HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 96 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

"Forgive Them" PM on Abusive Protest Remarks

OPINION 06

Sai Pallavi in Bollywood's SPOTLIGHT?

BOX OFFICE 12

INDIAN JUDO'S TRIPLE MEDAL GLORY

11

TELANGANA OPENS DOORS TO NEW INVESTMENTS

CM Revanth assures policy stability and investor-friendly governance

Targets Fortune 500 firms through Bharat Future City initiative

Aims to transform Telangana into a $1 trillion economy by 2037

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday invited members of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Northern Region to invest in the State, assuring them of a stable policy framework, investor-friendly governance and a secure business environment. Addressing a meeting with the CII Northern Region delegation in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said Telangana has maintained continuity in industrial policies irrespective of political changes, ensuring confidence among investors.

Recalling the contributions of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao through the economic liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG) reforms, Mr. Reddy said those measures laid the foundation for India's economic growth. He also noted that successive governments had contributed to Hyderabad's transformation into a major investment destination.

He said the present government had retained effective policies introduced by previous administrations while introducing new initiatives to strengthen Telangana's industrial ecosystem. "There is no policy paralysis in Telangana. Good policies continue irrespective of which party is in power," he said.

Future City Vision

The Chief Minister said the government's focus is to attract Fortune 500 companies to Bharat Future City, where the Telangana Rising–2047 vision was unveiled during the Global Summit held last December with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Revanth orders research centre at Young India Skill University

Hyderabad, July 31: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to establish a research centre at the Young India Skill University (YISU) to promote innovation and research. The Chief Minister reviewed the functioning of the Skill Development department at his residence here on Friday. Minister for SHAKTI (Labour, Employment, Training & Factories), Mines & Geology, Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy and senior officials attended the meeting. On the occasion, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to facilitate internship opportunities in leading companies for students pursuing engineering in government colleges.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Jupally explores scope for WINE TOURISM IN TG

HYDERABAD, JULY 31:

Minister for Prohibition and Excise, Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Jupally Krishna Rao visited Stone Tower Winery in Leesburg, Virginia, USA and undertook a cellar tour to study its operations as part of efforts to explore the potential for developing wine tourism in Telangana.

Krishna Rao interacted with winery representatives and enquired about grape cultivation, varieties suitable for wine production, processing and fermentation techniques, storage, ageing,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

SIR Extended Till Aug 10

Hyderabad, July 31: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced an extension for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in the Telangana state, pushing the deadline for enumeration from August 3 to August 10. This exercise, which commenced in Telangana on June 25, initially had a completion date of July 24, subsequently moved to August 3, and has now been further extended to August 10.

KTR makes first court appearance in Formula-E case

Hyderabad, July 31: BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao made his first appearance before the Nampally ACB Special Court on Friday following the submission of the chargesheet in the Formula-E race case. The court has scheduled the next hearing for August 25. Appearing alongside Rama Rao, who is listed as Accused No. 1 (A1), were co-accused former IAS officer Arvind Kumar and former HMDA Chief Engineer B. L. N. Reddy. The court directed the BRS leader to furnish a personal bond of ₹1 lakh along with two sureties.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

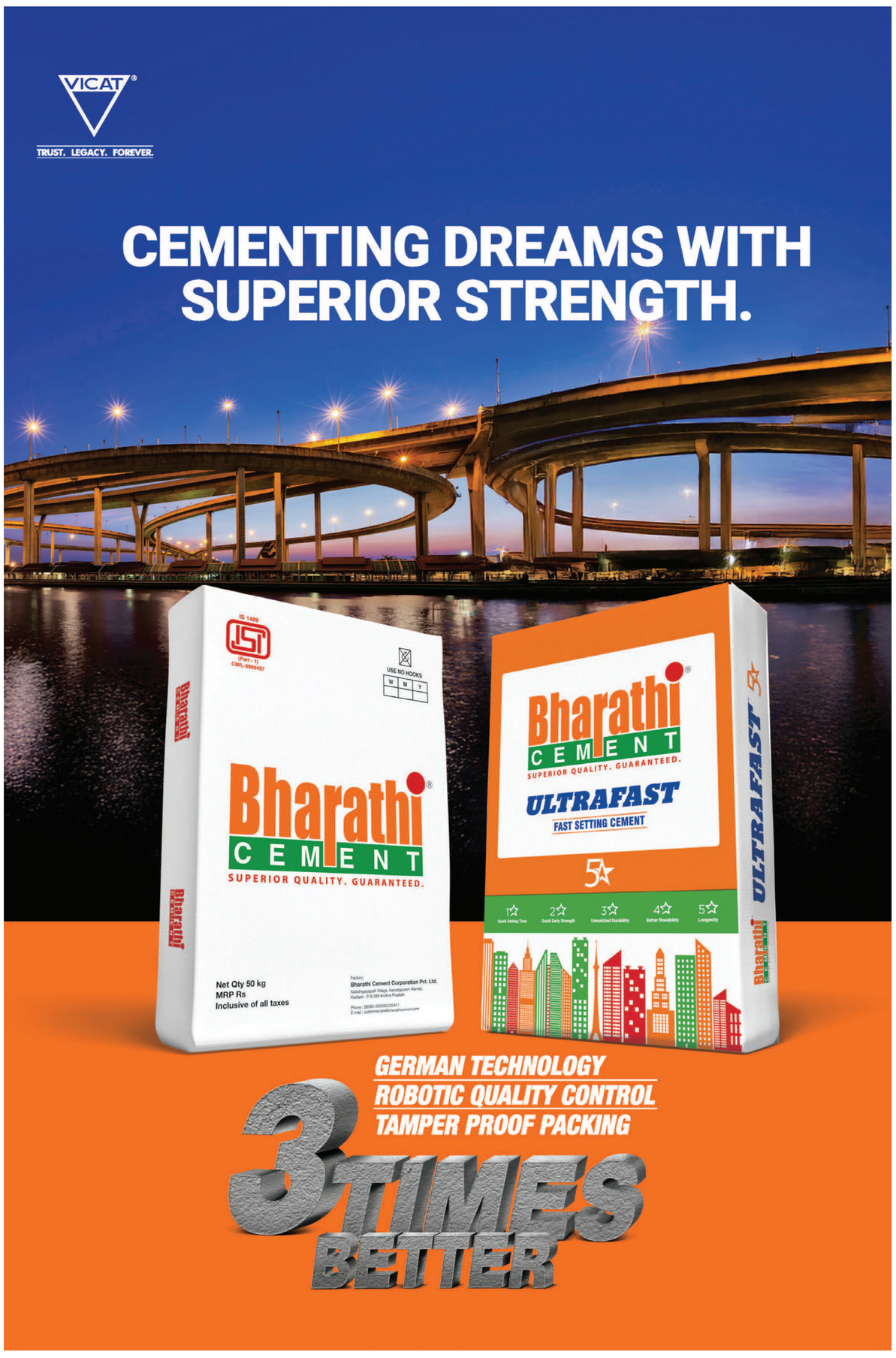
TIMS Sanathnagar renamed as Dr. MCR Institute

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

In a move to honour former chief minister Dr. Marri Channa Reddy, the Telangana government has officially renamed the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) in Sanathnagar, Hyderabad.

The institution will now be known as the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences, Sanathnagar. This decision, formalised through Government Order (G.O.Ms. No. 63) issued by Principal Secretary of the Health, Medical and Family Welfare department, Dr. Christina Z Chongthu, will be reflected in all official signage, public mentions, and administrative procedures.

In a statement on Friday, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha stated that this renaming is a testament to Dr. Marri Channa Reddy's significant contributions to the state and its public sphere.



BRS Veteran Laid to Rest

Ex-MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy Passes Away, Cremated with Official Honours at Nallabelli

SPECIAL 02

Heartfelt Condolences as Patnam Rukkamma Passes Away

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the passing of Smt. Patnam Rukkamma, mother of Patnam Mahendher Reddy, Telangana's Chief Whip and MLC. The news of her demise has left a profound void, and our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family during this difficult hour.

In a show of solidarity and support, TPCC President Bomm Mahesh Kumar Goud visited the family to convey his heartfelt condolences and share in their grief. He stood with the family in their sorrow, offering words of comfort and strength to help them through this moment of immense pain.

Also present at the condolence gathering were SAT Chairman and Wanaparthy District DCC President Shiva Sena Reddy, and Kukatpally Constituency Congress Party former President Sheari Satish Reddy, who joined the visit to express their sympathies and stand by the family.

May Smt. Patnam Rukkamma's soul rest in peace. May God grant her family the strength, courage, and comfort to endure this loss, and may her memory remain a source of love and inspiration for all those who knew her.

FORGIVE THEM: PM

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appealed for compassion towards the children who allegedly used derogatory language against him and his late mother during a protest at Jantar Mantar, saying they should be guided rather than punished as "mistakes happen in childhood."

In a video shared on his official Instagram account, the Prime Minister said the incident had shocked the country and described the language used during the protest as "an ugly spectacle" that did not reflect the values of a civilised society.

"Some mischievous children used crude and abusive language. I was personally abused, and even my late mother was subjected to abuse. It was truly an ugly spectacle," he said.

Acknowledging the public outrage over the incident, Mr. Modi urged people to treat it as an opportunity to reform the children instead of seeking retribution.

"Mistakes happen in childhood, and childhood also offers the opportunity to correct those mistakes. These children have lost their way, and it is our responsibility to guide them," he said. The Prime Minister said punitive measures such as court proceedings or social harassment would not address the issue.

"I want to forgive them. Society, too, should accept this. Punishing them, dragging them through court proceedings and harassing them in society will not change the situation," he said.

Using an analogy, Mr. Modi remarked that when the tongue is accidentally bitten by the teeth, one does not break the teeth because both belong to the same body. "These children are ours too. It is our duty to show them the right path," he said. Calling on the children to learn from their mistakes, the Prime Minister urged them to focus on their dreams and contribute to the nation's progress.

"The country is moving forward, and it is my dream that you also move forward. I live for you and dedicate myself to your bright future. Let us move the country forward together," he said.

My Gift Warm Felicitation to Sahitya Akademi Awardee Dr. Pattipaka Mohan

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Dr. Peruka Raju, founder of My Gift, multilingual writer, Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army, and noted author, warmly felicitated Dr. Pattipaka Mohan, South Regional Officer of the National Book Trust (NBT), on the occasion of meeting him for the first time after he received the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award. As a mark of respect, Dr. Peruka Raju presented Dr. Mohan with a shawl, bouquet, and memento. He also gifted him copies of his recently published literary works, "Avva" (Short Stories) and "Saagu" (an anthology of translated short stories from Indian languages).

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Pattipaka Mohan remarked, "A felicitation among ourselves?", and conveyed his heartfelt thanks to Dr. Peruka Raju for the thoughtful gesture.

Lyricist Nandu and several literary personalities were **present on the occasion.**

Alongside his literary pursuits, Dr. Peruka Raju has been rendering notable social service through the My Gift voluntary organization. Guided by the motto, "Encouragement is My Gift," he continues to inspire society through his contributions to literature and community service.

BRS Veteran Laid to Rest

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy passed away while undergoing treatment at a corporate hospital in Hyderabad in the early hours of Friday. He was 52. A close associate of BRS founder-president K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) since the party's inception in 2001, Sudarshan Reddy is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Sudarshan Reddy suffered a pulmonary embolism, a sudden blockage in an artery of the lungs, at his residence in Hanumakonda on July 26, following which he collapsed. He was immediately shifted to a private hospital in Hanumakonda, where doctors revived him by performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). As his condition remained critical, he was later transferred to a corporate hospital in Hyderabad for advanced treatment. Despite continuous medical care, doctors declared him dead at 12:51 a.m. on Friday.

Born on August 6, 1974, in Nallabelli, Sudarshan Reddy was actively associated with the Telangana statehood movement from 2001. His political journey with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), now Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), began the same year the party was founded by KCR. He was elected as a Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) member from Nallabelli in 2001, marking the beginning of his long political career.

Following the formation of Telangana State, Sudarshan Reddy was appointed Chairman of the State Civil Supplies Corporation in 2016, a position he held until 2018. In the 2018 Assembly elections, he was elected as the MLA from Narsampet Assembly constituency. Over the years, he also served as the Warangal district president of the party for eight years and later as its State General Secretary, playing a significant role in strengthening the party organisation.

Expressing profound grief over his demise, BRS president K. ChandWrashekhar Rao said he had lost a trusted colleague and close associate who had stood by him since the early days of the Telangana movement. KCR conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and assured them of the party's full support during this difficult time.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, and several leaders from across the political spectrum expressed shock and sorrow over Sudarshan Reddy's sudden demise, recalling his contribution to public life and the Telangana movement.

His mortal remains were taken to his native village Nallabelli, where the last rites were performed at around 10 p.m. on Friday with official honours. A large number of party workers, supporters and local residents gathered to pay their final respects.

Several senior BRS leaders attended the funeral, including T. Harish Rao, K.T. Rama Rao, B. Vinod Kumar, Palla Rajeshwara Reddy, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Satyavathi Rathod, G. Jagadish Reddy, T. Srinivas Yadav, R.S. Praveen Kumar, and many others, who paid homage to the departed leader and offered condolences to his family.

Revanth gives TOMCOM complete charge of overseas employment services

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced that TOMCOM (Telangana Overseas Manpower Company) was entrusted with the responsibility of the entire process from providing training, organising job fairs, to facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities for the aspiring youth in foreign countries.

The Chief Minister held a review of the ' Shakti ' department attended by Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and top officials.

On the occasion, Revanth Reddy noted that a large number of workers from North Telangana are going to Middle Eastern countries and often falling victim to fraud by agents and facing significant hardships. The authorities of the TOMCOM were ordered to enter into agreements with manpower agencies in the destination countries to assist the workers including obtaining passports.

The Chief Minister said such agreements would enable TOMCOM to intervene, hold discussions, and ensure justice for the workers in case they face any difficulties abroad.

He directed officials to collect the details of agents who facilitate the overseas migration of workers and to register the particulars of every individual sent abroad by them. A former IFS officer would be appointed as the CEO of TOMCOM to oversee these operations. Providing training in Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) and Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) driving to job seekers was discussed in the meeting.

Plantation of relocated trees within the university campus, feasibility of providing scholarships to individuals undergoing training for blue-collar jobs, similar to the overseas scholarships offered to students pursuing higher education was reviewed in the meeting.

The officials briefed the Chief Minister about the increasing demand for nursing services both domestically and abroad, and the rising elderly population in several developed countries which created a demand for home-based nursing care. Revanth Reddy said that permissions for nursing colleges are being granted to meet the growing demand for nurses.

KCR MOURNS FORMER MLA PEDDI SUDARSHAN REDDY'S DEMISE

HYDERABAD, JULY 31:

BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao on Friday expressed deep shock over the death of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, a separate Telangana movement activist, former Narsampet MLA and senior party leader, and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family. KCR described the loss as that of a close friend and comrade-in-arms from the statehood struggle, recalling how they worked together during the second phase of the Telangana movement, particularly in Warangal district. He expressed anguish that despite the party's strenuous efforts and doctors' dedicated attempts, Peddi could not be saved. Praising Peddi's political journey, KCR highlighted his integrity, honesty and lifelong dedication to the people, calling Telangana his "very breath." He hailed him as a brave leader who hoisted the BRS "Pink Flag" in Narsampet, a region known as a stronghold of struggles, and fought with unwavering courage. KCR noted that Peddi remained loyal to the party and its flag from the movement days until his last breath, leaving an indelible mark on both the struggle and the development of his assembly constituency.

Terming Peddi's death an irreparable loss to the organization, KCR said his activism, courage and service—undeterred by police pressure, non-bailable cases or imprisonment—had deeply inspired party workers and the public. He assured Peddi's wife and children that the party would stand by them, urged local workers to remain strong, prayed for peace to his soul, and conveyed deepest condolences to the family, party workers and admirers.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

TELANGANA OPENS DOORS TO..

➤FROM PAGE 1

participation from delegates representing 175 countries.

He said Telangana currently contributes nearly five per cent to the country's GDP and aims to double that share to 10 per cent in the coming years. The State also targets becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2037.

Three-Zone Development Model

Explaining the government's long-term planning strategy, Mr. Reddy outlined the CURE–PURE–RARE development model.

The CURE zone, covering areas within the Outer Ring Road, will focus on the services sector. The PURE zone, located between the Outer Ring Road and the Regional Ring Road, will be developed for manufacturing industries, while the RARE zone beyond the Regional Ring Road will promote agriculture and agro-based industries. He assured investors that the government would provide land and infrastructure in the PURE and RARE zones.

Major Infrastructure Plans

Mr. Reddy announced plans to build a 12-lane highway connecting Bharat Future City with Machilipatnam Port to strengthen industrial logistics.

He also said the Centre had approved airports for Warangal and Adilabad, while three of the country's proposed bullet train corridors would pass through Telangana, linking Shamshabad with Chennai, Pune and Bengaluru.

Emphasising that Telangana seeks global competitiveness rather than regional rivalry, he said the State aims to emerge as a preferred "China Plus One" investment destination.

Skill Development Priority

Highlighting the impact of Artificial Intelligence on employment, the Chief Minister said the government has prioritised skill development to prepare youth for future industries. He said the Young India Skill University, established under a public-private partnership and chaired by Anand Mahindra, is being developed as a premier institution for industry-oriented training.

Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are also being upgraded into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) offering market-driven courses, with students from these centres achieving 100 per cent placements, he said.

Large-Scale Investments

Mr. Reddy said nearly 200 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) have expressed interest in establishing operations in Telangana. He announced that Amazon is investing about ₹1 lakh crore in data centres, while the Adani Group is investing around ₹35,000 crore in data centre infrastructure in the State.

CII Praises Telangana Model

CII Northern Region Chairman Puneet Kaura lauded Telangana's industrial policies, saying the State's incentives, infrastructure and responsive governance have made Hyderabad one of the country's most attractive destinations for Global Capability Centres. He said the delegation selected Hyderabad for its meeting to study Telangana's successful industrial development model and investment ecosystem.

Revanth orders research centre at ..

➤FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Minister also called for the introduction of Electric Vehicle (EV) servicing and drone technology courses at Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) to equip students with industry-relevant skills.

Emphasising the need to strengthen the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM), Revanth Reddy said the organisation should provide end-to-end support to job aspirants, from passport assistance to securing employment in overseas companies.

He further directed officials to set up a dedicated wing at the Skill University to offer training in foreign languages, enhancing students' prospects for global employment.

The Chief Minister also instructed officials to grant approvals for nursing colleges in line with the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals.

KTR makes first court appearance...

➤FROM PAGE 1

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed a 77-page chargesheet on March 23 naming Rama Rao, Arvind Kumar, B. L. N. Reddy, and Formula E Operations (FEO), backed by statements from 14 witnesses detailing alleged procedural lapses during the hosting of Formula-E Season 10. The ACB said that funds were released to FEO without mandatory clearances from the Finance and Law departments or cabinet sanction. The agency alleges a direct loss of ₹54.88 crore to the HMDA and estimates total financial exposure to the state exchequer at roughly ₹600 crore under the agreements signed. The chargesheet further alleges undue favors to private entity Ace NextGen and suggests a quid pro quo arrangement—claims the accused have firmly denied.

Several senior BRS leaders, including former ministers P. Sabitha Indra Reddy and Mohd Mahmood Ali, MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, and R. S. Praveen Kumar, accompanied Rama Rao to court.

Jupally explores scope for WINE TOURISM IN TG

➤FROM PAGE 1

bottling, quality control and marketing. He also studied how vineyards and wineries are integrated with tourism through guided tours, hospitality and curated visitor experiences.

The Minister said Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts have potential for vineyard and winery-based tourism, given their proximity to Hyderabad and prospects for grape cultivation. Suitable locations, climatic conditions and investment models would be studied before taking the initiative forward.

"Wine tourism can offer a distinctive visitor experience while supporting grape growers, attracting private investment and generating local employment," he said.

The initiative is in line with the Telangana Tourism Policy 2025–30, which seeks to diversify the State's tourism offerings and promote new tourism products through private and public-private partnership investments.

At the Telangana Tourism Conclave, projects worth over ₹15,000 crore were unveiled, including a first-of-its-kind vineyard resort with a winery walk-through experience. The proposed project is envisaged to offer visitors an insight into the entire wine-making

process from grape harvesting to bottling along with a hands-on traditional grape-stomping experience.

Jupally Krishna Rao said successful international models and best practices would be studied to develop a suitable wine tourism ecosystem in Telangana, integrating vineyards, hospitality and local cuisine, while adhering to the State's regulatory framework.

