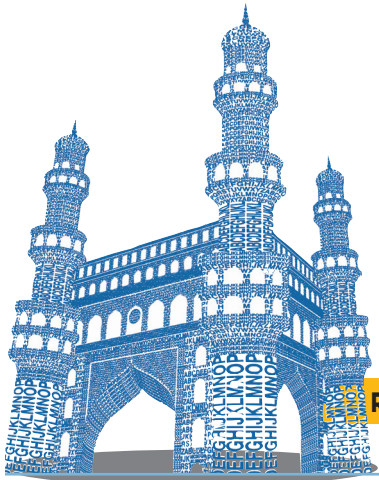




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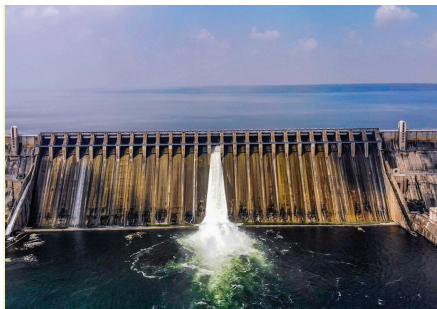
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NAGARJUNA SAGAR AT 60

OPINION

06

Raashi Proves Style Is Forever



BOX OFFICE

12

A New Boost for Singareni under the People's Government

Securing the Manuguru PKOC-II Dip Side block in the auction is a historic achievement for Singareni.

Hyderabad, August 3: Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister described the allotment of the Manuguru PKOC-II Dip Side block to in the Central Coal Ministry's online auction as a historic victory. He stated that the continuous efforts made over the past 30 months to protect and expand Singareni, while ensuring the state's energy security, are now yielding results and giving a new lease of life to the organization. He emphasized that this success was possible due to the government's determination to secure new coal blocks to safeguard Singareni, which is a valuable asset of the people of Telangana.

He further noted that when there was uncertainty over whether the Naini coal block in Odisha would even commence operations, he personally visited the state, engaged with public representatives and local communities, and secured approvals. As a result, coal production has now begun at Naini, laying a strong foundation for the company for the next 36 years. Similarly, the Tadicherla-II coal block, for which mining permissions were granted during the UPA era in 2013 but

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

PRASHANT KISHOR STORMS BANKIPUR FORTRESS FALLS

BJP'S 30-YEAR STRONGHOLD SHATTERED STRATEGIST TURNS WINNER, CHANGES BIHAR POLITICS



BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

For three decades, Bankipur was considered politically untouchable. Election after election, the BJP held the seat with remarkable ease. On 3 August 2026, that certainty collapsed. Political strategist turned politician Prashant Kishor entered the electoral battlefield for the first time and walked away with a decisive victory, ending the BJP's uninterrupted hold on the constituency since 1995. The bypoll has delivered far more than one legislative seat. It has delivered a political shock that every party in Bihar is now

forced to study.

Politics often teaches one brutal lesson. No fortress remains impregnable forever. Bankipur had become synonymous with BJP dominance. The constituency, earlier known as Patna West, had remained firmly under the party's control for nearly thirty years. It was the political inheritance of the Nitin Nabin family and one of the safest urban seats in Bihar.

That perception has now been shattered. Official election results confirmed that Prashant Kishor of Jan Suraj secured approximately sixty four thousand

votes while the BJP candidate finished nearly nineteen thousand votes behind. The RJD remained a distant third.

The numbers are not close enough to invite excuses. They tell a story of decisive voter choice.

FROM POLITICAL CHANAKYA TO ELECTED LEADER

For years, Prashant Kishor influenced elections from behind the curtain. Governments rose and fell with strategies carrying his imprint. Critics repeatedly questioned one thing. Could the strategist win for himself?

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

STATES CAN WITH DRAW NEET CASES: SC

New Delhi, August 3: The Supreme Court has observed that state governments are legally empowered to withdraw criminal cases filed against protesters involved in demonstrations over the alleged NEET-UG question paper leak, subject to the provisions of law. The controversy over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak triggered nationwide protests, prompting the Central Government to order a CBI investigation into the matter. The entrance examination was subsequently conducted again, and the results were declared. Despite these steps, protests continued, with several groups demanding accountability and the resignation of the then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Demonstrations were held in Delhi and several other cities, during which police registered cases against many protesters. The issue eventually reached the Supreme Court, where the petitioners sought relief against the criminal cases filed during the protests. While hearing the matter, the apex court clarified that state governments have the discretion to withdraw such cases in accordance with the law.

The Supreme Court also explained the meaning of "criminal antecedents," stating that the term primarily applies to serious offences such as rape and terrorism, and should not be casually invoked in other situations. The court further indicated that it would frame comprehensive guidelines on the use of pellet guns in law enforcement operations. The observations are expected to influence how state governments deal with cases registered against protesters during the nationwide demonstrations

Spider-Man: Brand New Day Nears Endgame Opening Record

Mumbai, Aug. 3: Spider-Man: Brand New Day has delivered one of the biggest box-office openings in cinema history, earning an estimated \$355 million in North America during its opening weekend—just \$2 million short of the \$357 million record set by Avengers: Endgame in 2019. The Marvel-Sony blockbuster also collected \$572 million overseas, including \$121 million from China, taking its worldwide opening to an impressive \$927 million. The film's massive debut has boosted the global box office and reaffirmed Spider-Man's enduring popularity with audiences worldwide.

