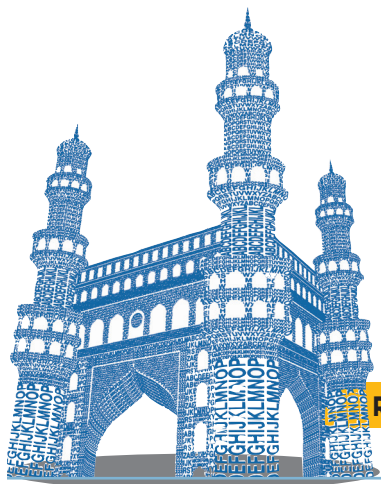




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Blue Zones Unlock the Secrets of a Longer Life

OPINION

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Will Ritika Score A Hat-Trick Hit?

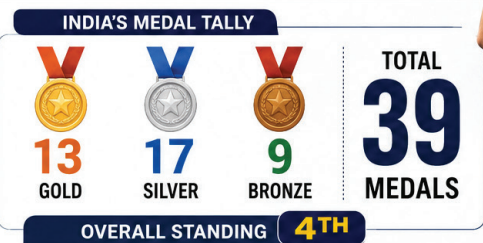
BOX OFFICE

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INDIA FINISHES FOURTH WITH 39 MEDALS AT GLASGOW CWG

BOXERS SHINE WITH RECORD SEVEN GOLDS; MIRABAI, TEJASWIN AMONG STANDOUT PERFORMERS



MIRABAI CHANU
1 GOLD | 1 SILVER
WEIGHTLIFTING

STADIUM

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CJP FUNDS LAND BEFORE THE ELECTION COMMISSION AS COMPLAINT TRIGGERS TRANSPARENCY TEST



WHEN A MOVEMENT COLLECTS PUBLIC MONEY, TRANSPARENCY IS NOT AN OPTION. IT IS THE PRICE OF PUBLIC TRUST.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The Cockroach Janata Party has shaken India's political landscape with a youth movement that culminated in the resignation of a Union Education Minister. Now the spotlight has shifted from the streets to the institutions. A formal complaint before the Election Commission of India seeks scrutiny of the organisation's legal status, fundrais-

ing mechanism and financial transparency. No authority has found any illegality. Yet the complaint raises questions that deserve answers because every public movement that seeks public money also assumes a public responsibility.

The crowds have dispersed. The celebrations over a political victory have given way to a new chapter that will be fought not on the streets but inside constitutional institutions.

A formal complaint has reached the Election Commission of India seeking scrutiny of the Cockroach Janata Party, widely known as CJP. The complaint, filed by Surat-based RTI activist Amit Tiwari, asks whether the organisation, while operating in a manner resembling a political platform, possesses the legal framework required for collecting and managing public funds.

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PM Calls for Drug-Free India



NEW DELHI AUG 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', a nationwide campaign to mobilise youth against substance abuse, calling it a people's movement to build a drug-free India. Addressing over one crore youth connected from more than 28,000 locations through video conference, the Prime Minister said a developed India by 2047 requires a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



CM REVANTH OFFERS PRAYERS AT UJJAINI MAHANKALI TEMPLE

HYDERABAD, AUG. 2

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday offered silk clothes to Goddess Ujjaini Mahankali and performed special prayers at the historic Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad on the occasion of Laskar Bonalu. Ministers Konda Surekha,

Ponnam Prabhakar and Seethakka, besides several MLAs and MLCs, participated in the programme.

Earlier in the day, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, along with his family members, offered the first Bonam to the Goddess on behalf of the Telangana government, formally inau-

gurating the festivities. Large numbers of devotees began arriving at the temple from the early hours to offer Bonam and have darshan of the Goddess. The temple premises and surrounding areas witnessed a festive and spiritual atmosphere.

The authorities made elaborate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

KTR DEMANDS RAHUL'S APOLOGY



HYDERABAD, AUG. 2

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, demanding an unconditional public apology over Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's reported remarks describing engineering students as criminal waste.

In a strongly worded four-page letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi, KT Rama Rao questioned whether the Chief Minister's remarks reflected the official position of the Congress party on students, engineers and the younger generation. Holding Rahul Gandhi politically and morally responsible as the Congress leader who campaigned for the party in Telangana and backed Revanth Reddy as Chief Minister, KT Rama Rao said the Congress could not distance itself from the controversial remarks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



\$3 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2047: BHATTI

HYDERABAD, AUG. 2

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the Telangana government is implementing the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision with the ambitious goal of transforming the state into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047 and achieving a \$1 trillion economy within the next five years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

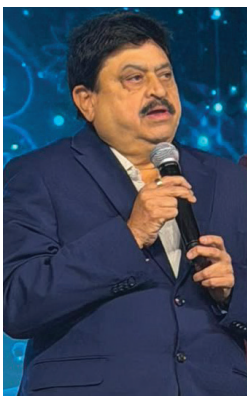
India commands immense respect ACROSS THE WORLD: NRR

HYDERABAD, AUG. 2

Telangana State BJP President N. Ramchander Rao emphasized that the NDA government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working towards building a Viksit Bharat and a Viksit Telangana.

Ramchander Rao, who is in the US to participate in the American Telugu Association's (ATA) 19th conference and youth convention in Baltimore, was addressing a meet-and-greet programme with BJP supporters, well-wishers and sympathisers.

The people of Telangana are now looking to-



wards the BJP as the only credible alternative and the party is steadily rising in the state. People are fed up with both the BRS and the Congress. The BJP has eight Members of Parliament from Telangana, and we have also registered

important victories in the MLC elections. Several surveys indicate that the BJP is emerging as a powerful political force in the state, he said.

The BJP Telangana chief alleged that the BRS and Congress are two sides of the same coin and that both parties came together to defeat the BJP candidate in the MLC election. Even on several national issues, the BRS continues to support the Congress, he claimed.

He thanked the members of the ATA for giving him the opportunity to interact with BJP well-wishers, supporters and sympathisers in Baltimore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The political battle over the CJP protest has now entered a legal minefield. Beyond the slogans, beyond the videos and beyond the competing narratives lies a fundamental procedural question. Did the police follow the Juvenile Justice framework before registering and transferring a Zero FIR against a 15-year-old? That question deserves an answer because the rule of law begins with the State obeying the law.

Every democracy expects its citizens to obey the law. The same democracy expects something even more important from its law enforcement agencies. They too must operate strictly within the boundaries of the law. That principle now sits at the heart of the controversy surrounding the registration of a Zero FIR

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

ZERO FIR ON A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD SPARKS A BIG LEGAL QUESTION DID THE STATE FOLLOW THE JUVENILE JUSTICE LAW



TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

PM Calls for
Drug-Free India

➤FROM PAGE 1

physically fit, mentally strong and drug-free young generation.

The 100-week campaign, supported by over 125 spiritual organisations and several NGOs under the Kashi Declaration, will feature weekly activities such as sports, cultural programmes, meditation and awareness drives every Sunday.

PM Modi urged parents, teachers and society to play an active role in preventing addiction, stressing timely rehabilitation and open communication with young people. He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to intensifying action against drug traffickers and smugglers while encouraging youth to lead the movement towards a drug-free India.

Gandu Vinod Kumar Goud Appointed OBC Convenor

Medchal-Malkajgiri, Aug 02, : The BJP's OBC Morcha strengthened its organizational footprint in Kukatpally on Sunday with the announcement of a new leadership team, as party leaders gathered at the Kukatpally BJP office to mark the programme and extend greetings to the appointees. BJP leader Madhavaram Kantha Rao congratulated the newly formed OBC Morcha team for the Kukatpally Assembly constituency, describing the initiative as part of the party's broader effort to consolidate support across communities in Telangana. Leaders at the programme emphasized that the party is working toward a clear objective—building a stronger organizational struc-



ture and positioning itself for power in the state.

Party officials said enthusiasm has grown further in the wake of BJP national president Nitin Nabin's Telangana visit, which they described as a boost to morale and momentum ahead of upcoming political challenges.

As part of the organizational exercise, Gandu Vinod

Kumar Goud was appointed as the OBC Morcha Convenor for the Kukatpally Assembly Constituency. Shankar Yadav, representing the Medchal Urban district, was named as the OBC Morcha President, while the programme also outlined additional office-bearers and committee members for the new team.

Speaking on the occasion, Kantha Rao asserted that the

Bharatiya Janata Party is the most popular political party in India, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the country's rising strength on the global stage. He also criticized "divisive forces" for what he called attempts to insult the Prime Minister, praising Modi for what he termed his maturity and patience in handling national and international matters.

The programme was attended by several BJP leaders and activists, including Assembly Convenor Sriker Rao, along with Satish, Renuka, Tejaswi, Dileep, Shravan, Yadagir, Jeevan, Narsing, Ram Mohan, Balanarayana, Tirupathi Reddy, Santhosh, Srinivas, Shiva, Vinod, and others.

Dr. Kathula Honoured at ATA

Dr. Satheesh K. Kathula Receives Excellence in Medicine Award at American Telugu Association Annual Convention



MACHERLA KUMARASWAMY
SENIOR JOURNALIST

Baltimore, Maryland – August 1, 2026 – Dr. Satheesh K. Kathula, an internationally respected hematologist, oncologist, educator, and healthcare leader, was honored with the Excellence in Medicine Award at the American Telugu Association (ATA) Annual Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland. The prestigious award recognizes his outstanding contributions to oncology, medical education, public health, and compassionate patient care. With more than two decades of clinical experience, Dr. Kathula has dedicated his career to the treatment of complex cancers, including lung, gastrointestinal, and blood cancers. A graduate of Siddhartha Medical College, he completed his residency and fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at Wright State University, where he currently serves as Clinical Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Kathula is board certified in Hematology and Medical Oncology, a Diplomate of the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine, and has completed advanced executive education programs in Global Healthcare Leadership at Harvard Medical School and Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare at Stanford University.

As President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPi) for 2024–2025, Dr. Kathula led several landmark initiatives to advance medical education, promote cancer prevention and public health awareness, strengthen physician engagement, and expand community outreach. He also successfully organized the 2024 AAPi Global Healthcare Summit in New Del-

hi, fostering collaboration among healthcare leaders and policymakers from across the globe.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Kathula has received numerous prestigious honors, including the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2018 Man of the Year recognition and the U.S. Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional volunteer service. The ATA Excellence in Medicine Award further recognizes his unwavering commitment to clinical excellence, medical leadership, and improving the lives of patients. Accepting the award, Dr. Kathula dedicated the honor to medical professionals around the world who devote themselves to excellence in medicine and compassionate patient care.

"I humbly accept this recognition on behalf of every physician, nurse, healthcare professional, and caregiver who works tirelessly each day to serve patients with compassion, integrity, and excellence. This award belongs to all those who have dedicated their lives to healing others," said Dr. Kathula.

Dr. Kathula also expressed his sincere appreciation to ATA President Jayanth Challa, along with Santosh Reddy and Prasad Akula, for the recognition and for the American Telugu Association's continued commitment to celebrating excellence in medicine, leadership, and community service. The American Telugu Association Annual Convention brings together distinguished professionals, community leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, and physicians from across North America and India to recognize outstanding achievements and strengthen cultural, educational, and professional collaborations.

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KTR
DEMANDS
RAHUL'S
APOLOGY

➤FROM PAGE 1

"The political as well as moral responsibility ultimately rests with you," KT Rama Rao wrote, asserting that Rahul Gandhi's silence amounted to an endorsement of the Chief Minister's comments. Describing the remarks as an insult to lakhs of engineering students, teachers and parents, the BRS leader said branding engineers as "criminal waste" not only demeaned the profession but also undermined the dignity of the constitutional office held by the Chief Minister.

KT Rama Rao alleged that the remarks were not an isolated incident but part of what he described as a recurring pattern of disparaging students and young people. He referred to previous remarks allegedly made by Revanth Reddy about university students, youth and members of the teaching community, accusing the Congress government of repeatedly humiliating Telangana's younger generation. The BRS working president demanded that Rahul Gandhi issue an unconditional public apology to students, engineers, teachers and youth across the country. He also urged Rahul Gandhi to direct Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to immediately withdraw his remarks and tender an unconditional apology to students.

India commands immense respect
ACROSS THE WORLD: NRR

➤FROM PAGE 1

Highlighting the achievements of the NDA government, he said India today commands immense respect across the world and is firmly moving on the path towards Viksit Bharat.

The country is building highways at a record pace. Infrastructure development is taking place on a massive scale, and this will also generate large-scale employment opportunities. India has now become the world's fourth-largest economy.

Rao said that during the Russia-Ukraine war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government safely evacuated Indian students from the conflict zone. India also helped students from Pakistan and other countries. That is the power, credibility and respect India commands today, he asserted. He added that infrastructure development at a record pace would generate large-scale employment opportunities.

He said that during the conflict in West Asia, several countries faced an oil crisis and were forced to ration petrol. India did not face such a situation because of the strategic planning and farsighted leadership of Prime Minister Modi, he asserted.

The Central government's main objective is not merely to create job seekers but to encourage youth to become job creators. To promote entrepreneurship, the Modi govern-

ment launched initiatives such as Startup India, Stand-Up India and the MUDRA Yojana. As a result, a record number of startups are emerging across the country, and India has become the world's second-largest startup ecosystem, Rao said.

Skyroot Aerospace, based in Hyderabad, is a fine example of this new India. It was built by young IITians. I remember meeting Pawan Chandana of Skyroot, who told me with great confidence that within a few years they would even be sending passengers into space, he said.

During Operation Sindoor last year, India demonstrated the strength of its indigenous defence capabilities by using Made-in-India weapons and systems. Our defence exports have increased significantly. There was a time when India depended on other countries even for basic defence requirements. Today, our armed forces are increasingly using indigenously manufactured equipment, he said.

Before 2014, India had around 75 airports. Today, that number has more than doubled. In Telangana too, two more airports are coming up in Warangal and Adilabad, he said, adding that the Modi government has extended unprecedented developmental support to Telangana. The increase in tax devolution from 32 per cent to 42 per cent has greatly

benefited the states.

The Union government brought AIIMS to Telangana and established the Central Tribal University. It approved the Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City, strengthened the rail manufacturing infrastructure at Kazipet and supported the development of the PM MITRA Textile Park in Warangal. The railway budget for Telangana today is more than ₹5,000 crore. Earlier, even the entire undivided Andhra Pradesh did not receive such a large allocation.

Forty-one railway stations are being redeveloped, five Vande Bharat trains are serving Telangana, and three high-speed rail corridors are proposed. Hyderabad will emerge as a major fulcrum of India's high-speed rail network, Rao said. He added that 12 major National Highway projects have been taken up in Telangana. Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, eligible beneficiaries are receiving five kilograms of free foodgrains. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, ₹6,000 is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of eligible farmers every year.

Attending the conference as a distinguished guest, BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao took part in several programmes and warmly interacted with prominent NRI Telugus, youth and representatives of the Indian community.

CM
REVANTH
OFFERS

➤FROM PAGE 1

arrangements to regulate the heavy rush of devotees. Three separate queues were arranged for general darshan, while two queues were provided for devotees carrying Bonam. A separate queue was also earmarked for VIPs. Around 1,500 police personnel were deployed as part of elaborate security arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents. CCTV cameras were installed at various locations in and around the temple premises to monitor the movement of devotees. Special water camps were set up at several points to provide relief to devotees, while the health and medical department deployed health camps and ambulances to deal with any medical emergencies.

Joint Commissioner of Police Joel Davis said traffic restrictions were being enforced in and around Secunderabad in view of the Laskar Bonalu celebrations to facilitate the smooth movement of devotees and minimise inconvenience to commuters. Major roads leading to the Mahankali Temple, including Pogathabazar, Subhash Road, Hill Street and General Bazaar, were temporarily closed as part of the traffic management measures.

\$3 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2047: BHATTI

➤FROM PAGE 1

Addressing a meeting of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) in the United States, Bhatti Vikramarka said the state government was pursuing a development model that places welfare and development at the centre of its governance agenda.

He said Telangana was being developed on a new economic framework comprising three zones – Core Urban (CURE), Peri-Urban (PURE) and Rural Agri (RARE) – aimed at ensuring balanced and sustainable growth across the state.

The Deputy Chief Minister

said Bharat Future City, being developed at Mucherla, would emerge as the state's fourth major urban centre after Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad. Envisioned as a pollution-free, Net-Zero urban hub, the futuristic city is expected to play a key role in Telangana's economic transformation, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was working to position Telangana as a global investment destination while reshaping the state's overall development trajectory through forward-looking infrastructure and economic initiatives.