Government Whip Yennam Srinivas Reddy and Tandur MLA Buyyani Manohar Reddy accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Safe Sports Campaign: The Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) has launched the Safe Sports Telangana campaign under the Sports Policy 2025 to promote a safe and inclusive sporting environment. Awareness sessions began at Hakimpet Sports School and will continue at Gachibowli Stadium for coaches and sports administrators.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No.96 to 100_ DRM_W_HYB_26 dt. 31/07/2026 PUB/519

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through **e-procurement up to 15.00 hours of 24/08/2026.**

Sl. No. 1, **Tender No.:** 96_DRM_W_HYB_26, **Name of the work:** HYB Div: Improvements to old structures and offices in Mazdoor Union Office Premises under Jurisdiction of SSE/W/GOC, **Approx Value (₹):** 2,58,09,840.00, **EMD (₹):** 5,16,200.00

Sl. No. 2, **Tender No.:** 97_DRM_W_HYB_26, **Name of the work:** Hyderabad Division :- SC-DHNE Section :- Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab on Br No 99 UP (of span 5x12.20m) at Km 42/300-400 and Br No 489 (of span 4x12.20 M)., **Approx Value (₹):** 6,65,55,578.00, **EMD (₹):** 13,31,100.00

Sl. No. 3, **Tender No.:** 98_DRM_W_HYB_26, **Name of the work:** Hyderabad Division: SC-DHNE Section: Elimination of Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 145 at KM 265/500-600 duly providing RUB in between UKD - VDI Stations., **Approx Value (₹):** 10,75,10,199.00, **EMD (₹):** 21,50,200.00

Sl. No. 4, **Tender No.:** 99_DRM_W_HYB_26, **Name of the work:** HYB Divn :- Hyderabad Division: SC-DHNE Section: Elimination of Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 94 at KM 173/900-174/0 duly providing RUB in between WPR-SRNR Stations., **Approx Value (₹):** 9,09,30,259.00, **EMD (₹):** 18,18,600.00

Sl. No. 5, **Tender No.:** 100_DRM_W_HYB_26, **Name of the work:** HYB: SC-DHNE: Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No.149 at KM 271/0-100 between Ulindakonda - Veldurti stations., **Approx Value (₹):** 9,23,27,738.00, **EMD (₹):** 18,46,500.00

For further details visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager/ Works/Hyderabad

Tender Notice No.18/2026 Dt.31.07.2026 PUB/520

Supply of Stores Items
E-Procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. Tenders are requested to visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is **14.30** hrs of the due date of the tender. "For all Indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
38261026	Modified Elastomeric Pad (Design-B)
65265004	Heavy duty Elevator 14 Passenger capacity
38262292	Automatic Twist Lock complete for BLC Wagon
38261474	19.05mm dia lock bolt with collar
66265488C	Track Machine spares of plasser make
66266488	Track Machine Spares of Plasser Make
29261413	Secondary Vertical Damper for WAG9 Locos
29261399	Axle Box bearing for WAG9/WAP7 locomotives
56261005	PVC Underground Railway signaling cable Size 24 core x1.5sqmm
90261025	Steel shots numbers S_S1400
75261037	Set of V BELTS
75261223	VINYL COATED UPHOLSTERY
29261041	Elastic ring (Aclathan ring) as per RDSO Spec
29261082	Pinion shaft21 Tech for WAG9(new series) locos
45261004	Brushless Alternator 25KW
82264612A	SECUKINUMAB 150MG INJ
38262094	305mm BORE AIR CYLINDER
38262293	OH KIT for distributor valve type C3W
45261528	High Capacity Inter Vehicle coupler
82260778B	PEMBROLIZUMAB 100MG Injection
38261215	Wear plate for YOKE PIN support
45261028	VDEEP 4Groved axle pully
33261436	Bolster for Fiat BOGIE
LH266066	IOT Based water level indicators of overhead water tanks
LH266071	IOT Based water level indicators of underslung water tanks

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening
SL. No. 01 on dt. 10.08.2026, SL. No. 02 on dt. 11.08.2026, SL. No. 03 on dt. 12.08.2026, SL. No. 04 on dt. 17.08.2026, SL. No. 5 to 09 on dt. 18.08.2026, SL. No. 10 & 11 on dt. 19.08.2026, SL. No. 12 to 17 on dt. 20.08.2026, SL. No.18 to 20 dt. 21.08.2026, SL. No. 21 to 23 dt. 24.08.2026, SL. No. 24 & 25 dt.26.08.2026

Beside above mentioned Tenders There are other Tenders having **value above Rs. 50 Lakhs** for details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad

Geethanjali College Hosts Freshers' Orientation Program'

Inspiring Message for New Students Marks the Beginning of the Academic Year

CHEERYAL (MEDCHAL), JULY 31:

Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology organized a grand and enthusiastic orientation program to welcome the newly admitted students for the 2026–27 academic year. The college campus came alive with the arrival of freshers. On this occasion, the Principal, Director, Chairman, Vice Chairman, distinguished guest, and faculty members offered valuable guidance and motivational messages to help students begin their academic journey with confidence.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr. K. Sagar, Principal of the college, who warmly greeted the new students. Addressing the gathering, he said:

"Hard work without discipline does not yield results. By following strict discipline, maintaining determination, and working consistently, students can achieve great heights. You are all the stars who have joined our college, and it is our responsibility to guide and encourage you toward success."

He encouraged students to make the best use of all the resources available on campus and reminded them never to hesitate to approach faculty members for guidance and support.

Later, Dr. Uday Kumar Susarla, Director of the college, spoke about the importance of holistic education. He said:

"Education is not limited to classroom learning. Participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities is equally important. Technical competitions, sports, cultural events, and community service help develop self-confidence, leadership qualities, and teamwork. Parents also play a crucial role in the overall development of students. Success comes through the coordinated efforts of the college, parents, and students." He also advised students to utilize the college's state-of-the-art laboratories, library, and digital classrooms to enhance their learning experience.

Vice Chairman Mr. R. Harishchandra Reddy emphasized the value of perseverance, stating:

"There is no substitute for hard work in a student's life. Work diligently, and opportunities will always be available to those who strive. Develop the courage to face failures, because they make you stronger. If you ever face any problem or need guidance, the doors of this college will always remain open. We are proud to have you as our students, and we will always stand by your side."

Chairman Mr. G. R. Ravinder Reddy highlighted the importance of adaptability in today's rapidly changing world. He advised students to focus on emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Data Science, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Cloud Computing.

He said:

"Adaptability and flexibility are the keys to success in today's dynamic world. There are immense opportunities in the technology sector and job market. Cultivate a passion for continuous learning and embrace change. Be prepared to seize opportunities and work hard—success will naturally follow."

The program's Chief Guest, Mrs. Lekha Shishta, a Global Talent Strategist, Cultural Architect, and Business Transformation Advisor, interacted with the students and inspired them with her address.

She said:

"Learning is a lifelong journey. Students should not focus only on scoring marks in examinations but also on discovering and developing their inner talents. Self-confidence, problem-solving ability, and creativity are the true outcomes of education. Active participation in technical, literary, and cultural activities helps nurture these qualities."

The event was attended by the Deans of Academics, Student Welfare, and Research, along with the Freshman Engineering team, Heads of Departments, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors, all of whom warmly welcomed the new students.

The orientation program provided students with renewed enthusiasm, confidence, and a clear sense of direction. It also reaffirmed Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology's commitment to nurturing students into skilled professionals and responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to society.

GITAM Celebrates Achievers' Day 2026; Announces Strong Placement Success

Hyderabad, July 31: GITAM (Deemed to be University), Hyderabad, celebrated Achievers' Day 2026, recognising students for their outstanding performance in campus placements and higher education admissions. Organised by the Career Guidance Centre (CGC), the event highlighted the university's focus on academic excellence, employability and industry readiness. Announcing the placement results for the 2026 graduating batch, the university said 771 students secured jobs out of 1,347 students who participated in campus recruitment, registering an overall placement rate of 60 per cent. More than 1,000 job offers were made by 324 leading recruiters across the university's seven constituent schools.

The GITAM School of Business (GSB) emerged as the best-performing school with an overall placement rate of 97.5 per cent, achieving 100 per cent placements for undergraduate students and 95.8 per cent for postgraduate students. The GITAM School of Architecture (GSA) also achieved 100 per cent placements. The GITAM School of Computer Science and Engineering (GSCSE) recorded the highest placement volume, with 544 job offers and 443 students placed. The highest annual salary package offered during the placement season was ₹16 lakh, while postgraduate students from GSB secured the highest average package of ₹6.94 lakh per annum.

The event was attended by Krishna Chaitanya GT, Director and Chief Operations Leader–Tax at PwC AC, and Richard King, Region Head–Academic Alliances at TCS, as Guests of Honour. They encouraged students to embrace lifelong learning, innovation and professional excellence, and presented Career Fulfilment Certificates to the achievers. Addressing the gathering, Prof. D.S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Hyderabad Campus, said the placement season reflected the continued confidence of industry in GITAM's academic standards and career-readiness initiatives. "With over 1,000 job offers and the highest package of ₹16 lakh per annum, our students have once again demonstrated their ability to excel in a competitive global job market. We remain committed to strengthening industry partnerships and creating greater career opportunities," he said. Students G. Srujan (CSE), D. Veena Sri (CSE–AI & ML), E.J. Sanghamitra (EECE), Niharika Nomula (MBA) and Pamishetti Prem Kumar (M.Sc. Data Science) shared their placement experiences, while G.N.V. Srinivas Swaroop, representing parents, appreciated the university's academic environment and career guidance support. The programme was attended by parents, faculty members, department heads and senior university officials, including Dr. K. Mamatha, Director, Career Guidance Centre, and Dr. Edwin Anthony, Senior Director, GCGC.

Ward Members Key to Strong Urban Governance: NIUM

Hyderabad, July 31: Municipal Ward Members play a crucial role in delivering quality civic services and ensuring sustainable urban development, said J. Srinivasa Rao, Executive Director of the National Institute of Urban Management (NIUM), while addressing the valedictory session of a three-phase training programme for Municipal and Municipal Corporation Ward Members of Telangana at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) on Friday.

Highlighting the importance of local governance, Srinivasa Rao said nearly 25 million people in Telangana live across 123 Municipalities and 12 Municipal Corporations. He noted that Ward Members are responsible for ensuring safe drinking water, sanitation, street lighting, maintenance of parks and markets, protection of lakes and ponds, and safeguarding municipal assets in accordance with the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019.

He stressed that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including clean water, sanitation, climate action and scientific waste management, is essential for public welfare. Every Ward Member, he said, must actively contribute to the overall development of their respective wards.

The training programme was jointly organised by the National Institute of Urban Management (NIUM), the Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD) Department and the Environment Division of the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI). Conducted in three phases on July 23, 28 and 31, the programme covered elected representatives from all 135 Municipalities across Telangana.

The final phase on Friday saw the participation of nearly 1,000 Ward Members from 49 Municipalities, including Armur, Bodhan, Suryapet, Kodad, Kodangal, Narayanpet, Kalwakurthy, Madhira, Tandur, Vikarabad, Mahabubabad, Zaheerabad, Sangareddy, Gajwel and Kagaznagar.

Experts delivered technical sessions on various aspects of urban governance. Dr. Kandikonda Srinivas explained the roles and responsibilities of Councilors under the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019, while Mohan Kumar, Deputy Engineer (Public Health), spoke on the AMRUT Mission and urban infrastructure development. Sandhya, Joint Director, delivered a session on rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative. V. Mamatha, Joint Director, highlighted the importance of achieving 100% household water connections and expanding urban green spaces under the AMRUT Mission. R. Srinivasa Rao, Joint Director (Town Planning), presented a session on the "Build Now Master Plan" under AMRUT.

The programme was coordinated by Anita Agarwal of ESCI and Dr. Venkatesh, Sanitation Expert from NIUM, along with Naga Malleswara Rao, Prakash and other officials.

Tender Notice No. NED/E-17, 18, 19 20 & 21/2026-27, Dt. 29.07.2026 PUB/521

For & on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tenders for the following works

Sl. No. 1, **Tender No.:** NED/E-17/2026-27, **Name of the Work:** Nanded Division: Proposal for TRD Depots at CPSN - Electrical Arrangements, **Approximate Cost (₹):** 29,33,091.00, **Bid Security (₹):** 58,700.00, **Validity of offer:** 60 days, **Period of Completion:** 12 Months, **Date and time of closing:** 15:00 hrs of 20.08.2026

Sl. No. 2, **Tender No.:** NED/E-18/2026-27, **Name of the Work:** NED-Extension of Lalwadi Pit line No. 1 by 03 Coaches - Electrical Arrangements, **Approximate Cost (₹):** 94,84,305.00, **Bid Security (₹):** 1,89,700.00, **Validity of offer:** 60 days, **Period of Completion:** 12 Months, **Date and time of closing:** 15:00 hrs of 20.08.2026

Sl. No. 3, **Tender No.:** NED/E-19/2026-27, **Name of the Work:** Nanded Division - Provision of Ballast Less Track and Quick Watering System at Adilabad Station - Electrical Arrangements, **Approximate Cost (₹):** 1,78,89,531.00, **Bid Security (₹):** 3,57,800.00, **Validity of offer:** 60 days, **Period of Completion:** 12 Months, **Date and time of closing:** 15:00 hrs of 20.08.2026

Sl. No. 4, **Tender No.:** NED/E-20/2026-27, **Name of the Work:** nanded Division - 1). Setting up of Quick Watering Arrangements System at Nagarsol railway station and provision of 02 Nos. Ballast Less Track at NSL-2 (Rd-3 693m and Rd-4 750m - Electrical Arrangement. 2) Provision of Overhead water tank of capacity 200kL (2,00,000 Liter) at CPSN for quick watering system - Electrical Arrangements, **Approximate Cost (₹):** 2,08,24,324.00, **Bid Security (₹):** 4,16,500.00, **Validity of offer:** 60 days, **Period of Completion:** 12 Months, **Date and time of closing:** 17:00 hrs of 20.08.2026

Sl. No. 5, **Tender No.:** NED/E-21/2026-27, **Name of the Work:** Provision of a new control office and standby alternate control in Nanded Division - Electrical Arrangements, **Approximate Cost (₹):** 2,74,85,135.00, **Bid Security (₹):** 5,49,700.00, **Validity of offer:** 60 days, **Period of Completion:** 12 Months, **Date and time of closing:** 15:00 hrs of 21.08.2026

For Tender document, details of eligibility criteria, special conditions, etc. go to our website **www.ireps.gov.in.** It is advised to check if there is any corrigendum published online before submission of offer.

Divisional Railway Manager / (Elec.)/ Nanded
A607

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

From Awareness to Action: IRSPC Pushes for Safer Roads Across Hyd

The organisation says road safety must become a daily civic responsibility supported by measurable policies and consistent implementation.

Hyderabad, 31 July 2026: The Intercontinental Road Safety Probe Confederation (IRSPC) has called for urgent, coordinated and sustained action to improve road safety in Hyderabad, warning that road crashes are not merely traffic incidents but preventable public health emergencies that threaten lives, livelihoods and the city's long-term development.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the organisation urged government departments, police, schools, parents, youth groups, corporate employers and communities to move beyond short-term awareness campaigns and commit to measurable, long-term road safety outcomes. It said road safety should be treated as a core development priority aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Road safety is not optional, and it is not temporary awareness. It is sustainable development in action—because every crash reverses progress by harming health, education, livelihoods and community wellbeing," said Samudrala Kiran, CEO of the Intercontinental Road Safety Probe Confederation.

According to IRSPC, road traffic crashes have consequences that extend well beyond the accident site. Families often suffer sudden loss of income, mounting medical expenses, disability and emotional trauma, while children may experience disruptions in education due to unsafe travel or the loss of a parent. The burden of preventable crashes also falls heavily on healthcare services, emergency responders and law enforcement agencies.

The Confederation said Hyderabad's road safety challenge should be viewed not only as a traffic management issue but also as a public health, education, employment and social equity concern. It linked safer roads directly to several Sustainable Development Goals, including Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Reduced Inequalities.

IRSPC urged motorists and two-wheeler riders to follow speed limits, avoid mobile phone distractions, wear helmets and seat belts correctly, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or while fatigued. It noted that these simple measures remain among the most effective ways to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

The organisation also stressed the importance of pedestrian safety, especially for children and elderly citizens. It called for greater use of designated crossings and traffic signals while urging authorities to improve pedestrian infrastructure through better lighting, visible road markings, protected crossings and speed-calming measures in busy areas.

School safety formed a major part of IRSPC's appeal. The Confederation urged schools, parents and educators to make road safety education a regular part of learning instead of limiting it to annual awareness events. Children should be taught safe crossing practices, road signs, junction safety and responsible travel behaviour from an early age. Schools were also encouraged to work with civic authorities to improve safety around campuses through better crossings, traffic management and strict enforcement against unsafe parking and reckless driving.

Highlighting the role of young people, IRSPC described students as powerful ambassadors of behavioural change. It encouraged youth to promote helmet use, discourage distracted driving and inspire peers to adopt responsible road habits.

The organisation also called for predictable, visible and data-driven enforcement by police, with greater focus on speeding, helmet and seat belt violations, mobile phone use while driving, drunk driving and dangerous junction behaviour. Sustained enforcement during school hours and peak traffic periods, it said, would significantly improve compliance.

IRSPC further urged companies, fleet operators and delivery services to adopt comprehensive workplace road safety policies, including driver training, speed monitoring, fatigue management and regular safety communication. It also recommended engineering improvements at crash-prone locations and stronger post-crash care through faster emergency response and better coordination between citizens, police and healthcare providers.

"Hyderabad can become safer when all stakeholders move in the same direction—education, enforcement, engineering and emergency care aligned to protect real human lives every single day," Samudrala Kiran said.

The Confederation concluded by urging every stakeholder to treat road safety not as a temporary campaign but as a continuous civic responsibility, with the shared goal of reducing road deaths, preventing serious injuries and building a safer, more disciplined road culture across Hyderabad.

Just Rights For Children flags off "National Campaign Against Child Trafficking"

Hyderabad, July 31: Just Rights for Children has launched a nationwide campaign against child trafficking during the national consultation on "Ensuring a Child's Rights, Potential & Prosperity." The year-long initiative will cover all 36 States and Union Territories, span 782 districts and involve more than 250 partner organisations to strengthen child protection through the rule of law.

The campaign aims to transform 1.5 lakh villages into trafficking-free communities and rescue one lakh trafficked children by strengthening coordination among district administrations, police, child welfare committees, Panchayati Raj institutions and civil society organisations. It will also focus on identifying traffickers, dismantling trafficking networks and ensuring effective legal action against offenders. According to the Crime in India 2024 report, an average of six children are trafficked every day, while five children are forced into child labour. Nearly 11 children go missing every hour, with many later becoming victims of trafficking. The organisation noted that child labour in the informal sector remains one of the most common forms of child trafficking and exploitation. As part of the campaign, awareness programmes will be conducted through Gram Sabhas, schools and Panchayats using posters, pamphlets and community outreach to educate families about trafficking methods, child rights and legal remedies.

Bhuwan Ribhu, Founder of Just Rights for Children, said India's strong anti-trafficking laws must be matched by effective implementation through timely rescue, investigation, prosecution and rehabilitation. He expressed confidence that strict enforcement and community participation can help eliminate child trafficking by 2030.

PROVISION OF VIDEO WALL

Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/23 of 2026-27; Dated: 29-07-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No:** EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-71; **Name of work:** Provision of Video Wall for Sectioning and Wiring Diagram Viewing at Traction Power Controller, Lumding Division. Advertised Value: ₹40,10,772.18; Earnest Money: ₹80,200.00. **E-tenders will be closed at** 12:00 hrs. on 22-08-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

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

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Mechanical Branch - Tiruchchirappalli Division
E-Tender Notice No.: GEM/2026/B/7846018 Dated 28.07.2026

E-Tenders are invited by the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli-620001 for the following work:

1.	Name of work with its location and completion period: "Outcome based Contract for Maintenance of Cleanliness and House Keeping activities at Puducherry Railway Station with Mechanised cleaning for a period of **Two years (730 days)"**	
2.	Approximate cost of the work	**Rs.86,96,102.00** (Rupees Eighty Six Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred and Two only) Including GST @ 18%, levies and all taxes, etc.
3.	Earnest Money to be Deposited	**Rs.1,73,930/-** (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Only)
4.	Date & Time of Closing of Tender	**At 11.00 hours on 20.08.2026**
5.	Date & Time for Opening of Tender	**At 11.30 hours on 20.08.2026**
6.	Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office inviting tender.	**https://www.gem.gov.in** Office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Divisional Office, Mechanical Branch, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli-620001.

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli, For and on behalf of President of India.

SHORT TAKES

Academic Senate and Executive Council are Key in Policy Decisions: Sudhakar Mamidala

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI

Warangal, July 31: Retired Deputy Registrar of Kakatiya University Sudhakar Mamidala said that the Academic Senate and the Executive Council (Governing Body) play a crucial role as the highest decision-making bodies in university policy decisions. Delivering a lecture on Friday evening on 'Academic Senate – Executive Council: Functions, Powers and Responsibilities' at a special training program being conducted for employees appearing for promotion exams of Senior Assistant and Superintendent at Kakatiya University, Sudhakar Mamidala explained the composition of the Executive Council, the functions, powers and responsibilities of the Academic Senate and Standing Committee, the policy decision-making process, the procedure for conducting meetings, and their importance in the administrative system. He said that having representation in the Executive Council from eminent persons in the education sector as well as from various professional and social fields will help the university administration function more effectively. He answered several questions raised by employees during the training. He suggested that understanding these topics will be very useful not only for exams but also in performing job duties.

