-2 formation. Indian Air Force FT adopted an attacking approach, with Samuel K.V., Aman Khan and Naorem Somananda Singh leading the line, while Jijo Jeron and Umar Farooq marshalled the defence. Defenders FC, meanwhile, set up with a compact defensive shape, relying on A.A. Joseph and N.M. Afzal to spearhead their counter-attacks.

Indian Air Force FT's intent was evident from the opening whistle. The Airmen immediately took control of proceedings, pinning the Sri Lankan side deep inside their own half. Although a couple of early attempts lacked precision, their relentless pressure eventually yielded the breakthrough.

In the 25th minute, a defensive lapse by Defenders FC's Sampath Kumara gifted possession to Naorem Somananda Singh, who made no mistake. The forward unleashed a stunning right-footed strike from outside the box to break the deadlock and hand the Airmen a thoroughly deserved lead. It



was Naorem's third goal of the tournament, underlining his impressive form.

Defenders FC spent the remainder of the first half on the back foot, forced into a deep defensive block as they struggled to contain the Airmen's sustained attacks. The visitors attempted to threaten on the counter but failed to register a single shot before the interval, while Indian Air Force FT dominated possession and headed into the break firmly in control.

The second half followed a similar pattern, with the Airmen dictating the tempo and searching for a second goal. Their persistence was rewarded in the 68th minute when a dangerous cross from the left caused panic inside the penalty area. In an attempt to clear the danger, Defenders FC defender K.D.S. Sankalpa inadvertently turned the ball into his own net to double Indian Air Force FT's advantage.

The contest, however, took an unexpected turn just two minutes later. Completely against the run of play, Defenders FC pulled a goal back through a brilliantly executed counter-attack. N.M. Afzal

intercepted a long ball, raced through on goal and produced a composed finish to reduce the deficit and breathe new life into the match.

The goal shifted the momentum as Defenders FC, who had been second best for much of the contest, suddenly found renewed belief. The visitors threw numbers forward in search of an equaliser, turning what had been a one-sided encounter into an absorbing end-to-end battle.

Indian Air Force FT came agonisingly close to restoring their two-goal cushion when a slick passing move found Naorem inside the penalty area, only for his powerful effort to crash against the crossbar. Defenders FC showed tremendous spirit during the closing stages, but their late fightback ultimately proved insufficient. Indian Air Force FT managed the final minutes with composure to secure a deserved 2-1 victory. The statistics reflected the Airmen's dominance, as they enjoyed 66 per cent possession and registered 20 shots compared to Defenders FC's three, making the result a fair reflection of the balance of play.

Narender, Ankush, Sachin star as five more boxers reach semis; assured of medals

GLASGOW

India had a brilliant day in the boxing competitions at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow on Wednesday with five out of five competitors who took the ring advancing into the semifinals of their respective weight classes, assuring the country five medals.

Narender (90+ kg), Ankush (80 kg), Sachin Siwach (60 kg), Arundhati Chaudhary (70 kg) and Sakshi (51kg) won their respective quarterfinal matches to assure themselves atleast a bronze medal each. Narender assured the country of a medal after defeating Samoa's Michael Seko by a hard-fought 3-2 split decision in the men's 90kg+ quarterfinals. Ankush displayed excellent ring control, sharp combinations and effective counter-attacking throughout the bout, leaving Micock with little opportunity to make an impact. The judges scored the contest 30-26, 30-27, 30-27, 30-27 and 30-27 in favour of the Indian. With the victory, Ankush progressed to the semifinals, thereby assuring himself of at least a bronze medal under the Commonwealth Games boxing format, where both losing semifinalists receive bronze medals. Earlier in the day,



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Duleep Trophy 2026: Ishan Kishan to lead East Zone, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi named vice-captain

NEW DELHI

East Zone on Wednesday named a strong 15-member squad for the 2026 Duleep Trophy, with wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan appointed captain and teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi named his deputy for the tournament, which begins on August 23. The squad combines experience and youth. Senior India pacer Mohammed Shami is back to strengthen the pace attack alongside Mukesh Kumar. Abhimanyu

Easwaran, Shahbaz Ahmed, and Anukul Roy also contribute to the batting and all-round departments. Kishan enters the tournament after a strong performance in India's recent white-ball series against Zimbabwe. The left-handed wicketkeeper-batter delivered several aggressive innings at the top of the order, giving India quick starts. His recent form and leadership experience made him the top choice to lead the East Zone side.