He also outlined the government's major development programmes and future plans before overseas delegates and NRIs, and urged them to be partners in Telangana's growth story.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Government Whip Addanki Dayakar, MLAs T. Ram Mohan Reddy, Rakesh Reddy, Kale Yadaiah, Donthi Madhava Reddy, Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Vijaya Dairy Chairman Gutta Amit Reddy, Congress leaders, including Hanumantha Jhansi Reddy, and leaders of the Indian Overseas Congress were also present in the meeting.

ZERO FIR ON A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD SPARKS..

➤FROM PAGE 1

against a 15-year-old allegedly connected with the CJP protest. The public debate has largely focused on what was said, who organised the protest and whether any offence was committed. Those are questions that investigators and courts will examine on evidence. But before those questions comes another that is impossible to ignore. Was the correct legal procedure followed in the first place?

This is not a technicality. It is the foundation upon which every criminal proceeding stands.

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE NATION

Did the authorities follow the specialised procedure mandated under the Juvenile Justice framework before registering and transferring the Zero FIR? That is the issue demanding answers.

A CHILD IS NOT TREATED LIKE AN ADULT UNDER THE LAW

India's Juvenile Justice Act was never drafted as an extension of ordinary criminal law. Parliament consciously created a specialised legal framework for children in conflict with law. The objective is clear. Children are not to be pushed into the conventional criminal justice system unless the law specifically permits it. Rule 8 of the Juvenile Justice Model Rules lays down a distinct procedure. For offences that fall within the petty or serious categories and are allegedly committed solely by a child, the police are generally expected to record the information in the General Diary, prepare a Social Background Report and place the matter before the Juvenile Justice Board.

The framework departs from the ordinary FIR-based criminal pro-

cess because the law recognises that juveniles require a child-centric approach rather than an adversarial one.

CAN A ZERO FIR BYPASS THE JUVENILE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

A Zero FIR is often misunderstood. It is not a separate category of criminal case. It is simply an FIR registered at a police station without territorial jurisdiction so that urgent action is not delayed before the case is transferred to the competent police station. But a Zero FIR cannot create powers that the law itself does not confer. If the Juvenile Justice framework requires a different procedure for a child in conflict with law, the label "Zero FIR" cannot automatically override that statutory safeguard. That is precisely why legal experts argue that the issue is not territorial jurisdiction but procedural compliance.

THE COURTS HAVE ALREADY DRAWN THE PROCEDURAL BOUNDARY

The legal debate surrounding the registration of a Zero FIR against a 15-year-old does not unfold in a judicial vacuum. Over the past few years, High Courts across the country have repeatedly interpreted Rule 8(i) of the Juvenile Justice Model Rules and have consistently underlined one central principle. A child in conflict with law cannot ordinarily be subjected to the conventional FIR process for petty or serious offences. Instead, Parliament has prescribed a specialised statutory route through the Special Juvenile Police Unit and the Juvenile Justice Board.

These judicial pronouncements do not decide the facts of the present controversy. They do, however, provide the legal framework within which the actions of the investigat-

ing agency are likely to be examined.

KERALA HIGH COURT SAID THE GENERAL DIARY IS THE LEGAL STARTING POINT

One of the most significant pronouncements came from the Kerala High Court in Don Biju Mathew v. Sub Inspector of Police, Kuravilangadu, decided on 2 August 2022. The Court held that where a juvenile is alleged to have committed a petty or serious offence, the police should not register an FIR. Instead, the information must be entered in the General Diary, a Social Background Report prepared and the matter placed before the Juvenile Justice Board. The Court also referred to the Supreme Court's observations in Dr. Subramanian Swamy v. Raju, emphasising that the ordinary criminal process involving FIRs and charge sheets is contemplated primarily in cases involving heinous offences. Finding that the statutory safeguards had been ignored, the Kerala High Court held that proceedings initiated in violation of Rule 8 could be quashed in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction.

The Kerala High Court reiterated the same position in Muhammed Haneefa v. State of Kerala, decided on 24 June 2024. Reaffirming the mandatory nature of Rule 8, the Court held that an FIR should not be registered against a child except where the allegation concerns a heinous offence or where the offence is alleged to have been committed jointly with an adult. In every other situation, the Court observed, the law requires only a General Diary entry followed by a Social Background Report before the Juvenile Justice Board.

KARNATAKA HIGH COURT DECLARED FIRS AGAINST

JUVENILES UNSUSTAINABLE IN PETTY OFFENCES

The Karnataka High Court, particularly through a series of decisions delivered by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, has adopted the same interpretation. In Raghavendra H. M. v. State of Karnataka, reported in 2026, the Court held that where the allegation amounted to a petty offence, the police lacked jurisdiction to register an FIR and conduct a conventional criminal investigation against a juvenile.

The Court quashed both the FIR and the charge sheet and directed that the matter be placed before the competent Juvenile Police Unit for fresh action in accordance with the Juvenile Justice framework. Similar orders delivered by the Karnataka High Court during 2026 consistently reiterated that an FIR against a juvenile for a petty offence cannot be sustained under the statutory scheme.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT CALLED VIOLATION OF RULE 8 A FATAL PROCEDURAL DEFECT

The Allahabad High Court has also reinforced this interpretation. In proceedings arising out of Case Crime No. 485 of 2025, the Court quashed not merely the FIR but also the subsequent police report and the order taking cognisance. The Court found that the alleged offences fell within the category of serious offences rather than heinous offences and therefore attracted the mandatory procedure prescribed under Rule 8(i). The judgment observed that registration of a regular FIR was prima facie contrary to the statutory mandate. According to the Court, the police were required only to make an entry in the General Diary, prepare the Social Background

Report and place the matter before the Juvenile Justice Board. Having failed to follow that procedure, the investigation itself stood legally vitiated.

OTHER HIGH COURTS HAVE SPOKEN IN THE SAME VOICE

The legal position has found support elsewhere as well.

The Calcutta High Court in Binny Jaiswal v. State of West Bengal observed that Rule 8 prohibits the registration of an FIR against a child except in the two statutorily recognised situations of a heinous offence or joint commission with adults, and consequently quashed the proceedings against the minor accused.

The Chhattisgarh High Court, in Piyush Sharma v. State of Chhattisgarh, similarly relied upon Rule 8 to set aside proceedings where the allegations did not constitute a heinous offence.

WHAT THESE PRECEDENTS MEAN FOR THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY

These judgments do not predetermine the outcome of the present case, nor do they establish that any particular FIR is unlawful.

That determination can only be made by the competent court after examining the facts, the age of the accused, the exact statutory provisions invoked and the applicability of any exceptions recognised under the Juvenile Justice framework.

What these decisions do establish is a consistent judicial principle. Across multiple High Courts, Rule 8(i) has been treated as a mandatory statutory safeguard rather than a procedural formality.

If it is ultimately established that the individual concerned was

a 15-year-old child, that the alleged offences fall within the petty or serious categories, and that no adult co-accused exception applies, then these precedents are likely to assume considerable significance in assessing whether the investigating agency acted in conformity with the Juvenile Justice law.

In other words, the emerging judicial consensus shifts the spotlight away from political rhetoric and back to the central constitutional question. Before asking whether a child violated the law, the legal system may first ask whether the State faithfully followed the law enacted for the protection of children.

THIS IS ABOUT PROCEDURE, NOT POLITICS

It is essential to separate political arguments from legal principles.

Whether the allegations are ultimately proved is an entirely different question.

Whether the child actually committed any offence is for the competent authority to determine.

Whether the age is correctly established is equally a matter of evidence.

Whether adult co-accused were involved also requires factual determination.

Each of these issues will be decided only through the legal process. But the procedural question arises at the very beginning. If the accused was indeed 15 years old, if the alleged offences fall within categories where the Juvenile Justice framework prescribes the specialised route, and if no statutory exception applies, then a legitimate prima

facie question emerges regarding compliance with the prescribed procedure. That question deserves a legal answer rather than a political slogan.

"THE STRENGTH OF THE RULE OF LAW IS MEASURED NOT BY HOW FIRMLY THE STATE ACTS BUT BY HOW FAITHFULLY THE STATE FOLLOWS ITS OWN LAWS."

THE STATE MUST MEET THE SAME STANDARD IT EXPECTS FROM EVERY CITIZEN

Governments rightly insist that citizens obey every legal provision. That expectation carries an equal obligation. Investigating agencies must themselves demonstrate scrupulous adherence to every statutory safeguard enacted by Parliament. Procedural protections are not obstacles to justice. They are part of justice. The Juvenile Justice framework represents a conscious legislative choice to treat children differently from adults. Those protections cannot become optional simply because a case attracts political attention or public outrage.

WHAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARD DECIDES

The Juvenile Justice Board is the statutory authority empowered to deal with children alleged to be in conflict with law. It examines issues including age determination, the nature of the alleged offence, applicable statutory procedures and the appropriate course under the Juvenile Justice Act. Where legal disputes arise regarding procedural compliance, constitutional courts also retain the power of judicial review.



Lion Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy Honoured with the “Vidhya Vaibhava Praveena Suvarna Kankana Award”

HYDERABAD

The Lalitha Samakhy grandly organized the Swatantrya Suvarna Kankana Awards–2026 at Hari Hara Kala Bhavan, S.P. Road, Secunderabad, on Sunday. Eminent personalities from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh who have made outstanding contributions in the fields of education, social service, literature, arts, culture, healthcare, environmental protection, and public service were honoured with the prestigious Suvarna Kankana Awards.

On this occasion, Lion Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, a distinguished educationist, environmentalist, and social reformer, was conferred the “Vidhya Vaibhava Praveena Suvarna Kankana Award” in recognition of his remarkable contributions to education, environmental conservation, and community service.

The event was graced by renowned spiritual leader Dr. Sri Krishna Chamundeshwar Maharshi, popular film actors

Janardhan Rao Jenny and Kota Shankar Rao, along with several eminent personalities from different walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, actors Janardhan Rao Jenny and Kota Shankar Rao praised Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy for introducing innovative educational practices and inspiring thousands of students through quality education and value-based learning. They noted that his dedication to environmental awareness, educational excellence, and social welfare has brought meaningful change to society, making him a deserving recipient of this prestigious honour.

Accepting the award, Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy expressed his gratitude to Lalitha Samakhy and stated that honouring individuals who dedicate their lives to the service of society reflects the rich cultural values of India. He dedicated the award to teachers, students, parents, and everyone working selflessly for the betterment of society.



He emphasized that education should go beyond academic excellence and focus equally on environmental awareness, leadership, sports, arts, cultural activities, and human values. He urged parents to nurture children into responsible citizens with compassion, discipline, and social responsibility.

Expressing concern over growing environmental challenges, Dr. Gopal Reddy stressed that safeguarding clean air, safe drinking water, and healthy food for future generations is a collective responsibility. He appealed to every family to actively participate in environmental conservation by planting and protecting trees and adopting sustainable lifestyles.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sri Krishna Chamundeshwar Maharshi highlighted the importance of preserving the Telugu language, Indian culture, and traditional values. He called upon parents to raise children with integrity, patriotism, discipline, and a spirit of service so they can become responsible citizens who contribute to nation-building.

The cultural performances presented by young children added colour to the celebrations and received widespread appreciation from the audience. The chief guests congratulated the children, parents, and teachers for promoting Indian culture and nurturing young talent.

The ceremony witnessed the participation of distinguished personalities, award recipients, educationists, artists, social workers, and public representatives from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The dignitaries congratulated Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy and appreciated his tireless efforts in transforming education, promoting environmental sustainability, and serving society. They expressed confidence that his work would continue to inspire future generations.

The organizers of Lalitha Samakhy thanked all the chief guests, award recipients, participants, artists, parents, and well-wishers for making the event a grand success.

"Not for Power... CPI's Struggle is for the Rights of the People

CPI State Secretary Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao

MEDCHAL

The Medchal-Malkajgiri District Council meeting of the Communist Party of India (CPI) was held today at the CPI State Office, Makdood Bhavan, under the chairmanship of Satyaprasad.

Addressing the meeting, CPI State Secretary and MLA Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao said that the primary objective of the Communist Party of India is to resolve the problems of the people, not to attain political power. He emphasized that the Communist movement is dedicated to continuously fighting to protect the rights of the people.

He stated that common people are facing severe hardships due to rising unemployment, inflation, the weakening of public sector undertakings, the privatization of education and healthcare, and anti-worker and anti-farmer policies. In such circumstances, he said, CPI is the only party consistently fighting on behalf of the people, taking their issues to the governments and organizing movements to secure solutions. He called upon party leaders and cadres to conduct the party's public outreach



campaigns from August 6 to August 14 in strong divisions across all constituencies. Koonamneni said that whether in power or not, CPI has always upheld the tradition of uncompromising struggle for the rights of the people. He added that people's movements are the true path to bringing meaningful change in society and that this remains the fundamental principle of Communist politics.

Referring to the upcoming Corporation elections, he said they present a crucial opportunity to elect representatives committed to resolving public issues. He urged CPI leaders and activists who have consistently worked among the people with a spirit of service to confidently enter the electoral fray. He advised them to make the issues of colonies, slums, labour settlements, and poor communities the core of their election agenda and earn the people's trust.

Speaking on the occasion, CPI State Secretariat member V.S. Bose said that the victory of CPI candidates in the Corporation elections would strengthen the voice of the people in local bodies and help curb corruption, irregularities, and anti-people governance. He appealed to the public to elect Communist leaders who work closely with the people so as to strengthen transparency, democracy, and social justice in local governance.

The meeting was attended by CPI Medchal District Secretary Uma Mahesh, District Executive Committee members Damodar Reddy, Dharmendra, Swamy, Laxman, Racha Krishan, Harinath Rao, Narsimha Satyaprasad, Srinivas, Haimavathi, Ravichandra, Pramila, Venkatachari, Venkata Reddy, Anwar, Narendra Prasad, Yadagiri, Nagaraju, Madhavi, Latha, Bapiraju, Paramesh, and several other party leaders and members."

Retired RTC Employees to March to Bus Bhavan on the August 4th

HYDERABAD

The General Secretary of the RTC Retired Employees Association Buchi Reddy on Sunday announced a call for a "Chalo Bus Bhavan" (March to Bus Bhavan) protest program on Tuesday (August 4) to address their long-standing grievances. He urged the retired RTC em-

ployees to gather in large numbers at Bus Bhavan at 10:00 AM on the scheduled day.

He said that the protest aims to demand the payment of outstanding arrears from three Pay Revision Commission (PRC) cycles and the immediate release of the retirement benefits. He said that they were calling for the provision of com-

prehensive medical treatments at the Tarnaka RTC Hospital for them. In a statement, the General Secretary requested that the retired employees be permitted to travel on Super Luxury buses. Buchi Reddy stated that a representation regarding these matters would be submitted to the Managing Director of the corporation.

Anika Anne Enthralls Dignitaries with Her Kuchipudi Rangapravesam at ESCI Auditorium

HYDERABAD

Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) Director Colonel Harpal Singh said that success in life is not achieved through academics alone, but also through the pursuit of various art forms, and that dance is one of the most beautiful and enriching expressions of human creativity. He expressed pride that Anika Anne, who has been brought up in the United States while remaining deeply rooted in Indian culture and traditions, chose the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) Auditorium, Hyderabad, as the venue for her Kuchipudi Rangapravesam, the debut performance in Indian classical dance. Currently a Grade 10 student, Anika's decision to present her first classical dance recital in Hyderabad reflects her family's enduring commitment to India's rich cultural heritage.



The Rangapravesam ceremony, held on Sunday, August 2, commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Colonel Harpal Singh in the presence of Anika Anne's family members, relatives, and invited guests. Addressing the gathering, Colonel Harpal Singh described Kuchipudi as one of India's most treasured classical dance traditions that showcases the country's rich cultural heritage to the world. He noted that Kuchipudi oc-



cupies a distinguished place among Indian classical dance forms, blending music, expressive acting, literature, graceful movements, rhythmic footwork, and elegant hand gestures into a captivating artistic experience.

Anika's parents, Siva Anne and Pavitra Anne, have been living in New York, USA, for the past 27 years. Despite being settled abroad, they have raised their two children with strong Indian cultural values and traditions. Anika's grandparents are also highly accomplished and educated

Etala Rajender visited the Ujjaini Mahankali Temple and offered prayers

Speaking to the media after the darshan, he said

HYDERABAD

This temple has a glorious history. The Ujjaini Mahankali Temple was established in Hyderabad about 210 years ago.

When lakhs of people were dying due to a cholera epidemic in Hyderabad, Surati Appayya Mudiraj, who was serving in the army at Ujjain at that time, brought the idol of Goddess Mahankali from Ujjain and consecrated it here. Since then, the descendants of that family have continued to manage this temple.

Every year, the Bonalu festival begins with the Golconda Bonalu, reaches its peak with



the Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu in Secunderabad, concludes with the Old City Bonalu, and is celebrated across villages throughout Telangana.