NIEPID Holds Independence Day 2026 Celebrations

Hyderabad, July 31: NIEPID celebrated Independence Day–2026 under the theme "India Independence 1947–2047: The Spirit of Viksit Bharat" with week-long events from July 22–29 across its centres. The programme featured competitions, seminars, accessibility drives, assistive technology exhibitions and cultural performances by Divyang artists. Director Dr. B.V. Ram Kumar reaffirmed the institute's commitment to inclusive development and Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

PM Vidyalaxmi Opens Doors to Quality Higher Education

COLLATERAL-FREE EDUCATION LOANS, INTEREST SUBSIDY TO HELP MERITORIOUS STUDENTS PURSUE STUDIES IN PREMIER INSTITUTIONS; OVER 67,700 LOANS ALREADY DISBURSED

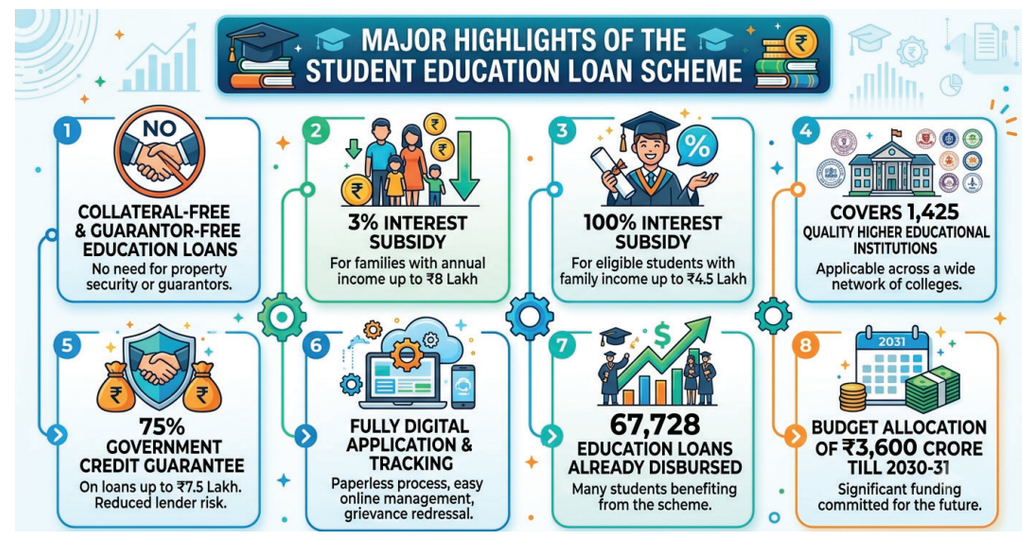
New Delhi: The Centre's flagship Prime Minister Vidyalaxmi Scheme is emerging as a major initiative to make quality higher education accessible to meritorious students by removing financial barriers. The scheme offers collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans, interest subsidies for eligible families and a fully digital application process, ensuring that deserving students are not denied admission to premier institutions due to lack of funds. Approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024, the scheme supports students who secure merit-based admission to 1,425 designated Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs) across the country, including top-ranked public and private institutions identified through the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Students from all income categories can avail education loans under the scheme. Those with an annual family income of up to ₹8 lakh are eligible for a 3% interest subsidy on loans up to ₹10 lakh during the course period and one-year moratorium, while students with family incomes up to ₹4.5 lakh continue to receive full interest subsidy under the existing Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme.

The Government also provides a 75% credit guarantee for loans up to ₹7.5 lakh, encouraging banks to extend financial assistance to a larger number of students. The education loans carry an interest rate capped at EBLR + 0.5%, making them more affordable than regular education loans.

Applications, loan processing, bank selection, interest subsidy claims and grievance redressal are managed through the PM Vidyalaxmi digital portal, while subsidy payments are credited through the Digital Rupee (CBDC) Wallet, ensuring transparency and faster disbursal.

Official data shows that during 2025-26, the portal received 6.45 lakh education loan applications, of which 1.10 lakh were under PM Vidyalaxmi. So far, 70,852 loans have been sanctioned and 67,728 loans disbursed. The Centre has earmarked ₹3,600 crore for the scheme between 2024-25 and 2030-31, with nearly seven lakh students expected to benefit from the interest subsidy.



GOVT INTRODUCES FAMILY CERTIFICATE TO SIMPLIFY CITIZEN DOCUMENTATION: BHATTI

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government has introduced the Family Certificate to enable people in Telangana to easily furnish details about themselves and their family members whenever required by government departments, institutions, or other organisations.

He was speaking at a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) awareness programme held at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society Vice-Chairman Faheem Qureshi, and others attended the programme.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the government has compiled and made available at Tahsildar offices information relating to family members who are beneficiaries of government welfare schemes, including the Public Distribution System (ration), Aarogyasri, fine-quality rice distribution, and other schemes.

He said any family requiring its own information or details of its members can obtain the Family Certificate by visiting the nearest Tahsildar Office or MeeSeva Centre.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the certificate would serve as a ready reference whenever any government department, institution, or other system seeks details of a family's composition, thereby simplifying the process of submitting such information.

CS calls for stronger employees healthcare trust to ensure quality medical services

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday directed officials to strengthen the Telangana Employees Health Care Trust (TEHCT) to ensure timely and quality healthcare for government employees, pensioners and their family members.

Chairing a review meeting at the Secretariat, he ordered a comprehensive review of treatment package rates, effective utilisation of the Health Care Trust Fund, and the constitution of an executive committee along with sub-committees to oversee package revisions, hospital empanelment, service quality and financial management.

Jaju also instructed officials to establish a 24x7 emergency assistance mechanism, ensure faster treatment approvals and improve coordination with empanelled hospitals so beneficiaries can access medical care without delays under the Employees Health Scheme (EHS). He stressed that the Trust should function with greater transparency and efficiency to deliver better healthcare services.

BJP DEMANDS APOLOGY FROM CM REVANTH FOR HIS COMMENT AGAINST ENGINEERING STUDENTS

HYDERABAD, JULY 31

Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao strongly condemned the comment of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy who described engineering students as " criminal waste" in the state.

Rao, who is now in US, demanded CM Revanth Reddy should immediately apologise to students community particularly engineering students for his objectionable comments who also said engineering students are unable to even filling out an application form.

The comments of the CM, who is also holding education portfolio, is an insult to entire students community and defame to education system, he alleged and said such insulting and derogatory remarks are deeply objectionable.

Rao alleged that the state Congress government has failed to release nearly Rs 1200 crore pending fee-reimbursement arrears and even CM Revanth Reddy is threatening college managements on the one hand and insulting students on other.

The state government has withheld the fee-reimbursement dues, placed educational institutions under severe financial pressure and jeopardised the future of lakhs of students, instead of addressing these issues, the CM has chosen to demean the students, he said.

BJP state chief warned CM Revanth Reddy that if he fails to apologise to students community, BJP would unite the students and launch an agitation for insulting them.

Sabita Indra Reddy demands apology from CM

Hyderabad, July 31: BRS party Legislature Party Deputy Leader P. Sabitha Indra Reddy has strongly condemned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's remarks labeling engineering students the architects of a new Telangana as "criminal waste." She demanded that the Chief Minister offer an unconditional, public apology to the student community of Telangana.

She lashed out at the Chief Minister by stating that his derogatory comments about engineering students reflect his arrogance. She accused CM Revanth Reddy of displaying habitual ignorance by making reckless and baseless allegations against the future builders of the nation, instead of appreciating them. She criticized Revanth Reddy for casting aspersions on the sacred education system and branding students as "criminals" merely to mask his administrative failures and his incompetence in clearing fee reimbursement arrears.

JNTUH Staff Rally Behind VC

Campus Plunges Into Crisis Over Attempted Registrar Ouster

KUKATPALLY: In an unprecedented showdown between academia and the state government, the teaching and non-teaching staff of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH) have issued a stark ultimatum: maintain the administrative status quo, or face mass resignations.

The campus is currently locked in significant unrest following alleged government interference regarding the appointment of the university's Registrar. In a massive show of solidarity on Friday, regular, contract, and outsourced employees from affiliated colleges and university departments convened an emergency meeting at the Golden Jubilee Hall, launching a unified "Stand with VC" campaign.

A Historic Appointment Under Threat

At the heart of the controversy is the recent appointment of the current Registrar. Staff members highlighted that, for the first time in JNTUH's 54-year history, a woman from the Backward Classes (BC) community has been elevated to the post. Furthermore, she hails from the Palamuru region—the constituency represented by the current Chief Minister.

"No other university has made such a progressive decision," a joint press note issued by the staff stated. "Yet, instead of appreciating this historic move, attempts are being made to remove her just 45 days after she assumed office."

Defense of University Autonomy

Flouting traditional protocols, the government's recent maneuvers have drawn sharp criticism from faculty members who argue that university autonomy is being severely compromised.

According to university statutes, while the state government holds the authority to appoint the Vice-Chancellor, the power to select all other internal administrative officials—including the Registrar—rests solely with the VC. The staff passed several key resolutions demanding an immediate end to bureaucratic overreach:

Respect for Seniority: Faculty noted that the previous Registrar served a full two-year tenure plus a four-month extension. They argued the current VC followed standard, time-honored practices by appointing the new Registrar based strictly on seniority, qualifications, and merit.

Freedom of Decision-Making: The forum urged the Higher Education Department to grant the VC complete administrative freedom, warning that political interference would hinder the university's core functioning.

Threat of Mass Resignation

The emergency coalition made it clear that they are prepared to take drastic measures if the Higher Education Department ignores their appeal.

"We are urging officials to protect JNTUH's reputation and prioritize the welfare of students and faculty," the press release read. "However, if the government's interference continues and our appeal is ignored, all individuals currently holding administrative positions in the university are prepared to submit mass resignations."

With the staff standing firmly behind the Vice-Chancellor, the ball is now in the government's court. Higher Education Department officials have yet to issue an official response to the ultimatum.

Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in life, Strengthen What Works

(01 - 07 August on the occasion of "World Breastfeeding Week")

Scientific studies have proven that breastfeeding is the only way to ensure the lifelong health of the baby, as well as the health of the mother and the health of the community. Breastfeeding, which not only reduces the costs of child health care, but also contributes to the overall development of the child and the economic well-being of the community, serves as a nutritious food for infants. To create awareness about the importance of breast milk, it has become a tradition to organize "World Breastfeeding Week" in the first week of August 01-07 every year. The theme of World Breastfeeding Week-2026 is "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in life, Strengthen What Works". Breast milk not only begins the child's lifelong, inseparable, and sacred love with the mother, but it also helps the baby develop all of its body organs in the early days, providing immeasurable health benefits to the mother as well.

Breastfeeding has many Benefits for both Mother and Baby:

Breast milk acts as a lifelong protective shield against many diseases while acting as an nectar for the growth of the baby. Breast milk has many benefits for the baby, such as providing all the nutrients required for the baby's growth, brain development, strengthening immunity, preventing long-term health problems, easy digestion of food, and easy absorption of digested food. It provides benefits such as physical health of the breastfed baby as well as the breastfeeding mother, preventing diseases like ovarian cancer/BP/heart disease/diabetes, controlling the mother's body weight, and establishing an indescribable and sacred bond of love with the baby.

Tips for first-time mothers:

Immediately after the birth of a newborn baby, the baby should be given mother's milk as a nutritious food. Breast milk should be given only when the baby needs it. Breastfeeding should not be done at the wrong time. Breast milk should be observed. Even if breastfeeding feels uncomfortable, it should not be considered painful. It should be ensured that the baby is getting enough milk. Mothers should take adequate rest after breastfeeding. In case of any doubt, they should not hesitate to consult a doctor immediately. Adequate facilities should be provided to mothers in the family, offices and workplaces and support staff should be appointed.

Mothers should stop having unnecessary feelings that breastfeeding will reduce their physical beauty. They should know that nothing is more important than the health of the baby and the mother. They should be prepared to breastfeed for at least one to two years, realizing that breastfeeding benefits the health of the baby as well as the mother. Mothers should believe that breastfeeding will act as a long-term medicine for the health of tomorrow's generation.

- PROF : BURRA MADHUSUDHAN REDDY
9949700037

BLOs Felicitated Grandly with Sarees and Shawls

SURYAPET , JULY 31

BLOs (Booth Level Officers) who made dedicated efforts during the SIR process by personally meeting every voter, collecting their details, and ensuring that every eligible citizen gets the right to vote were felicitated grandly on Friday at various Gram Panchayat offices across the mandal.

The felicitation programme was conducted under the instructions of AICC Member Rammireddy Sarvottam Reddy by SIR Programme In-charge and District Congress Working President Abdul Raheem, along with District Vice-President Kuntla Venkata Nagi Reddy.

Under the leadership of Block Congress President and SIR Congress Mandal In-charge Dandi Ramesh, the programme was held in Solipet, Ramachandrapuram, Ratnapuram, Ramaram, Dubba Thanda, Sapavath Thanda, Raju Naik Thanda and Tekumatla villages.

As a gesture of respect similar to the traditional presentation of a saree to a daughter of the family, every woman BLO who worked hard and successfully completed the voter registration process with 100 per cent results during the SIR programme was honoured with a saree and shawl.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders expressed special gratitude to Mandal Congress President Gopal Reddy for continuously coordinating with Congress BLAs and party leaders and extending cooperation to ensure that the SIR process was carried out with 100 per cent transparency and efficiency at all polling booths in the mandal.

They also appreciated the cooperation extended by Congress party sarpanches and leaders in providing the required information promptly.

Sarpanch Thatipamula Sudheer, Deputy Sarpanches Gattu Jyothi Srinivas, Uyyala Adinarayana, Dasari Srinivas, Chinta Keshavulu and Nakka Lingaiah, along with BLOs, Congress party leaders and activists, participated in the programme.

e-Courts Project Strengthens Digital Judiciary

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner across the country with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. Various ICT-enabled initiatives, including the Case Information System (CIS) 4.0, e-Filing, e Payments, Video Conferencing, Virtual Courts, Digital Case Records, National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), eSewa Kendras, National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), the eCourts Services Portal and Mobile App, and other citizen-centric digital services, have been implemented across the High Courts and District Courts in a phased manner. The e-Filing system is an end-to-end digital platform for the online filing of cases, written statements, replies and other related applications. As on 30.06.2026, the Rules for e-Filing have been implemented in 25 High Courts, including the High Court of Uttarakhand and the District Courts under its jurisdiction. As on 30.06.2026, a total of 1.25 crore cases have been filed through the e-Filing system across the country.

DK Shivakumar Postpones Meeting Amid Cauvery Row

DK Shivakumar postponed his proposed meeting with C Joseph Vijay after the CWMA order on Cauvery water release. Karnataka will seek legal advice, hold consultations and press for peace as tensions rise.

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday announced the postponement of his proposed meeting with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, saying the atmosphere was not conducive following the latest developments in the Cauvery water dispute. The decision came a day after the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's direction asking Karnataka to ensure a daily flow of 3,500 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days. Addressing the press in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said the Karnataka government would first consult legal experts and take opposition parties into confidence before deciding its next course of action. "We have been requesting the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that we should meet at a cordial time. Let these court issues be over. We have to respect the law of this country. We will have a meeting in a more cordial atmosphere," he said.

'NEED CONSENSUS BEFORE TAKING DECISION'

Shivakumar said the Karnataka government would challenge the order but stressed that any decision would be taken only after wider consultations. "The stand of the Karnataka government is that I have to take my opposition party leaders into confidence. I have to seek legal advice, and then I will take a call after discussing it with them," he said. He noted that the CWMA had directed Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of water and reiterated that safeguarding drinking water remained the state's foremost priority. "As far as drinking water is concerned, there will be no problem in the coming year. We require around 40 TMC of water, including nearly 36 TMC for drinking purposes and another 4 TMC for evaporation and other needs," he said.

Shivakumar added that Karnataka's legal team and officials had made every effort to present the state's case before the Authority.

MEETING DEFERRED AFTER TAMIL NADU REQUEST

The Karnataka Chief Minister said the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Office had approached Karnataka seeking a meeting to discuss various issues, and August 3 had initially been fixed after the request was accepted.

However, he said the latest order on the Cauvery dispute had changed the situation.

"After today's order, I feel the atmosphere is not right. I have requested the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to defer the visit for some time so that we can meet in a cool, calm and cordial atmosphere in the best interest of both states," Shivakumar said.

He maintained that Karnataka respected the Supreme Court's directions on the Cauvery issue. He also does not intend to violate any legal order reiterating that the proposed Mekedatu reservoir project would benefit both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

APPEAL FOR PEACE AMID HEIGHTENED TENSIONS

With tensions rising following the Authority's decision, Shivakumar appealed to organisations not to call for a bandh and urged people to maintain peace.

This is a peace-loving state. Let us protect everyone's lives," he said.

Authorities have meanwhile stepped up security across parts of Bengaluru as a precaution.

Sampige Theatre cancelled all shows of Vijay's Jana Nayagan scheduled for Friday, while staff removed or covered posters of actor Vijay to prevent any untoward incidents. Srirampura Police intensified patrolling in the area, deploying additional personnel in neighbourhoods with a sizeable Tamil-speaking population to maintain law and order.

The Karnataka government has also convened an all-party meeting on Sunday to deliberate on the Cauvery dispute and formulate the state's response to the water-sharing order.

Parents Protest Open Sewer Near Government School

No Action Despite Six Months of Complaints; Alleged Yamuna Pollution Raises Serious Environmental Concerns

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand: Students, parents and the school administration of PM SHRI Atal Utkrisht Government Inter College, Kharadi, have expressed strong resentment over the alleged discharge of hotel sewage through an open drainage line passing across the school campus and into the Yamuna River. Despite repeated written and verbal complaints to the district administration, no concrete action has been taken for over six months.

According to the school administration and members of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), several hotels located along the Yamunotri National Highway have laid sewer lines through the school premises. The pipelines are reportedly leaking at several points, creating unhygienic conditions and foul odour across the campus. Teachers and hundreds of students are said to be facing serious inconvenience due to the persistent stench and unsanitary environment. Parents have further alleged that the untreated sewage is being discharged into a nearby stream, which ultimately flows into the Yamuna River, posing a serious threat to the environment and public health. The issue was formally raised during a public grievance camp held on January 23, where a written complaint was submitted to Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya, seeking immediate intervention. Although directions for action were reportedly issued at the time, the complainants claim that no visible progress has been made. Similar representations were also submitted to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Barkot, but the problem continues unabated.

Parents, including Sanjay Rawat, Janak Singh, Sobendra Singh, Gurudev Chauhan, Naresh Rawat, Kailash Rana and Suman Bharti, said the unhygienic conditions are adversely affecting the health and education of students. They warned that if the authorities fail to act promptly, parents and students will be compelled to launch a peaceful protest.

Principal Suman Rana confirmed that multiple hotel sewer lines pass through the school campus. She said repeated requests had been made to hotel operators to relocate the pipelines, but no action had been taken. The matter has also been brought to the notice of higher authorities.

Responding to the allegations, Barkot SDM Brijesh Kumar Tiwari said the matter would be investigated and that strict action would be taken against any hotel operator found to have illegally laid sewer lines through the school premises in violation of the rules.

APEDA Facilitates First-Ever Air Shipment of Karnataka's Neelam and Totapuri Mangoes to the Maldives

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has facilitated the first-ever air shipment of Neelam and Totapuri mangoes from Karnataka to the Maldives. Flagged off on 30 July 2026, the export marks a significant milestone in promoting Karnataka's late-season mango varieties in international markets and further strengthening India's mango export basket.

The consignment was flagged off by Chairman, APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev, IAS, who appreciated the collective efforts of the exporter, the Farmer Producer Company (FPC), farmers and all stakeholders involved in making the shipment possible. He noted that such initiatives enhance market access for Indian mangoes, create new export opportunities for late-season varieties and contribute to sustainable income growth for farmers. The export consignment, comprising one metric tonne of Neelam and Totapuri mangoes, was sourced directly from farmers associated with M/s Prakruthimaya Farmers Producer Company Ltd., KGF Taluk, Kolar district, Karnataka. The shipment was exported by Mrs. Ashwini A, Director of M/s Ahalya Devi Ventures, a newly registered woman entrepreneur and exporter, highlighting the growing participation of women entrepreneurs in India's agri-export ecosystem.

Neelam mango is widely appreciated for its sweet, juicy pulp, rich aroma and suitability for desserts, smoothies and beverages. Totapuri mango is known for its distinctive shape, sweet-tangy flavour and versatility for both fresh consumption and processing. Harvested from late June to the end of July, these late-season varieties offer an opportunity to extend India's mango export season and cater to international demand beyond the peak harvest period. The air shipment highlights the growing export potential of Karnataka's horticulture sector and demonstrates how Farmer Producer Companies are playing an important role in connecting farmers with global markets through organised aggregation, quality produce and export-oriented supply chains. Farmers associated with the Farmer Producer Company realised over 50 per cent higher returns through this export initiative compared to conventional market channels. The achievement underscores the value of direct procurement, export market linkages and organised aggregation in enhancing farmers' incomes while encouraging wider adoption of export-oriented cultivation practices.