KTR ATTACKS REVANTH'S REMARKS ON STUDENTS

Hyderabad, Aug.3: BRS working president KT Rama Rao sharply criticised the Congress government, asserting that the most significant misuse of resources by the Congress party was appointing Revanth Reddy, a figure currently facing 89 criminal charges, as the Chief Minister of Telangana. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, KT Rama Rao demanded that Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issue an unconditional public apology to the youth and engineering students of Telangana for betraying them and insulting them.

Reacting to the Chief Minister's remarks describing engineering students as "criminal waste", KTR said Revanth Reddy had no moral authority to insult lakhs of educated



youth. He questioned whether the Chief Minister had ever appeared for a competitive examination or even possessed the ability to fill out his own election affidavit without assistance. The engineers whom Revanth Reddy had ridiculed, KTR said, were the very people who built Telangana's roads, buildings, Secretariat, Command Control Centre and other major infrastructure.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

MINISTER REVIEWS SITAMMA SAGAR PROGRESS

Hyderabad, Aug.3: Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has directed officials to expedite the works on the Sitamma Sagar Irrigation Project being constructed across the Godavari River in Khammam district and complete them at the earliest. The Minister participated in a high-level review meeting on the progress of the Sitamma Sagar project held at the Secretariat on Monday under the chairmanship of Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the Sitamma Sagar project was a crucial irrigation project that farmers of the erstwhile Khammam district had been waiting for decades. Once completed,



the project would provide a major boost to agriculture in Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem and surrounding areas, he said. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to ensure that the project was completed within the stipulated deadline. The Minister instructed all departments concerned to work in coordination and complete the prestigious project on a war footing, with the objective of dedicating it to farmers at the earliest. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar was also present in the meeting.

UTTAM CALLS FOR TIME-BOUND ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

- ❖ for Four key Irrigation Projects
- ❖ SC Verdict expected to Open New Window for Project Clearances
- ❖ PRLIS, Sitarama, Dindi, Gouravelli put on priority list
- ❖ Six-month target set for completing the process

Hyderabad, August 3 : Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday directed officials to adopt a time-bound strategy to secure pending environmental clearances for four major irrigation projects—Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), Sitarama Sagar, Dindi and Gouravelli—following the recent Supreme Court judgment that clarified



environmental-clearance procedures.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Minister said the verdict had created an opportunity to expedite pending applications, revisit rejected proposals wherever legally permissible and pursue approvals with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Ministers Ponguleti

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

UDAY CASE: PROBE INTENSIFIES LAPTOP & OTHER KEY EVIDENCE

Hyderabad, Aug.3: The investigation into the case involving trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy has gathered pace, with police uncovering fresh evidence during searches linked to the accused. Uday, who was arrested after a fellow trainee IPS officer lodged a sexual harassment complaint, remains in judicial remand. The probe is being supervised by Women's Safety Wing DCP Lavanya N. Jadhav. Acting on information provided by the complainant, investigators searched Uday's residence in Ashok Nagar and seized a laptop, mobile phone, knife and two love letters written in different handwritings.

Police are examining the seized digital devices and documents.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

LET SCIENCE SPEAK BUT SHOW THE ENTIRE LAB REPORT!

KARNATAKA'S HIV NUMBERS SPARK STORM: CROSS-REACTIVITY IS REAL, BUT TRANSPARENCY IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

HIV ALARM OR LAB ERROR

SHOW THE COMPLETE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

BY DR. VYAKARNAM NAGESHWAR
CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGIST

The controversy over Karnataka's HIV data has triggered a battle of narratives, but medicine demands evidence, not assumptions. While scientific studies confirm that natural

SARS-CoV-2 infection can occasionally produce false reactive HIV screening results on certain diagnostic platforms, this phenomenon is temporary, assay-specific and is designed to be eliminated through mandatory confirmatory testing. At the same time, Karnataka's official epidemiological data

indicate a genuine rise in HIV detections among younger adults, consistent with known transmission patterns rather than a large-scale laboratory artefact. The commentary argues that neither blind acceptance nor outright dismissal serves public health.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER

A New Boost for Singareni under

>FROM PAGE 1
neglected by the previous BRS government, was revived after coming to power through consultations with the Centre. Mining leases were secured in the second week of last month, enabling extraction of 336 million tonnes of coal over 45 years.
He stated that Singareni participated in the Central Coal Ministry's auction held today (Monday) and successfully secured the Manuguru PKOC-II Dip Side block. He alleged that previous governments had prevented Singareni from participating in auctions and attempted to hand over valuable coal blocks in the state to favored entities. He asserted that it was only because the present government encouraged participation in auctions that Singareni could secure a block after nearly 12 years. He termed this as a people's victory under the Indiramma People's Government.