Every family offers Bonam to the Goddess, praying for the

line with the growing number of devotees. Secondly, VIPs should visit as part of the general public. Alternatively, if they wish to fulfill their vows, they should come when there are no crowds. Keeping devotees waiting in queues for hours causes hardship, especially for those carrying Bonam.

Whenever the Chief Minister visits, Bonams are displayed before him. When devotees are standing in queues stretching for several kilometres, leaders have a responsibility to ensure that women carrying Bonam and other devotees are not inconvenienced. Therefore, they should visit early in the morning when there are no crowds instead of causing inconvenience to the public."

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SHORT
TAKES

Cyberabad traffic police catch 333 for drunk driving during weekend checks



HYDERABAD: Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 333 offenders. The total cases booked 269 two wheelers, 11 three wheelers, 5four wheelers and 2 heavy vehicles based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels 262 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml , 50 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 21 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml All the offenders will be produced before the Court. Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

Governor calls for active public participation in Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign

HYDERABAD: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that a Drug-Free India (Nasha Mukht Bharat) is the foundation for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat, and called upon every citizen to actively participate in the nationwide movement against substance abuse. He said the responsibility of building a drug-free nation rests with every citizen, adding that only when villages and States become free from addiction can India truly emerge as a Nasha Mukht Bharat. The Governor joined youth and students at the Brahma Kumaris Shanti Sarovar Global Peace Auditorium, Gachibowli, on Sunday to watch Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launch the nationwide 'Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'. On the occasion, the Governor launched the '10 crore drug-free pledge campaign' in Telangana and administered the Anti-Drug Pledge to youth and students, urging them to become ambassadors of a drug-free society. Addressing the gathering, Shukla said the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan is a vital people's movement for realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat-2047.

HYDERABAD

City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar visited the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad along with his family on Sunday. He offered silk garments and 'Bonam' to the Goddess and performed special prayers. Subsequently, he inspected the security arrangements implemented by the Hyderabad City Police at the venue.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Sajjanar noted that the Ashada Bonalu festival in Hyderabad holds a rich historical significance. He stated that the festivities across the city were currently proceeding in a peaceful atmosphere and with great devotion. He mentioned that while the Bonalu Jataras at Golconda and Balkampet areas had already concluded peacefully, the celebrations for the Goddesses at Sri Ujjaini Mahankali and Lal Darwaza were currently underway on a grand scale. He revealed that the Hyderabad City Police had

Thousands of attendees from various states across the United States ATA Convention

BALTIMORE

The second day of the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) Convention, being held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, witnessed enthusiastic participation. Thousands of attendees from various states across the United States, as well as from the Telugu-speaking states of India, took part in the event.

The second day's proceedings featured leaders from several political parties who praised the achievements and spirit of the Telugu community in America. Prominent leaders from the Congress, BRS, BJP, TDP, and YSRCP attended the banquet hall meeting and addressed the gathering.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao Calls on NRIs to Promote Telangana Tourism

Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao urged ATA members and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to adopt tourist destinations in Telangana and actively participate in promoting the state's tourism sector. He also announced that he would strive to facilitate the construction of an NRI Bhavan in Hyderabad at a cost of ₹10 crore.

The Minister further revealed that the government would soon launch the "Prabhata Bheri" initiative to create awareness against social evils. He appreciated ATA's efforts in preserving the Telugu language and culture.

Addressing the gathering at the 19th ATA Convention, Minister Jupally praised Telugu people who had crossed oceans to settle in the United States for higher education, employment, and business. He said they had made remarkable contri-



butions to America's economic and technological growth while simultaneously preserving Telugu language, literature, arts, culture, and traditions abroad.

He noted that since its establishment in 1990, ATA has not only united Telugu people across America but has also played a significant role in passing on Telugu language, literature, culture, arts, and heritage to future generations. He also appreciated the contributions of NRIs towards the development of their native villages and Telangana's economy.

The Minister assured the gathering that he would work towards establishing the proposed NRI Bhavan in Hyderabad, which would function as a one-stop coordination center for overseas Indians visiting Telangana. Highlighting Telangana's immense tourism potential, he requested ATA chapters and NRI groups to adopt tourist destinations and heritage monuments in the state and contribute towards their development, conservation, and restoration.

Launch of 'Prabhata Bheri'

Expressing concern over chang-



ing social trends, Minister Jupally observed that many families were spending beyond their means on corporate education and healthcare, despite the government investing thousands of crores in strengthening public education and healthcare services. He urged people to make better use of government facilities.

He also expressed concern that many families were falling into debt by conducting lavish weddings and social functions merely to maintain social status. Advising people to save the wealth they earn through hard work, he also voiced concern over youth becoming addicted to harmful

habits and jeopardizing their future. To combat these social issues, he announced the launch of "Prabhata Bheri," a public awareness campaign, and appealed to NRIs to support this social movement.

BRS Leaders Address ATA Convention

Former Telangana Minister Srinivas Goud said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had developed Telangana on par with an American state. He appealed to NRIs to become partners in Telangana's continued development and praised Telugu people

in America for achieving success through hard work.

Speaking at the banquet meeting, he was joined by former Ministers C. Laxma Reddy, former MLCs Aal Venkateshwar Reddy, S. Rajender Reddy, Gadari Kishore, Putta Madhu, senior BRS leaders Mareddy Srinivas Reddy, Balamal, Karnati Vidyasagar, Kancharla Krishna Reddy, Nandyala Dayakar Reddy, former Library Chairman Raghuvir Singh, BRS NRI USA In-Charge Mahesh Tanneeru, Tirupati Reddy Erramreddy, Chandu Thalla, Narasimha Nagulavancha, and Rajanikanth Kosanam.

Former Minister C. Laxma Reddy remarked that both Telugu states were competing with each other in terms of development and appealed for Telugu people to remain united despite being separated into two states. Former Ministers Srinivas Goud and Laxma Reddy also informed the gathering that senior BRS leader Harish Rao could not attend the ATA convention due to the sudden demise of former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy.

BJP State President

Ramchander Rao

BJP Telangana President Ramchander Rao stated that Telugu people have played a vital role in America's development. He appreciated the Indian diaspora for preserving Indian culture even after settling abroad. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for strengthening India's relations with countries around the world and said ATA has played a key role in preserving Telugu identity while safeguarding Indian culture. He addressed the gathering on the second day of the convention at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Cultural Events Draw Huge Crowds

The second day of the ATA convention featured a variety of cultural and community events. Around 130 artists participated in a grand Bonalu procession in the morning.

Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller attended the Business Forum organized under the leadership of Anil Boyinapalli as the chief guest. Hundreds participated in the Literary Forum and Women's Forum sessions. A spectacular fashion show led by renowned designer Archana Kochhar captivated the audience. Hundreds of young men and women showcased garments specially woven by Telangana handloom weavers. A dance performance titled "Parampara," depicting Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, received tremendous appreciation. Telugu veterans who served in the U.S. Army were specially honored on the ATA stage. Families that sponsored the ATA convention celebrations were also felicitated. Film personalities Rajendra Prasad, Pooja Hegde, and Ritu Varma participated in the second day's events.

Nalgonda to get CC roads, drains & 24x7 drinking water: Komatireddy

NALGONDA

Measures will be taken to provide cement concrete (CC) roads, underground drainage, and round-the-clock drinking water supply to every household across all divisions of Nalgonda town, Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said. Addressing beneficiaries at the Nalgonda Tahsildar office on Sunday after distributing Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques worth ₹64.07 lakh to 64 recipients, the Minister highlighted ongoing development projects in the town.

He noted that CC road and drainage works have already commenced across divisions under the Municipal Corporation limits.

Referring to key drinking water initiatives, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy recently laid the foundation stone for an ₹83-crore drinking water plant, alongside sanctioning an additional



₹300 crore for water supply infrastructure in the town. Following Nalgonda's upgrade to a Municipal Corporation, the Minister expressed confidence in securing up to ₹1,000 crore in Central development funds.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, the Minister said the state government is providing ration cards and fine rice to all eligible residents. Additionally, 700 Indiramma houses have already been sanctioned, and eligible families owning land can apply for the housing scheme this year. Reaffirming the administration's commitment to the

poor and women's financial independence, he added that interest-free loans are being extended to empower women economically.

MLC Shankar Naik lauded the state government's welfare schemes and credited Minister Komatireddy with driving comprehensive infrastructure development in Nalgonda. Earlier in the day, the Minister inspected the progress of major drainage construction at Sai Nagar, instructing officials to expedite the work. He also reviewed projects sanctioned under the AMRUT-2 scheme for the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation.

Free Health Camp at Raksha Clinic Receives Overwhelming Response

Nearly 100 People Screened; Free Medicines Distributed by Dr. Kiran Kumar Gudigonda

KHAMMAM

A free health camp organised by Raksha Clinic, located beside Scoops Ice Cream Shop near Sri Sri Sri Hotel Line on the Khammam Bypass Road, received an overwhelming response from the public on Sunday. The camp was inaugurated by former Corporator Paidipalli Rohini Satyanarayana.

Around 100 people availed themselves of free medical services at the camp, which was organised in view of the increasing incidence of seasonal illnesses such as fever, viral infections, body pains, fatigue and headaches during the monsoon season.

Renowned Cardiologist and Diabetologist Dr. Kiran Kumar Gudigonda personally examined every patient and assessed their health condition. Blood pressure, blood sugar and fever-related



diagnostic tests were conducted, and free medicines were distributed to those requiring treatment for seasonal ailments. Patients were also counselled on appropriate treatment, healthy lifestyle practices and dietary precautions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kiran Kumar Gudigonda urged the public to remain vigilant against seasonal diseases during the rainy season. He advised people not to ignore symptoms such as fever, severe body pain, weakness, headache and vomiting, and to seek timely medical attention. He said Raksha Clinic was established with the objective of providing quality and affordable healthcare services, especial-

ly to economically weaker and middle-class families. He added that the clinic would continue organising free health camps and awareness programmes to promote public health.

Former Corporator Paidipalli Rohini Satyanarayana appreciated the initiative taken by Raksha Clinic, stating that such free medical camps are highly beneficial for underprivileged families. He praised Dr. Kiran Kumar Gudigonda for his service-oriented approach and dedication to community healthcare. He expressed hope that more such camps would be organised in the future to strengthen healthcare access for the poor and encouraged people to undergo regular

health check-ups and remain health-conscious.

Among those present were CPI District Executive Member Tati Venkateswara Rao, AIYF District Assistant Secretary Aakena Pawan, Chintala Ramesh, Tummalala Suresh, Matta Venkateswara Rao, Nallamothu Ramakrishna, Mandepudi Krishnaiah, Pusuluri Nageswara Rao, Nallamothu Srinivasa Rao, and Raksha Clinic staff members Varalakshmi, Uma, Praveen and Harshitha.

Participants expressed appreciation for the free medical services provided by Dr. Kiran Kumar Gudigonda and urged the clinic to organise such health camps on a regular basis.

City CP Sajjanar Visits Ujjaini Mahankali Temple

AI-based Crowd Management Implemented for the First Time During Bonalu Festival

HYDERABAD



made robust advance arrangements with the primary objective of ensuring the safety and security of the devotees.

He stated that the security arrangements for the Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu celebrations were being managed by approximately 2,500 police personnel and added that, by keeping in view the annually increasing crowds, an AI-based crowd management and surveillance system had been implemented at the Mahankali temple for the first time. He stated that this state-of-the-art AI system

utilizes 'facial recognition' technology to analyse faces captured by CCTV cameras in the temple vicinity and added that it enables the immediate identification of known offenders, chain snatchers and pickpockets, allowing for timely alerts and action. He mentioned that the number of devotees entering and exiting the temple would be accurately tracked by using a queue management system. He clarified that crowd density within various sections of the temple and queue lines would be continuously monitored via 'thresh-

old mapping' and noted that if the crowd exceeds safe limits, proactive measures would be taken to prevent stampedes. He explained that coordination was being maintained with the Endowments Department, GHMC and other government agencies to ensure the Bonalu festivities take place in a peaceful atmosphere. He urged all the devotees to seek the Goddess's blessings peacefully and to extend their full cooperation to the police department to ensure the successful conclusion of the festival.

Jupally urges NRIs to promote Telangana tourism globally

HYDERABAD

Minister for Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao has called upon Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to partner with the State government in promoting Telangana as a global tourism destination by introducing its attractions to their friends and colleagues abroad and encouraging them to visit the State.

Addressing the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center in the United States, the Minister also invited the American Telugu Association and other NRI organisations to adopt tourist destinations and heritage sites in Telangana and contribute to their conservation, restoration and development.

Jupally said the Telugu diaspora could play a significant role in taking Telangana's rich tourism potential to a wider global audience. The government, he said, was committed to showcasing the State's heritage, culture, history and natural attractions to the world and sought



the active participation of the Telugu diaspora in this endeavour.

The Minister said the government was also making efforts to establish an NRI Bhavan in Hyderabad at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore. The proposed facility would provide multiple services to visiting NRIs under one roof and function as a coordination and facilitation centre for the overseas Telugu community. Appreciating the contributions of the Telugu diaspora, Jupally Krishna Rao said Telugu people settled abroad had made significant contributions in education, technology, business and entrepreneurship

while continuing to preserve and promote the Telugu language, literature, arts, culture and traditions.

He commended the American Telugu Association, established in 1990, for bringing together Telugu people in the United States and for its sustained efforts to preserve Telugu language, culture and heritage for future generations.

The Minister also acknowledged the contribution of NRIs to the development of their native villages and to Telangana's economy, and urged them to continue supporting the State's development and tourism promotion efforts.

EDITORIAL
Regional Airports:
Connecting Growth
Beyond the Metros

Infrastructure has always been a cornerstone of economic progress, and transportation plays a central role in connecting people, businesses, and opportunities. While highways, railways, and ports remain essential, regional airports are becoming increasingly important in driving balanced development. By improving air connectivity to smaller towns and cities, they help spread economic activity beyond major metropolitan centres and contribute to more inclusive growth.

Regional airports serve as gateways that connect local economies with national and global markets. Better connectivity enables businesses to travel efficiently, explore new markets, and strengthen trade networks. Small industries, entrepreneurs, and service providers benefit from faster movement of people and goods, creating fresh opportunities for investment and expansion. As connectivity improves, more regions become attractive destinations for business and commerce. Tourism is another sector that gains significantly from regional aviation. Many places known for their natural beauty, cultural heritage, and historical importance often remain less visited because of limited transport options. Improved air services make these destinations more accessible, encouraging tourism and supporting hotels, restaurants, transport operators, and local artisans. Increased visitor spending generates employment and strengthens local economies while promoting regional culture. The presence of a regional airport also encourages investment in surrounding areas. Companies often consider connectivity before establishing manufacturing units, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, or technology centres. Better accessibility improves the overall business environment and supports the growth of industries beyond traditional urban hubs. Regional airports also strengthen emergency response by enabling quicker movement of medical teams, relief materials, and essential supplies whenever needed. Employment generation is another major advantage. Airport construction creates jobs during the development phase, while regular operations provide long-term opportunities in aviation services, security, maintenance, logistics, retail, hospitality, and customer support. These direct and indirect employment opportunities contribute to higher incomes and improved living standards for local communities.

As regional aviation expands, sustainability should remain an important priority. Many modern airports are adopting energy-efficient infrastructure, renewable energy, water conservation measures, and digital technologies to improve operational efficiency while reducing environmental impact. Such initiatives show that economic development can move forward alongside responsible resource management. The success of regional airports depends not only on modern terminals and runways but also on strong road and rail connectivity that links airports with nearby towns and industrial centres. Well-planned infrastructure ensures that the benefits of air travel reach a wider population and support long-term regional development. Regional airports are far more than transport facilities. They are engines of economic growth that connect people, promote tourism, attract investment, generate employment, and strengthen regional economies. As India continues to expand its infrastructure network, these airports will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that growth reaches every corner of the country, creating a more connected, prosperous, and inclusive future.

RAISING PEAKS

An Enduring Literary Monument to Parenthood, Humanity and the Moral Memory of Rural Telangana

A Critical Appreciation of Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar's Shirasethina Shikharalu – A Portrait of Amma and Bapu
Some books entertain the mind. Some touch the heart. A rare few reshape our understanding of life itself. Shirasethina Shikharalu belongs unmistakably to the last category. More than a memoir, it is an eloquent tribute to parents, a celebration of the teaching profession and a profound meditation on gratitude, integrity, compassion and the enduring values of rural Telangana.

Published in Ashada 2026 by Sahiti Sopathi Telangana, this 112 page volume is modest in size yet immense in emotional and literary depth. Every chapter transcends personal remembrance to become a lesson in humanity. What appears to be the story of one family gradually unfolds as the collective memory of an entire generation.