The World has Become a Global Village with the World Wide Web

(01 August on the occasion of "World Wide Web Day")

The world has become connected to the Internet. In 1989, computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee proposed the revolutionary "World Wide Web (WWW)", made it available to the public in August 1991, and made it freely accessible since 1993. With the advent of the World Wide Web, the world has come to our fingertips. A vast amount of knowledge is at our fingertips. The information we need is visible before our eyes with just a click. The role played by the Internet and the World Wide Web in connecting humanity is unique. The role of the World Wide Web in enabling benefits such as social media platforms, information gathering, skill development, entertainment industry, e-business, hypertext, graphics, audio video, multimedia, and online wonders is unique.

World Wide Web Day:

To promote this cutting-edge invention, it has become a tradition to officially observe "World Wide Web Day" or "World Web Day" on August 1st every year to mark the invention of the web. The theme of World Web Day-2026 is "Energy-Aware Web and AI Systems for Sustainability". With the invention of the World Wide Web, information distribution, commerce, and knowledge acquisition have become much easier for humanity. Between 1991 and 2004, there was a Web 1.0 version, and today the Web 2.0 version is in use. Modern man is immersed in the web and the internet. With the advent of smartphones, the internet has entered the doorsteps of even the most common people. We are seeing youth and children falling prey to internet addiction due to excessive use. With the advent of the internet, the world's knowledge has been placed in the palm of our hands. Although the internet has countless benefits, if we are not careful with it, we are also experiencing many dangerous losses. Netizens using the internet have had negative experiences, cyberbullying, insults, illegal uses, and vulgar and insulting words in many cases, so there is a need to create awareness about safe internet.

Unite and Enjoy the Benefits of the Web Safely:

Since 2004, every year on 10 February, countries around the world have observed "Safer Internet Day" or "Safer Internet Day" to raise awareness about the ways to use the Internet safely, as it has become a must to use the Internet with minimum knowledge and proper precautions. In today's society, there is a need to educate the public and students on how to use the Internet safely in schools, families, relatives, friends, communities, and civil societies. We should practice speaking respectfully online, using it with good behavior, showing empathy, and refraining from harmful actions. The theme of Safer Internet Day-2026 is "Let's build a safer Internet together."

Major Online Scams Plaguing Netizens:

Many dangerous situations are being faced with the indiscriminate use of the World Wide Web and the Internet. The main misuses of the web and the Internet include cyberbullying, online financial fraud, phishing scam, data breach, unauthorized intrusions, malware, online gaming, misuse of personal information, online predators, sexting, ransomware, cybercrimes, online betting fraud, online debt harassment, digital arrests, and theft and harassment of personal information. It has become inevitable to be careful about many issues such as these. If you are not aware of these, you will have to face many complications.

These advanced connectivity processes provided to us by the creators of the World Wide Web should make our lives better. We should be aware that they can be fatal if misused and take appropriate precautions.There is no point in complaining after being cheated. Let us take precautions and learn to use the Internet safely and enjoy the Internet safely. Let us make the most of the online fraudsters who are trying to commit frauds and fall victim to them.

Godavari Floods Intensify

Minister Ponguleti Orders Immediate Precautionary Measures

HYDERABAD:

In view of the rising flood levels of the Godavari River at Bhadrachalam due to continuous heavy rainfall, Telangana's Revenue, Housing, Information & Public Relations Minister, Mr. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, has directed officials to take all necessary precautionary measures to ensure the safety of people living in the Godavari river basin. On Friday evening, the Minister spoke over the phone with Khammam District Collector T.S. Divakara and instructed him to continuously monitor the flood situation. With the Godavari water level rising rapidly at Bhadrachalam, he directed officials to alert residents in riverbank and low-lying areas and involve public representatives in the preparedness and response efforts.

The Minister emphasized that protecting human lives should be the highest priority. He instructed the district administration to keep all arrangements ready for the evacuation of people from flood-prone villages to safer locations, if necessary. He also directed officials to ensure that rehabilitation centers are equipped with essential facilities, including safe drinking water, food, medical care, electricity, and sanitation. He further instructed the district administration, Revenue Department, Police, Fire Services, NDRF, and SDRF teams to work in close coordination and continuously monitor the evolving situation. Officials were asked to issue timely warnings and create awareness among the public to remain vigilant and avoid any negligence. As reservoirs continue to receive heavy inflows, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to closely monitor dam and project conditions, provide advance warnings to downstream residents, and take all necessary precautionary measures. Mr. Ponguleti appealed to people living in the Godavari river basin to strictly follow official instructions, remain alert, and avoid believing rumors. He assured that the state government is closely monitoring the situation and will take every necessary step to safeguard lives and property. During the review, Khammam District Collector T.S. Divakara informed the Minister that, due to relentless heavy rains, the Godavari River at Bhadrachalam has reached a critical stage, prompting the issuance of the third flood warning. He said the river's water level had risen to 48 feet by the afternoon due to massive inflows from upstream, and that 1,144,507 cusecs of water were being released downstream.

Allahabad HC Restores 2022 Principal Appointments

LUCKNOW:

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday set aside a single-judge bench order quashing appointments of school principals made pursuant to the 2013 recruitment advertisement, thereby restoring the appointments finalised in 2022. A division bench of Justice Rajan Roy and Justice Manjive Shukla allowed the special appeals filed by Shyam Shankar Upadhyay and others, as well as the Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Services Selection Board, Prayagraj. The recruitment process for the posts of principals had commenced with advertisement number three issued in 2013. However, the selection process remained pending for nearly nine years before appointments were finalised in 2022.

Odisha floods worsen as Mahanadi river swells, over 7 lakh affected in 20 districts

With the Mahanadi and its tributaries swelling after heavy inflows into the Hirakud reservoir, Odisha faced fresh flooding in several areas despite a 24-hour break in rainfall, with over seven lakh people affected, three deaths reported and nearly 1.9 lakh evacuated.

Heavy discharge from the Hirakud Dam after heavy rain in the upper catchment has swollen the Mahanadi and inundated low-lying areas, affecting more than seven lakh people in 20 of the state's 30 districts. The rise in the river's level has also caused several tributaries to swell, worsening the flood situation. Officials said the absence of rain over the past 24 hours in the state and the upper catchment areas has brought some relief. Even so, fresh breaches in embankments have led to flooding in new areas, as authorities stepped up evacuation, rescue and relief measures. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, who reviewed the flood situation, said 14 gates of the Hirakud Dam had been opened, discharging over two lakh cusec of water because of heavy inflow from the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh. Earlier, only two gates were open. "The water will take around 36 to 40 hours to reach Mundali near Cuttack," the minister said. By Friday morning, the water level in the reservoir stood at 623.52 feet against its full storage capacity of 630 feet. The dam was receiving around 3,69,322 cusecs of water per second, while about 65,543 cusecs were being released downstream. Pujari said more than eight lakh cusecs of water at Mundali should be discharged within 36 hours to make space for the excess water being released from Hirakud. "It is a big respite that there is no rain across the state since the past 24 hours in the state and also in upper catchment areas," the minister said. Pujari said some areas in Cuttack, Puri, Khurda and Jagatsinghpur districts had been inundated and that all preparations were being made to reduce people's suffering. He said the state was operating 520 relief centres in the northern and coastal regions, with provisions for around two lakh people, and added that around 1.90 lakh people had so far been evacuated to safety. Special Relief Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil said the recent flood had affected over seven lakh people in 20 of the state's 30 districts. He said 136 rescue teams of the NDRF, ODRAF and fire services had been deployed in various districts. The rise in the Mahanadi's water level has caused its tributaries — the Luna, Karandia, Chitrotpala, Paika, Salia, Devi, Kandala, Kuakhai, Kushabhadra, Daya and Bhargavi — to swell, he said, adding that three people had died in flood-related incidents. Officials said the leave of all government employees in the affected 20 districts had been cancelled and public access to barrages and embankments had been restricted. Devotees were barred from visiting the Dhabaleswar Shiv Temple in Cuttack district for 48 hours. The Water Resources Department said water levels in the Baitarani, Brahmani, Jalaka and Budhabalanga had receded, but fresh breaches of embankments had inundated new areas.

The flood situation remained serious as water released from Hirakud moved downstream, affecting several districts and swelling the Mahanadi's tributaries. With no fresh rain over the past day, the focus remains on evacuation, relief and managing water flow at vulnerable points.

Odisha govt panel to probe into circulation of photos of medical PG exam paper on social media

BHUBANESWAR/BERHAMPUR: The Odisha government on Friday formed a three-member committee to conduct an inquiry into the alleged circulation of photographs of a question paper for the state medical postgraduate examination on a social media platform while the test was underway. According to an order, Health and Family Welfare Department Additional Secretary BK Dash will head the panel, which will probe into the alleged malpractice in the postgraduate exam conducted by the Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS), Bhubaneswar.

EDITORIAL

Agriculture in an Uncertain Climate

The arrival of the monsoon has once again brought relief to large parts of India, replenishing reservoirs, reviving agricultural activity, and lifting the spirits of millions of farmers. Yet, the joy of a good spell of rain is tempered by a growing reality: climate uncertainty has become the defining challenge for Indian agriculture. The pattern of rainfall is increasingly erratic, with prolonged dry spells interrupted by intense cloudbursts, making farming less predictable than ever before.

Agriculture remains the backbone of rural India, supporting nearly half the country's workforce while contributing significantly to food security and economic stability. However, this vital sector is among the most vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures, shifting monsoon patterns, recurring droughts, floods, and unseasonal rainfall have begun to alter crop cycles, reduce yields, and increase production risks. The consequences are not confined to farmers alone; they extend to food prices, rural livelihoods, and the broader economy. Recent rainfall has undoubtedly brought welcome relief to many regions that were bracing for drought-like conditions. Reservoir levels have improved, sowing operations have accelerated, and hopes for a healthy kharif season have risen. But these short-term gains should not create complacency. Climate models indicate that weather extremes are likely to become more frequent, demanding a transition from reactive measures to long-term resilience.

Building climate-resilient agriculture requires a comprehensive approach. Water management must be the first priority. Every monsoon should be viewed as an opportunity to recharge groundwater, restore tanks, strengthen watershed development, and expand micro-irrigation systems. Efficient use of every drop of water will determine the sustainability of farming in many regions facing increasing water stress. Equally important is the promotion of climate-resilient farming practices. Crop diversification can reduce dependence on water-intensive crops while improving farm incomes. The adoption of drought-tolerant and flood-resistant seed varieties, precision farming technologies, and improved weather forecasting can help farmers make informed decisions. Digital platforms that provide real-time advisories on weather, pests, and market conditions should become accessible to even the smallest cultivators. Risk management also deserves greater attention. Crop insurance schemes need quicker claim settlements, wider coverage, and greater transparency to earn farmers' confidence. Institutional credit must be strengthened so that cultivators are not pushed into cycles of indebtedness following crop failures. Investment in agricultural research, extension services, and rural infrastructure will further equip farmers to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Governments, research institutions, and the private sector must work together to ensure that climate adaptation reaches the village level. Policies should reward sustainable farming practices, encourage efficient resource use, and support innovations that reduce environmental stress while improving productivity. Climate uncertainty is no longer a distant concern; it is an everyday reality for India's farmers. The challenge is not merely to produce more food but to build an agricultural system capable of withstanding increasingly unpredictable weather. A resilient agriculture sector is essential not only for farmers' welfare but also for national food security and economic stability. The true measure of success will lie not in celebrating a single good monsoon, but in ensuring that Indian agriculture remains productive and sustainable through every season, regardless of what the climate brings.

THE SIGNATURE OF A LIFE

We are all born into time.
Only a few learn to outlive it.

Birth is Nature's first whisper.
Life is Time's unfinished page.
Do not merely write upon it;
engrave it with your deeds.
For that alone becomes the
Signature of a Life.

Not every seed buried in the
earth becomes a banyan. Only
the one that surrenders itself
to darkness, breaks its shell,
and reaches for light.

Not every river becomes
history. Only the river that
gives itself away becomes the
lifeblood of civilizations.

Not every stone becomes a
masterpiece. Only the one
that embraces the sculptor's
chisel.

Coal never cursed its crush-
ing burden. It embraced the
pressure, and awakened as a
diamond. So must we.

Do not fear adversity. Let pain
become purpose. Let sweat
become scripture. Let failure
become your foundation.
Then your life will cease to be
an existence and become an
inspiration.

A mirror reveals the face.
Character reveals the soul.
Beauty wins admiration.
Integrity wins eternity.

Imitation creates echoes.
Originality creates horizons.
The crowd follows roads.
Visionaries become roads.

A lamp burns for others. A
river flows for others. A tree
bears fruit for others. So does
a life of greatness. It spends
itself becoming hope for
strangers, strength for the
weary, and light for genera-
tions yet unborn.

Your name is given at birth.
Your honour is earned
through conduct. Your legacy
is written through character.

Walk until fear loses its voice.
Speak until truth finds its
echo. Live until compassion
becomes your language.

And when your final breath
becomes the wind, let your
values remain the compass
for those who continue the
journey.

For time may erase your foot-
prints. It may even forget your
name. But it can never erase a
life written not in ink, but in
integrity; not in applause, but
in service; not in possessions,
but in purpose.

The body returns to dust. The
breath returns to silence. But
character takes root in human
hearts, blooms across genera-
tions, and becomes the quiet
light by which the future finds
its way.

The greatest monument is
never carved in stone. It is
carved in human hearts.

And that is the Signature of
a Life—the only masterpiece
time cannot fade, history can-
not bury, and death cannot
erase.

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

THE CULTURE OF PROTEST: RIGHTS MUST BE MATCHED BY RESPONSIBILITY

India's democracy is not merely an electoral system; it is a vibrant framework of dialogue, dissent, and constitutional values. Within this democratic order, every citizen has the right to express their views and present their demands peacefully. The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. However, these rights can never be construed as a license for violence, lawlessness, destruction of public property, or attacks on security personnel. The greatest strength of democracy lies in its ability to accommodate dissent with dignity, but dissent, too, carries its own limits and responsibilities.

In recent years, certain protests have raised a serious question: can democratic rights be invoked to justify challenging the rule of law and public order? If a demonstration involves breaking police barricades, assaulting law enforcement personnel, damaging public property, or attempting to forcibly march towards the nation's highest democratic institution—the Parliament—it is unreasonable to expect the government and security agencies to remain passive spectators. The State's foremost responsibility is to safeguard its citizens and protect constitutional institutions.

The Supreme Court's refusal to impose a complete ban on the use of pellet guns, while observing that they may be employed under exceptional circumstances, reflects this balanced approach. The Court did not endorse the unrestricted use of force; rather, it acknowledged that the State must retain the necessary means to maintain law and order. If every effective tool is taken away from security forces, how can they control violent mobs? This is a question that concerns not only the government but society as a whole.

This, however, does not imply that the police or security agencies should be vested with unlimited powers. In a democracy, every action of the State is subject to judicial scrutiny and public accountability. If force has been used excessively in any instance, there must be an impartial investigation, and those responsible should be held accountable. Such inquiries, however, must be based on facts rather than preconceived notions. Just as the grievances and suffering of protesters deserve to be heard, the injuries sustained by police officers and security personnel also merit equal attention and seriousness.

Today, there is an urgent need to reassess the culture of protest in India. During the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi established the tradition of Satyagraha, where moral courage was the greatest weapon. Satyagraha embodied resistance without hatred, struggle without violence, determination without disorder, and conviction without chaos. Regrettably, some contemporary protests have replaced dialogue with confrontation, restraint with aggression, and reason with the power of the crowd. This is not a healthy trend for a democratic society.

The younger generation must understand that lasting democratic change is not achieved by throwing stones on the streets but through ideas, organization, public awareness, and constitutional processes. If every disagreement is allowed to escalate into violence, it is the youth—on whose behalf many movements claim to speak—who will ultimately suffer the most. Democracy is sustained not by emotions alone, but by discipline, responsibility, and respect for constitutional values.

Even if one assumes that anti-social or violent elements infiltrated a protest organized by a political party or its supporters and attempted to steer it towards anarchy, the government's primary duty remains the protection of law and order, constitutional institutions, and the safety of ordinary citizens. Administrative intervention undertaken in a timely manner—even if it results in some unfortunate incidents—may be viewed in the broader context of preventing widespread disorder and protecting national institutions from potential harm. At the same time, it is equally expected in a democratic system that the Opposition, while representing public sentiment, should unequivocally distance itself from violence and vandalism, drawing a clear distinction between supporting legitimate demands and condemning unlawful acts. Democracy is strengthened only when the government upholds the rule of law, the Opposition acts responsibly, and public protests remain firmly within constitutional and peaceful boundaries.

Political parties, too, bear a vital responsibility in this regard. Every political organization has an obligation to channel public sentiment in a constructive direction. If any party or its supporters encourage violence, vandalism, or the taking of law into their own hands during protests, its democratic credibility naturally comes under question. The role of the Opposition is not merely to oppose the government but also to present constructive alternatives. When mass movements are exploited solely for political gain by any side, it is democracy itself that ultimately suffers. Governments, for their part, must also engage in introspection regarding the circumstances that give rise to public anger. The doors to dialogue should always remain open. Transparent decision-making, timely communication, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms can prevent many protests from escalating into confrontation. Democratic governance is not simply about enforcing laws; it is equally about earning the trust and confidence of the people.

Looking ahead, certain guiding principles should be firmly established. Every large-scale protest should require prior permission, adherence to designated routes, and clearly defined accountability on the part of organizers. Adequate measures must be taken to protect public property, ensure the prompt identification of those responsible for violence, and guarantee impartial legal action against offenders. Simultaneously, police forces should receive continuous training in modern crowd-management techniques based on scientific methods and the principle of minimum necessary force. Such measures would help achieve a more effective balance between protecting civil liberties and maintaining public order. The true beauty of democracy does not lie in the loudness of slogans but in the depth and sincerity of dialogue. Parliament is the supreme institution representing the aspirations of the people. Every citizen and every group has the right to have their voice heard by Parliament. However, attempting to coerce or besiege Parliament undermines democratic traditions. In a democracy, the will of the people to be expressed through constitutional processes is supreme—not the rule of the mob.

Today, as India advances not only as the world's largest democracy but also as an aspiring global leader, it must cultivate a culture of protest that serves as an example for the world. Our movements should become instruments for improving the system, not dismantling it. Our demonstrations should strengthen democratic consciousness rather than deepen divisions. Ultimately, we must remember that rights and duties are two sides of the same coin. Rights can be meaningfully protected only when duties are discharged with equal sincerity. If protests remain within the framework of constitutional values and peaceful conduct, governments, too, will become more accountable, and democracy will emerge stronger. India needs movements that inspire reform rather than disruption; that teach young people responsibility instead of extremism; and that place the national interest above partisan considerations, thereby paving the way for a more mature, disciplined, inclusive, and people-centric democracy.

LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

NO GIFT IS GREATER THAN A MOTHER; NO ELIXIR EQUALS BREAST MILK

A mother's first embrace gives a child comfort, but her first gift gives life itself. Breast milk is nature's perfect nourishment—rich in nutrition, immunity, and protection that no manufactured substitute can match. As the world observes World Breastfeeding Week (August 1–7), the message extends far beyond infant feeding. It is a reminder that breastfeeding is one of the simplest, safest, and most cost-effective investments in public health, requiring not only a mother's commitment but the unwavering support of families, workplaces, healthcare systems, and society as a whole.

"No gift is greater than a mother. No elixir equals breast milk." Few truths capture motherhood more profoundly. After nurturing a child for nine months, a mother's first gift is her milk—a gift that nourishes, protects, and shapes a lifetime of health. It is the child's first bond with the mother and the first investment in a healthier society.

Observed every year from August 1 to 7, World Breastfeeding Week reminds the world that breastfeeding is not solely a mother's responsibility but a shared social commitment. The 2026 theme, "Breastfeeding for a sustainable start in life: Strengthen what works," calls for stronger support systems that enable every mother to breastfeed successfully. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare unanimously recommend breast milk as the ideal food for every newborn.

Breast milk is far more than nutrition. It is a living food uniquely designed for human infants, providing the exact balance of nutrients, enzymes, hormones, and antibodies needed for healthy growth. It protects babies against pneumonia, diarrhoea, sepsis, allergies, asthma, ear infections, and other infectious diseases while promoting healthy brain development and reducing the lifetime risk of obesity and type-2 diabetes. No manufactured formula can replicate this remarkable biological protection.

The first hour after birth is often called the golden hour because early breastfeeding saves lives. The thick yellowish first milk, colostrum (murra paalu), is rich in immune cells and antibodies that provide a newborn's earliest defence against disease. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months supplies nearly all the nutrition and hydration an infant requires. Since breast milk is about 87 percent water, babies below six months need no additional drinking water, even in hot weather. After six months, complementary foods should begin while breastfeeding continues up to two years or beyond.