All eyes will be on 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who is rising

quickly in Indian cricket after a breakthrough season. The young player recently stood out during India's series against Zimbabwe, showing impressive calm against international bowling while maintaining the strong form he has shown over the past year.

The batting unit also includes Sudip Kumar Gharami, Virat Singh, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Subhranshu Senapati, Denish Das, and Shikhar Mohan. Kumar Kushagra will serve as another wicketkeeping option.

DPL: All eight captains ready for new season as excitement builds

NEW DELHI

The excitement surrounding the third season of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) reached a new high on Wednesday as captains of all eight franchises came together at the official pre-season press conference ahead of the tournament, which begins on July 31 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, talking about their hopes and aspirations.

Organised by the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA), the month-long T20 league will run until August 30, featuring some of Delhi's finest cricketers in what promises to be the biggest edition of the



tournament so far. Following a successful player auction held earlier this month, the franchises finalised their squads and are eager to begin their campaigns.

The third season of the Delhi Premier League will get underway on July 31, with Central Delhi Kings taking on Purani

Dilli 6 in the tournament opener at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The month-long competition will culminate with the final on August 30, as eight teams battle for the coveted DPL trophy.

Newly-appointed Purani Dilli 6 captain Anuj Rawat expressed his delight at taking over the leadership role. "It is an honour to captain Purani Dilli 6. We have assembled a balanced squad with a good mix of experienced and young players. The atmosphere around the league is fantastic, and we are looking forward to playing in front of our home fans. The aim is to play positive cricket and give our best in every match."

Gwalior Cheetahs announce first-of-its-kind high-performance Camp

GWALIOR

Gwalior Cheetahs on Wednesday announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind high-performance camp, a five-day cricket development initiative to be conducted in partnership with The Scindia School, Gwalior, from July 28 to August 1. The joint initiative reflects a continued commitment to strengthening grassroots cricket by supporting long-term player development. The camp has brought together 100 promising young cricketers across the Under-12 to Under-19 categories for a training programme focused on game development and other key aspects of modern-day cricket.

Participants will receive high-quality, skill-specific coaching aimed at helping them develop the skills and mindset required at the professional level. Conducted under the supervision



sion of Gwalior Cheetahs head coach Aditya Shrivastava, the camp will provide youngsters with exposure to professional coaching methods and modern training practices. Having guided Madhya Pradesh to their historic Ranji Trophy triumph after a 69-year wait, Shrivastava now remains equally com-

mitted to helping prepare the state's next generation of cricketers.

Sukhvinder Singh, CEO, JKC Sports, said, "At JKC Sports, we are committed to strengthening grassroots cricket and creating opportunities for young players to grow in a professional environment. With highly competitive

state leagues like the Madhya Pradesh League raising the standard of domestic cricket, it is important that young cricketers are exposed to the same level of preparation, coaching and professionalism. Through this High Performance Camp, we hope to provide them with the right guidance and environment to take the next step in their cricketing journey."

The High Performance Camp is the first in a series of grassroots initiatives planned by JKC Sports across Madhya Pradesh, with the organisation aiming to build a sustainable player development pathway that contributes to the growth of cricket in the state beyond the Madhya Pradesh League season.

Gwalior Cheetahs, led by star batter Rajat Patidar, enjoyed a competitive campaign in the 2026 Madhya Pradesh League, missing out on a place in the playoffs.