Born in 1956 at Narayanapur, Ellared-dypet Mandal, present-day Rajanna Sircilla District to Sri Ramachandram and Smt Bucchamma, Dr Nalimela Bhaskar is a distinguished multilingual scholar, translator, researcher and retired college lecturer. His literary journey, enriched by more than forty five books, including fifteen translations, reflects a lifelong commitment to language and culture. Recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award, the Kaloji Award and numerous other honours including My Gift Sahitee Puraskaram, he remains one of the most respected literary voices in contemporary Telugu letters. Yet, among his many achievements, this book reveals his most cherished identity that of a grateful son.

The emotional heart of the book is Bucchamma. She is portrayed not merely as a mother but as the quiet architect of an entire family's future. Rising before dawn, gently awakening her son with the affectionate advice that lessons learnt early in the morning remain forever in the mind, she transforms everyday motherhood into a sacred vocation. Her discipline, immaculate housekeeping, affectionate care, culinary skill, silent sacrifices and unwavering devotion illuminate every page. Dr Bhaskar does not simply remember his mother; he immortalises the invisible strength that sustains every loving home. Through Bucchamma, motherhood itself becomes literature.

Standing beside her is Ramachandram, an exemplary teacher whose life embodies honesty, discipline, humility, and unwavering dedication. Crossing streams, forests, flooded paths, and difficult terrain merely to reach his school, he never allowed hardship to interfere with his responsibility toward his students. His life reminds us that teaching is not merely a profession but a moral commitment to

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



BLUE ZONES: WHAT THE WORLD'S LONGEST-LIVING COMMUNITIES TEACH US ABOUT AGEING WELL

Can the secret to a long and healthy life be found not in a laboratory but in everyday living? For decades, scientists have searched for answers to this question. Their attention eventually turned to a handful of communities where an unusually high number of people live into their nineties and beyond, often remaining active and independent. These places are known as Blue Zones—regions that have become global symbols of healthy ageing.

The term “Blue Zones” entered public discussion in 2004, when journalist Dan Buettner, working with the National Geographic Society, published an investigation into remarkable pockets of longevity. The concept drew on earlier research by Italian physician Gianni Pes and Belgian demographer Michel Poulain, who had identified villages in Sardinia, Italy, with an exceptionally high concentration of centenarians. While mapping these villages, the researchers marked them with blue ink, giving rise to the name “Blue Zones.”

Today, five places are widely recognised as Blue Zones: Sardinia in Italy, Okinawa in Japan, Ikaria in Greece, the Nicoya Peninsula in Costa Rica, and Loma Linda in California, United States. Although separated by geography, language, culture and religion, these communities share several lifestyle patterns that researchers believe contribute to healthier ageing.

Each Blue Zone has its own distinction. Sardinia is known for one of the world's highest concentrations of male centenarians. Okinawa has historically recorded an unusually large number of women living beyond 100 years, though this advantage has weakened among younger generations as lifestyles have changed. Ikaria reports remarkably low rates of dementia and cardiovascular disease. People in Nicoya enjoy high life expectancy and relatively low mortality in middle age. In Loma Linda, members of the Seventh-day Adventist community live, on average, about seven to ten years longer than other Americans, according to studies published by Adventist Health and ageing researchers.

Despite their differences, the five Blue Zones share strikingly similar daily habits. Their diets are pre-

dominantly plant-based, centred on vegetables, beans, whole grains, fruits and nuts. Meat is eaten sparingly, usually in small portions or on special occasions. Processed foods, sugary beverages and excessive salt are limited. Scientific evidence consistently shows that such dietary patterns reduce the risk of heart disease, type-2 diabetes and several forms of cancer.

Equally important is the way

spected members of the household, and friendships are maintained throughout life. These close relationships reduce loneliness, encourage healthier behaviours and provide emotional support. Modern public health research increasingly recognises social isolation as a major risk factor for poor health and premature death.

Stress management is another shared habit. Whether through

who adopts a Blue Zone lifestyle will live to 100. Longevity is influenced by many factors, including access to healthcare, education, income, environmental conditions and chance. Nevertheless, decades of research consistently show that eating a balanced plant-rich diet, engaging in regular physical activity, avoiding tobacco, sleeping adequately, maintaining healthy body weight, nurturing close relationships and managing stress substantially reduce the risk of chronic diseases and increase healthy life expectancy.

The Blue Zone concept has also attracted scientific scrutiny. Some demographers have questioned the accuracy of historical birth records in certain regions and argued that documentation errors may have inflated the reported number of centenarians. These criticisms, however, focus on age verification rather than on the lifestyle patterns themselves. Independent research from organisations such as the World Health Organization, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and numerous peer-reviewed studies continues to support the health benefits of the behaviours commonly observed in Blue Zone communities.

For countries like India, where non-communicable diseases account for more than two-thirds of all deaths, the lessons from Blue Zones are particularly relevant. As urban lifestyles become increasingly sedentary and processed foods replace traditional diets, the burden of diabetes, obesity and heart disease continues to grow. The experience of Blue Zones suggests that the most effective prescription for healthy ageing may not be found in expensive medicines but in everyday choices.

Blue Zones are not magical places, nor do they offer a guaranteed formula for living to 100. Their greatest contribution lies elsewhere. They demonstrate that healthy ageing is shaped less by extraordinary interventions than by ordinary habits practised consistently over a lifetime. The evidence is clear: while no one can choose their genes, everyone can choose how they eat, move, connect with others and find purpose in life. Those choices may ultimately become the strongest foundation for a longer, healthier and more fulfilling life.



people move. Blue Zone residents rarely follow structured fitness programmes. Instead, physical activity is naturally woven into daily life. They walk frequently, climb hills, cultivate gardens, perform household work and remain active well into old age. This constant, moderate movement supports cardiovascular health, muscle strength and mobility without the need for intensive exercise.

Another common feature is a strong sense of purpose. In Okinawa, it is known as Ikigai, meaning “a reason for being.” In Nicoya, people speak of Plan de Vida, or “life plan.” Research has found that people who maintain a clear sense of purpose tend to experience lower stress, better mental health and improved survival in later life.

Social connections also play a central role. Families often live across generations, older adults remain re-

prayer, afternoon rest, spending time with family or quiet reflection, Blue Zone residents practise simple routines that help reduce chronic stress. Lower stress levels are associated with reduced risks of hypertension, heart disease and depression.

One of the most common questions is whether longevity in Blue Zones is mainly the result of genetics. Current scientific evidence suggests otherwise. Researchers estimate that genetic factors account for roughly 20 to 30 per cent of human lifespan, while lifestyle, environment and social conditions explain the remaining 70 to 80 per cent. Good genes may provide an advantage, but they cannot fully compensate for unhealthy habits. Conversely, healthy lifestyles significantly improve the chances of living longer and remaining healthier, regardless of family history.

This does not mean that everyone

NATIONAL SISTERS DAY (2 AUGUST 2026) AND THE 'BETI TERAPANTH KI' CONFERENCE

LALIT GARGG

In the vast world of human relationships, if there is one bond that epitomizes selfless love, unwavering trust, sacrifice, affection, and lifelong companionship, it is the bond of a sister. A sister is not merely a member of the family; she is its emotional heartbeat, the guardian of values, the soul of the household, and the torchbearer of society's humane consciousness. National Sisters Day is an occasion to celebrate this extraordinary relationship, recognize its dignity, and acknowledge its invaluable contribution to family, society, and the nation. Observed every year on the first Sunday of August, the day reminds us that only when the love, values, and nurturing spirit embodied by sisters remain alive within families can harmony flourish in society and human values continue to illuminate the nation. At a time when materialism, fierce competition, and self-centered lifestyles are eroding the warmth of relationships, National Sisters Day is a reaffirmation of India's timeless cultural ethos, where women are regarded as the axis of the family, the custodians of civilization, and the architects of the future. A sister's role extends far beyond her immediate family; she shapes the values of future generations. Through her compassion, resilience, service, patience, self-discipline, and dedication, she enriches society with humanity and moral strength.

This broader vision found a remarkable expression in the Fourth National 'Beti Terapanth Ki' Conference, organized by the Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Mahasabha on 1 August 2026 at Jain Vishva Bharati, Ladnun, under the auspicious presence of Rashtrasant Acharya Shri Mahashramanji. Reflecting the very spirit of National Sisters Day, the conference was not merely an event but a powerful movement for the resurgence of feminine consciousness, the culture of sisterhood, and enduring family values. The enthusiastic participation of thousands of daughters and sisters from across the country reaffirmed that Indian women are not merely witnesses to change—they are its most dynamic catalysts. Every participant arrived carrying not only enthusiasm but also a renewed commitment to values, service, leadership, and social responsibility. The gathering offered a hopeful vision of India's future, where women are not simply respected but are active partners in nation-building.

One of the conference's greatest strengths was its holistic understanding of women's empowerment. Rather than limiting empowerment to the language of rights alone, it emphasized responsibility, character, leadership, values, and spiritual awareness. It conveyed the inspiring message that true empower-

SISTER: THE FOUNDATION OF CULTURE, COMPASSION, AND AN EMPOWERED INDIA

ment is that which instills self-confidence, strengthens families, unites communities, and elevates the nation. The inspiring presence of Rashtrasant Acharya Shri Mahashramanji imparted profound spiritual significance to the conference. His entire life has been devoted to promoting the dignity of women, moral values, education, self-discipline, and the awakening of human consciousness. Through his guidance and numerous initiatives, society has increasingly recognized that women are not merely the strength of the home but the very foundation of national character. His teachings consistently affirm that when women are educated, value-oriented, confident, and morally grounded, families become stronger, societies become healthier, and nations become more prosperous.

On this occasion, Shri Mahendra Nahata, President of the Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Mahasabha, expressed a deeply meaningful perspective: “No nation can achieve complete progress without the participation and empowerment of women. The societies that have provided their daughters and sisters with opportunities, dignity, and values have always advanced toward sustainable development. The various women-centric initiatives being carried forward under the guidance of Acharya Shri Mahashramanji are not merely empowering women; they are laying the foundation for moral awakening and cultural renaissance across society.” He further remarked that 'Beti Terapanth Ki' is not simply a conference but an enduring intellectual and cultural journey that connects daughters and sisters to the mainstream of nation-building through self-respect, leadership, service, and values. Indeed, the soul of India resides in its culture, and the finest expression of that culture is reflected in its family relationships. The bond of a sister extends far beyond the sacred thread of Raksha Bandhan. It represents trust, encouragement, cooperation, and moral strength—an enduring force that keeps families united. Every daughter illuminates a family through her values, and every sister expands the horizons of compassion and sensitivity through her conduct.

Today, the need is not merely to provide women with opportunities but to place them at the center of decision-making, social leadership, cultural preservation, and national development. When daughters are empowered through education, values, self-reliance, and spiritual wisdom, India's aspiration to become a global moral leader can truly become a reality. Economic progress is undoubtedly important, but without moral development, it remains incomplete. And the greatest custodians of this moral development are our daughters and sisters.

The true message of National Sisters Day is, therefore, not fulfilled merely by exchanging greetings. It calls upon us to ensure that every

sister receives education, dignity, equal opportunities, security, and an environment that enables her to lead with confidence. Families must encourage daughters to participate in decision-making; society must provide platforms for their talents; and the nation must recognize them as equal partners in progress. The 'Beti Terapanth Ki' Conference has demonstrated that when spiritual values, social awareness, and visionary leadership converge, transformation transcends ideas and becomes a living movement. It will remain a lasting source of inspiration for future generations, reminding us that a sister is not merely a relationship but one of the most powerful representatives of culture itself.

In Indian civilization, a sister is far more than a familial relation. She is the living embodiment of affection, sacrifice, dignity, compassion, nurturing care, and auspicious blessings. She is revered as the Lakshmi of the home, the pride of the family, the custodian of values, the sacred stream of love, and the emotional strength that binds generations together. Her affection is unconditional, her blessings are priceless, and her faith provides strength during life's most challenging moments. She inspires, comforts, and sustains, forging bonds not merely of blood but of profound emotional connection. Indian tradition regards a sister as the symbol of prosperity, goodwill, affection, and protection. Festivals such as Raksha Bandhan and Bhai Dooj elevate this sacred relationship to even greater heights, where a sister does not simply tie a ceremonial thread but illuminates her brother's life with her love, trust, and heartfelt blessings. She is the custodian of family culture, the guardian of cherished values, and an ever-flowing river of affection. No words of praise can fully capture her significance, for a sister is truly one of God's most beautiful gifts, enriching life with love, belonging, compassion, and purity.

On this National Sisters Day, let the entire nation resolve that every daughter shall be respected, every sister shall be empowered with opportunities, and every woman shall enjoy the freedom to realize her full potential. This is the strongest foundation for a truly developed India. The day every daughter of this nation advances with confidence, values, education, and leadership, India will reach unprecedented heights of progress. Honouring sisters should never be confined to a single day of celebration; it must become a national commitment. For wherever sisters are respected, families blossom with values, society thrives with compassion, and the nation moves confidently toward a brighter and more enlightened future. That is the enduring message of National Sisters Day, the lasting achievement of the 'Beti Terapanth Ki' Conference, and the most powerful pathway toward building a stronger, more compassionate, and culturally enriched India.



Students Seek
CBI Probe Over
JPSC Lapses

Hundreds of students in Jharkhand continued their protest for the fifth consecutive day on Sunday over alleged irregularities in the 14th JPSC examination, JSSC-CGL and other recruitment tests. They demanded a CBI probe into the alleged lapses and reforms in the state's recruitment agencies. The protesters have been holding an indefinite sit-in at a stadium in Ranchi since July 29. They are seeking cancellation of the 14th JPSC Combined Preliminary Test held on April 19, an independent probe by central agencies including the CBI and Enforcement Directorate, and the introduction of a fifth option of 'not attempted' in OMR sheets. During the protest, students raised slogans such as 'Order CBI probe in JPSC', 'Long live Students Unity' and 'Shame on Hemant Soren'. JPSC aspirant Rahul Kumar Kranti said, "Paper leaks in JPSC have happened several times. This time, OMR sheets of candidates have been leaked. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has ordered a CID probe, but we are not satisfied." He alleged that earlier probes into the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission CGL paper leak had not led to action and claimed that the latest investigation could also be "covered up" after a few months.

Saini Says Punjab Will Give
Befitting Reply to AAP, Congress

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 2: Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that while the present Haryana Government, immediately after taking oath, decided in its first Cabinet meeting to provide 10 per cent reservation to the DSC community, the reservation quota for the DSC community is being scrapped in Punjab. He said that despite clearing the selection process and medical tests, the Punjab Government has sent DSC youth back home at the time of joining. In view of the actions of the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress, the people of Punjab will give both parties a befitting reply in the upcoming Assembly elections. After the formation of a BJP government in Punjab, the DSC community will be provided the benefit of reservation. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini made these remarks while addressing a Vimukt Jati Samaj Sammelan organised in Faridkot, Punjab, on Sunday. Comparing the policies of the Haryana and Punjab governments with supporting figures, he criticised the Punjab Government and appealed to the people to elect a BJP government in



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering at the DNT Samaj Sammelan in Kotkapura, Punjab. (02.08.2026)

Punjab in the upcoming Assembly elections so that the neglect faced by the people of Punjab during the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party regimes can be addressed and the people of Punjab can also benefit from policies similar to those implemented in Haryana. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that immediately after the present government was formed in Haryana, it provided a 10 per cent reservation quota for the DSC community. Subsequently, 604 youth from the DSC community were given jobs without "parchi-kharchi" as part of the

recruitment of 5,600 police personnel. Similarly, 3,200 Group-D candidates were recently recruited in Haryana, of whom 334 economically disadvantaged youth from the DSC community were provided jobs. On the other hand, in Punjab, youth from deprived communities are not being given joining even after being selected through recruitment. The Chief Minister said that the truth about those claiming to be an "Aam Aadmi" and an honest government was exposed before not only the people of Punjab but the entire country during the recent recruitment of Excise Inspectors in Punjab. The irregularities in this recruitment have exposed the claims of honesty made by the Mann Government. He said that candidates who had written names such as "State Bank of India", "DIPS" and "Ik Din Karma Wala" along with their names were selected in this recruitment. The result has been stayed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He said that jobs are being sold in Punjab in such a manner, which is a blatant betrayal of the youth of the state. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that people from Punjab often come to meet him in Chandigarh and say that the reforms implemented by the BJP Government in Haryana should also be implemented in Punjab. He said that the people of Punjab are ready to vote for the BJP in the upcoming elections for this purpose. He said that in Punjab, the government and the Chief Minister are merely entertaining people with jokes and rhetoric, whereas the real responsibility of a government is to work in the interest of the people, in which the Punjab Government has completely failed. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini



Manipur Dy. CM lays stone
for NE India Bhavan – Rani
Gaidinliu Girls' Hostel in Pune

PUNE, AUGUST 2, 2026

Extending a helping hand to the people affected by conflicts in the Northeast, particularly Manipur, Sarhad, a prominent NGO in the country, has begun works on setting up a girls' hostel for which its foundation stone was laid on Sunday. Manipur deputy chief minister and Naga leader Losli Dikho laid the stone of the around rupees ten crore project christened "Late Smt. Jamnabai Firodia North East India Bhavan – Rani Gaidinliu Girls' Hostel," at Gujar-Nimbalkarwadi, Katraj, here on Sunday. Chairman of automobile giant, Force Motors, Abhay Fidodah attended the stone laying ceremony as president in presence of three distinguish invitees -senior scribes from Manipur - Brozendra Ningomba, K Sarojkumar Sharma and Keisham Yaiphaba. The landmark initiative has helped spread the glorification of the nation's iconic freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu, a Zeliangrong woman from Manipur, across the western parts of the country. For over three years, ethnic strife has devastated Manipur – killing over 250 people and displacing around 70,000 – even as the government and civil groups work to restore peace. Impressed by the yeoman service rendered by Sarhad, Dikho lauded Sanjay Nahar, founder president of the NGO for taking up such a meaningful and visionary initiative for the welfare of students of strife-riddled northeast. He also expressed special appreciation to the three journalists from Manipur whom he described as the backbone behind making the programme possible. Dikho remarked that the project is much more than just a building, saying "It represents our shared commitment to supporting the youth from every part of the country. The North Eastern region is a vital part of India's heritage, blessed with rich traditions, immense talent, and immense potential that contributes to the nation's progress."