Yet the world continues to underuse one of its simplest and most effective health interventions. Only about 48 percent of infants under six months are exclusively breastfed worldwide, prompting the World Health Assembly to target at least 60 percent by 2030. The consequences of missing breastfeeding extend far beyond infancy, affecting immunity, nutrition, cognitive development, and long-term health.

Scientific evidence often loses ground to persistent myths. Normal spit-up after feeding is frequewntly mistaken for vomiting. Many families believe babies need water during summer, formula is superior to breast milk, or Caesarean delivery delays breastfeeding. None of these beliefs is medically valid. Babies below six months receive sufficient hydration from breast milk alone. Mothers recovering from Caesarean delivery should begin breastfeeding as soon as they are medically stable. Pregnancy does not necessarily require stopping breastfeeding, and normal hygiene—not repeated washing with soap—is sufficient before feeding. Equally important, breastfeeding mothers need nutritious diets rich in fruits, vegetables, pulses, milk, and other protein-rich foods to maintain their own health and support milk production.

Another misconception discourages some women from breastfeeding because they fear it may affect their appearance. Science says otherwise. Breastfeeding neither diminishes beauty nor femininity; it reflects the extraordinary strength of motherhood. At the same time, it benefits mothers by helping post-delivery recovery and reducing the risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and type-2 diabetes.

Successful breastfeeding depends not only on a mother's determination but also on the support surrounding her. Families, healthcare providers, employers, and governments all have vital roles to play. Working mothers, in particular, need adequate maternity leave, flexible work arrangements, childcare support, and breastfeeding-friendly workplaces. These are not welfare measures; they are investments in public health and human development.

India has enacted important protections through the Maternity Benefit Act, the Infant Milk Substitutes Act, and the National Food Security Act. Yet laws alone cannot transform behaviour. Sustained awareness, skilled counselling, and supportive communities are equally essential. Mothers need encouragement, privacy, adequate nutrition, rest, and dignity—not judgment.

Every child deserves the healthiest possible beginning in life, and every mother deserves the support to make that possible. Breastfeeding is not merely a personal choice; it is one of the world's most effective, equitable, and sustainable public-health interventions. No formula can reproduce its living nutrients or protective antibodies. When a society stands beside every breastfeeding mother, it does more than nourish a child—it strengthens the health, resilience, and future of an entire nation.

K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO

Prime Minister expresses grief over loss of lives due to building collapse in Thane

Prime Minister announces ex-gratia

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to the collapse of a building in Thane, Maharashtra.

The Prime Minister said that he was pained to hear about the tragic incident. He conveyed his thoughts to the bereaved families in this hour of grief and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The Prime Minister announced that an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000. In a post on X, the Prime Minister's Office said; "Pained to hear about the loss of lives due to the collapse of a building in Thane, Maharashtra. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. May the injured recover at the earliest. An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000: PM @narendramodi."

Ethanol Blending Programme Boosts Farmers, Food and Energy Security

Without ethanol blending, petrol would have cost around ₹125 per litre during the global oil price surge

The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme is a key national initiative to enhance India's energy security, reduce dependence on imported crude oil and support farmers while safeguarding food security. Certain recent claims have presented an incomplete and misleading picture of the programme. The following clarifications address these issues and set out the factual position.

Claim: The Government sold FCI rice worth ₹37/kg to distilleries at ₹23/kg, causing a loss of ₹10,000 crore. The Government has also admitted that ethanol is more expensive than petrol, so E20 survives only because taxpayers subsidise it.

No compromise on food security — ethanol never comes at the cost of the poor

- The allegation is not just misleading; it turns the truth on its head.
- Every food grain grain first serves the Public Distribution System (PDS), the National Food Security Act (NFSA), welfare schemes, and mandatory buffer stocks. Not a single grain procured at MSP is diverted to ethanol before India's food security is secured.
- Only the surplus, certified by the Department of Food & Public Distribution after every food security obligation has been met, is approved for ethanol production.
- What actually goes into the ethanol programme is the damaged grain, broken rice, and foodgrain unfit for human consumption—stocks that would otherwise rot in warehouses.
- This is not taking food away from the poor; it is turning waste into wealth, reducing imports, and putting more money into the hands of Indian farmers.
- And the programme is moving even further ahead. Through the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, India is rapidly expanding 2G (Second generation) ethanol from agricultural residue, reducing dependence on food grains altogether.
- The facts are clear: the Government protects every grain needed for food security first, and only then converts surplus and waste into clean energy. The claim isn't just wrong, it ignores the very safeguards that make India's ethanol programme one of the world's most responsible.

Rice was not given special treatment

- The claim creates the impression that FCI rice was sold to ethanol producers at an unusually cheap price. That is simply not true.
- FCI rice is just one of several approved raw materials used to make ethanol and its price is fixed under the same government pricing framework as every other feedstock.

The programme does not depend on rice. It uses whichever approved feedstock is available.

- In ESY 2023-24, FCI rice contributed virtually nothing—just 0.02% of ethanol production.
- By ESY 2025-26, its share increased to 24.64% only because surplus FCI stocks became available after all food security needs had been met.
- During the same period, maize's share declined from 42.6% to 35.96%, showing that producers simply switch between different feedstocks depending on availability.
- Ethanol is not built around cheap rice. It is built around a flexible mix of approved feedstocks, with FCI rice used only when certified surplus stocks are available after meeting every food security obligation.

The real question isn't whether ethanol is cheaper — it's whether India is better protected

- The real question is this: What would Indians have paid if there had been no ethanol blending when global oil prices surged?
- When the Indian crude basket surged to around US$135 per barrel, petrol without ethanol blending was projected to cost around ₹125 per litre in Delhi.
- Instead, consumers paid ₹94.77 per litre because 20% of every litre was domestically produced ethanol, procured at stable, pre-agreed prices that were insulated from the global crude price spike.
- The result? Nearly ₹30 per litre in savings at the pump during the peak of the crisis.
- That is the real value of ethanol blending. It is not about being the cheapest fuel every day. It is about protecting Indian consumers from extreme volatility in global oil markets, strengthening India's energy security, and keeping more of the country's fuel bill within the Indian economy rather than sending it overseas.
- The results of the program speak for themselves. The EBP Program has already delivered:
- More than ₹1.97 lakh crore in foreign exchange savings;
- Substitution of over 316 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil imports;
- Reduction of more than 950 lakh metric tonnes of CO_2 emissions; and
- Over ₹1.66 lakh crore in payments to farmers and distillers, creating a stable domestic market for agricultural produce.
- The purpose of ethanol blending is to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil, which still meets nearly 88% of our oil requirement. It is an insurance policy against global oil shocks and not a day-to-day price competition.

Ethanol blending isn't a taxpayer subsidy. It's India's energy insurance and it has already delivered when the crisis hit.

Haryana Governor pays floral tributes to Shaheed Udham Singh

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

Haryana Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh today paid floral tributes to Shaheed Udham Singh on the occasion of his martyrdom day at Lok Bhawan here. Paying homage to the great freedom fighter, Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh said that Shaheed Udham Singh's unparalleled courage, patriotism and supreme sacrifice for the nation continue to inspire generations. He described Shaheed Udham Singh as a symbol of unwavering determination and selfless service to the country.

The Governor said that the nation will always remain indebted to the sacrifices made by its brave freedom fighters. He urged the younger generation to draw inspiration from the life and ideals of Shaheed Udham Singh and contribute wholeheartedly towards nation-building while upholding the values of unity, integrity and patriotism.

Centre to support Chhattisgarh's infra push, accelerate development in Bastar: Shivraj Chouhan

NEW DELHI:

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said the Centre will extend all possible assistance to Chhattisgarh for expanding roads, housing and basic infrastructure in remote areas, with a special focus on accelerating development in Bastar. The assurance came during a meeting between Chouhan and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma at Krishi Bhawan here.

According to Chouhan, the meeting included discussions on agriculture, rural development, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the VB-GRAMG programme.

Outgoing Chief Engineer Neelmani Felicitated

GORAKHPUR, JULY 31, 2026

General Manager of North-Eeast Railway, Shri Uday Borvankar, felicitated the outgoing Principal Chief Engineer, Shri Neelmani, with a memento at a function held on July 31, 2026, in the General Manager's Conference Hall "Chaitanya" at Gorakhpur. Shri Neelmani has been transferred to the Railway Board as Additional Member (Planning). The General Manager extended his best wishes for his new assignment. The event was attended by Additional General Manager Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla and Heads of Departments.

On the occasion, General Manager Shri Uday Borvankar said that the Engineering Department plays a crucial role in ensuring railway safety, making the role of the Principal Chief Engineer particularly significant. He praised Shri Neelmani for discharging his responsibilities with great efficiency during his tenure as Principal Chief Engineer. He remarked that Shri Neelmani possesses a unique combination of humility and seriousness in his conduct. Shri Borvankar further noted that Shri Neelmani's remarkable focus and analytical abilities are qualities from which everyone can learn. He conveyed his best wishes to Shri Neelmani for his new assignment and also congratulated the newly appointed Principal Chief Engineer, Shri Tushar Kant Pandey, on assuming his responsibilities.

Earlier, Additional General Manager Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla described Shri Neelmani as a humble, dedicated, and hardworking officer. He said that Shri Neelmani has the unique ability to accomplish tasks calmly and gracefully while maintaining composure under all circumstances. He wished him success in his new role and good health.

Speaking on the occasion, outgoing Principal Chief Engineer Shri Neelmani shared his experiences from his tenure as Chief Vigilance Officer, Senior Deputy General Manager, and Principal Chief Engineer. He said that during his three-year tenure in Northeast Railway, he received complete coordination and cooperation from all departments, enabling the successful completion of projects with the highest standards of quality. He added that he consistently received valuable guidance from the General Manager in carrying out his responsibilities and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the support. During the programme, the Heads of Departments also shared their experiences of working with Shri Neelmani.

The event was conducted by Chief Public Relations Officer Shri Sumit Kumar.

One Officer and 19 Employees of BLW Accorded a Heartfelt Farewell on Retirement

Varanasi, July 31: A dignified farewell and felicitation ceremony was organized today, July 31, 2026, in the Hall of Fame at the Administrative Building at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) to honour one officer and nineteen employees who retired during the month of July 2026. The ceremony was presided over by General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant. At the outset, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Lalji Chaudhary welcomed the General Manager by presenting him with a sapling. In his welcome address, he appreciated the dedication, commitment and exemplary services rendered by all the retiring employees and wished them a bright and fulfilling future. In his presidential address, General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant remarked that retirement is not the end of a dedicated employee's journey but the beginning of a new and meaningful phase of life. Expressing gratitude for their long years of dedicated service, he conveyed his best wishes for their good health, happiness, prosperity and a joyful family life. Stressing the importance of a healthy and balanced lifestyle, he encouraged everyone to adopt regular exercise, a balanced diet and a positive outlook as the foundation of a healthy life. On this occasion, the General Manager felicitated the retiring officer and employees by presenting them with garlands and mementos. Those honoured included Assistant Financial Adviser Shri Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, Senior Section Officer Shri Ram Moorat Singh, SSE/M/D Shri Avadhesh Kumar, SSE/M/D Shri Suresh Vishwakarma, SSE (MCT) Shri S.K. Singh, SSE (MCT) Mohammad Mujammil Imadi, SSE (TR) Shri Nirmal Kumar Gupta, Chief Office Superintendent Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Office Superintendent Shri Sagir Ahmad Khan, Senior Technician Shri S.S. Dubey, Shri Ashok Kumar, Shri Munna Lal, Shri Shailesh Kumar, Shri Kailash Lal, Shri Bharat Prasad Singh, Shri Lalji, Shri Dhyan Pal Singh, Head Constable Shri Manik Chand, Constable Shri Om Prakash Singh, and Dresser-I Mohammad Sattar.Addressing the gathering, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shri Viveksheel, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Devaraj Kumar Maurya, Divisional Medical Officer Dr. Abdul Mabood, and Joint Secretary of the Staff Council Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav also lauded the valuable services of the retiring employees and extended their heartfelt wishes for a healthy, happy and fulfilling retired life. The retiring officer and employees also shared memories of their long years of service and said that BLW had been much more than just a workplace—it had been a family. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to their officers, colleagues and the entire BLW family, stating that the years spent at BLW would always remain among the most cherished memories of their lives. Among those present on the occasion were Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Manish Kumar, Principal Financial Adviser Shri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Chief Engineer Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr. Madhulika Singh, Deputy General Manager Shri Sagar, Assistant Personnel Officer (Headquarters) Shri Ram pravesh Yadav, Assistant Personnel Officer (Workshop) Shri Piyush Minj, Public Relations Officer Shri Rajesh Kumar, and Staff Council members Shri Amit Kumar, Shri Naveen Kumar Sinha, Shri Shrikant Yadav, Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, Shri Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and Shri Manish Kumar Singh, besides a large number of family members and colleagues of the retiring employees. The programme was conducted efficiently by Senior Personnel Officer (Headquarters) Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, who also delivered the vote of thanks.

MSCS Amendments Strengthen Depositor Protection

Cooperative Societies registered under the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002, function as autonomous cooperative organisations and are accountable to their members. The MSCS Act, 2002 provides for provisions related to inquiry, inspection, winding up of societies, appointment of liquidators, offences, penalties and cognizance of offences. Whenever a complaint discloses the commission of cognizable offences such as fraud, cheating or criminal breach of trust under the applicable laws, the matter is referred to the concerned State Police, Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or other competent investigating agencies, as the case may be, for investigation and prosecution in accordance with law. Recovery of the assets and realization of dues of societies under liquidation are undertaken by the Liquidator in accordance with the provisions of MSCS Act, 2002 and the applicable rules.

NFR's Bharat Scouts and Guides Extend Support &Camp

Helping Hands to Flood Affected FamiliesFlood Affected Families

MALIGAON, 31 JULY, 2026

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment towards humanitarian service and community welfare, the members of Northeast Frontier Railway's (NFR) Bharat Scouts and Guides have undertaken a special flood relief collection and distribution initiative to support people affected by the recent floods in Assam. As part of the campaign, a Flood Relief Collection & Distribution Booth was set up at its Headquarters in Maligaon, from 27 th to 31 st July, 2026. The relief collection drive was formally inaugurated on 27 th July, 2026 by the Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) of NFR, in the presence of other senior officers & officials along with members of the Bharat Scouts & Guides. The initiative witnessed wholehearted participation from railway staff/members, who generously contributed essential relief materials for the flood affected families. Taking the humanitarian effort beyond the collection drive, members of the NFR's Bharat Scouts & Guides, Mariani District Association, carried out relief distribution in the flood affected areas of Sibsagar and Jorhat districts. The team reached out to affected families with essential relief materials, extending timely assistance and moral support to those facing hardships due to the floods. The volunteers actively interacted with local residents and ensured that the relief reached the needy, reflecting the core values of the Scouts & Guides movement i.e. Service, Compassion and Selfless dedication to the society. NFR remains committed towards serving not only its passengers but also the communities across the region during times of need. The initiative by the NFR Bharat Scouts & Guides exemplifies the spirit of social responsibility and collective service, reinforcing the organisation's motto of extending support wherever it is required. Through such meaningful humanitarian endeavours, NFR continues to stand in solidarity with the people of the NE, contributing towards relief, rehabilitation and community resilience during such natural calamities.

Governor Urges Joint Efforts to Implement Forest Rights Act

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal 31July : Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel has said that the Forest Rights Act, 2006, is a significant commitment towards the welfare of tribal communities. He directed all concerned departments to ensure the effective implementation of the Act through coordinated efforts. He also instructed officials to seek the cooperation of local public representatives and citizens, wherever required, to ensure the effective implementation of the Act.

Governor Shri Patel was reviewing the implementation of Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights at a meeting held at Lok Bhavan on Thursday. Principal Secretary to the Governor, Dr. Navneet Mohan Kothari, was also present at the review meeting held in Sandipani Auditorium.

District-wise Review of Community Forest Resource Rights

Governor Shri Patel conducted a district-wise review of the implementation of Community Forest Resource Rights and sought detailed information on the recognition, conservation and management of community forest resources. He directed officials to ensure that all procedures prescribed under the Forest Rights Act are followed in accordance with its provisions and that the entire process is carried out in Gram Sabhas in a harmonious and transparent manner. The Governor also reviewed the progress of the Act in PESA villages. He emphasised the need to maintain complete transparency in the functioning of Gram Sabhas and in financial management. He further directed that officers responsible for financial management should be inspected periodically to ensure accountability.

Special Gram Sabhas on August 15 to Intensify Awareness Campaign

Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development, Smt. Deepali Rastogi, informed the Governor that the Forest Resource Rights campaign would be further intensified through Special Gram Sabhas to be held on August 15. Special awareness initiatives would be undertaken at the local level, and all departments associated with the implementation of the Act would work in coordination to ensure its effective implementation. Principal Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Shri Gulshan Bamra, gave a detailed presentation on the progress of forest rights implementation across the State. He explained the procedures prescribed under the Act and discussed region-specific requirements for its effective implementation. Principal Secretary, Forest, Shri Raghavendra Singh, informed the meeting that all pending matters relating to Community Forest Resource Rights would be expedited and completed at the earliest. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Tribal Cell Shri Deepak Khandekar, Principal Secretary, Revenue, Shri E. Ramesh Kumar, Secretary, Tribal Cell, Smt. Meenakshi Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Shri Shubharanjan Sen, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri Manoj Kumar Agrawal, and senior officers of the concerned departments.

34 DEAD IN DANGEROUS BORDER CROSSINGS

Spain Deploys Army to Ceuta After Massive Migrant Surge

CEUTA (SPAIN)

Spain has deployed its armed forces to the North African enclave of Ceuta after thousands of migrants crossed into the territory from neighbouring Morocco in one of the largest border breaches in recent years. The Spanish Interior Ministry said that more than 49,000 people crossed into Ceuta within the last 24 hours, overwhelming local authorities, stretching reception centres and reigniting debate over migration, border security and Spain's diplomatic ties with Morocco.

At least 34 people have died while attempting to reach the Spanish territory, most of them drowning as they tried to swim around the border barriers. Spanish authorities have rushed military reinforcements to the enclave, while the European Union has offered assistance to help restore order along the frontier.

The latest influx has also intensified political tensions across Europe. Italy has suggested the possibility of adopting "extraordinary measures" over concerns about the security of Europe's external borders, while Spanish officials have accused some European politicians of exploiting the crisis for domestic political gain.

Ceuta: Europe's Land Border with Africa

Ceuta is a small autonomous Spanish city located on the northern coast of Africa. Situated on a six-mile-long peninsula bordering Morocco, it lies just across the Strait of Gibraltar from mainland Spain.

Together with Melilla, another Spanish enclave further east, Ceuta forms the European Union's only land border with Africa. Although Ceuta has remained under Spanish control since 1580, Morocco continues to reject Spanish sovereignty over both Ceuta and Melilla, considering them occupied territories.

Why Ceuta Is a Major Migration Route

For thousands of migrants seeking entry into Europe, Ceuta represents one of the shortest and most accessible routes into European Union territory. Many migrants attempt to reach Ceuta by swimming around the heavily fortified border fences from nearby Moroccan towns such as Fnideq and Belyounech. Others try to climb over or cut through the double-layered border fence despite surveillance systems, security patrols and physical barriers. Those who successfully enter Ceuta can apply for asylum in Spain, although many are returned to Morocco under bilateral agreements between the two countries.

Thousands Enter Ceuta in Fresh Wave

The number of attempted crossings had been rising for several days before thousands of migrants entered Ceuta on Thursday. Many swam around the breakwaters separating Morocco from the Spanish enclave, while others reached local beaches using inflatable rings and flippers. Images from the area showed large crowds—mostly young men, but also women and children—arriving on foot after reaching Spanish territory. Authorities estimate that between 2,000 and 3,000 people crossed into Ceuta during the day, although officials have not confirmed an exact figure.

Death Toll Mounts

Despite the relatively short distance between Morocco and Ceuta, the crossing remains extremely dangerous. At least 34 migrants died while attempting to reach Ceuta, with most believed to have drowned. Strong sea currents, overcrowded crossing attempts and efforts to swim around border barriers have made the route particularly hazardous.

Spanish rescue teams have also carried out multiple operations to save migrants who became stranded in the water.

Spain Sends Military Reinforcements

The unprecedented scale of the influx quickly overwhelmed Ceuta's local authorities and security forces. Spain has deployed the armed forces to reinforce the Civil Guard, enhance naval and aerial surveillance and strengthen border security. Military diving teams have also been assigned to patrol waters surrounding the enclave. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is expected to visit Ceuta as the government seeks to restore control over the border.

Long-Running Dispute Between Spain and Morocco

Ceuta has remained a persistent source of diplomatic friction between Madrid and Rabat. The most serious recent crisis occurred in May 2021, when approximately 8,000 migrants entered Ceuta within two days after Morocco relaxed border controls. The move was widely viewed as retaliation against Spain for allowing the leader of the Western Sahara independence movement to receive medical treatment in a Spanish hospital. Relations between the two countries improved only after Spain revised its position on Western Sahara and expanded cooperation with Morocco on migration and border management.

What Triggered the Latest Surge?