Prabhas Extends Support To Mahesh' Nephew

Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni is debuting with his raw romantic actioner, Srinivasa Mangapuram. He is grandson of Superstar Krishna and nephew of Mahesh. Already Mahesh wished for Jaya Krishna and now, Prabhas wished them all the success. Audiences are waiting for the release of the film tomorrow, with high anticipation and excitement created by songs, trailer and teaser. Prabhas has always been supportive to young talents in Telugu Cinema and his good nature is receiving high praises after he extended wishes to the youngsters for their debut. He is very close to leading lady, Rasha Thadani as well and her for her grand debut in Telugu Cinema. The actor shared the release poster and penned a supportive note for the entire cast and crew. He also extended his warm greetings to debutant actor Jaya Krishna, wishing him a very bright and successful future in the world of cinema. It is interesting to see such a big Pan-India star wishing Ghattamaneni actor without any ego showcasing Cinema industry is a close knit family. The film has already been generating positive buzz, and these special wishes have taken the excitement to a whole new level. Ajay Bhupathi is directing the film and the

Srinivasa Mangapuram Ideal Length, A Positive Sign



Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's debut movie Srinivasa Mangapuram is carrying the promise of an emotionally charged love story blended with commercial entertainment. Director Ajay Bhupathi, known for presenting unconventional narratives, is said to have once again designed a screenplay loaded with gripping moments and unpredictable twists. Co-starring Rasha Thadani, the film has locked a runtime of 2 hours and 35 minutes, which is considered an ideal length for a love entertainer, making it a positive sign ahead of its release. The promotional campaign has worked well in the film's favour. The teasers, posters, and theatrical trailer have received an encouraging response, while the songs composed by GV Prakash Kumar have struck a chord with music lovers. While love story is the core element of the movie, it is said to have many other aspects, with Mohan Babu playing the antagonist as Ballari kingpin. Backed by Gemini Kiran and Ashwini Dutt, the film is due for release in 2 more days on July 30th. With immense curiosity surrounding the film, it remains to be seen whether Srinivasa Mangapuram lives up to all the expectations.

makers locked perfect runtime 2 hours 35 minutes. The director has crafted a raw and emotionally intense romantic drama that will present both the leads in a great manner. Mohan Babu is playing a prominent role in this film presented by Ashwini Dutt. The bookings are strong despite competition showcasing how audiences are interested watching the movie in theatres.

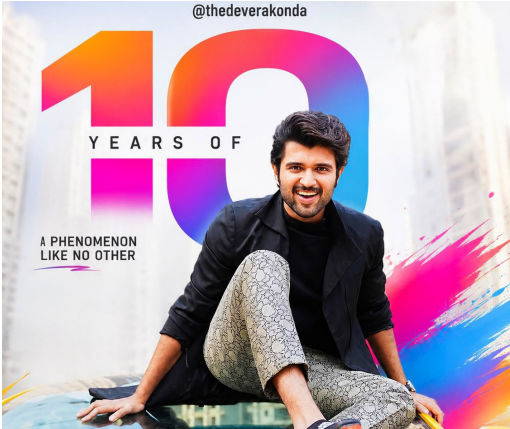


Wow! Allu Arjun Provides Accidental Insurance for Fans

Actor Allu Arjun spent nearly six hours interacting with his fans. He personally met over 1000 fans, members of the Allu Arjun Fans Association (AAFA), at a fan interaction meet held in Hyderabad today. Rather than a brief meet-and-greet, Allu Arjun patiently posed for photographs with every fan, ensuring that each attendee got a memorable moment with him. The Pushpa star stood throughout and listened to fans, interacting with them individually, and making them feel special. Interestingly, Allu Arjun greeted fans with hugs, handshakes, and even kisses, creating several emotional moments during the event. A special meal was also arranged for the fans, reflecting the actor's efforts to make the gathering comfortable and memorable. One of the biggest highlights of the event was Allu Arjun's announcement of accident insurance coverage for members of AAFA. Under the initiative, state committee members will receive accident insurance coverage of 5 lakh, while district committee members will be covered for 3 lakh. The initiative is expected to benefit over 900 fan association members. This is the first time a star hero has announced