As India moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, every young person, irrespective of where they come from, should have equal access to quality education and opportunities, added the deputy CM. Describing the proposed Bhavan as a "home away from home" for students from the northeast, Dikho said it would provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment that would support their education, personal growth, and long-term success. He added that the Bhavan would become a permanent sanctuary, especially for students from Manipur studying in Pune. He praised Sarhad for its remarkable work in Punjab and Kashmir through education and community development programmes, promoting national integration, unity, and peace by bringing people together. He also thanked the Firodia family for their generous contribution and hoped their legacy of philanthropy would continue for generations to come. He assured that the Manipur government would continue to support such initiatives aimed at empowering the youth and expanding educational opportunities for students from the northeast.

Dr Abhay said that though the ceremony was a small event, it would have a far-reaching impact in the future. Stressing the importance of national integration, he said that connecting the people of India is essential for building a stronger nation. He observed that certain foreign elements have attempted to create a sense of alienation among the people of the North East from the rest of the country, but such efforts have not succeeded. Referring to the strategic importance of the 20-kilometre-wide Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the "Chicken's Neck", Dr. Firodia said that strengthening emotional and cultural ties between the North East and the rest of India is equally important.

The renowned industrialist expressed confidence that the upcoming hostel would serve as a bridge connecting the people of the North East, particularly Manipur, with the rest of the country. He said the hostel would provide a safe environment for students while promoting cultural exchange, national unity, and a sense of belonging. Sanjay Nahar, said the hostel whose completion target is set within one and a half year would play a significant role in fostering harmony and understanding among the different communities of Manipur. Students from diverse backgrounds and communities would stay together, live together, study together, and interact with one another under one roof, he said. "Such an environment would promote mutual respect, friendship, and trust, sending a strong message of peace, unity, and national integration," he continued. He expressed confidence that the Bhavan would become a symbol of hope and togetherness, helping strengthen bonds not only among the people of Manipur but also between the North East and the rest of India. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to strengthen educational opportunities, national integration, and the welfare of students from the North Eastern states through this landmark initiative.

70,000 drug smugglers
arrested in Punjab's 500-day
anti-drug drive: Bhagwant

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said his government's anti-drug campaign, 'Yudh Nashean Virudh', will continue until the menace is wiped out from the state. He said the drive has completed 500 days and asserted that the government has taken strict action against smugglers while also focusing on treatment, rehabilitation and public awareness. Speaking at a meeting with Village Defence Committee volunteers, Mann said 70,000 drug smugglers have been arrested during the campaign and that 1.25 lakh volunteers across 13,000 villages have become the backbone of the movement. He said the fight against drugs would go on until Punjab becomes completely drug-free. Addressing the gathering, Mann said, "Yudh Nashean Virudh has completed 500 days and our Village Defence Committees have completed one year." He added, "I thank the people of Punjab for turning both these initiatives into a people's movement. The day is not far when together these two movements will completely eradicate the menace of drugs from Punjab." The chief minister said he was indebted to all those serving Punjab in the true spirit and that their determination showed any challenge, however big, could be overcome through collective resolve. "The problem that once appeared insurmountable is steadily coming to an end within 500 days. Many people believed that this curse could never be eliminated, but with the active support of the people we have broken the backbone of this menace," he said. Mann said the AAP government had ensured treatment for those caught in drug addiction by taking them to de-addiction and rehabilitation centres so they could live with dignity and self-respect. He also said Punjab, once branded as 'Udta Punjab', was now changing into 'Padhta Te Tandrast Punjab' as reflected in the state's top ranking in school education, record JEE and NEET success, and merit-based employment. On education, Mann said Punjab had emerged as the top-performing state in primary and middle-school education because of the state government's sustained efforts over the last four years.



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Ram Temple Trust Verifies
Gold, Silver, Jewellery Amid
Probe into Offerings Theft



Ayodhya, Aug. 2: Amid an ongoing investigation into the alleged theft of offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Saturday carried out a comprehensive physical verification of gold and silver bricks, precious jewellery and other valuables kept in a State Bank of India locker. The verification was led by the Trust's interim General Secretary Dr. Krishna Mohan, who personally supervised the exercise from morning till evening. Every item stored in the locker was checked for its quality, quantity and records, while the entire process was videographed to ensure transparency. The verification began at around 10 a.m. and continued throughout the day. The Trust's chartered accountants, Chandan Rai and Jagdish Afale, were also present during the exercise. The move comes after a newly constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) launched a fresh probe into the alleged theft of offerings made by devotees at the Ram Temple. The initial inquiry reportedly raised concerns over the maintenance of records relating to gold, silver and other valuables donated to the temple, prompting demands from devotees for greater transparency. Meanwhile, former Trust General Secretary Champat Rai met Trust President Mahant Nritya Gopal Das on Saturday, marking his first formal meeting with the Trust chief since stepping down from the post. The meeting has drawn attention in religious circles amid the ongoing investigation. Champat Rai, who is currently observing Chaturmas, also visited several monasteries and temples in Ayodhya to seek the blessings of saints and religious leaders as part of his spiritual outreach programme.

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Rahul Urges Congress
Workers to Assist
Kerala Rain Victims

New Delhi, Aug. 2: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday expressed grief over the loss of lives and extensive damage caused by heavy rains in Kerala and appealed to Congress workers and volunteers to actively participate in relief and rehabilitation efforts. In a message posted on social media platform X, Rahul Gandhi said he was deeply saddened by the devastation caused by incessant rainfall, which has claimed at least eight lives, while several others remain missing. "My heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. I pray that those still missing are found safe and the injured recover quickly," he said. Rahul noted that the Kerala government was making every possible effort to support affected families and coordinate rescue, relief and recovery operations. He urged Congress workers and volunteers to extend all possible assistance to the ongoing efforts.



Appealing to residents to remain cautious, especially in landslide-prone hilly regions, he advised people to follow the directions issued by the authorities and stay alert as heavy rains continue. Reaffirming his solidarity with those affected, Rahul Gandhi said Kerala stood united in the face of the crisis and assured every affected family of his support. Kerala has been experiencing heavy rainfall over the past several days, triggering landslides, flooding and widespread disruption in several districts. Rescue and relief operations are continuing as state agencies work to assist affected residents and restore normalcy.

26,000 schools
shut in UP to
deny education
to PDA children:
Akhilesh Yadav

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government has shut more than 26,000 government primary schools since coming to power in 2017, and claimed that the move was aimed at denying education to children from PDA communities, which he described as Backwards, Dalits and Minorities. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in Lucknow, Yadav said the Samajwadi Party would raise the issue during the Monsoon Session of the Assembly, which begins on Monday. He also said party MLAs would target the government on education, paper leaks, law and order, and alleged corruption. Yadav said official data showed that Uttar Pradesh had 1,13,938 government primary schools until March 2017, when the BJP came to power, and claimed that more than 26,000 of them have been closed since then.

Barkot Students Escalate Protest,
Issue Hunger Strike Warning

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand: The indefinite protest by students at Rajendra Singh Rawat Government Degree College, Barkot, entered its 10th day on Tuesday, with demonstrators intensifying their agitation over a set of long-pending demands. The students are seeking the introduction of postgraduate (PG) courses, a regular bus service for commuters, construction of a boundary wall around the college campus, and the construction of a motor road and bridge between Dandagaon and Tatau. The protesting students alleged that although the colleges at Barkot, Purola, and Dakpathar were established around the same time, PG programmes have been functioning for years



at Purola and Dakpathar, while Barkot College is still without postgraduate courses. They said the absence of PG classes forces many students, especially girls, to move to distant towns for higher education. Students also highlighted the lack of a regular bus service, stating that those travelling from remote villages face daily commuting difficulties. They further pointed out that the

absence of a boundary wall raises security concerns on the campus. The construction of a road and bridge between Dandagaon and Tatau, they added, has remained a long-pending public demand. Student leaders said they have repeatedly met the Chief Minister and the Education Minister to present their demands, but no concrete action has been taken despite repeated assurances.



es. They said the continued inaction by the government and the concerned departments had compelled them to launch the indefinite protest. The students warned that if their demands are not addressed promptly, they will intensify the agitation by launching a hunger strike. They asserted that the protest will continue until all their demands are fulfilled. Among those participating

in the protest are ABVP student leader Sampann Bahunaga, Nikita, Dhiraj Rauta, Durv Tanta, Saurabh, Prachi, Ritika, Naman, Rishabh, Gaurav, and Rohit, along with a large number of students. The agitation has also received support from local residents and parents, who have urged the government to take immediate steps to resolve the students' demands.

2nd SIT will analyse afresh
evidence related to theft of
offerings at Ayodhya Ram temple

AYODHYA (UP): (AUG 2)

The second Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to probe the alleged theft of offerings at the Ram temple in Ayodhya will expand its investigation to examine several aspects of the temple trust's administrative functioning, sources said. According to the sources, the SIT, headed by Lucknow Range Inspector

General Kiran S, is likely to seek additional documents and carry out a fresh analysis of evidence related to the alleged diversion of devotees' offerings. The team is expected to visit Ayodhya shortly. The SIT also include Ayodhya Range DIG Somen Barma and Ayodhya SSP Gaurav Grover. A forensic auditor and another expert have also been associated with the investigation.



Taiwan reiterates its claim over islands in South China Sea

TAIPEI

The Taiwan government on Sunday reaffirmed its sovereignty claim over islands in the South China Sea after the Philippines shared an official nautical chart of Scarborough Shoal with the United Nations, local media reported.

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said any disputes in the South China Sea should be resolved peacefully as per international law and the law of the sea, and called for Taipei's inclusion in the multilateral dispute settlement mechanisms, Taiwan's Central News Agency (CNA) reported.

Taiwan's MoFA statement comes after the Philippines shared an official nautical chart of Scarborough Shoal with the UN last week to reiterate its claim over the atoll claimed by Manila, Taipei, and Beijing.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said: "The deposit was made pursuant to Article 16 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)." It stated that the Law of the Sea requires coastal states to give publicity to official charts depicting the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, the CNA reported.



Scarborough Shoal is called Bajo de Masinloc in the Philippines, Democracy Reef in Taiwan, and Huangyan Dao in China, and is claimed by all three nations.

On July 31, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs criticised the Philippines over delimitation of the so-called "baselines of the territorial sea" of Huangyan Dao, terming it "illegal, null, and void". It stated that the Philippines' move was "a grave infringement" upon China's territorial sovereignty and a serious violation of international law, including the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"China firmly rejects and will never accept it. Huangyan Dao is China's inherent territory. China has indisputable sovereignty over it and its adjacent waters, and has sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters. China has continuously, peacefully and effectively exercised sovereignty and jurisdiction over Huangyan Dao," it said in a statement.

"The territory of the Philippines has been defined by a series of international treaties, and Huangyan Dao has never been a part of it. The Philippines' illegal territorial claim over China's Huangyan Dao is completely baseless under international law," it added. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Philippines' unilateral initiation of the "South China Sea arbitration" violates the fundamental principles of international law, including pacta sunt servanda and estoppel, and international law, including UNCLOS, the bilateral agreement between China and the Philippines and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).

Monsoon death toll in Pakistan rises to 126, over 400 injured

ISLAMABAD

The death toll in Pakistan during this year's monsoon season from June 26 to August 1 rose to 196, while the number of injured people climbed to 404, local media reported on Sunday, citing the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The primary cause for fatalities in Pakistan during monsoon season was electrocution, followed by flash floods, drowning, lightning and other rain-related incidents like house collapse and falling of trees.

In the report on Saturday, the NDMA said that four people were killed in rain-related incidents, including drowning and lightning, during the past 24 hours. Furthermore, 16 people were injured during the past 24 hours, with the maximum number of casualties reported in Punjab, Pakistan's The Express Tribune reported. According to the report, 47 people died while 295 people were injured in Punjab from June 26 to August 1. A total of 55 people died, and 82 others were injured in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between June 26 and August 1. As many as five people died, and seven others were injured in Sindh, while Balochistan saw eight deaths and 15 injuries.

Be the Reason for Someone's Smile by Organ Donation

(On the occasion of "Indian Organ Donation Day" on 03 August)

Every 10 minutes, one person is add to the organ transplant waiting list, and 20 people die every day waiting for organ in India. Donating an organ is the process of allowing one person, with their consent, to have their organs legally removed and transplanted to another person, where the donor can be living or dead and a close relative. Organ failure has been one of the leading morbidities, with more lives lost in the pandemic and the past. Many needy patients lose their lives because of the lack of organ availability. One initiative can save up to eight lives by donating hearts, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, livers, intestines, hands, faces, tissues, bone marrow and stem cells.



World Organ Donation Day

To raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and make people aware of the misconceptions of organ donation, "Indian Organ Donation Day" is observed annually on 03 August. The sole aim is to encourage and educate people on the importance of organ donation after death to save more lives. The theme of Indian Organ Donation Day-2026 revolves around spreading awareness among public about organ donation and taking initiative to donate organs when situation arises for immediate action to the needy. Organ donation can save lives of people suffering from chronic diseases. In 2021, globally 1,44,302 organ transplantations had occurred, where 26.44 percent are of deceased organ donation. India had transplanted a total of 12,259 transplantations, which contributes 8 percent of the global transplantations, where the major organs are kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas and small bowel.

First Organ Donor and Transplanted Doctor

"Ronald Lee Herrick" was the first person to donate his organ, kidney to his brother in 1954, and "Dr Joseph Murray", a Nobel laureate, was the doctor who carried out this organ transplantation successfully. In 2023, the India organ donation day is shifted to 3rd August, commemorating India's first successful deceased-organ heart transplanted, on 03 August 1994. Organ donation gives new life to public suffering from organ failure. The purpose of day is to help people understand that volunteering for the organ donation can change many people's lives.

Types and List of Organs Donation

A healthy doctor is more important for organ donation and transplantation as well. There are two forms of organ donation, living and cadaver (after death) donations. Living healthy donors of any age, caste, religion, can donate one kidney, parts of liver, one lung, a part of pancreas, and a part of the intestine. The deceased can donate organs kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, intestines, face, and hands. Organ donation can be made at any age, but donors under 18 must have parental or guardian consent to register. There is a significant gap between the demand and the supply. Only 10 percent of the patients waiting for an organ get it on time. There is only one donor available per million population. Hence it is our minimum duty to come forward for organ donation and/or motivating the potential donor. Let's honour the organ donors whose selfless acts have saved many lives. Reach out to patients waiting for organ donations.

- Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.

Two firefighting helicopters collide while battling wildfire in Greece



ATHENS

Two firefighting helicopters collided in midair on Sunday afternoon while battling a massive wildfire in Greece's western Attica, according to Greek national broadcaster ERT.

The helicopters crashed near the coastal area of Psatha shortly after the collision, prompting a large-scale rescue operation.

The pilot of one helicopter managed to contact the Fire Service's operations centre and reported that the co-pilot had been injured. Rescue operations were underway, the ERT reported.