He described this as the second major achievement for Singareni within a month. The Manuguru PKOC-II Dip Side mine is expected to yield 120 million tonnes of high-quality G-8 grade coal, ensuring a steady supply of 6 million tonnes annually for 20 years to meet the state's power requirements. The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that this block would play a crucial role in safeguarding the existence of the Manuguru area, one of the most important regions in Singareni. The project will provide long-term employment security to around 2,000 workers and significantly contribute to the economic development of the region. The availability of high-quality coal from this block will strengthen Telangana's energy security for the next two decades.
He criticized the previous government for failing to protect Singareni's interests, which led to key coal blocks such as Koyagudem-III and Sathupalli-III being allocated to private entities. In contrast, the present government is focused on prioritizing Singareni's interests and utilizing every opportunity to strengthen the organization. Under the leadership of Chief Minister, the government aims to further strengthen Singareni, secure new coal reserves, enhance job security, and ensure long-term coal supply for Telangana's energy needs.

Students Urge Govt to Protect JNTUH Autonomy, Let Registrar Continue

Medchal-Malkajgiri, Aug. 3: Students and research scholars of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH) have appealed to the State Government and the Higher Education Department to ensure administrative stability and allow newly appointed Registrar Dr. A. Jayalakshmi to function without external interference.
The students said Dr. Jayalakshmi, appointed by Vice-Chancellor Dr. T. Kishan Kumar Reddy on June 12, became the first woman from the BC community to serve as Registrar in the university's 54-year history. They described the appointment as a milestone for representation and women's empowerment and



urged the Government to let her continue in office. Expressing concern over what they termed unnecessary pressure on the Registrar within weeks of assuming charge, the students said stability in the Registrar's office was crucial for the smooth functioning of

examinations, academic administration and university governance.
PhD scholar Challa R.K. Reddy said the Government should translate its commitment to women's empowerment into action by allowing Dr. Jayalakshmi to discharge her responsibilities independently.
The students also urged the Government to safeguard the autonomy of JNTUH and avoid interference in the functioning of the Vice-Chancellor. They maintained that university affairs should be governed through statutory procedures rather than political or external influence.
Another PhD scholar, Pithani Sandeep, warned that continued

interference could trigger a united student movement to protect the university's autonomy and integrity.
A section of students also demanded a transparent inquiry into the tenure of former Registrar Prof. K. Venkateshwara Rao, seeking a review of administrative decisions, financial transactions and asset-related matters. They urged the Government to conduct an impartial investigation, and, if necessary, refer the matter to agencies such as the CBI or ACB to ensure transparency and restore public confidence. The programme was attended by Jayaram, Sairam, Manish, Karunya, Ram, Uday, Rajkumar and other student representatives.

PRASHANT KISHOR STORMS BANKIPUR

>FROM PAGE 1
After Jan Suraj failed to secure a single seat in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections despite contesting hundreds of constituencies, many believed the experiment had already reached its limits. Bankipur has rewritten that narrative.
Kishor deliberately entered one of the BJP's strongest bastions instead of searching for an easier constituency. That decision has now transformed him from political consultant into elected legislator. The strategist has finally signed his own victory.

A MESSAGE TO THE BJP
The defeat carries significance far beyond one constituency. Bankipur became the first major electoral test for Bihar's political landscape after the transition in state leadership following Nitish Kumar's withdrawal from active leadership and under Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. The BJP invested organisational strength, emotional appeals and local goodwill associated with Nitin Nabin's long political legacy.
None of it proved sufficient. The result raises uncomfortable questions inside the ruling party. Has organisational confidence turned into complacency? Did candidate selection weaken a traditionally secure seat? Has the urban middle class begun demanding stronger answers on governance, education, employment and migration? The BJP will undoubtedly conduct its own assessment. The answers will matter well beyond Bankipur.

Bankipur changes hands for the first time since 1995. Nearly nineteen thousand vote winning margin.

WHAT VOTERS MAY HAVE BEEN SAYING
Throughout the campaign, Kishor repeatedly focused on education, employment, governance and migration rather than conventional caste arithmetic. He argued that Bihar deserved performance driven politics. Many observers believe that message resonated with sections of urban voters looking beyond traditional political alignments. Whether this becomes a larger political movement will depend on future elections rather than a single bypoll.

THE OPPOSITION ALSO RECEIVES A WARNING
While attention naturally falls on the BJP defeat, the RJD has little reason for celebration. Its candidate remained a distant third. That means dissatisfaction with the ruling party did not automatically convert into support for the principal opposition. Instead, the beneficiary was a new political formation. This changes Bihar's political conversation. The contest is no longer necessarily confined to two established poles.

DATIA AND MANJALPUR OFFER A BALANCED PICTURE
The same counting day produced mixed political signals nationally. Congress retained Datia in Madhya Pradesh by defeating the BJP. The BJP, however, comfortably retained Manjalpur in Gujarat with a large winning margin. These simultaneous results remind political observers that bypoll verdicts are intensely local even while they influence broader political narratives.