direct accident insurance cover to his recognised fans. The insurance coverage has been introduced without any paid membership model, making it a first-of-its-kind gesture by a leading star for his fan association. Allu Arjun also took time to motivate his fans, urging them to channel their passion and energy in the right direction. He encouraged them to focus on positive activities and be responsible ambassadors of his name while contributing meaningfully to society. He asked not to troll or hate other heroes and their fans on social media. Fans present at the event described the interaction as a rare experience, praising Allu Arjun for patiently listening to every individual despite standing for hours. Many called the insurance initiative a thoughtful step that reflects the actor's concern for the welfare of his fan community. The move has earned widespread appreciation on social media.

10 Years Of Vijay DEVERAKONDA, Long Way To Go!



Completing 10 years as a solo hero is an important milestone for Vijay Deverakonda. His journey began with Pelli Choopulu in 2016, and over the years, he has built a strong place for himself in Telugu cinema. The success of Arjun Reddy changed his career and made him one of the most talked about young actors in the industry. Later, films like Geetha Govindam, Taxiwaala, Kushi, Family Star and Kingdom further strengthened his fan base. One of Vijay's biggest strengths is his popularity among young audiences. His film announcements, first looks and interviews regularly create buzz on social media. Even during difficult phases, interest in his upcoming projects has remained high. Apart from acting, Vijay has also expanded into business with his clothing brand, Rowdy Wear. Through The Deverakonda Foundation, he has also supported families and students through various initiatives. As Vijay Deverakonda completes a decade as a solo hero, he continues to be one of the popular faces of the new generation of Telugu cinema.

Manasa's Girl-Next-Door Charm

Manasa Varanasi recently appeared in Couple Friendly, which turned out to be a decent hit, earning her good recognition in the industry. Now, there's strong buzz around her next big move, reports suggest she may be roped in for Sharwanand and Srinu Vaitla's upcoming project, tentatively titled George Krishna, a time-travel comedy entertainer. If the reports hold true, this would mark a major career break for Manasa, pairing her opposite a leading Telugu star under a well-known director known for his comic style. Meanwhile, she's been treating fans to fresh pictures in a pretty light-blue floral dress, radiating a soft, breezy charm with loose curls and a warm smile, adding to the buzz around her growing popularity both on and off screen.



Ram Charan Seeks Ayyappa's Blessings After Surgery

Ram Charan, accompanied by his wife Upasana Konidela, visited a temple near Coimbatore to offer prayers and seek the blessings of Lord Ayyappa Swamy following his successful hand surgery. The couple's spiritual visit has drawn attention from fans, who wished the actor a speedy and complete recovery.

Pallaburusu Teaser: Refreshingly Organic



After winning hearts with the catchy first single Kotha Soku, the makers of Pallaburusu, starring Sudhakar Reddy and Muralidhar Goud, have now unveiled the film's teaser. Backed by Annapurna Studios in association with EPIC Studios and directed by Uday Chauhan, the teaser was launched by Naga Chaitanya. The teaser opens on a charming rural note, introducing the protagonist brushing his teeth with a neem twig before a group of villagers curiously questions why he still prefers the traditional method over a modern toothbrush. What begins as a light-hearted exchange gradually unfolds into an engaging glimpse of the film's world. Along with the father-son duo, the teaser also introduces several key characters, including a young lovebirds, hinting at multiple emotional threads. Director Uday Chauhan made this as an authentic rural entertainer, blending humour, warmth, and realism with ease. The storytelling feels refreshingly organic, while the visuals vividly capture the rustic landscape. Supported by an energetic background score and subtle humour, the teaser also hints at an emotionally rich narrative deeply rooted in family values, relationships, and village culture. Sudhakar Reddy and Muralidhar Goud look thoroughly convincing as the father-son pair, sharing effortless chemistry throughout. The closing moments, in particular, beautifully underline the bond between the two, leaving a lasting impression. Set for a release on August 14, Pallaburusu has further raised expectations with this impressive teaser, which is expected to generate strong buzz ahead of its theatrical arrival.