Spanish authorities have not yet officially identified the reason behind this week's mass crossing. Officials have suggested that human trafficking networks may have encouraged migrants following a recent Supreme Court ruling stating that migrants intercepted at sea while attempting to reach Ceuta or Melilla cannot automatically be returned to Morocco. Some analysts have also pointed to possible diplomatic tensions between Spain and Morocco as a contributing factor, although no official evidence has been presented to support that claim.

Political Debate Intensifies

The latest arrivals have further deepened political divisions within Spain. Conservative and far-right opposition parties have accused Prime Minister Sánchez's government of failing to protect Spain's borders. Some have argued that recent proposals to regularise undocumented migrants may have encouraged more illegal crossings. The government has rejected those allegations, maintaining that restoring border security remains a priority while continuing to fulfil Spain's international obligations towards migrants and asylum seekers.

Europe Closely Monitoring the Situation

The developments in Ceuta have attracted close attention across Europe because the enclave represents one of the European Union's external frontiers. Italy has indicated that it could consider extraordinary measures, including reviewing certain aspects of the Schengen open-border system, arguing that uncontrolled migration presents a broader European security challenge. Spain has criticised such remarks, insisting that migration should not become a tool for domestic political debate and instead calling for greater European solidarity. The European Union has also offered assistance through Frontex, the bloc's border and coast guard agency.

Why Ceuta Matters

Although most migrants entering Spain now arrive through the Canary Islands or other Mediterranean routes, Ceuta remains one of the most strategically significant gateways into the European Union.

The latest mass crossing once again underscores the complex humanitarian, security and geopolitical challenges surrounding migration in the western Mediterranean. With dozens dead, thousands crossing the border and military forces deployed to restore order, the crisis has once again demonstrated how developments in Ceuta can rapidly evolve into a major issue for both Spain and the European Union.

Taslima Returns to Kolkata After 19 Years

KOLKATA, JULY 31

Bangladeshi author and human rights activist Taslima Nasreen returned to Kolkata on Friday after nearly 19 years, expressing happiness upon her arrival at the city airport. Speaking briefly to reporters, Nasreen said, "I'm feeling very good. Thank you all... thank you, everyone."

Nasreen, who has been living in exile since 1994 following threats over her writings, is visiting Kolkata at the invitation of Secular Mission, an organisation headed by Osman Gani Mallik.

Welcoming her at the airport, Mallik recalled that Nasreen had been compelled to leave Kolkata in 2007 following protests over her memoir Dwikhondito (Split into Two), published in 2003.

"Sister Taslima Nasreen was forced to leave Kolkata with a heavy heart in 2007. We protested then, and today we are happy to welcome our beloved writer back with dignity and respect," Mallik said.

He also thanked the West Bengal government for providing security during her visit, describing it as an important step in ensuring her safe return.

Earlier this month, Nasreen dismissed allegations that the BJP was responsible for facilitating her visit. In a post on X, she clarified that her invitation had come solely from Secular Mission. "The BJP is not bringing me to Kolkata. Nor is the Government of West Bengal. The state government is only providing security, which is its administrative responsibility whenever I visit any state, irrespective of which party is in power," she said.

Nasreen has remained one of South Asia's most prominent and controversial literary voices, advocating secularism, freedom of expression and women's rights. Her return to Kolkata marks her first visit to the city since her departure in 2007.

4 Bodies Found After Avalanche on Pakistan's Broad Peak

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani rescue teams have located the bodies of four climbers after an avalanche struck an expedition on Broad Peak in the Karakoram range, leaving 10 mountaineers missing, officials said on Friday. Search operations are continuing for the remaining six climbers despite severe weather and difficult terrain. Among those reported missing is renowned Nepali mountaineer Nirmal "Nims" Purja, who holds the record for the fastest ascent of the world's 14 peaks above 8,000 metres.

According to the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP), the expedition lost contact after the avalanche hit the 8,047-metre Broad Peak, the world's 12th-highest mountain.

Authorities have not yet identified the four bodies recovered. Rescue teams are attempting to retrieve them while continuing the search in the remote high-altitude region.

Sajid Hussain, Deputy Director of the Tourism Department in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region, said the search was focused on a remote and inaccessible area, with adverse weather hampering rescue efforts.

The ACP said the 10-member expedition included five Nepali climbers, Pakistani mountaineer Sohail Sakhi, Omani climber Nathira, American climber Mallory Geis, a Chinese climber identified as Wang, and another foreign climber whose nationality has not been disclosed.

"The entire team has reportedly been out of communication since the avalanche," the ACP said, adding that efforts were underway to deploy helicopters and all available rescue resources as weather conditions permit.

Purja, 43, is regarded as one of the world's most accomplished mountaineers. After leaving the British military, he became a full-time climber in 2018 and gained global recognition by scaling all 14 mountains above 8,000 metres in just six months and six days in 2019. In 2021, he was part of the all-Nepali team that completed the first-ever winter ascent of K2, the world's second-highest peak.

32 Killed in Coal Mine Explosion Near Quetta

Quetta, July 31: At least 32 miners were killed after a methane gas explosion triggered the collapse of two coal mines in Pakistan's Sorange coalfield, about 30 km northeast of Quetta, officials said on Friday. Rescue teams are continuing operations to locate two miners who remain trapped underground. According to officials, the explosion occurred on Thursday at a private coal mine when methane gas ignited, sparking a fire and causing a major collapse. The blast also severely affected a neighbouring mine. Chief Inspector of Mines, Balochistan, Muhammad Atif said 34 miners were working inside the two mines when the accident occurred.

"So far, 32 bodies have been recovered from both mines. Rescue operations are continuing to recover the remaining two miners," he said.

Initial reports indicated that 24 miners were working nearly 4,000 feet underground in the first mine when the explosion occurred. The fire and collapse trapped workers inside, while the impact also extended to a nearby mine where 12 miners were on duty. Rescue teams, assisted by mining engineers and local workers, created alternative access routes to reach the affected areas.

Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile Ramps Up Campaign Against China's Ethnic Unity Law

New Delhi, July 31: The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile has intensified its campaign against China's newly introduced Ethnic Unity and Progress Law, holding a series of meetings with Union Ministers and Members of Parliament in New Delhi to express concerns over the legislation's impact on Tibetans and other ethnic minorities. The outreach programme, led by Deputy Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, entered its fourth day with two parliamentary delegations meeting leaders across party lines to seek support against what the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) described as a legal framework aimed at accelerating the assimilation of Tibetans, Uyghurs, Southern Mongolians and other non-Han communities.

According to the CTA, one delegation met Lok Sabha members Dr. Byreddy Shabari, N.K. Premachandran, Trivendra Singh Rawat and Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, while another delegation held discussions with Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik, BJP MPs Janardan Mishra and Janardan Singh Sigriwal. The representatives also met BJP MP Tapir Gao, Co-convener of the All Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet, and MP Amarsing Tisso.

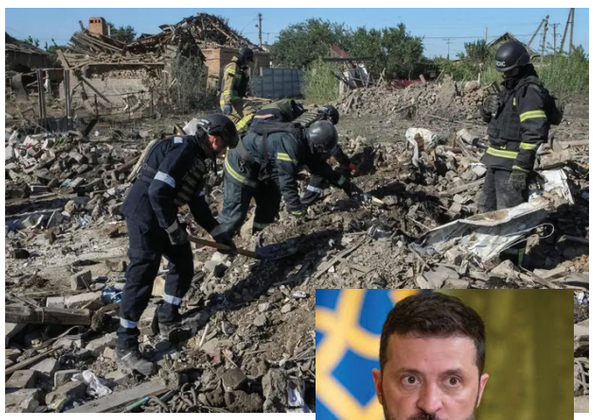
During the meetings, the Tibetan delegation alleged that the new law provides Beijing with a legal basis to strengthen policies that erode the languages, religious traditions, cultural heritage and identities of Tibetans and other minority groups.

The delegation also expressed concern that the legislation could extend beyond China's borders by facilitating surveillance, intimidation and transnational repression against Tibetans living in exile. Such measures, it said, could threaten democratic freedoms, civil liberties and the security of Tibetan communities abroad. The representatives urged Indian lawmakers to raise the issue in Parliament, support the cultural and religious rights of Tibetans, oppose transnational repression, recognise Tibet's historical status prior to Chinese control and encourage meaningful dialogue for a peaceful resolution of the Tibet-China issue.

Russia Used N.Korean Missile in Deadly Strike: Zelenskyy

Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of using a North Korean ballistic missile in a strike that killed five members of the same family in central Ukraine, marking what officials say would be the first reported use of such a weapon in nearly a year. The missile reportedly struck a house in the village of Radushne, near Kryvyi Rih, during a massive overnight Russian assault involving dozens of missiles and hundreds of drones. According to Ukrainian authorities, at least nine people were killed across the country in the attacks. Zelenskyy said the strike killed two parents and three of their children. The condition of the couple's four other children and their 18-month-old grandson was not immediately known.

In his nightly address, the Ukrainian President said preliminary findings indicated the missile used in the attack was of North Korean origin.



Two sources familiar with the investigation also said initial assessments pointed to a North Korean missile.

A Ukrainian military source said radar data suggested the missiles were likely KN-23 or KN-24 short-range ballistic missiles supplied by North Korea. Investigators are examining missile fragments recovered from the impact site to confirm the weapon's origin.

The source noted that North Korean ballistic missiles carry larger warheads and have a longer range than Russia's Iskander missiles, though they are considered less accurate. Their use also reflects Russia's increasing reliance on ballistic missiles, which can generally be intercepted only by advanced air defence systems such as the U.S.-made Patriot missile batteries.

Ukraine has previously accused Russia of deploying North Korean missiles, but officials said this would be the first confirmed use since August 2025, suggesting Moscow may have received a fresh supply of weapons from Pyongyang.

The Russian Defence Ministry, the Ukrainian Air Force, and North Korea have not commented on the allegations.

Military cooperation between Russia and North Korea has expanded significantly in recent years. According to Ukrainian officials, Pyongyang has supplied Moscow with millions of artillery shells and deployed thousands of troops to support Russian operations. Last week, Zelenskyy claimed Russia was preparing to receive an additional 30,000 North Korean troops to reinforce its military campaign.

Singapore Takes Over Lee Kuan Yew's Former Residence for Preservation

Singapore, July 31: The Singapore Government on Friday officially took possession of 38 Oxley Road, the former residence of the country's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, completing its acquisition to preserve the property as a site of national historical significance.

According to the Singapore Land Authority (SLA), the acquisition follows the property's designation as Singapore's 77th National Monument in December 2025 and its subsequent gazette for acquisition in January 2026.

The National Heritage Board (NHB) will now conduct a detailed study on how the site can be developed into a public space while respecting Lee Kuan Yew's wishes for privacy. Until a final decision is made, the government will undertake essential maintenance work, and the property will remain closed to the public.

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth had earlier described the residence as a landmark in Singapore's journey to independence. During the 1950s, the house served as the venue for key discussions and decisions among the nation's founding leaders, laying the foundation for Singapore's first fully independent government following the 1959 Legislative Assembly elections.

Officials said preserving the site is in the public interest because of its unique role in the country's political and constitutional history, regardless of individual preferences regarding the property.

The government said several options are being considered for the future of the site, including its conversion into a heritage park or another form of public memorial. Any redevelopment, it added, will honour Lee Kuan Yew's long-standing wish to protect his family's privacy.

Authorities have assured that all traces of the family's private living spaces inside the house will be removed. The government also reiterated that the home's interior, as it existed during Lee Kuan Yew's lifetime, will not be displayed, recreated or reproduced.

The preservation of 38 Oxley Road is expected to provide future generations of Singaporeans with an opportunity to reflect on the events, ideals and leadership that shaped the nation's independence and development.

RECPDCL Hands Over Ryapte Power SPV to Tata Power

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, handed over Ryapte Power Transmission Limited, the project-specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), to the successful bidder, M/s The Tata Power Company Limited, on 30 July 2026. M/s The Tata Power Company Limited emerged as the successful bidder through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator, for development of intra-state transmission project of Karnataka viz. "Evacuation Scheme for 2000MW solar park at Ryapte Village, Tumkur District" on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis.

Indian rice export prices climb to 10-month high: What's behind the rise?

The increase comes at a time when India continues to remain one of the world's biggest rice exporters, making the latest price movement closely watched.

Indian rice export prices have climbed to their highest level in nearly 10 months, Reuters reported. The increase comes at a time when India continues to remain one of the world's biggest rice exporters, making the latest price movement closely watched.

PRICES TOUCH A 10-MONTH HIGH

Indian rice export prices moved higher this week, extending the gains seen over the past few weeks.

The country's 5% broken parboiled rice was quoted at $358-$364 per metric tonne, up from $356-$361 last week. Meanwhile, 5% broken white rice was priced at $357-$363 per metric tonne.

WHAT'S DRIVING THE INCREASE?

The rise in export prices has been supported by higher domestic paddy prices as supplies have tightened. At the same time, traders are keeping a close watch on the new-season crop, with concerns over production adding to the upward pressure on prices. Another factor supporting prices is the gradual improvement in export demand. A New Delhi-based dealer with a global trade house said, "Export demand is gradually picking up, as Indian rice remains competitively priced despite the recent increase in prices."

RICE EXPORTS REMAIN STRONG

India's rice exports rose 5% during the first half of 2026 compared with the same period last year. Higher shipments of non-basmati rice helped offset a decline in basmati exports, which were affected after the US-Israel war involving Iran disrupted trade with key Gulf markets.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES?

Rice prices have also remained firm in Bangladesh, although for a different reason. According to traders, domestic rice prices rose again this week after two rounds of flooding damaged rice crops across the country, particularly affecting finer varieties.

In Vietnam, 5% broken rice was offered at $430-$450 per tonne, largely unchanged from the previous week.

Traders said demand remains weak as the Philippines, one of Vietnam's biggest buyers, has tightened controls on rice imports. However, exporters are not reducing prices because their profit margins are already very low. One trader in Ho Chi Minh City said the Philippines' decision to protect domestic rice production has also encouraged Vietnam to focus more on producing higher-quality rice and expanding into new export markets. In Thailand, 5% broken rice was quoted at $450 per tonne, slightly lower than the previous week's range of $450-$460 per tonne. Traders said demand remained subdued, while supplies were broadly unchanged. Market participants are now waiting to see how the next harvest turns out.

Ensure Transportation of at Least 28 Coal Rakes Every Day

No Shortage of Coal to Thermal Power Stations Coordinate with Local Administration during Monsoon Floods
CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti Issues Directions to Area GMs

Singareni Bhavan, July 31, 2026: With power demand increasing across the State during the monsoon season, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is fully geared up to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to thermal power stations, said Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti. He directed all Area General Managers to supply 28 to 32 rakes of quality coal every day in accordance with the requirements of thermal power plants. The CMD was addressing a review meeting with General Managers of all SCCL Areas through video conference from Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Friday. The meeting reviewed coal production, dispatch, overburden removal, and coal quality.He stated that although continuous rains have had some impact on production from opencast mines, all Areas should take adequate precautionary measures to achieve the prescribed production targets. He also instructed officials to implement special action plans to enhance production from underground mines during the monsoon season. Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti said SCCL is according top priority to the power requirements of Telangana and is presently supplying 75–80 percent of its coal production to thermal power stations to meet the State's electricity demand.

Keeping in view of flooding in Singareni areas along the Godavari river during the monsoon, he directed that SCCL Rescue Teams and officials of various departments should remain fully prepared to extend immediate assistance in coordination with the local administration whenever required. He further instructed officials to focus on achieving production targets in all opencast mines in line with coal output, accomplish the production targets set for the current financial year, and expedite the process of obtaining all statutory clearances for new mining projects to achieve SCCL's long-term targets of 70 million tonnes of coal production and 500 million cubic metres of overburden removal. The meeting was attended by Directors Sri. L.V. Suryanarayana (Operations), Sri.K. Venkateswarlu (Projects & Planning), Sri. Gowtham Potru (Personnel & Finance), Sri.M. Tirumala Rao (E&M), Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri.B. Venkanna, General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) Sri.T. Srinivas, Area General Managers, General Managers from Corporate Departments, and Heads of various Departments.

India Finalists Advance in Elan-UN Circular Design Challenge

MUMBAI, JULY 31, 2026

The R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge (RCDC), India's leading global platform for circular innovation in fashion and textiles, presented by Reliance Industries Limited's R|Elan™, the United Nations in India, and Lakmé Fashion Week, has concluded its global jury rounds with the announcement of the India Finalists, completing this year's international cohort of innovators redefining the future of circular fashion. Following a rigorous evaluation by the India Jury, Botto Labs by Nitya Amarnath, pioneering next-generation bio-sequins to replace plastic waste in high fashion; Saloni Jhaveri by Saloni Jhaveri, transforming discarded textiles into innovative design; Duja by Ustat Kharbanda, upcycling post-consumer textile waste into one-of-a-kind apparel; and Margn by Saurabh Maurya, creating contemporary fashion rooted in craftsmanship and circular design, have been selected as the India Finalists of the eighth edition of the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge. The India Jury brought together an exceptional panel of industry leaders, including Ainee Nizami Ahmedi, Editorial Director, ELLE India & ELLE Gourmet; Shaleena Nathani, Celebrity Stylist & Fashion Consultant; Karishma Shahani Khan, Creative Director, Ka-Sha; Rakesh Bali, Senior Vice President – PetChem, Reliance Industries Limited; and Darshana Gajare, Head of Sustainability, Lakmé Fashion Week. Together, the jury represented a powerful convergence of creative excellence, business acumen and sustainability leadership, evaluating breakthrough ideas capable of accelerating the transition towards a circular fashion ecosystem.

Earlier this year, Yoshita 1967 by Anil Padia was selected as the Europe Finalist by the European Jury in Paris. The jury comprised Pascale Mussard, Vice-President, Fondation Hermès and President, Villa Noailles; Katell Pouliquen, Editorial Director, Marie Claire France; Sara Sozzani Maino, Creative Director, Fondazione Sozzani; Diane Pernet, Founder & Director, ASVOFF; Anne-Gaëlle Lamort, Sustainability Innovation Lead, Kering; and Serge Carreira, Director, Emerging Brands Initiative, Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode.

In London, RWRK Studio by Farouk Braimoh was announced as the United Kingdom Finalist following evaluation by a distinguished jury comprising Matthew Needham Creative Director, Matthew Needham, Senior Lecturer, Central Saint Martins; Shailja Dubé Institute of Positive Fashion, British Council; Muchaneta ten Napel, Founder & CEO, Shape Innovate; Sevra Davis Director of Architecture, Design & Fashion, British Council and Radhika Kaul Batra Chief of Staff, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, India.

Representing the Asia Pacific & Beyond region, BYO by Tommy Tedji was named the regional finalist by a jury comprising Christina Dean, Founder, Redress; Hong Zheng, Founder, Greenext; Rina Singh, Founder & Designer, Eka; Jacinta FitzGerald, Chief Executive, Fashion & Textiles New Zealand; and Nicky Mac Callum, Venture Partner, Elaphurus Capital and Founding Member, M Impact Investment Fund.

This year's edition received over 220+ global applications, with 23 semi-finalists shortlisted across Europe, the United Kingdom, Asia Pacific & Beyond, and India. Following the regional jury rounds, seven global finalists have been selected to advance to the Grand Jury at United Nations House in New Delhi, before presenting their collections at the finale showcase, which will be hosted at the Embassy of France in India during Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI in October as part of the India–France Year of Innovation 2026, celebrating the shared commitment of both nations to advancing innovation, creativity, and sustainable design.

The Winner and Runner-Up of the eighth edition of the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge will be announced following the final showcase, marking the culmination of this global journey.

Nitya Amarnath, Founder, Botto Labs, said, "Becoming a finalist is surreal, and it's still sinking in. I'm genuinely excited to get to know my fellow finalists and mentors, learn from their diverse experiences, explore ideas and be part of the CDC community that's collectively reimagining the future of fashion."

Saloni Jhaveri, Founder & Designer of Saloni Jhaveri, said, "When I heard them announce 'Saloni Jhaveri', it felt like I was living the dream. The 13-year-old girl who dreamt of this moment, is elated and extremely humbled. And today, as a finalist, I feel one step closer towards fulfilling my purpose. I look forward to being a part of the community that is making a change. I am super excited to be working alongside the wonderful mentors, who I have always looked upto."

Ustat Kharbanda, Founder, Duja, said, "We're incredibly grateful and excited to be selected as finalists. It's a meaningful validation of the work we're doing at DUJA and reinforces our belief that great design and circularity can go hand in hand. We're looking forward to learning from this journey and taking our impact to the next level."

Saurabh Maurya, Founder, Margn, said, "I'm very excited to be selected as a finalist for CDC 2026. This is also really important and special for us because we started our circular journey one year back, and getting selected has also given us the opportunity to be mentored by people whom we have been looking up to for a very long time. We have also improvised our processes, learned business strategy, and understood how to make these circular practices a core part of our system and the design practice that we've been doing for the last five years."