MY SHOT
Bankipur has not changed the government in Bihar. It has changed the political conversation. A constituency that many believed would remain permanently beyond challenge has delivered the opposite verdict. For Prashant Kishor, this victory provides credibility that speeches alone could never have earned.
For the BJP, it is a reminder that political inheritance cannot permanently substitute electoral renewal. For every political party in Bihar, the lesson is unmistakable. Voters may remain silent for long periods, but when they choose to speak, even the strongest fortress can become history in a single counting day.

KTR ATTACKS REVANTH'S REMARKS ON STUDENTS

>FROM PAGE 1
Engineering students know not only how to build structures but also how to politically bury those who insult them; he remarked. KTR accused the Congress government of deceiving Telangana's youth after coming to power on the promise of a Youth Calendar, two lakh government jobs and several other commitments. Instead of delivering jobs, he alleged, the government had presented a 'jobless calendar' and completely failed to honour the Youth Declaration. He said the Congress government had created frustration among un-

employed youth, pushing some of them into depression and even suicide attempts. Referring to the suicide attempt by Khammam youth Gaddam Venu, KTR described the young man's suicide note as a chargesheet against the Congress government. He said the letter clearly blamed the governments failure to provide employment opportunities for driving him into despair. At the same time, KT Rama Rao appealed to young people not to lose hope or resort to suicide, assuring them that the BRS would continue to stand by them and prioritise employment generation when it returns to power.

UTTAM CALLS FOR TIME-BOUND ENVIRONMENTAL..

>FROM PAGE 1
Srinivas Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar and MP Balaram Naik attended the meeting. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the judgment, secured after Telangana's sustained legal efforts, would have far-reaching implications for irrigation projects across the country. He directed the department to strengthen its Inter-State Wing with technical, environmental and legal expertise to pursue cases before the Union Government, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court.
The Minister prescribed strict timelines, directing officials to consolidate records within seven days, complete environmental studies and documentation within 30 days, and finish the application process within 60 days. The Government aims to secure project-specific clearances within six months, subject to statutory proce-

dures, with weekly progress reports and monthly reviews. He stressed that there should be no laxity in preparing environmental impact studies, rehabilitation plans, forest-clearance documents, land-acquisition records and legal filings. Officials were also instructed to maintain complete project histories and ensure compliance before making any design changes.
Reviewing the Gouravelli Project, Uttam Kumar Reddy ordered engineers to keep the pump house ready for operation and inspect both canal systems to remove bottlenecks and improve water flow. He also directed officials to complete environmental documentation for the Sitarama Sagar project so that work could resume immediately after approvals are received. Similar priority was given to PRLIS and Dindi, with dedicated teams assigned for documentation, coordination and legal follow-up.

The Minister asked officials to closely coordinate with the State's legal team in all pending NGT and Supreme Court cases. Advocate Shravan Kumar briefed the meeting on the implications of the Supreme Court judgment, and project-wise action plans were ordered.
The meeting also reviewed the likely impact of Polavaram backwaters on Telangana. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to conduct scientific studies on possible submergence and prepare detailed technical and financial assessments to strengthen Telangana's claims before the Centre and the Polavaram Project Authority. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stressed the need to complete assessments in the erstwhile Khammam district before the Polavaram project becomes fully operational. Officials were asked to expedite coordination and formally submit compensation claims for affected land and infrastructure.

THE LOW TURNOUT QUESTION
Only about one third of eligible voters cast their ballots. Low turnout often strengthens highly motivated voters while reducing the influence of passive supporters. Whether this reflected organised protest voting, anti-incumbency, or superior voter mobilisation by Jan Suraj will become an important subject for political analysts.
The reduced participation also cautions against reading the result as a statewide electoral wave. Yet even a low turnout cannot explain away a margin approaching nineteen thousand votes.

THE NUMBERS THAT SHOOK BIHAR
Thirty year BJP hold ends. Prashant Kishor records his first electoral victory. Jan Suraj enters the Bihar Assembly.

HIV ALARM OR LAB ERROR

>FROM PAGE 1
It calls on authorities to publish complete confirmatory data, viral load findings, laboratory audit reports and assay-wise performance so that science, transparency and diagnostic integrity determine the truth rather than speculation or selective narratives.
A single laboratory report can change a life forever. Few medical diagnoses carry the emotional, psychological and social impact that an HIV-positive result does. That is precisely why medicine has never permitted screening tests to become final verdicts. A reactive test is the beginning of an investigation, not the conclusion of one.
The controversy surrounding Karnataka's HIV data has exposed something far bigger than statistics. It has exposed the growing danger of incomplete information. Social media has rushed to conclusions. Activists have picked convenient narratives. Experts have been selectively quoted. But medicine has one rule that never changes. Evidence must always be complete before conclusions become public policy.
The first principle of good science is remarkably simple. Every possibility deserves investigation. Every hypothesis deserves testing. Every diagnosis deserves confirmation. That is exactly where the discussion should begin.