There was no immediate information on the crew of the second helicopter, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced on Thursday the end of the national emergency declared over wildfires in the province of Avila and the Madrid region, as fires in the two areas have largely stabilised, while blazes remain active elsewhere amid a new heatwave and strong winds.

An emergency command centre in Navalunga, Avila, Sanchez said the decision followed consultations with regional authorities and technical teams. Management of the emergency will now return to regional governments under a lower, Level 2 operational status.

The Burgohondo fire in Avila has burned more than 50,000 hectares and is considered the largest wildfire ever recorded in Spain. The blaze has been technically stabilised, and residents who had been evacuated have been allowed to return home.

Since the start of the year, nearly 130,000 hectares have burned across Spain, according to the European Forest Fire Information System. Thousands of firefighters, soldiers, police officers and civil protection personnel have been deployed across the affected areas. The Military Emergency Unit continues to play a central role in protecting communities and critical infrastructure while supporting regional firefighting teams. Spain has also activated the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, under which Greece and Italy each offered two Canadair firefighting aircraft, together with an additional support aircraft.

'India's approach towards China is managed competition, limited cooperation, and not reconciliation'

BEIJING

India's approach towards its ties with China is one of managed competition, limited cooperation, and not reconciliation, even as the trajectory of ties between the two nations since 2024 has been frequently portrayed as a process of diplomatic thaw, as per a report.

This framing, following the October 2024 disengagement understandings along the Line of Control and meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, draws closer analytical examination instead of uncritical acceptance as a substantive realignment of bilateral dynamics, according to the Politeia Research Foundation (PRF) report.

PM Modi and President Xi held a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in China's Tianjin in 2025. Previously, the two leaders held a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Russia's Kazan in



2024. The breakthrough in bilateral talks was made possible after India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the nearly 3,500-km LAC to end the four-year-long border confrontation.

After India and China started engaging with each other since 2024, flights have restarted, visas have been eased, the resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and border trade points are being prepared for reopening. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to China in July fits this pattern of calibrated outreach.

from the leaders' meetings in Kazan, in 2024, and in Tianjin, in 2025," it added.

During his visit, Misri met China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Hua Chunying and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties. The two sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met H.E. Ms Hua Chunying, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually beneficial outcomes across trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," the Embassy of India in China stated on X.

"Yet to describe these steps as a genuine reset risks overstating their depth. The underlying structural problems-unresolved boundary claims, persistent military deployments, a lopsided trade relationship, and Chinese assertiveness in India's neighbourhood remain intact. India's approach is one of managed competition and limited cooperation, not reconciliation," the report maintained.

"Misri's two-day visit to Beijing on 27-28 July 2026 was a deliberate, low-key effort to operationalise the guidance

Nearly 140,000 Afghan refugees deported to Afghanistan from Pakistan's Punjab: Report

KABUL

Nearly 140,000 undocumented Afghan migrants have been deported to Afghanistan from Pakistan's Punjab province as part of its campaign against foreign nationals who do not have legal residency documents, local media reported, citing provincial authorities.

Punjab's Home Department said that 139,902 Afghan nationals had been arrested and deported to Afghanistan after legal formalities were completed. The department said 248 Afghan migrants were kept in 39 detention centres and

are expected to be deported through the Torkham border crossing after completing formalities, Afghanistan-based news agency Khaama Press reported.

Afghans have been deported from Pakistan as part of its expulsion campaign against Afghan migrants. In recent weeks, the campaign has intensified, with Afghan migrants in Pakistan facing challenges in renewing visas and maintaining legal status, Khaama Press reported. Pakistan said it has deported around 2.66 million undocumented Afghan migrants to Afghanistan during the past three years.

In July, Pakistan Police detained 40 undocumented Afghan nationals during the ongoing crackdown on illegal foreign citizens in Charsadda city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Charsadda Deputy Commissioner Azmatullah Wazir said that detained Afghan nationals were shifted from the city police station to the Peshawar holding centre. He said the detained people would undergo legal and administrative formalities before being deported through the Torkham border crossing, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported.

Wazir said the district administration in coordination



with the police and other law enforcement agencies would continue action against foreign nationals who do not have legal documents in Charsadda district. District Police Officer

(DPO) Rifatullah Khan said that the total number of undocumented Afghan nationals who have been shifted from Charsadda to the holding centre in Peshawar had reached

133, Dawn reported. According to the officials, the action was taken as per the federal government's policy about foreign nationals living in Pakistan without legal documents.

On June 28, Pakistan's Ministry of Interior ordered the immediate arrest of any Afghan national found living in the country without a valid visa from July 10.

The deportation initiative launched by Pakistan in 2023 was renewed in April last year when the government rescinded hundreds of thousands of residence permits for Afghans and warned them of arrests if they did not leave willingly.

CJP funds land before the Election Commission as complaint triggers transparency test

> from page 1

It further requests the Commission to examine the manner in which funds have been raised, received and handled.

That is where the matter stands today. This is a complaint seeking verification. It is not a finding of guilt. Neither the Election Commission nor any investigating authority has concluded that any law has been violated. That distinction is fundamental and must remain clear throughout the public debate.

THE QUESTIONS ARE BIGGER THAN CJP

Every citizen has the unquestionable right to contribute money for a public cause. Every movement has the right to seek legal support. Every student or protester facing criminal proceedings has the constitutional right to competent legal representation. None of those principles is under challenge.

The real issue is accountability. Once an organisation begins collecting money from the public on a significant scale, transparency becomes inseparable from credibility. Citizens who contribute are entitled to know where their money goes, who receives it, who authorises expenditure, how decisions are taken, whether proper accounts are maintained, whether independent audits exist and whether every rupee can be traced from donation to final utilisation. These are not accusations. They are the questions every responsible public movement should be prepared to answer.

THE LEGAL AID FUND HAS BECOME THE FOCAL POINT

The complaint follows the creation of a legal aid fund after the thirty-seven-day Jantar Mantar

protest that centred on examination-related issues. CJP appealed for public contributions to provide legal assistance to students and protesters facing criminal cases. Senior advocate and Rajya Sabha Member Kapil Sibal publicly announced a personal contribution of one crore rupees towards the legal aid initiative and appealed to fellow lawyers to extend similar support. CJP also announced plans to establish a platform connecting affected students with legal assistance.

None of these facts establishes any illegality. The complaint, however, places the fundraising framework, financial governance and utilisation of public contributions under scrutiny. It asks whether adequate transparency and accountability mechanisms exist.

REGISTRATION IS ONE QUESTION. TRANSPAREN-

CY IS ANOTHER.

CJP has consistently maintained that it is a youth platform and not a registered political party. It is not registered with the Election Commission under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

That legal status does not automatically end the conversation. An organisation that attracts nationwide public contributions may still face legitimate regulatory questions about how those contributions are collected, managed and accounted for. Registration and financial transparency are separate issues, each carrying its own public significance.

A SEPARATE COMPLAINT HAS ALSO EMERGED

Around the same time, the same complainant has sought scrutiny by appropriate authorities into the

finances relating to the overseas education of CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, particularly concerning how his studies in the United States were financed. That is an entirely separate complaint.

No authority has established any impropriety. No investigating agency has linked that issue with the Election Commission complaint concerning CJP's fundraising. Until any competent authority reaches such a conclusion, both matters must be treated independently.

PUBLIC TRUST DEMANDS VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

Modern citizen movements increasingly depend upon crowdfunding, digital contributions and volunteer support. That model has expanded democratic participation across the country. It has also raised the bar for financial transparency. The larger the

movement, the greater the obligation to disclose accounts, publish financial records and demonstrate responsible stewardship of public contributions. Trust cannot rest on emotion alone. It must also rest on documentation.

FROM JANTAR MANTAR TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

CJP emerged from widespread youth anger over examination-related issues and rapidly transformed into one of the country's most closely watched protest movements. The Jantar Mantar agitation eventually preceded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. With the street mobilisation now over, the focus has shifted to governance, transparency and institutional scrutiny.

The debate is no longer about the strength of the movement but about

the standards expected from organisations that receive public financial support.

MY SHOT

Democracy needs citizen movements that are fearless enough to challenge authority. It also needs institutions that ensure public accountability.

The Election Commission now has before it a request for scrutiny. Whether it examines the matter itself, refers it to another authority or concludes that no further action is warranted will be determined through due process. Until then, allegations remain allegations, not established facts.

At the same time, every organisation that seeks public trust should recognise one enduring principle. Public support may build a movement. Complete transparency is what preserves its credibility.





Biodiversity authority releases Rs 8.22 crore to rice research institutions, rice-growing states
NEW DELHI, AUG 2

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released Rs 8.22 crore to three institutions and 33 State Biodiversity Boards as access and benefit-sharing (ABS) disbursement for rice, an official said on Sunday. The release of funds marks one of the largest single access and benefit-sharing (ABS) disbursements for rice, the official added. The amount was received from Pioneer Overseas Corporation, an international seed company, for using Indian rice (Oryza sativa) varieties to develop and commercialise hybrids, the official said in a statement. The research institutions will utilise the funds to strengthen germplasm conservation, maintain seed collections and support research and training, it added. The disbursement reflects India's commitment to ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of the country's biological resources, it said. The NBA is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It regulates access to India's biological resources and associated traditional knowledge and implements the Nagoya Protocol's principle of fair and equitable benefit-sharing.



Persistent Systems' Q1 net profit falls 8.7 pc sequentially to Rs 483 crore
MUMBAI, AUG 2

IT major Persistent Systems Limited on Sunday reported an 8.7 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) decline in its consolidated net profit for the first quarter of the financial year 2027 (Q1 FY27). According to the company's exchange filing, consolidated net profit stood at Rs 483 crore during the April-June quarter, compared with Rs 529 crore in the preceding quarter (Q4 FY26). Revenue from operations rose 6.1 per cent sequentially to Rs 4,303 crore from Rs 4,056 crore in the January-March quarter, the IT major added in its filing. However, profitability weakened during the quarter. Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) declined nearly 11.8 per cent to Rs 582 crore from Rs 659 crore in the previous quarter. The company's EBIT margin also contracted by 280 basis points to 13.5 per cent in the first quarter, compared with 16.3 per cent in the preceding quarter. Commenting on financial performance, Sandeep Kalra, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Persistent said that the performance was underpinned by a record quarterly total contract value (TCV) of \$1.15 billion, reflecting continued momentum in larger client engagements, including a 6.5-year strategic services agreement with a leading global technology company with a TCV of more than \$650 million.



MONEY MATTERS

Eazy Pharmacy – Innovative App Connecting Consumers

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 2:

An innovative digital healthcare platform, Eazy Pharmacy, developed by Adrotech Solutions, a tech startup founded by young technocrats lead by Challa Chiranjeevi, Puram Maheder Reddy was unveiled to medical professionals during the Medico-Legal & Practice Protection Forum workshop organised by the National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) at Country Club, Hyderabad, on Sunday. Eazy Pharmacy is committed to transforming access to medicines by making genuine, high-quality healthcare products affordable, accessible, and convenient through technology. The platform strengthens last-mile healthcare delivery through a simple, user-friendly WhatsApp-based medicine ordering system, enabling patients to procure authentic medicines from the comfort of their homes. The initiative is designed to ensure timely access to medicines while re-



ducing the challenges associated with travel and medicine procurement. The platform seamlessly connects consumers with trusted neighbourhood pharmacies, creating a digital healthcare ecosystem that benefits patients, pharmacies, and healthcare providers alike. Consumers receive faster access to genuine medicines from nearby pharmacies, while neighbourhood pharmacies are empowered to expand their customer base, increase sales, and enhance their business without significant additional investment. Designed for ease of use,

Eazy Pharmacy caters to people of all age groups and levels of digital literacy. Its WhatsApp-based ordering platform has been specially developed for senior citizens, non-tech-savvy users, and people living in rural and underserved areas. Supported by a robust logistics network, the platform ensures reliable and timely medicine delivery, even in remote locations. In addition to benefiting consumers and pharmacies, Eazy Pharmacy also serves doctors, clinics, hospitals, and other healthcare institutions by enabling their patients to

access prescribed medicines quickly through nearby verified pharmacies. This helps improve continuity of care, enhances treatment compliance, and promotes the use of genuine medicines. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Challa Chiranjeevi, Founder & CEO, Adrotech Solutions, presented the key features of the platform and demonstrated how healthcare professionals can leverage the app to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery. He noted that patients often travel long distances or visit multiple pharmacies, particularly during emergencies and odd hours, in search of essential medicines, leading to unnecessary hardship and delays in treatment. He explained that Eazy Pharmacy addresses these challenges by digitally connecting patients with nearby neighbourhood pharmacies, enabling faster access to genuine medicines while significantly reducing travel time and inconvenience. Further highlighting the

platform's sustainable revenue-sharing model, Sri Puram Mahender Reddy, Co-Founder, Adrotech Solutions said that the transaction revenue is shared between the supplying pharmacy and the platform, without requiring any initial investment or setup cost from participating pharmacies. Emphasising that Eazy Pharmacy is designed as a collaborative healthcare ecosystem, Sri Chiranjeevi invited doctors, pharmacists, hospitals, and other healthcare providers to actively adopt the platform and share their valuable feedback to further strengthen its features and expand its reach. Following the presentation, the Adrotech Solutions team interacted with the participants and addressed several questions raised by the medical professionals regarding the platform's features, operations, implementation, and benefits. Members of the National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) and the Adrotech Solutions team attended the programme.



India records over 265 million cyberattack attempts: Report

NEW DELHI, AUG 2

India's rapidly expanding digital ecosystem is facing an increasingly sophisticated wave of cyber threats, with more than 265 million cyber-attack attempts and 369 million malware detections recorded during the assessment period, a new report said on Sunday. The report, released by Indian cybersecurity company Lisanthus Tech, titled Cyber Shikshit Bharat: Building a Cyber-Resilient India, paints a concerning picture of the country's evolving cyber threat landscape, highlighting the growing risks confronting businesses, citizens, critical infrastructure and government systems as India accelerates its digital transformation. It noted that the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) recorded more than 29.44 lakh cybersecurity incidents in 2025. A major focus of the report is Operation Sindoor, during which nearly 1.5 million cyberattack attempts were observed. These included distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, phishing campaigns, malware deployments and website defacements. Of these, around 150 incidents reportedly resulted in successful system compromises, underscoring the need for stronger cyber defence mechanisms. The report also draws attention to the growing vulnerabilities of India's critical infrastructure. The

power sector alone witnessed nearly 200,000 attempted cyber intrusions, while telecom networks, government systems and other strategically important sectors continued to face sustained cyber threats.

Commenting on the findings, Khushhal Kaushik, Ethical Hacker and Founder & CEO of Lisanthus Tech, said India's digital transformation has emerged as a global success story, but the cyber threat landscape is evolving at an unprecedented pace. He said cybersecurity is no longer merely an information technology challenge but has become a national security imperative, adding that cyberattacks, malware campaigns and state-sponsored cyber operations are becoming increasingly sophisticated, coordinated and persistent. Kaushik further said the nearly 1.5 million cyberattack attempts recorded during Operation Sindoor, along with the detection of 369 million malware instances, reflect the scale of the cybersecurity challenge facing the country. Through the Cyber Shikshit Bharat initiative, he said, the company aims to build a cyber-aware and cyber-resilient nation by equipping citizens, students, government officials, industry leaders and critical infrastructure operators with the knowledge and skills needed to counter modern cyber threats.