Rakesh Bali, Senior Vice President – PetChem, Reliance Industries Limited, said, "Heartfelt congratulations to Botto Labs by Nitya Amarnath, Saloni Jhaveri the founder of Saloni Jhaveri, Duja by Ustat Kharbanda and Margn by Saurabh Maurya on being selected as the India Finalists of the eighth edition of the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge. This year's Indian cohort was truly exceptional, the creativity, boldness of ideas and commitment to sustainable innovation on display reaffirm India's growing leadership in circular fashion. At Reliance, we have always believed that lasting change begins with backing innovators willing to challenge convention. Through the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge, we remain committed to nurturing this next generation of talent by providing mentorship, visibility and material innovation to help transform bold circular ideas into scalable business solutions. We look forward to seeing them represent India on the global stage."

Jaspreet Chandok, Group Vice President, Reliance Brands Limited, said, "Congratulations to Botto Labs by Nitya Amarnath, Saloni Jhaveri the founder of Saloni Jhaveri, Duja by Ustat Kharbanda and Margn by Saurabh Maurya on being selected as the India Finalists of the eighth edition of the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge. Their work reflects the extraordinary calibre of entrepreneurs who are redefining fashion through innovation, craftsmanship and circular thinking. It is encouraging to witness emerging talent creating solutions that are not only creatively compelling but also commercially relevant. We are excited to see them progress to the Grand Jury and continue showcasing India's growing leadership in circular fashion globally."

Mr. Stefan Priesner, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, said, "I congratulate Botto Labs by Nitya Amarnath, Saloni Jhaveri the founder of Saloni Jhaveri, Duja by Ustat Kharbanda and Margn by Saurabh Maurya on being named the India Finalists. This year's cohort reflects the growing momentum of innovators demonstrating that sustainability, creativity and entrepreneurship can come together to address some of fashion's most pressing challenges. By bringing together designers, industry leaders and institutions, the Challenge continues to foster collaboration that advances circular solutions and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals. We look forward to seeing the finalists continue their inspiring journeys and help shape a more sustainable future for fashion."

Bringing together some of the world's most influential voices across fashion, sustainability, and innovation, this year's global jury process reflects the Challenge's growing international stature and its commitment to nurturing scalable circular business solutions that are shaping the future of fashion.

IIRM Holdings Announces ₹1500 Million Strategic Capital Raise

MUMBAI, 31 JULY 2026

IIRM Holdings India Ltd (BSE: IIRM, 526530), the holding company of a group of companies engaged in asset protection, risk advisory, employees' wellbeing solutions and insurance distribution across India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Kenya, is raising ₹1500 million through a combination of Equity Shares and Fully Convertible Warrants at a Price of Rs 143.28. The issue is subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Company and such other statutory, regulatory and governmental approvals, permissions, consents and sanctions as may be required. The investment is being led by Carpediem Capital and Sanshi Fund - I. The capital raised will support the Company's funding requirements for, among other stated objects, business expansion, strategic investments like acquisitions, capital expenditure, working capital, etc. The flagship company in the group - India Insure Risk Management and Insurance Broking Services Private Limited, is the first Licensed Insurance Broking company in India and has been a key player in the Indian Insurance Industry since 2003. "This investment endorses IIRM's vision and growth trajectory. With Carpediem Capital and Sanshi Fund - I as partners, we are well positioned to accelerate expansion, pursue strategic acquisitions and strengthen our leadership in insurance and risk management."

- Ramakrishna V, Chairman, IIRM Holdings India Ltd

Business Snapshot:

In FY26, IIRM Holdings handled business volumes (GWP) in excess of ₹16 billion, through operating companies spanning India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Kenya, supported by 18 offices and more than 500 employees, serving around 2,000 corporate clients, 100,000 retail customers and 100+ reinsurer partner-relationships worldwide.

Growth Strategy

Organic expansion and disciplined acquisitions remain central to IIRM's strategy. The Group is in the process of consolidating multiple insurance brokers in India and overseas.

CARPEDIEM CAPITAL

"IIRM has built a high-quality, scalable platform in a large, underpenetrated market. Industry is poised for a consolidation play with many small to mid-sized players, and we believe IIRM is well positioned to be among the front runners in this space."

— Hithendra Ramachandran, Co-Founder &MD, Carpediem Capital

SANSHI Fund - I

"IIRM's strong fundamentals, experienced management and clear direction make it a compelling growth story. We are delighted to support its journey as a leading regional insurance distribution group."

— Saranya Agarwal, Founder, Sanshi Fund

About IIRM Holdings

IIRM Holdings India Ltd is a Hyderabad-based, BSE-listed holding company of a group of companies engaged in asset protection, risk advisory, employees' wellbeing solutions and insurance distribution across India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Kenya. Through technology and strong partnerships, the group delivers insurance and risk advisory solutions to corporate and retail clients. With over 25 years of experience and 500+ employees, the company manages an annual premium of USD 195 million.

Indian jewellery demand fell 1 5% to 75 tonnes in June Quarter

While demand for the 2nd quarter fell in India, it saw an increase of 14% Q-o-Q from a weak Q1. The H1 demand was down 17% Y-o-Y at 141 tonnes, whereas the demand value rose 26% Y-o-Y to $21 billion.

Demand for Indian jewellery fell 15% YoY to 75 tonnes, while global demand also took a hit, falling to its worst in the second quarter since the Covid pandemic, as per a report from the World Gold Council (WGC). The Indian demand for jewellery amounted to 75 tonnes in Q2, while global demand was at 278 tonnes. While demand for the 2nd quarter fell in India, it saw an increase of 14% Q-o-Q from a weak Q1. The H1 demand was down 17% Y-o-Y at 141 tonnes, whereas the demand value rose 26% Y-o-Y to $21 billion. Gold as of 3:18 PM traded at 1,42,485 per 10 grams. The global demand for gold remained flat Y-o-Y at 1,269 tonnes in the April-June quarter, according to the report. Prices of the precious metal moderated from the record highs touched earlier this year, the Council said in its report. The total demand for the yellow metal was at 1,268.6 tonnes during the corresponding quarter of 2025, said the WGC in its 'Q2 2026 Gold Demand Trends' report.

The demand in the first half of the year rose 2% Y-o-Y to an estimated 2,522 tonnes, worth $380 billion. Investment in gold ETFs (exchange-traded funds), bars and coins dropped to 262 tonnes in the second quarter as lower gold prices led to moderation in strong investment momentum witnessed earlier this year.

The decline was primarily driven by 45 tonnes of outflows from gold-backed ETFs during the April-June period. However, the first-half ETF demand remained modestly positive at 18 tonnes.

The bar and coin investment was relatively stable, down just 3% Y-o-Y during the quarter. The first-half demand was still observed as 21% higher than the corresponding period last year, supported by an exceptional first quarter.

On the other hand, demand in the OTC (over-the-counter) market, helped by Asian investment, stood at 327 tonnes in the second quarter and 571 tonnes in the first half of the year. Central banks and other official institutions added a net 289 tonnes to the reserves during the April-June quarter, up 62% Y-o-Y, as buying picked up across several markets. These were led by countries such as Poland, China, and the Czech Republic, WGC Regional CEO, India Sachin Jain told PTI. "The Reserve Bank of India added 200 kg during the April-June quarter," he added. The report further stated that high prices continued to weigh on jewellery demand in Q2, which fell 17% Y-o-Y as consumers bought less gold and shifted towards lighter products. As a result, first-half jewellery demand by volumes declined, but in terms of value, demand was resilient. It saw a rise of 22% Y-o-Y in H1 to a global total of $86 billion.

According to the report, the total gold supply during the second quarter was unchanged Y-o-Y at 1,269 tonnes, as mine production and recycling diverged. Mine supply rose an estimated 2% Y-o-Y to 966 tonnes, supported by new production from Canada and Chile. At the same time, recycling declined 6% Y-o-Y despite the higher prices.

WGC Senior Markets Analyst Louise Street told the council that gold's early-year rally reversed in the second quarter, with prices consolidating after a correction from record highs.

But the market remained well-supported, reflecting gold's established role as a diversifier and store of value, she added. "While gold ETF flows receded in step with prices, continued central bank buying and growth in OTC investment contributed to total gold demand edging 2% higher across the first half of the year," said Street in the executive commentary of the report. For the second half of 2026, she said that investment is likely to drive growth. However, the demand mix could shift. "OTC activity and demand from Asian investors are expected to play an increasingly prominent role, while Western gold ETF interest may be more closely linked to real yields, US monetary policy expectations and the dollar. Central banks will remain as the significant buyers, albeit at a slightly slower pace than we've seen over the last four years," she stated.

High prices will keep pressure on jewellery volumes, though consumers may continue to hold their jewellery. While selling will be less, the recycling of jewellery is showing little sign of increasing, she added.

Bengaluru Leads, Hyderabad Slips in H1 Home Sales

India's residential real estate market maintained steady momentum during the first half of 2026, registering moderate but resilient growth despite evolving buyer preferences and changing market dynamics. According to the latest Real Estate Intelligence Service report released by global property consultancy JLL, housing sales across the country's seven major cities reached 1,38,382 units between January and June 2026, reflecting a 3% year-on-year increase. While the national housing market continued to expand, regional trends varied significantly. Bengaluru emerged as the country's strongest-performing residential market, recording robust double-digit growth in both home sales and new project launches. Hyderabad, once considered one of India's fastest-growing housing destinations, witnessed a decline in both residential sales and fresh launches, indicating a temporary slowdown in buyer activity. The report highlights that India's residential sector continues to remain fundamentally strong, supported by sustained end-user demand, infrastructure expansion, rising incomes and confidence among homebuyers. However, city-specific performance reflects changing economic conditions, supply dynamics and evolving consumer preferences.

Bengaluru Emerges as the Strongest Residential Market

Bengaluru was the standout performer among India's top seven housing markets during the first half of 2026. The city recorded residential sales of 35,017 units, registering a healthy 16% year-on-year growth. This made Bengaluru the largest housing market in the country by sales volume during the period, overtaking several traditional real estate hubs. The city's performance was supported by exceptional growth in new residential project launches. Developers launched approximately 48,748 housing units during H1 2026, representing an impressive 41% increase compared to the corresponding period last year. This was the highest launch growth recorded among all seven major cities covered in the JLL report. Industry experts attribute Bengaluru's strong performance to several structural advantages. The city continues to attract professionals from across the country due to its thriving information technology ecosystem, expanding Global Capability Centres (GCCs), startup culture and growing employment opportunities. Stable demand from technology professionals, young homebuyers and investors has encouraged developers to introduce new projects across multiple price segments. Infrastructure development has also played a significant role. Ongoing expansion of the Namma Metro network, improved road connectivity, development of peripheral business districts and increased commercial investments have strengthened confidence among both buyers and developers. The city has also witnessed rising demand for premium residential properties as high-income professionals increasingly prefer larger homes with modern amenities. This trend has contributed to steady appreciation in property values across several micro-markets.

Hyderabad Faces Temporary Slowdown

In contrast to Bengaluru's impressive growth, Hyderabad experienced a decline in residential market activity during the first half of 2026. The city recorded housing sales of 16,067 units, representing a 3% decline compared to the same period last year. Fresh residential launches also slowed considerably. Developers introduced approximately 17,281 new units during H1 2026, reflecting a 14% year-on-year decline. Hyderabad was among only three major cities that witnessed a contraction in residential sales during the review period. The slowdown comes after several years of rapid expansion that had established Hyderabad as one of India's fastest-growing real estate destinations. Market analysts believe the decline does not necessarily indicate weakening long-term demand but rather reflects temporary adjustments in both supply and buyer sentiment. Several factors may have contributed to the moderation. Rising property prices over the past few years have prompted some buyers to adopt a wait-and-watch approach. Developers have also become more selective in launching new projects amid changing market conditions and increased focus on inventory management. Despite the decline in sales volume, Hyderabad continues to benefit from strong economic fundamentals. The city remains a major technology and pharmaceutical hub, attracting investments from multinational companies and creating substantial employment opportunities. Long-term housing demand is therefore expected to remain supported by continued economic expansion.

Chennai Registers Fastest Growth Among Major Cities

Among all seven metropolitan markets, Chennai emerged as the fastest-growing residential market during H1 2026. The city recorded a remarkable 27% increase in home sales, with residential transactions rising to 8,587 units. The sharp growth reflects increasing buyer confidence, improving affordability in comparison to several larger metropolitan regions and growing infrastructure investments. Chennai has also benefited from rising demand for integrated townships, improved connectivity and sustained industrial development. The city's residential market has gradually transformed over the past few years, with increasing demand from professionals working in information technology, automobile manufacturing, electronics and logistics sectors. Enhanced infrastructure, including metro rail expansion and improved road networks, has further strengthened residential demand. Chennai also recorded one of the strongest increases in capital values, highlighting growing investor confidence in the market.

Delhi NCR Maintains Positive Growth

Delhi National Capital Region continued its steady recovery during the first half of 2026. Residential sales increased by 7% year-on-year to reach 20,761 units. The region has witnessed renewed interest from homebuyers following improvements in project execution, regulatory compliance and completion of delayed developments. Premium housing demand has remained particularly strong in locations such as Gurugram and Noida, where high-quality residential projects continue to attract affluent buyers. Infrastructure initiatives, including new expressways, metro expansion and improved connectivity, have further enhanced the attractiveness of several residential corridors within NCR.

Mumbai Remains India's Largest Housing Hub by Scale

Mumbai continued to remain one of India's largest residential markets despite recording a marginal decline in housing sales. During H1 2026, the city registered sales of 28,518 units, reflecting a slight 1% decline compared to last year. Interestingly, while sales remained largely stable, developers significantly increased new project launches. Residential launches rose by 18%, indicating continued confidence in the long-term demand outlook for India's financial capital. Mumbai's real estate market remains driven by a combination of end-users, investors and redevelopment projects. The city's limited land availability, premium property values and continuous infrastructure upgrades ensure sustained demand across multiple housing segments. Projects such as the Mumbai Coastal Road, Metro expansion and improved suburban connectivity continue to enhance residential prospects across various micro-markets.

Pune Experiences the Sharpest Correction

Pune witnessed the steepest decline among all seven major cities during the review period. Housing sales fell by 14% year-on-year to 22,782 units. The slowdown follows several years of strong residential growth and may partly reflect market correction after exceptionally high sales volumes recorded in previous years. Rising interest rates, changing affordability dynamics and cautious buyer sentiment may have influenced purchasing decisions. Despite the decline, Pune continues to remain one of India's most important housing markets due to its strong information technology industry, educational institutions and manufacturing ecosystem. Developers remain optimistic that improving employment opportunities and infrastructure investments will support future demand.

Kolkata Market Remains Stable

Kolkata's residential market remained largely stable during H1 2026. Home sales declined marginally by 1% to 6,650 units, indicating relatively balanced demand despite broader market fluctuations. The city also witnessed healthy appreciation in capital values, suggesting that buyer confidence continues to remain intact even though transaction volumes remained largely unchanged. Affordable pricing compared to other metropolitan cities continues to make Kolkata an attractive destination for end-users seeking long-term homeownership.

Four Cities Dominate India's Residential Market

One of the key findings of the JLL report is the growing concentration of housing activity in a few major metropolitan regions. Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune together accounted for nearly 62% of all residential sales recorded during the first half of 2026. When Delhi NCR is added, the four metropolitan markets collectively represented approximately 76% of total housing sales across India's seven largest cities. This concentration highlights the continued dominance of established economic centres where employment generation, infrastructure development and corporate investments continue to drive housing demand. These metropolitan regions attract professionals from across the country, creating sustained demand for both affordable and premium residential properties.

Residential Property Prices Continue to Rise

Despite varying sales performance across cities, residential property prices continued to appreciate across all major markets. According to JLL, capital values increased between 6% and 15% year-on-year across the seven cities. Bengaluru recorded the highest increase at 15%, reflecting exceptionally strong demand and limited availability of quality housing inventory in several locations. Chennai and Kolkata followed closely, with property prices rising by 13% each. Other metropolitan regions also registered healthy appreciation, demonstrating that the residential sector continues to benefit from stable demand despite moderate fluctuations in transaction volumes. The sustained rise in capital values has been driven by higher construction costs, increasing land prices, improved project quality and continued demand from end-users rather than speculative investors.

Supply Pipeline Reflects Developer Confidence

The report also suggests that developers remain optimistic about India's residential market. New project launches have remained healthy in several cities despite temporary moderation in sales. Bengaluru led launch activity with a 41% increase, while Mumbai recorded an 18% rise in fresh residential supply. These numbers indicate that developers expect demand to remain robust over the medium to long term. Builders have become increasingly focused on launching projects in locations with strong infrastructure, employment opportunities and established social amenities. There is also growing emphasis on premium housing, integrated townships and sustainable residential developments. At the same time, developers are carefully managing inventory levels in markets where demand has moderated, such as Hyderabad and Pune.

Demand Driven Primarily by End Users

Unlike previous real estate cycles that were heavily influenced by speculative investments, India's current residential market is largely driven by genuine end-user demand. Improved transparency under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA), better financing options, stable economic growth and rising household incomes have encouraged more families to purchase homes for self-occupation. The increasing preference for larger homes, flexible workspaces and integrated residential communities has also shaped buying behaviour following changes in work culture over recent years. Financial institutions continue to offer competitive home loan products, further supporting housing demand despite evolving interest rate conditions.

Industry Sees Continued Market Maturity

Commenting on the market performance, Siva Krishnan, Senior Managing Director (Chennai & Coimbatore) and Head of Residential Services, India at JLL, said the first half of 2026 demonstrates the growing maturity of India's residential sector. According to him, the sale of 1,38,382 housing units during H1 2026 represents healthy year-on-year growth despite temporary moderation observed during certain quarters. The sector, he noted, continues to remain resilient because of strong underlying demand and improving market fundamentals. Industry experts believe the residential market has entered a more balanced phase where growth is increasingly supported by economic fundamentals rather than speculative activity. Cities with strong employment generation, infrastructure expansion and sustained population growth are likely to continue outperforming others.

Outlook for the Second Half of 2026

Looking ahead, India's residential real estate market is expected to maintain positive momentum during the remainder of 2026. Continued infrastructure investments, expanding corporate activity, urbanisation and improving consumer confidence are likely to support housing demand across major cities. Bengaluru is expected to remain one of the strongest-performing markets owing to its thriving technology ecosystem and strong project pipeline. Chennai may continue to benefit from improving industrial activity and infrastructure-led growth, while Delhi NCR is likely to witness steady demand driven by premium housing. Hyderabad and Pune may experience a gradual recovery as developers adjust supply and buyers return to the market following the recent slowdown.

INDIAN JUDO'S TRIPLE MEDAL GLORY

ASMITA, HARSH STRIKE GOLD AS YAMINI WINS SILVER

India celebrated its finest-ever performance in Commonwealth Games judo as the country bagged two gold medals and one silver, with Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh creating history while Yamini Mourya added a silver to complete a memorable campaign.

The day belonged to 23-year-old Asmita Dey, who etched her name into Indian sporting history by becoming the first Indian judoka to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal. Competing in the women's -48kg category, Asmita displayed tremendous grit and composure to overcome Canada's Heidi Quach in a dramatic final.

After trailing during the contest, the Indian fought back strongly to force the match into Golden Score, the sudden-death extra-time format in judo. Maintaining her attacking intent under pressure, Asmita secured a decisive yuko to clinch a thrilling 2-1 victory, sparking celebrations in the Indian camp.

Barely minutes after Asmita's landmark triumph, Harsh Singh ensured India's golden run continued by capturing the men's -60kg title. The victory was particularly special for the youngster, who was competing in his maiden Commonwealth Games after a lengthy rehabilitation from a serious knee injury.

Facing a formidable opponent in Australia's Joshua Katz, a Tokyo Olympian and four-time Oceania champion, Harsh executed a disciplined tactical contest. He capitalised on a crucial opening to score a waza-ari and successfully defended his advantage to register one of the biggest wins of his career and hand India its second gold medal of the competition.

India's medal rush was completed by Yamini Mourya, who claimed the silver medal in the women's -57kg division. Yamini impressed throughout the tournament with a series of determined performances to reach the final. Although she fell short against England's Acelya Toprak in the title clash, her silver medal further strengthened India's historic tally.

The three-medal haul marked a watershed moment for Indian judo, highlighting the steady progress the sport has made in recent years. Asmita's breakthrough gold shattered a long-standing barrier, Harsh's inspirational comeback showcased remarkable resilience, and Yamini's podium finish reflected the growing depth in the Indian squad.

The performances also underline the impact of improved coaching, international exposure and athlete development programmes that have helped Indian judokas compete confidently against some of the world's best.

With two gold medals and one silver, India recorded its best-ever Commonwealth Games judo performance, signalling the country's emergence as a rising force in the sport and providing a major boost ahead of future international competitions.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

Nagaland Quartet Earn North-East Zone Call-up for Duleep Trophy

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Nagaland's growing stature in domestic cricket received a significant boost as three state players — Jonathan Rongsen, Imliwati Lemtur and Vino G. Zhimomi — were named in the North-East Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy 2026-27, while Hem Bahadur Chetri was included as a standby player.

The Nagaland Cricket Association (NCA) also announced that Mowalong Kichu, physiotherapist of the state's senior men's team, has been appointed physiotherapist for the North-East Zone squad.