SCREENING IS NOT DIAGNOSIS
Modern HIV diagnosis is deliberately built as a multilayered safety system because medical science understands that no screening test is perfect.
Fourth-generation HIV assays are extraordinarily sensitive. They are designed to detect even the

smallest possibility of infection. Sensitivity is their strength. Yet the very characteristic that makes them excellent screening tools also means that occasional false reactive results can occur. Medicine has accepted this reality for decades.
That is why no responsible physician informs a patient that he or she has HIV merely because one screening assay became reactive. The result must pass through confirmatory testing using entirely different diagnostic principles. If uncertainty remains, nucleic acid testing and viral load estimation become the final arbiters. This process exists for one reason. No individual should suffer the lifelong consequences of a false diagnosis.

THE COVID QUESTION IS SCIENTIFICALLY LEGITIMATE
The second important issue cannot simply be dismissed because it sounds uncomfortable. Over the past several years, scientific literature has documented instances where natural SARS-CoV-2 infection produced false reactive HIV screening results. This is not speculation. Several peer-reviewed investigations from different countries have described this phenomenon. Researchers have demonstrated that certain structural similarities between components of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and portions of HIV envelope proteins can occasionally confuse specific immunological assays. Some fourth-generation platforms have shown transient false reactivity, particularly among individuals recovering from recent

COVID infection with high antibody levels.
A large systematic review published in 2025 examined more than 466,000 individuals across eleven separate studies. Hundreds of HIV false-positive screening results were identified. Some showed a clear temporal association with recent SARS-CoV-2 infection. Individual reports from China observed unusually elevated false reactivity rates during the Omicron wave before the numbers gradually returned to baseline.
Indian clinicians also encountered similar diagnostic puzzles during the pandemic. AIIMS Trauma Centre physicians described patients whose samples tested reactive on one fourth-generation HIV assay while remaining completely negative on alternative assays and confirmatory immunoblot testing. These observations deserve scientific respect. But they also require scientific proportion.
CROSS-REACTIVITY IS REAL. MASS MISDIAGNOSIS IS NOT PROVEN.
This is where careful interpretation becomes essential. The existence of cross-reactivity does not automatically explain every increase in HIV detection. The interference described in published studies has several defining characteristics. It usually produces low-intensity reactive signals. It is temporary. It depends upon the specific diagnostic platform. Most importantly, it disappears when proper confirmatory testing is performed.
Natural COVID infection may oc-

asionally confuse certain screening assays. Routine COVID vaccination has not demonstrated this behaviour. Therefore, the phenomenon is unquestionably real. Yet its biological behaviour makes it extremely difficult to explain a sustained multi-year increase involving thousands of confirmed HIV cases.
Antibody interference fades with time. Laboratory confirmation removes uncertainty. Transient assay interference cannot indefinitely masquerade as genuine infection if diagnostic protocols are properly followed. That distinction is critical.
THE KARNATAKA DATA DESERVES CAREFUL READING
Much of the public discussion began with a viral claim that nearly seven thousand college students had recently been diagnosed with HIV. Official records do not support that claim. Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society has publicly clarified that no such dataset exists.
The widely circulated figure appears to have originated from cumulative records of people between eighteen and thirty-five years of age linked to antiretroviral therapy over nearly two decades beginning in 2004. That cumulative number was incorrectly interpreted as recent student infections. However, another reality cannot be ignored. Recent surveillance does indicate increasing HIV burden among younger adults. Annual testing across the state continues to identify more than eleven thousand new infections. The number of active young adults receiving HIV-related

care has also increased substantially over recent years.
Public health authorities attribute this pattern to expanding sexual networks, increased testing coverage, dating applications, hostel-based transmission opportunities and rising infection among specific high-risk groups, including men who have sex with men. These epidemiological patterns resemble ongoing transmission far more closely than widespread laboratory error.
THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBERS ARE STILL MISSING
This entire debate could end tomorrow if public health authorities released one additional dataset.
How many screening-reactive samples actually became confirmed HIV positive?
That single number matters more than every television debate combined.
The public deserves to know:
1. How many reactive screening tests failed confirmation?
2. How many required repeat testing?
3. How many showed detectable viral load?
4. How many had low signal values?
5. How many recent COVID infections were documented among discordant cases?

Without these answers, neither side possesses the complete scientific picture. Transparency is not an inconvenience. It is an essential component of epidemiology.
THE DIAGNOSTIC SAFETY NET MUST REMAIN SACRED
India already possesses one of the world's carefully structured HIV testing algorithms. The National AIDS Control Organisation mandates sequential testing using different assay principles.
Discordant results automatically move to higher reference laboratories. Where uncertainty persists, nucleic acid testing and viral load assessment resolve the diagnosis.
This architecture exists precisely because false positives occasionally occur.
If any healthcare facility bypasses these safeguards, that represents a failure of implementation rather than a failure of science.
Every clinician, laboratory physician and counsellor must remember that unexpected reactive results, especially among apparently healthy young adults, deserve meticulous verification before being communicated as confirmed HIV infection. That is not merely good medicine. It is ethical medicine.
SCIENCE MUST NEVER BECOME POLITICS
Public health becomes dangerous when scientific uncertainty is replaced by ideological certainty. Those insisting that every new HIV diagnosis reflects genuine transmission without presenting confirmation statistics are asking society to accept incomplete evidence. Those