India's Automobile Sector Achieves Another Milestone

Union Minister Kishan Reddy on the Launch of Keto Motors' First Commercial Electric Bus

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 2:

India has taken another significant step forward in clean transportation, indigenous technology, and green energy. Homegrown automotive company Keto Motors has successfully launched its first commercial electric bus. The specially designed 9-metre electric bus, developed to meet the traffic and urban mobility needs of the country, has been handed over to its operating partner. On the occasion, Union Minister Kishan Reddy congratulated the engineers, management, and employees who played a key role in designing and developing the bus. He said the event reflects the remarkable transformation India is witnessing in manufacturing, technology, green energy, and innovation under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that India has progressed from a time when it had to wait for decades for vaccines and other essential needs to becoming a nation that developed its own COVID-19 vaccine and supplied it to more than 60 countries, even ahead of several developed nations. The same spirit of self-reliance, he said, is



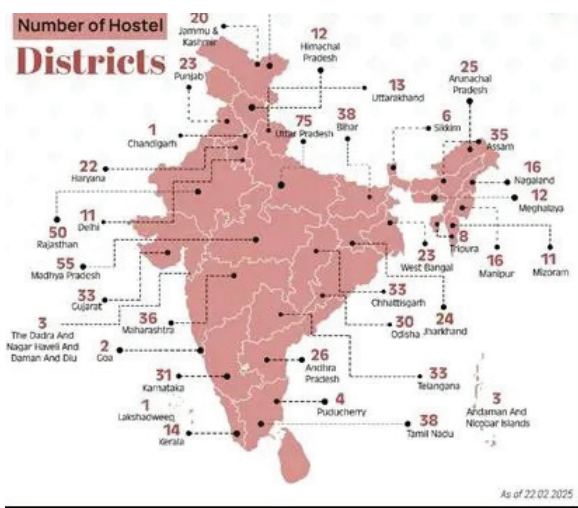
now clearly visible in the automobile sector. Centre's Full Support for Electric Vehicles Electric mobility is not merely an alternative to petrol and diesel vehicles. It is paving the way for: Energy security - Pollution control - Reduced imports - Technological self-reliance The Central Government is comprehensively promoting every aspect of the EV ecosystem—from vehicle manufacturing and battery production to charging infrastructure, research, and skill development. Clean Energy and the Role of PSUs To ensure that the electricity powering electric vehicles is also clean, the Central Government is making major investments in solar, wind, hydro, and green energy corridors. Public sector enterprises such as Coal India and NLC (Neyveli

Lignite Corporation) are expanding beyond conventional coal production into solar power, floating solar projects, and pumped storage initiatives, thereby fulfilling their national responsibility. National Critical Mineral Mission Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper, which will serve as the backbone of electric vehicles, solar panels, semiconductors, defence, and artificial intelligence technologies, are of strategic importance comparable to crude oil. Keeping this in view, the Modi Government has launched the National Critical Mineral Mission with an outlay of ₹34,000 crore. Telangana Emerging as a Technology and Innovation Hub Telangana is evolving into a major hub for pharmaceuticals, infor-



mation technology, defence, electric mobility, electronics, and semiconductor design. International semiconductor companies are establishing design centres in Hyderabad, while young Telugu engineers are designing world-class chips. Through the Semicon India Programme, the Central Government is providing substantial financial incentives for semiconductor manufacturing, research, and design. India Emerging as a Global Electronics Leader India is now the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones. Today, 99.2% of the smartphones used in the country are manufactured domestically. Electronics manufacturing has grown sevenfold, exports have increased elevenfold, and the sector now provides

employment to nearly 2.5 million people. Through the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and stable industrial policies, the Central Government continues to extend strong support to the electronics industry. As India advances with world-class infrastructure and road networks while competing on the global stage, it is steadily progressing toward the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. The success of Keto Motors stands as a testament to India's indigenous capabilities. It is hoped that through continued research and innovation, Keto Motors will further develop environmentally friendly transportation solutions while contributing to the nation's economic growth and employment generation."



Govt Completes 46,642 PM-AJAY Development Works

NEW DELHI, AUG 2

The Centre has selected 47,328 villages across the country, including 435 in Telangana, under the Adarsh Gram component of the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY), with 46,642 development works already completed, the government informed the Rajya Sabha on Sunday. The government is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY) to promote the socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste communities through the integrated development of villages under its Adarsh Gram component, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale shared the details in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. The minister said the Adarsh Gram component aims to achieve saturation of 50 monitorable socio-economic indicators across 10 sectors, including education, through the integrated development of selected villages. A need assessment survey is carried out to es-

tablish the baseline status of these indicators, following which identified gaps are addressed through convergence with Central and State government schemes or through interventions supported under PM-AJAY.

He added that the programme made by states is regularly updated on the PMAGY Portal. The written reply stated that, across the country, 3,28,131 development works and 1,10,51,213 beneficiaries have been identified under the scheme. Of these, 46,642 development works have been completed, benefiting 47,59,399 beneficiaries so far. With regard to Telangana, the minister informed the House that under the education sector, 3,529 beneficiaries have been identified, of whom 472 have already received benefits under the scheme. "The House was also informed that, across the country, 3,28,131 development works and 1,10,51,213 beneficiaries have been identified under the scheme. Of these, 46,642 development works have been completed, benefiting 47,59,399 beneficiaries so far," the minister stated.

Zigly Expands with Jubilee Hills Centre

Hosts Grand International Happy Pets Day Celebrations Initiative Aims to Promote Awareness on Proactive Pet Healthcare

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 2, 2026

Zigly Pet Care, India's first omnichannel pet care brand, celebrated the third edition of International Happy Pets Day (IHPD) with great enthusiasm at its Zigly Pet Care Experience Centre in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. Held on the occasion of Friendship Day, the event brought together pet parents from across the city, who participated along with their beloved dogs and cats. The celebration was organised to strengthen the bond between pets and their families while promoting awareness about proactive pet healthcare. The Jubilee Hills Experience Centre hosted a range of activities, including free pet health check-ups, veterinary consultations,



wellness consultations, and pet first-aid training sessions. Veterinary experts also educated pet parents on providing immediate first aid to pets during emergencies.

The celebrations were held across 35 Zigly Pet Care centres in over 15 cities, attracting participation from more than 2,500 pets and over 3,500 pet parents nationwide. Organised under

the theme "Life is Simply, Undeniably Better Together," the event also marked the launch of Pet First Aid Kits. Additionally, Zigly Pet Care announced the expansion of advanced veterinary care services across several centres to improve access to quality pet healthcare. Speaking on the occasion, Saurabh Jain, CEO of Zigly Pet Care, said, "International Happy Pets Day

is a celebration of the unique bond shared between pets and their families. This year, we have placed special emphasis on proactive healthcare.

Through the expansion of our 24x7 veterinary services, the launch of Pet First Aid Kits, and making expert veterinary care more accessible, we aim to build India's most trusted pet healthcare ecosystem." The celebrations at the Zigly Pet Care Jubilee Hills centre, featured engaging activities such as the Snuffle Mat Challenge, Best Trick Showdown, Pet Bingo, Caricature Corner, and a Photo Booth, providing memorable experiences for both pets and their owners. With the number of pet-owning families in Hyderabad steadily increasing, organisers highlighted that such initiatives play an important role

in raising awareness about pet health, vaccination, nutrition, and the importance of regular veterinary check-ups.

As part of its commitment to social responsibility, Zigly Pet Care announced that INR 6 Lakhs raised through International Happy Pets Day ticket sales has been contributed to the Zigly Foundation. The funds will support anti-rabies vaccination drives, deworming, distribution of reflective collars for stray dogs, rescue initiatives, and pet adoption programmes. Zigly Pet Care stated that International Happy Pets Day will continue to serve as an annual platform that brings together pet parents, veterinary professionals, and animal lovers, while encouraging greater awareness and adoption of proactive pet healthcare practices.





Cyber security

A Complete Guide to One of the Fastest-Growing Professions

Cybersecurity has become one of the most promising and respected career choices in the modern digital era. As businesses, governments, educational institutions, and individuals rely more heavily on technology, protecting digital systems and sensitive

information has become a critical priority. Every day, millions of cyberattacks target organizations around the world, ranging from phishing scams and ransomware attacks to sophisticated data breaches and espionage campaigns. These threats have

created an unprecedented demand for cybersecurity professionals who can safeguard networks, applications, cloud platforms, and confidential information. Unlike many traditional careers that may experience fluctuations in demand, cybersecurity

continues to expand because cyber threats evolve continuously. As new technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), and 5G networks become mainstream, organizations require skilled professionals capable

of defending increasingly complex digital environments. This combination of strong job security, competitive salaries, global opportunities, and continuous learning has made cybersecurity one of the most attractive career paths in 2026.

What Is Cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting computer systems, digital networks, software applications, mobile devices, and data from unauthorized access, cyberattacks, theft, and damage. It involves implementing technologies, policies, and best practices that ensure information remains confidential, accurate, and available to authorized users. Cybersecurity professionals work to prevent hackers from exploiting vulnerabilities while also preparing organizations to detect, respond to, and recover from security incidents. Their responsibilities extend beyond technical protection, as they also help develop security policies, educate employees about cyber risks, and ensure compliance with legal and regulatory standards. The importance of cybersecurity has grown significantly because businesses now store vast amounts of valuable digital information, including customer records, financial transactions, healthcare data, intellectual property, and government secrets. A successful cyber-attack can result in financial losses, operational disruptions, legal penalties, and severe reputational damage.

Why Cybersecurity Is One of the Best Careers Today

Cybersecurity stands out because it combines strong career growth with meaningful work. Professionals in this field play a crucial role in protecting organizations from constantly evolving threats. Every industry, including banking, healthcare, manufac-

turing, retail, education, aviation, defense, and telecommunications, requires cybersecurity experts. One of the biggest advantages of this career is the shortage of skilled professionals. Reports from industry organizations consistently show that millions of cybersecurity positions remain unfilled worldwide. As a result, qualified professionals enjoy excellent employment prospects, attractive compensation packages, and opportunities to work internationally. The field also offers long-term stability. While automation and artificial intelligence are transforming many industries, cybersecurity professionals remain essential because human expertise is needed to analyze threats, make strategic decisions, and respond to sophisticated attacks. AI can assist security teams, but it cannot completely replace experienced professionals who understand complex attack patterns and organizational risks.

Growing Demand Across Industries

Organizations of every size face cyber threats, making cybersecurity relevant across almost every sector. Banks must protect customer transactions from fraud. Hospitals need to secure patient records and medical devices. Governments defend national infrastructure and sensitive information. E-commerce companies safeguard online payments and customer data. Technology companies protect cloud services used by millions of people. Even small businesses have become attractive targets because they often

have weaker security measures than large enterprises. As digital transformation accelerates, cybersecurity professionals are needed not only in multinational corporations but also in startups, consulting firms, educational institutions, and public sector organizations. Remote work has further increased cybersecurity requirements. Employees accessing company systems from home create new security challenges, requiring organizations to strengthen identity management, endpoint protection, and secure remote access solutions.

Educational Qualifications

A cybersecurity career is open to candidates from various educational backgrounds. Many professionals hold degrees in Computer Science, Information Technology, Electronics, Cybersecurity, Information Systems, or Software Engineering. However, individuals from mathematics, physics, or other technical disciplines can also transition into cybersecurity through specialized training.

Practical knowledge often carries as much importance as formal education. Employers value candidates who demonstrate hands-on experience with security tools, networking concepts, and operating systems. Many successful cybersecurity professionals build home laboratories where they practice penetration testing, vulnerability analysis, and network monitoring in controlled environments. Continuous learning is essential because cyber threats evolve constantly. Professionals regularly update their knowledge

through certifications, online courses, workshops, and practical exercises.

Essential Technical Skills

Cybersecurity requires a strong understanding of computer networks, operating systems, programming, databases, and cloud technologies. Professionals should understand how attackers exploit vulnerabilities and how defensive technologies prevent unauthorized access. Networking forms the foundation of cybersecurity because attacks often target communication between systems. Understanding TCP/IP, routing, switching, firewalls, DNS, VPNs, and network protocols helps professionals identify suspicious activity. Knowledge of operating systems such as Windows and Linux is equally important. Security professionals analyze system logs, manage user permissions, investigate malware infections, and configure secure environments. Programming skills enhance problem-solving abilities. Python is widely used for automation, scripting, malware analysis, and security testing. Knowledge of PowerShell, Bash, JavaScript, SQL, and C can also prove valuable depending on the specialization. Cloud security has become increasingly important as organizations migrate applications to AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform. Understanding cloud architecture, identity management, encryption, and cloud monitoring tools significantly improves career opportunities.

Important Cybersecurity Cer-

tifications

Professional certifications validate technical knowledge and demonstrate commitment to continuous learning. Beginners often start with CompTIA Security+, which covers fundamental security concepts. Cisco's CCNA certification provides valuable networking knowledge, while Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) introduces penetration testing techniques. As professionals gain experience, they may pursue advanced certifications such as CISSP, CISM, CompTIA CySA+, CompTIA PenTest+, GIAC certifications, or cloud-specific security certifications from AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud. Although certifications strengthen resumes, employers generally prefer candidates who combine certifications with practical experience and problem-solving abilities.

Career Roles in Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity offers diverse career paths that suit different interests and skill sets. Some professionals focus on defending systems, while others specialize in identifying vulnerabilities before attackers exploit them. Security Analysts monitor networks, investigate alerts, analyze suspicious activities, and respond to incidents. Their work forms the first line of defense against cyber threats. Ethical Hackers, also known as penetration testers, legally simulate cyberattacks to identify weaknesses before malicious attackers discover them. Their findings help organizations improve security.

Security Engineers design and implement security solutions, including firewalls, intrusion detection systems, endpoint protection platforms, and identity management systems. Cloud Security Engineers secure cloud infrastructure, configure access controls, manage encryption, and ensure compliance with cloud security best practices. Incident Responders investigate cyberattacks, contain damage, recover affected systems, and analyze attack methods to prevent future incidents. Digital Forensics Specialists collect and analyze electronic evidence following security breaches or cybercrimes. Their work often supports law enforcement investigations and legal proceedings. Security Architects develop comprehensive security strategies for organizations by designing secure infrastructure and integrating security into business operations. Security Consultants advise organizations on improving cybersecurity programs, conducting risk assessments, and implementing industry best practices.

Daily Responsibilities

The daily work of a cybersecurity professional varies depending on the role. Security analysts monitor security dashboards, investigate suspicious events, review system logs, and coordinate responses to potential threats. Penetration testers perform security assessments and prepare detailed reports describing discovered vulnerabilities. Engineers deploy security technologies, configure firewalls, manage

endpoint security platforms, and update security policies. Incident response teams investigate malware infections, recover compromised systems, and coordinate communication during security events. Documentation is an important aspect of cybersecurity because professionals maintain security policies, incident reports, risk assessments, and compliance records. Collaboration with software developers, system administrators, business leaders, and legal teams is also common.

Salary and Career Growth

Cybersecurity offers highly competitive salaries due to strong demand and limited availability of skilled professionals. In India, entry-level cybersecurity professionals can earn between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh annually, depending on skills, certifications, and employer. Professionals with three to five years of experience often earn between ₹12 lakh and ₹25 lakh per year. Specialized roles such as penetration testers, cloud security engineers, and security consultants frequently command even higher salaries. Senior cybersecurity professionals, including security architects, incident response managers, cloud security experts, and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs), can earn ₹40 lakh annually or significantly more in leading multinational organizations. International opportunities offer even greater earning potential, especially in countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Singapore, and the Middle East.





India Finishes Fourth with 39 Medals at Glasgow CWG

CWG 2026
Emma Finucane creates history with fourth track cycling gold
GLASGOW: Welsh cycling star Emma Finucane etched her name into Commonwealth Games history by becoming the first sprint cyclist to win four track gold medals at a single edition of the Games after clinching the women's keirin title in Glasgow on Sunday. At the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, the 23-year-old achieved a remarkable clean sweep by winning the keirin gold alongside the titles she had previously gained in the team sprint, the individual sprint and the 1,000m time trial, a feat accomplished over four consecutive days.

CRICKET
ACA congratulates Subhadeep Ghosh on Indian fielding coach appointment
GUWAHATI: The Assam Cricket Association (ACA) on Sunday congratulated former Assam cricketer and coach Subhadeep Ghosh on his appointment as the Fielding Coach of the Indian senior men's cricket team, describing it as a proud moment for the state's cricketing fraternity. Extending its congratulations, the ACA said, "The Assam Cricket Association extends its heartfelt congratulations to Subhadeep Ghosh on his appointment as the Fielding Coach of the Indian Senior Men's Cricket Team." Ghosh, who represented both Assam and Railways during his domestic playing career

Boxers Shine with Record Seven Golds; Mirabai, Tejaswin Among Standout Performers
GLASGOW
India signed off its campaign at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in style, finishing fourth in the overall medal standings with a tally of 39 medals — 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. Despite competing in a scaled-down edition featuring only 10 sports, the Indian contingent delivered one of its most memorable performances, underlining the country's growing depth across multiple disciplines. The highlight of India's campaign was an extraordinary performance in boxing. Indian pugilists returned with a record 10 medals — seven gold and three silver — the nation's best-ever boxing haul at the Commonwealth Games. On the final day alone, Indian boxers captured all seven gold medals, helping the country register its highest-ever single-day Commonwealth Games collection of 16 medals and cementing its fourth-place finish. Athletics also emerged as a major



success story, contributing 10 medals, while weightlifting accounted for eight medals. Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu created history by winning her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal, reaffirming her status as one of India's finest weightlifters. India's para athletes continued their impressive rise by securing six medals, reflecting the country's

growing strength in para sports. The judo team added four medals, including two gold, further boosting India's medal tally. Several athletes scripted memorable milestones during the Games. Tejaswin Shankar became the first Indian to win a Commonwealth Games medal in the decathlon, while distance runner Gulveer Singh emerged as India's only double medallist by claiming silver in the men's 10,000m and bronze in the 5,000m. Overall, 38 Indian athletes reached the podium during the Games. India's achievement assumes greater significance as the Glasgow edition excluded several disciplines that have traditionally contributed heavily to the country's medal tally, including wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and cricket. Despite the absence of these sports, India comfortably retained its place among the Commonwealth's top sporting nations, finishing behind only Australia, England and Canada. The campaign also highlighted the emergence of a new generation of Indian athletes capable of excelling on the international stage. Dominant displays in boxing, consistent performances in athletics and weightlifting, and encouraging results in para sports and judo reflected the country's expanding sporting ecosystem. With the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad on the horizon, India's performance in Glasgow offers optimism for even greater success in the years ahead.