The prestigious domestic first-class tournament will be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru from August 23 to September 10.

In another major development, the NCA will host the North-East Zone's preparatory camp in Nagaland from August 8 to 19, providing the squad with valuable match practice ahead of the tournament.

Congratulating the selected players and support staff, the NCA said it was proud of their achievement and wished the entire North-East Zone team success in the upcoming Duleep Trophy campaign. North-East Zone Squad: Techi Neri, Robin Limboo, Ashish Thapa, Bishworjit Singh Konthoujam, Priyojit K, Ronald Meitei, Jotin Singh Pheiroijam, Imliwati Lemtur, Vino G. Zhimomi, Jonathan Rongsen, Kishan Lyndoh, Arpit Subhas, Akash Kumar Choudhary, Joseph Lal Thankhuma and Lalrempuia.

India Assured Rich Boxing Medal Haul as Lovlina, Sachin, Sakshi, Priya Enter CWG Finals

Glasgow: India's boxers continued their impressive run at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, with Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain, Sachin, Sakshi and Priya advancing to the finals after dominant semifinal victories, ensuring the country a rich medal haul.

With the latest wins, nine Indian boxers have now reached the finals in their respective weight categories, guaranteeing at least silver medals and keeping India's hopes alive for multiple golds.

Lovlina, competing in the women's category, produced a commanding display to defeat Tuvalu's Tarona Khanum Badi Pasoni Taafaki by a unanimous 5-0 verdict. The Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist and 2023 World champion had received a first-round bye and entered the semifinals directly before comfortably booking her place in the title clash.

Sakshi also delivered a flawless performance, outclassing Canada's Amber-Jane Wall 5-0 in the women's 51kg semifinal. She dominated all three rounds, with judges scoring the contest 30-27, 30-26, 30-27, 30-27 and 30-25 in her favour.

In the women's 60kg division, Priya registered another unanimous 5-0 victory over England's L. Kings Wheatley to secure a place in the final and assure India of at least a silver medal.

Sachin maintained India's unbeaten run on semifinal day by defeating Wales' O. Harris-Allan 5-0 in the men's 60kg category to advance to the gold medal bout.

Earlier in the competition, Preeti (54kg), Ankush Phangal (80kg), Jaismine (57kg), Arundhati (70kg) and Jadumani Singh (55kg) had also qualified for their respective finals, taking India's tally of finalists to nine.

One of the standout performances came from Arundhati, who stunned defending Commonwealth Games champion Rosie Eccles to reach the final, underlining India's dominance in the boxing competition in Glasgow.

India will now look to convert its remarkable run into a string of gold medals in the championship bouts.

India's Historic Double Podium in Javelin:

Neeraj Wins Silver, Yashvir Takes Bronze at CWG 2026

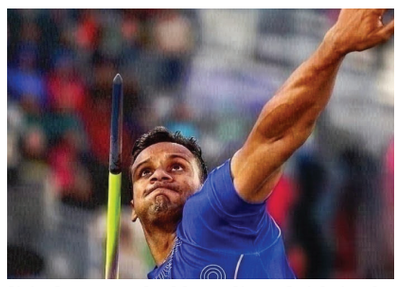
GLASGOW

India celebrated a landmark achievement in athletics at the 2026 Commonwealth Games as Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal, while debutant Yashvir Singh claimed bronze in the men's javelin throw, giving the country a historic double podium finish.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage produced a sensational throw of 89.75 metres in his second attempt to secure the gold medal. Neeraj finished with a best effort of 85.83m to take silver in his second Commonwealth Games appearance. Although his final attempt ended in a foul, his earlier throw was enough to ensure another major international medal for the reigning Olympic champion.

The biggest surprise of the competition came from 24-year-old Yashvir Singh, who delivered a personal best of 85.41m with his sixth and final throw to clinch the bronze medal. Competing in his maiden Commonwealth Games, Yashvir improved upon his previous personal best of 83.72m and finished ahead of several top international throwers, including Anderson Peters and Arshad Nadeem.

The silver and bronze medals marked India's first-ever double podium finish in the men's javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games, underlining the country's growing dominance in the discipline.



The achievement added to India's impressive medal haul in Glasgow. Earlier, Harsh Singh won the men's 60kg judo gold medal after defeating Australia's Joshua Katz in the final, while Asmita Dey scripted history by claiming India's first-ever Commonwealth Games gold medal in women's judo.

India also celebrated another athletics milestone as Tejaswin Shankar won bronze in the decathlon, becoming the first Indian to medal in the event at the Commonwealth Games. In judo, Yamini Mourya secured silver in the women's 57kg category after finishing runner-up to England's Acelya Toprak in the final.

Jamshedpur FC to Exit ISL from 2026-27 Season

New Delhi: In a major development for Indian football, Jamshedpur FC has announced that it will withdraw from the Indian Super League (ISL) from the 2026-27 season onwards. The decision was confirmed by Jamshedpur Football and Sporting Private Limited (JFSPL), the Tata Steel-owned company that operates the club.

In an official statement, JFSPL said the club would step away from the ISL but remain committed to the growth of Indian football through grassroots development and youth talent identification.

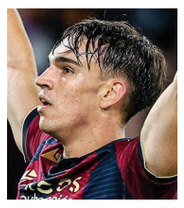
The club thanked its loyal supporters, players, coaches, staff and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for their support since its inception in 2017. It also expressed hope that Indian football and the ISL would continue to grow successfully.

Jamshedpur FC joined the ISL in the 2017-18 season alongside Bengaluru FC and spent nine seasons in the league. The club's biggest achievement came in the 2021-22 campaign when it won the ISL League Shield under head coach Owen Coyle. It also reached the playoffs in the 2024-25 season under Khalid Jamil and finished fifth in the 2025-26 season.

The club is currently competing in the Durand Cup and opened its campaign with a commanding 5-0 victory over Defenders FC of Sri Lanka. However, it remains unclear whether the team will complete the remainder of the tournament following its decision to exit the ISL. Jamshedpur FC is scheduled to face SC Delhi in its next Durand Cup match on August 2.

Real Madrid Sign Young Striker Carlos Espi from Levante

Madrid, July 31: Real Madrid have strengthened their attacking options by signing promising Spanish striker Carlos Espi from Levante on a five-year contract that will keep him at the club until June 30, 2031. According to Spanish media reports, the transfer fee is around 25 million euros. Confirming the move, Real Madrid said the 21-year-old forward joins after three impressive seasons with Levante, where he made 66 appearances and scored 20 goals. He was also named the league's Best U-23 Player last season. Espi enjoyed a breakthrough campaign in 2025-26, scoring 13 goals in 27 matches, with many of them coming during the closing stages of the season as he played a crucial role in helping Levante avoid relegation.



The striker had attracted interest from Villarreal and several Premier League clubs before opting for a move to the Spanish giants. Levante had also kept him out of preseason friendlies to avoid the risk of injury ahead of his expected transfer. Espi becomes Real Madrid's fifth signing of the summer, following the arrivals of Marc Cucurella, Bernardo Silva, Ibrahima Konate and Denzel Dumfries. His signing comes as the club moves closer to completing the reported 40-million-euro sale of striker Gonzalo Garcia to Fulham, although it remains uncertain whether Espi will be part of the first-team squad immediately or spend the season on loan to gain more top-flight experience. Meanwhile, Real Madrid also announced record financial results for the last fiscal year, with revenue reaching 1.221 billion euros, a 3.1 per cent increase over the previous season. The club attributed the growth to higher earnings from the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and increased commercial and sponsorship income.

2027 ODI WORLD CUP: AFRICA READY TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE

The 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup, to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, is set to be much more than a global cricket tournament. With the theme "Come for the cricket, stay for the culture," the event aims to celebrate Africa's sporting growth, cultural diversity and unity while showcasing the continent to the world.

Returning to Africa 24 years after South Africa hosted the 2003 World Cup, the tournament reflects the remarkable transformation of cricket across the region. What was once viewed as a sport confined to limited communities has grown into a more inclusive game, attracting players and fans from diverse backgrounds.

Speaking at the tournament launch in Johannesburg, South African captain Temba Bavuma said the World Cup offers an opportunity to change global perceptions of Africa by highlighting its rich culture, natural beauty and passionate sporting communities.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada echoed the sentiment, saying cricket has become far more representative and accessible across southern Africa than it was two decades ago. He expressed confidence that playing before home crowds would provide a memorable experience and inspire the next generation of cricketers.

Former South African pacer Makhaya Ntini urged fans and experts not to burden the Proteas with memories of past World Cup disappointments, saying the focus should instead be on how far South African cricket has progressed.

The tournament also marks an important milestone for Zimbabwe and Namibia. Former Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza said cricket in his country now better reflects its people and has entered a phase of sustained growth after years of rebuilding. Namibia, one of Africa's fastest-rising cricket nations, will showcase its newly built 11,000-seat stadium in Windhoek, symbolising the country's growing investment in the sport.

The World Cup will be played across iconic venues, including South Africa's renowned stadiums, Zimbabwe's Fale Mosi-oa-Tunya International Cricket Stadium near Victoria Falls, and Namibia's modern facilities, offering fans a unique blend of cricket and African landscapes.

Beyond the competition, organisers see the event as a platform for promoting unity across the continent. Former South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel called for the World Cup to serve as a symbol of solidarity, urging people to reject intolerance and celebrate the shared history and diversity of southern Africa.

The tournament is also expected to provide fresh momentum for cricket development across Africa. Administrators are working on new grassroots initiatives and an Africa-wide T20 competition aimed at strengthening the sport's future.

For Africa, the 2027 ODI World Cup represents more than a quest for cricket's biggest prize. It is an opportunity to showcase the continent's culture, hospitality and sporting progress while inspiring a new generation of players and fans. Twenty-four years after first hosting the event, Africa is preparing not just to stage a World Cup, but to present its own story to the world.

Balayya's Daughter Before Mokshagna?

Fresh buzz from Tollywood has caught the attention of Nandamuri fans. Reports suggest that Nandamuri Balakrishna's younger daughter, Tejaswini, could soon make her acting debut. For years, fans have been eagerly waiting for Balakrishna's son Mokshagna to enter films. But now, the spotlight has shifted to Tejaswini, with industry buzz claiming she could become the next member of the Nandamuri family to face the camera. Over the past few years, Tejaswini has played an active role behind the scenes in Balakrishna's career. Industry insiders say she has been involved in planning and coordinating projects, including AHA's Unstoppable and the promotions of Balakrishna's recent films. Though she has stayed away from the limelight, many in the industry are aware of her contribution. The rumours grew stronger after Tejaswini appeared in a commercial and shared a few dance reels on social media. Her graceful screen presence received a positive response from fans, with many praising her confidence and natural charm. According to the latest buzz, a woman centric film is being planned as her launch project. The makers are said to be developing a strong emotional story with a meaningful message. Reports also suggest that the team is giving top priority to the script before finalising the director and the rest of the cast. Industry circles also claim Balakrishna is personally guiding the project and sharing his suggestions to ensure his daughter's debut is memorable. The Telugu film industry has rarely seen daughters of star heroes enter acting. While Niharika Konidela from the Mega family tried her luck, very few star daughters have chosen films as a career. If the latest buzz turns out to be true, Tejaswini's debut could become one of the most talked about launches in Tollywood. There has been no official announcement from Balakrishna or his family so far. Until then, it remains industry buzz. But the speculation has already created excitement among fans, who are now waiting to see whether Tejaswini will make her silver screen debut before Mokshagna.

Sai Pallavi in Bollywood's SPOTLIGHT?

The Ramayana trailer has sparked plenty of discussions online. While the film's visuals and VFX have received mixed reactions, another debate has unexpectedly shifted towards Sai Pallavi's portrayal of Sita. What is surprising is that the criticism is not coming from Bollywood circles alone. A section of movie enthusiasts from the South has also started questioning whether Sai Pallavi is the right choice, even before watching her complete performance. Sai Pallavi has never built her career purely on glamour or screen elegance. She is widely admired for her versatility, natural acting and ability to bring emotional depth to every character. That has always been her biggest strength. Casting a performer like Sai Pallavi for Sita is clearly a creative decision. Judging her based on a few seconds of trailer footage hardly does justice to either the actor or the character she is portraying. If a glamorous Bollywood actress had played Sita, would the discussion have been the same? That is a question many are asking. The criticism directed at Sai Pallavi appears far more intense than what the trailer alone justifies. Epic characters have always been remembered because of the performances delivered on screen, not because of first look posters or trailer glimpses. History has proved that time and again. Instead of rushing to conclusions, audiences should wait for Ramayana to release this Diwali. Only after watching the complete film can Sai Pallavi's portrayal of Sita be judged fairly. Until then, the desperate trolling seems both premature and unnecessary.

Ram Charan & NTR To Enter Theatre Business?

The film stars earn a lot of money through films, and then they invest it back in the movies. Especially, the trend of investing in the theatre business is growing. Mahesh Babu started it off with AMB Cinemas in partnership with Asian Cinemas. Now, NTR and Ram Charan are reportedly planning to join the trend. According to reports in the film circles, Ram Charan is also reportedly planning to set up ARC Cinemas in partnership with Asian Cinemas. The planning and execution are reportedly in progress. Additionally, reports have been circulating that NTR is planning to set up a premium multiplex in the Gachibowli area. However, sources close to the NTR team say no such development has taken place yet. Apart from Mahesh Babu, Allu Arjun is also into this business with Allu Cinemas and AAA Cinemas. Ravi Teja also set up ART Cinemas in Vanasthalipuram. Vijay Deverakonda is also in the business. If Ram Charan and NTR also join the bandwagon, Hyderabad's exhibition business is set to become even more competitive. The motive behind all this is that the audiences are craving a premium movie-watching experience, giving a tough fight to the traditional PVR-Inox multiplex chain. AMB and Allu Cinemas have best-in-class experiences, large screens, and affordable F&B prices. With this, the brand value and the image of the actor also grows leaps and bounds.

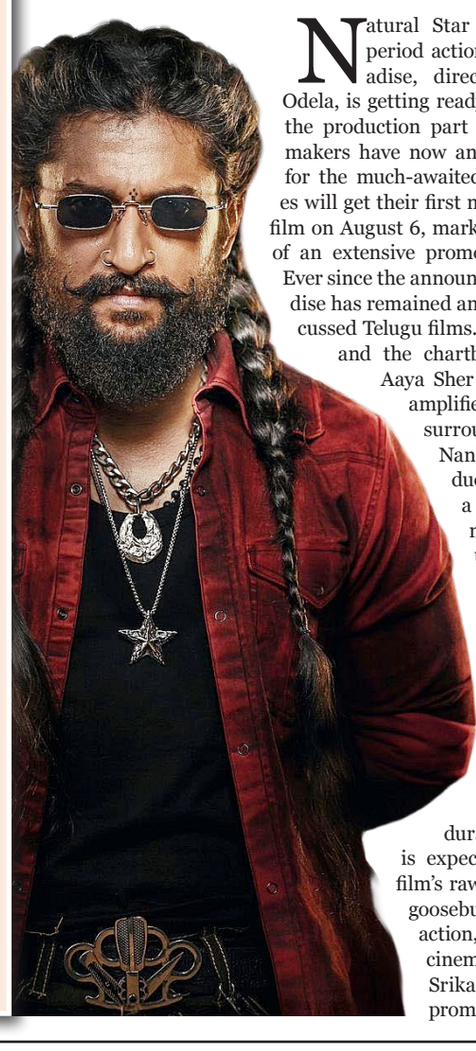
Karthi's Sardar 2 Teaser: Packs Action & Mystery!

The promotional campaign for Karthi's spy action thriller Sardar 2, directed by PS Mithran, has begun, with the makers unveiling the film's action-packed teaser. It's a sequel to the blockbuster Sardar, in the same combination of Karthi and Mithran. The teaser smartly sets the stage for an intense spy thriller. It begins on an intriguing note, with both the protagonist and the antagonist uttering the word silence in contrasting situations, while the visuals erupt with relentless violence. At the heart of the story lies an unconventional clash between a father-son duo of spies and an antagonist who firmly believes he is the good guy. Karthi effortlessly switches between two contrasting personas. The veteran spy exudes wisdom and experience, while the younger character carries a stylish, fearless attitude. SJ Suryah, on the other hand, looks stylish, yet menacing and promises to be a worthy opponent. PS Mithran expanded the scale considerably, delivering slick action, international-style visuals and suspense-filled storytelling. George C Williams captures the action with striking visuals, while Sam CS injects the teaser with energy through his powerful score. Mounted on a lavish scale by Prince Pictures, the film boasts rich production values. Without revealing its biggest surprises, the teaser succeeds in building curiosity and further strengthens expectations surrounding Sardar 2.

Thaman's Comments on NBK111 Send Fans' Expectations Soaring

The buzz around **Nandamuri Balakrishna's** 111th film is growing stronger with every passing day. Directed by **Gopichand Malineni**, the high-profile project has already generated significant excitement among fans, and now music composer **S. Thaman** has added even more fuel to the anticipation with his latest comments. Speaking about the film, Thaman described it as **"not just 111, but a triple shot,"** a statement that has quickly gone viral among Balakrishna's fan base. Though he did not reveal any specific details about the story, his confident remarks have sparked fresh curiosity about what the makers have in store. Thaman also hinted that Balakrishna will be seen in an entirely new avatar, saying that the actor's look and screen presence will create a massive impact in theatres. According to him, several sequences featuring Balakrishna are designed to deliver whistle-worthy moments, raising expectations for yet another powerful mass entertainer. One of the biggest talking points from Thaman's interaction was his hint about the film's title. He revealed that **NBK111** will have a "crazy" title, a comment that immediately triggered widespread discussion on social media. At a time when title announcements have become a major promotional event for star-driven films, Thaman's statement suggests that the makers are planning something special for the official reveal. Industry circles are already describing the film as a large-scale mass action entertainer. Following the blockbuster success of **Veera Simha Reddy**, expectations are naturally high for the reunion of Balakrishna and director Gopichand Malineni. Many believe the duo is aiming to deliver an even bigger cinematic spectacle this time, with larger action sequences and stronger mass appeal. Thaman's confidence has further amplified the excitement. Having composed memorable background scores for several Balakrishna films, he has consistently elevated the actor's larger-than-life image through powerful music. His enthusiasm indicates that he is once again targeting a high-impact soundtrack and background score that will enhance the film's mass moments. While the makers have yet to officially reveal details about the story, title, or Balakrishna's character, Thaman's remarks make one thing clear—the team is positioning **NBK111** as more than just another commercial entertainer. It is being shaped as a grand theatrical event aimed at delivering a memorable big-screen experience. With the title announcement and first glimpse still awaited, every update related to **NBK111** is now being closely followed by fans, making it one of the most anticipated Telugu films currently in production.

NANI'S THE PARADISE TEASER, GOOSEBUMPS LOADING!



Natural Star Nani's ambitious period action drama The Paradise, directed by Srikanth Odela, is getting ready for release, with the production part nearing end. The makers have now announced the date for the much-awaited teaser. Audiences will get their first major look into the film on August 6, marking the beginning of an extensive promotional campaign. Ever since the announcement, The Paradise has remained among the most discussed Telugu films. The title glimpse, and the chartbuster first single Aaya Sher have consistently amplified the anticipation surrounding the project. Nani-Srikanth Odela duo is returning with a film mounted on a much grander scale under Sudhakar Cherukuri's SLV Cinemas banner. Nani's striking makeover and the film's gritty visual aesthetic have further elevated expectations. The teaser with a duration of 1:35 mins is expected to reveal the film's raw atmosphere, and goosebumps inducing action, and the unique cinematic vision that Srikanth Odela has promised.

Basil Joseph & Shine Screens Join Hands, Not for Allu Arjun Film!

Telugu production house Shine Screens, which has made hit films like Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, Kishkindhapuri, Bhagavanth Kesari, and Majili, is expanding its roots into Malayalam cinema with an exciting new project. As per the latest update, Shine Screens has roped in popular actor-director Basil Joseph in the lead role for this film, which will be directed by an associate of director Vipin Das of Vaazha fame. The shooting is expected to commence in August, and preparations are currently underway. This news has generated curiosity among movie lovers, especially because Basil Joseph enjoys a strong fan following in Kerala and his recent films have performed well. Also, this film will be released before Basil Joseph begins work as director on his much-discussed project with Allu Arjun. Since the Icon Star is currently busy with Raaka and will do a film with Lokesh Kanagaraj, the collaboration is expected to take more time, and hence Basil is going ahead with an acting assignment. With Shine Screens backing the project and Basil Joseph headlining it, the film has already started becoming a talking point in the industry circles. More details regarding the cast, title, and release plans are expected to be announced soon.

Printed, Published, Edited and Owned by Pisati Janga Reddy, Printed at : Jayadurga Printers, Plot No.48, H.No.24114/ 3/1, Survey.No.551, Laxmi Narayana Nagar, Uppal, Medchal District, Telangana State.
Published at : Flat No.303A, Prajay Alakapuri Apartments, Road No.2, Green Hills Colony, Kothapet, Hyderabad 500035,Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State.
Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com