claiming that the entire increase represents COVID-related laboratory interference are making an equally unsupported leap. Medicine accepts neither extreme. Science advances through measurement, not assumption.
THE FINAL PRESCRIPTION
The path forward is neither complicated nor controversial. Release age-wise screening reactive data. Publish confirmation rates. Disclose assay platforms. Audit laboratory kits. Present viral load positivity.
Invite independent experts in immunology, virology, laboratory medicine and epidemiology to review the findings.
If the increase reflects genuine transmission, prevention programmes must intensify immediately. If assay interference contributed to even a small proportion of cases, laboratories must strengthen diagnostic safeguards. If both explanations coexist, policy must acknowledge both. That is how science earns trust.
MY LAST WORD
An HIV diagnosis carries consequences that extend far beyond medicine. It affects families, marriages, employment, mental health and social identity. Such a diagnosis can never rest upon probability. It must rest upon certainty. Equally, genuine HIV infections cannot be diluted by speculation or delayed through misinformation. Every confirmed patient deserves timely treatment, compassionate counselling and uninterrupted care.
The responsibility before public health authorities is therefore unmistakable. Do not ask the public to choose between competing narratives. Publish the complete evidence. It is the complete dataset.



Abusive post against Shikha Goel on X; Police form special teams

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Tender Notice No. G/E-29/Tr./Tender Notice/13/2026-27, Dt. 31.07.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction/ Guntakal acting for on and behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl. No. 1, Tender No. GTL-TRD-29-eTN-43-2026-27, Name of work: Guntakal Division: OHE modifications in connection with the augmentation of Trip shed at Renigunta station, **Approximate Value (₹):** 31,97,896.50.00, **E.M.D (₹):** 64,000.00

Sl. No. 2, Tender No. GTL-TRD-29-eTN-45-2026-27, Name of work: GTL div: Modification of OHE arrangement at loop lines and crossovers in view of eligibility improvement of OHE in GTL-RU section, **Approximate Value (₹):** 3,46,16,235.00, **E.M.D (₹):** 6,92,300.00

Tender Closing date & time: 24.08.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Note: 1. Tender document may be downloaded from www.ireps.gov.in by tenderers free of cost.

For bidding the tender and other details login to <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Corrigendum if any will be issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction, Guntakal

Tender Notice No. CRS-E-02-R1-26-27, Dated: 22.07.2026

Dy. CME/CRS/TPTY acting for on and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No.: Mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl. No. 1, Description of work: CRS-E-02-R1-26-27, Dated: 22.07.2026. Long Term Safety measures for Electrical installations in Track Machine camping coaches at Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati for a period of 36 Months, **Approx. Cost (In Rs.):** 1,50,82,176.00 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Six Only, **Bid Security (in Rs.):** 3,01,700.00 (Rupees Three Lakh One Thousand and Seven Hundred Only), **Period of completion:** 36 Months, **Date of Closing:** 13.08.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.

Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen: **Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati**

For further Tender Conditions/ details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati

Tender Notice No. CRS-E-06-26-27, Dated: 24.07.2026

Dy. CME/CRS/TPTY acting for on and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No.: Mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl. No. 1, Description of work: CRS-E-06-26-27, Dated: 24.07.2026 Outsourcing of activities pertaining to ICF Non-AC Coaches of Train Lighting Shop - for a period of 24 Months at Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati, **Approx. Cost (In Rs.):** 1,75,39,923.56 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three and Fifty Six Paise Only, **Bid Security (in Rs.):** 3,50,800.00 (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Thousand and Eight Hundred Only), **Period of completion:** 24 Months, **Date of Closing:** 17.08.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.

Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen: **Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati**

For further Tender Conditions/ details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati

Tender No. GTL-EM-30-2026-27, Dt. 03.08.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/ Guntakal acting for on and on behalf of The President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender No. GTL-EM-30-2026-27, Name of work: Guntakal Division Provision of Energy-Efficient Additional HVAC System through VRF Technology for the Operational Control Centre Building in Guntakal, **Approximate Value (₹):** 83.06.532.00

Closing date and time: 24.08.2026 at 15:00 hrs

For bidding the tender and other details login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Corrigendum of tender, if any, will be issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, Guntakal

HYDERABAD: An unidentified person posted objectionable content against Cyber Security Bureau Director Shikha Goel on X (formerly Twitter), using offensive and abusive language against the IPS officer. The Cyber Security Bureau authorities have taken serious note of the objectionable post. Police have registered a case against the netizen under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and other applicable laws and launched an investigation. Special teams have been formed to trace and apprehend the accused. Police warned that strict action would be taken against those posting obscene, abusive or objectionable content on social media platforms.