Aaruthran Prabhu dominates mini under-10 class; Kairav Roberson, Rehan Khan Rasheed, Rudra Gokulnath win

NEW CHANDIGARH
The Sher-e-Punjab T20 League was officially launched at the PCA International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, ushering in a new domestic T20 competition aimed at providing a platform for Punjab's emerging cricketers. Aaruthran (Kartkrew Motorsports), a gold medallist at the FIA-Asia Pacific Motorsports Championship in Sri Lanka last year, topped the official practice, Heat, Super Heat and the Finals race in his class to finish his campaign this weekend on a high. Equally impressive was Chennai's Rehan Khan Rashed (Momentum Motorsports) who dominated the Junior class, winning the Super Heat and the Finals after having been the quickest through the weekend that saw Rounds 3 and 4 being conducted. The only time Rehan looked vulnerable was when he trailed team-mate Adithya Pratap in the Final but he recovered well to move into the lead towards the latter part of the race to score a good win. In the Mini class, UK-based Rudra Gokulnath (NKRA with Momentum) pulled off a fine win in the Finals race, upstaging Super Heat winner and Round 3 hero Shiv Neel, the son of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan. Rudra displayed impressive pace to not only avenge his defeat in the Super Heat but also underline his talent. In the Senior class, Chennai's Kairav Roberson (MSPORT) was unstoppable as he took the honours in the Super Heat and the Finals, outpacing his arch-rival Armaan Dhawan from Delhi (Leap Frog Racing). Undoubtedly, the competition in the Mini and Under-10 categories highlighted Sunday's programme. Rudra Gokulnath and Aaruthran Prabhu provided thrilling wheel-to-wheel battles racing in the combined grid and quite fittingly, were rewarded for their fearless but fair performances. In the Super Heat, Aaruthran Prabhu displayed his ability to absorb pressure while winning a very close race. On his part, Shiv Neel moved up the combined grid to snatch a creditable second overall, but first in the Mini class.

Chaladi Tej Veer Wins First Place in Kata at International Martial Arts Championship Mega Event



HYDERABAD
Master Chaladi Tej Veer from Tadepalli (Seethanagaram), Amaravati, secured first place in the Kata event in the Under-10 Yellow Belt Boys category at the International Martial Arts Championship Mega Event held today at Lakshmi Garden Function Hall on Sagar Road, Hyderabad. He also won second place in the Sparring (Fight) event in the 21-25 kg weight category for participants aged 9 to 12 years, drawing appreciation from many. The championship featured participants from several countries. In addition to winning two medals, Tej Veer was promoted to the Green Belt level. He said that his determination was inspired by his father, Chaladi Satish, who won two silver medals in two different 75 kg categories at the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) World Championship three years ago. Satish is the son of noted journalist Chaladi Poornachandra Rao of Machilipatnam, making Master Tej Veer his grandson. Tej Veer has been training in Kung Fu since the age of five at the Shaolin Monks Kung Fu Academy of India in Tadepalli, Amaravati. He trains under instructor Mad-dipatla Keerthi, under the supervision of the academy's founder and Bodhidharma Award recipient Dr. M. Narayana Rao. Currently a Class 5 student at Ramakrishna Mission High School, Seethanagaram, Tej Veer had earlier won first place in the national-level Kata event in the 25 kg category held at Chilakaluripet in March. Tej Veer said that his success was made possible by the inspiration of his father and the encouragement of his parents, Satish and Damayanthi. He proudly dedicated his achievement to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, whom he praised for their visionary efforts and continuous work toward the development of the state and the nation.

'India hosting CWG 2030 will inspire the younger generation': Mirabai Chanu



NEW DELHI
Fresh from scripting history with a third successive Commonwealth Games gold medal, Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu expressed excitement over India hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games, saying it would inspire a new generation of athletes in the country, while reflecting on the sacrifices, family support and mental resilience that shaped her career. Mirabai, who won the women's 48kg gold at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow with record-breaking lifts, said hosting the Games in India would create new opportunities for aspiring sportspersons across the country. "The happiest news is that India is hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and the younger generation will get to learn a lot, and more players will be motivated to move forward," Mirabai told IANS. Reflecting on the journey that took her from a young athlete in Manipur to becoming one of India's most decorated weightlifters, Mirabai credited her family for standing by her through every challenge. "Talking about the journey,

there are so many things... From where I started, how I reached here, going to the national camp, and everything I had to face along the way—all of that. But I am very happy that I have a family who provided so much support throughout my journey so far. That is something that makes players feel truly lucky, to have such support," she said. The 31-year-old also opened up on the physical and mental challenges elite athletes face, especially while dealing with injuries during major competitions.

"In a player's life, there are many ups and downs; you have to face a lot. Sometimes training goes well, and sometimes it goes bad. During those tough times, thoughts creep in about what will happen next and how we will compete if training continues like this. And above all, injuries—injuries happen most when you are at your peak or preparing for a big competition. Injuries affect every player in every sport. Facing those moments while keeping a strong mindset is essential, because these challenges will keep happening in our lives

everywhere. So first of all, hard work, sacrifice, and maintaining discipline are crucial to moving forward," she said. Mirabai's latest Commonwealth Games triumph came after she recovered from a missed opening snatch attempt to lift a record-breaking 85kg before sealing the title with a 105kg clean and jerk. The victory made her the first Indian weightlifter to win three successive Commonwealth Games gold medals and further cemented her legacy as one of the country's finest sporting icons.

Sher-e-Punjab T20 League unveiled; Gill, Arshdeep among marquee attractions

NEW CHANDIGARH
The Sher-e-Punjab T20 League was officially launched at the PCA International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, ushering in a new domestic T20 competition aimed at providing a platform for Punjab's emerging cricketers. The inaugural edition of the tournament will be held from August 30 to September 13 and will feature six franchises competing in 27 matches in a round-robin format. The league is set to showcase several of Punjab's leading cricketers, including India captain Shubman Gill, Arshdeep Singh, Abhishek Sharma, Gurnoor Brar, Prabhsimran Singh and Rameend Singh. The league was launched by Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) secretary Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer and president Amarjeet Singh Mehta in the presence of Gill and Arshdeep. The official logo of the tournament was also unveiled during the ceremony. Speaking at the launch, Gill described the Sher-e-Punjab T20 League as an ideal platform for young cricketers to showcase their talent and progress towards representing Punjab and India. "Punjab has always produced outstanding cricketers, and I believe this league will help discover many more. I congratulate the Punjab Cricket Association for this wonderful initiative and wish the league great success," Gill said. Meet Hayer said Punjab has consistently been one of India's biggest contributors to cricket, producing legends such as Lala Amarnath and Yuvraj Singh, along with current international stars including Gill, Arshdeep Singh, Prabhsimran Singh and Harmanpreet Kaur. "The depth of talent in Punjab is unmatched, and that is why we believe the Sher-e-Punjab T20 League will become one of the country's premier domestic T20 competitions," he said. Describing the league as a visionary initiative of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Meet Hayer said the tournament aims to provide a professional platform for emerging cricketers from the state to showcase their talent and take the next step in their careers. "This league will provide young cricketers with a platform to showcase their talent alongside international stars. We are grateful to all

the players, the Punjab Cricket Association and everyone associated with this initiative. We are confident the league will be a grand success," he added. PCA president Amarjeet Singh Mehta said the competition would allow aspiring cricketers to share the dressing room with international stars while showcasing their abilities on a bigger stage. "The Sher-e-Punjab T20 League will play an important role in shaping and further cementing the future of Punjab cricket," Mehta said. During the launch ceremony, PCA secretary Meet Hayer, president Amarjeet Mehta, vice-president Deepak Bali, treasurer Sunil Gupta and joint secretary Sidhant

Sharma also felicitated the franchise owners and players. The auction for the inaugural edition will be held on August 9, when the six franchises representing Amritsar, Fazilka, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali and Bathinda will assemble their squads. Each franchise will have a salary purse of Rs 45 lakh. The marquee player will be valued at Rs 10 lakh, while the base price for an icon player has been fixed at Rs 1.5 lakh. The base prices for Punjab first-class, U-23, U-19 and district players have been set at Rs 1 lakh, Rs 75,000, Rs 50,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively. Each franchise can have a maximum squad size of 20 players.



Will Ritika Nayak
Score A Hat-Trick Hit
With Kanakaraju?

Young actress Ritika Nayak is slowly making a name for herself in Telugu cinema. She started her career on a positive note with Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam, which becomes decent hit at box office with positive reviews and word of mouth. Her next film, Mirai, also turned out to be a successful venture, giving her two hits from her first two releases. More than anything, she found a lot of fame in her career but did not sign back-to-back films. Now, all eyes are on her upcoming film Korean Kanakaraju, starring Varun Tej. If the film becomes a box-office success, Ritika will achieve a rare feat by scoring a hat-trick of hits with her first three movies. Not many actresses have done that in the past. Apart from her performances, Ritika has also impressed audiences with her cute Cameo presence in films like Hi Nanna, and this has made her one of the promising young talents in Tollywood. However, one aspect that could work against her is the long gap between her films. In an industry where visibility matters, staying away from the screen for a long time can slow down momentum. Industry insiders feel that Ritika should sign more projects and be in the limelight. But the scene with Varun Tej is different, as he needs to score a hit at any cost to make a comeback. Will Ritika bring luck to Varun and get a solid hit under her belt? Only time will tell. Korean Kanakaraju has been directed by Merlapaka Gandhi and is up for release on August 7, 2026.

KAJOL'S
Friendship Day
Message Shines

Hollywood actress Kajol's Friendship Day post is all about cherishing the feminine energy. Kajol took to her official Instagram handle on Sunday and published a couple of pictures of herself. The album started with some of the latest photos of the 'K3G' actress, moving towards some older photos of her. Kajol dedicated her post to the one who had been fighting for her even when she did not realize it. The 'Maa' actress promises to love her and fight for her in the Instagram post that read, "Happy friendship day to the one who has stood by me since I was born and before.. it took so long for me to realise how precious she was and how much she fought for me even when I didn't see it.. I see her now.. and I know her and love her so much more... and last of all I promise to love her and fight for her as well forever (Folded hands emoji) #happyfriendshipday (sic)." Towards the end, Kajol also uploaded an old picture with sister Tanishaa Mukerji, along with another photograph with mother Tanuja. Kajol loves to stay on top of her social media game. On Parents' Day this year, she expressed her gratitude for all the love, sacrifices, and lessons she learned from her parents and in-laws. Speaking about how becoming a parent herself ended up changing her perspective towards parenthood, Kajol shared, "#Happyparentsday..We are all parents now and the sheer responsibility of being a parent is something that u truly don't understand till it happens to you.. and u never know how much ur parents love u and have sacrificed for u till it happens to u. So this is a gratitude post to all my parents for loving me so much. I'm so very loved and therefore so very blessed." Kajol's post included stills of her mother Tanuja, father Shomu Mukherjee, and her in-laws.

Spider Man To Hit
Historic 500 Cr
Club In India?

Spider Man Brand New Day has taken the Indian box office by storm with a sensational opening. Trade estimates suggest the film could collect around Rs 275 crore to Rs 300 crore in its opening weekend, setting a massive benchmark. The phenomenal start has sparked fresh discussions in trade circles. Many are now wondering if the Marvel biggie can script history by entering the elusive Rs 500 crore club in India. No Hollywood film has officially achieved that milestone in a single theatrical run so far. Avengers Endgame remains the highest grosser in India with collections of around Rs 450 crore. Spider Man has clearly generated extraordinary buzz among audiences. Advance bookings, packed shows, and strong turnout across major cities have given the film a dream start. However, the film has also received mixed reactions from a section of viewers after release. While many are enjoying the spectacle, others feel it falls short of the huge expectations. That makes the weekday performance extremely crucial. A solid hold from Monday onwards will decide whether the film has enough momentum for a long theatrical run. If the collections remain steady despite the mixed word of mouth, Spider Man Brand New Day could create a historic record at the Indian box-office and become the first Hollywood film to touch the Rs 500 crore mark.



Nagarjuna's
Release Timeline
Tweaked Again?

During the promotional event of Akhil's Lenin, seasoned actor and producer Akkineni Nagarjuna rightly pointed out how Tollywood lacks proper planning of theatrical release much in advance unlike big-budgeted Hollywood movies like The Odyssey, which announce their dates much earlier. While his call for completing all production activities two weeks prior to release is practical, his statement missed an equally important logic which Tollywood should adopt besides just the pre-release planning. It is the gap between theatrical release and OTT debut. Lenin, which performed well and emerged as a box office hit this season, is now getting ready for its OTT release in just 4 weeks after the theatrical screening. This strategy is nothing but pushing the long run of movies into jeopardy. Surprisingly, Nagarjuna himself is promoting it as "Mondu Intiki Vacchestunnadu". The issue is not just for Lenin, but majority of the recent big ticket films followed



the same approach which is no doubt killing the theatrical revenues to some extent and burning the pockets of buyers. It is a well known fact that narrow OTT windows directly harm ticket sales and distributor profits. When moviegoers know that a film will be available on their mobile screens in just one month, they become hesitant to spend money on high theatre ticket prices. Unless a film receives extraordinary word-of-mouth praise, many viewers simply choose to wait for the home release. Unfortunately, this bad trend to rush for streaming releases comes at a time when theatrical business is actually recovering in the last couple of months. Recent films like Peddi, Maa Inti Bangaram, Obsession, Chennai Love Story etc. managed to set the ticket registers ringing despite not getting

unanimous blockbuster talk and even though there is no festival advantage. Adding to this positive is the recent industry trend that showed that major OTT platforms are struggling to keep audiences engaged due to a shortage of fresh quality content. Consequently, viewers across the world are returning to theatres to enjoy the shared big-screen experience. So, it is highly imperative that our filmmakers should not just focus on technical deadlines. But, they should ensure that post release strategies should be chalked out in a manner which helps the films in the long run. If star producers, especially Nagarjuna, who is keen on bringing a change to the current release window policy, actively support longer OTT streaming windows, distributors will feel more secure and audiences will be more motivated to return to cinema halls regularly. This will boost theatrical revenues and help create a healthier ecosystem for the film industry. Completing the film well in time is no doubt essential, but giving more time for theatrical screening is equally crucial for the well being of all parties involved in the business.

Divya Bharathi
Blooms In Pastel Pink

Divya Bharathi just gave a masterclass in soft glam, and fans are obsessed. Wrapped in a blush pink net saree with delicate floral work, the actress looked like she walked straight out of a garden fairytale, complete with sun-kissed greenery and stolen candid smiles. No over-the-top styling here, just soft waves, statement earrings, and pure natural charm doing all the work. And it's not just her fashion game that's on point right now. Divya Bharathi has quite the lineup coming her way. She's next set to appear in Aasai, the Telugu film G.O.A.T, and Madhil Mel Kaadhal, currently in production.



Planning & Scripts
Key for Jai Krishna

Srinivasa Mangapuram marked the debut of Jai Krishna Ghattamaneni in Telugu cinema. After being promoted aggressively, the commercial drama hit the screens the other day and opened to mixed reviews. More than the film itself, the focus was on Jai Krishna's performance. Social media is filled with opinions about the young actor, and a section of the audience feels that he was quite impressive for a debutant. However, a majority believes that Jai needs to improve significantly when it comes to dialogue delivery and expressions. While he has done well in the dance and action sequences, the actor in him still needs refinement. There is no denying the fact that he will get more opportunities in the future, but he needs to work on his diction and other aspects of acting. Some viewers also felt that the film's commercial elements were a bit too heavy for a newcomer to handle, which may be why he appeared subdued in emotional and confrontation scenes. Many industry insiders believe that Jai should begin with simpler films before taking on big-budget projects or roles that demand intense drama. Going forward, it may be beneficial for him to choose a simple romantic comedy and score a solid hit. Since this is his debut film, many are willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. However, in the future, Krishna needs to select scripts that not only showcase his acting abilities but also help him connect with audiences. Acting may run in his blood, but careful planning and the right choices will help him establish a strong place in the industry. Let's see what happens.