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/ Works/BZA/27/2026 Dt. 03.08.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tender for the following works up to 15-00 hours on the date mentioned against each:

Sl. No. 1, Tender No.: E-12-Central-BZA-2026, **Details of Work:** **Name of the work:** SW I: Provision of Lifts on PF No. 1, 2 & 3 - 5 Nos (For Ramp FOB- 3 Nos & 12m FOB - 2 Nos.) at Eluru station, SW II: Provision of Lifts on PF No. 1, 2 & 3, 4 & 5 - 3 Nos (For 12m FOB) at CLX Station. SW III: Provision of Lifts on PF No. 1, 2 & 3, 4 & 5 - 3 Nos (For 12m FOB) at BPP Station. SW IV: Provision of Escalators on PF No. 1, 2 & 3, 4 & 5 - 3 Nos (For 12m FOB) at CLX Station. SW V: Provision of Escalators on PF No. 1, 2 & 3, 4 & 5 - 3 Nos (For 12m FOB) at BPP Station under Amrit Stations Phase-2 Works, **Period of completion:** 12 (Twelve Months), **Tender value (₹):** 6,73,28,050.00, **E.M.D. (₹):** 13,08,600.00, **Date of closing:** 19/08/2026.

Sl. No. 2, Tender No.: E-13-Central-BZA-2026, **Details of Work:** **Name of the work:** BZA Division: BZA - GDR Section: Construction of COP shelters at BPP station of PF 1 - 165 x 10m, PF 2 & 3 - 180 x 15m and PF 4 & 5-260 x 15m in SSE/Works/BPP section in ADEN/BPP sub-division under the Jurisdiction of DEN/Central/BZA, **Period of completion:** 12 (Twelve Months), **Tender value (₹):** 7,38,72,961.00, **E.M.D. (₹):** 14,77,500.00, **Date of closing:** 19/08/2026.

Sl. No. 3, Tender No.: E-24-EAST-BZA-2026, **Details of Work:** **Name of the work:** Vijayawada Division: Proposed safety related track maintenance works and other track miscellaneous works in SSE/P-Way/ BVRM, SSE/P-Way/KCLR, SSE/P-Way/TNKK & SSE/P-Way/MTM section under ADEN/BVRM Sub-division of DEN/East/BZA jurisdiction, **Period of completion:** 12 (Twelve Months), **Tender value (₹):** 5,08,70,278.00, **E.M.D. (₹):** 10,17,400.00, **Date of closing:** 21/08/2026.

Sl. No. 4, Tender No.: E-13-South-BZA-2026, **Details of Work:** **Name of the work:** SW I: MBL: Construction of RCC retaining wall with drain at Km 145/ 17 to Km 146/1 in MBL yard in ADEN NLR subdivision under Sr. DEN/ South jurisdiction. SW II: GDR: Provision of Central Drain between DN & 3rd lines and toe wall/Retaining wall for 3rd line between Bridges 271A and 273 in ADEN/ NLR sub division under Sr. DEN/South/Bza jurisdiction, **Period of completion:** 15 (Fifteen Months), **Tender value (₹):** 5,08,70,278.00, **E.M.D. (₹):** 10,34,500.00, **Date of closing:** 24/08/2026.

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "www.ireps.gov.in".

2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "www.ireps.gov.in", before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender.

Divisional Railway Manager/ Works/Vijayawada

Open E Tender Notice No. E-04-CPOH-RYP-2026, Dt. 03.08.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tender for the following work up to 28.08.2026, 15:00 hours and the date mentioned against.

Sl. No. 1, Tender No. E-04-CPOH-RYP-2026, Name of work: Rayanapadu - All works related to service buildings, water tanks and roads etc. at CPOH/RYP & ZTMD/ RYP for the period from 01-07-2026 to 30-6-2027, **Period of completion:** 24 Months, **Tender Value (₹):** 28,00,000.00, **E.M.D. (₹):** 56,000.00, **Date of Closing:** 28.08.2026. (Item One Only)

1. Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "www.ireps.gov.in".

2. The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website www.ireps.gov.in before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender.

Deputy Chief Engineer/CPOH/ SCOR-A150 Rayanapadu

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit the website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

GITAM Hyderabad Showcases Mesmerizing Mohiniyattam DUET PERFORMANCE



HYDERABAD

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized an enchanting Mohiniyattam duet recital by accomplished dancers NeemaNikhil and Vee-na Unnikrishnan at the Dance Studio on Monday.

The performers, senior disciples of Mythili MarattAnoop, Dance Faculty at GITAM, have represented her renowned troupe at several prestigious cultural festivals and national platforms. Both dancers hold diplomas in Mohiniyattam, while Neema Nikhil is also a Doordarshan-graded artist, reflecting her excellence in the classical dance tradition.

The recital commenced with a soulful Devi Stuti, choreographed by Mythili Maratt Anoop, based on selected verses from the Lalita Sahasranamam and set

to the evocative Sopana Sangeetham, the distinctive devotional and theatrical musical tradition of Kerala. The performance beautifully captured the grace, devotion, and expressive elegance that define Mohiniyattam. The second presentation featured Utsavaprabandham, a vibrant festival composition by Maharaja Swathi Thirunai.

Through expressive storytelling and graceful abhinaya, the dancers portrayed a playful dialogue that unfolds as a guessing game about the identity of a deity arriving on a magnificent golden lotus-shaped chariot. One dancer suggests that the divine figure is Lord Indra, the king of the gods, while the other counters that Indra should possess a thousand eyes. The conversation continues with other divine possibilities, including the Moon God, whose identity is also questioned due to the absence of the moon's characteristic bluish. The engaging exchange ultimately



culminates in the revelation that the deity is none other than Lord Padmanabha, delighting the audience with its lyrical beauty and dramatic charm. The recital concluded with an energetic Thillana composed by the legendary Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, featuring Telugu lyrics that blended rhythmic brilliance with graceful movement, leaving the audience spellbound.

Faculty members, students, and art enthusiasts warmly appreciated the performance, applauding the dancers for their technical finesse, expressive artistry, and stage presence.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizers stated that such programmes are part of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts' ongoing efforts to foster artistic excellence, preserve India's rich cultural heritage, and create a vibrant creative environment on the GITAM Hyderabad campus through regular performances and interactions with accomplished artists.

SCR General Manager SK Srivastava holds Safety Review Meeting

HYDERABAD

Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway held a detailed meeting on safety of train operations across the zone today i.e., 3rd August, 2026 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad along with Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR and Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) and their teams from all three divisions viz., Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Nanded joined via video conference.



During the review meeting, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava emphasized on safety precautions to be followed at the worksites / construction sites. He advised the officials to provide fencing around construction sites and take necessary precautions at vulnerable locations near deep excavation pits to prevent accidental falls and untoward incidents. The General Manager reviewed the summary of safety inspections carried out by officers and supervisors during the month. He instructed all the officers and supervisors to educate and counsel the staff to

take necessary precautions at stations and in sections / tracks to face challenges of monsoon season.

Reviewing ongoing safety drives across the zone, the General Manager examined initiatives undertaken by various departments including Engineering, Signal & Telecommunications, Mechanical and Electrical.

He stressed that any deficiency noticed during inspections must be rectified promptly to ensure seamless train operations. The General Manager, while discussing on track safety, he reviewed trespassing incidents at closed Level Crossing gates over the zone. He instructed all Divisions shall identify such vulnerable locations and take preventive measures like trenching / barricading to restrict the trespassing and awareness programs shall be organized to educate the public/ nearby villagers to avoid trespassing incidents.

‘I focus’ celebrated 21st Anniversary

HYDERABAD

The 21st anniversary celebrations of the renowned voluntary organization iFocus were held in a grand manner at a hall in the city. The founder of Lok Satta and former IAS officer Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan attended the event as the chief guest. The organization's Chief Coordinator, Mr. Vasu Dev Sharma, briefed the audience on the achievements and milestones iFocus has accomplished over the past 21 years. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan said that Cherrapunji receives nearly 18,000 millimeters of rainfall annually, yet its residents faced difficulties in accessing drinking water during the recent summer because they were unable to utilize their natural resources effectively.

He also noted that the Telangana government claims the state's per capita income has reached around ₹4 lakh this year. If that is indeed the case, he said, it is a positive sign for Telangana. However, he pointed out that the overall conditions in the state do not appear to

reflect such prosperity. Referring to the shortage of drinking water and poor road infrastructure, he remarked that if the per capita income is truly that high, the government should focus more on improving basic infrastructure. His comments amounted to a gentle criticism of the government's priorities.

Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan further stated that iFocus is successfully instilling values such as competence, integrity, and Indianness among the youth.

The event was also attended by Mrs. Geetha Murthy, BJP National Council Member and a premier member of iFocus, as a special guest.

Among those present were key members of the organization, including Mr. Vijaya Banda, Mr. Jagannathan, Mr. Vinod Yadav, Mr. Maruthi Kiran, educational institution administrators Mr. Subrahmanyam, Mr. Narasimha, Mr. Satish, Mr. Rohit, Mr. Nayini Raji Reddy, Mr. Suryanarayana, and several other members. Mr. Vikramaditya entertained and engaged the audience with his lively commentary, adding to the success of the event.



EASTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO.-1

Corrigendum No.-1 to Tender No.:

EPC-02-CAO-C-ER-2026: Open EPC E-Tender in single stage- Two Packet system published earlier by Chief Admn. Officer/Con, 14, Strand Road, New Koilaghat Building (4th Floor), Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700001. The Date of Closing of the above tender has been deferred to 03.09.2026 at 11:00 hrs. from 17.08.2026 at 11:00 hrs. All other terms and conditions of the above tender notice will remain unaltered.

(CON-28/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.ireps.gov.in)

[easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.ireps.gov.in)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization, Enakulam Junction

1.Tender Notice No. 21-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated 27.07.2026

Name of work: Doubling of track between Taravur Mararikulam (TUVR - MAKM) section. Proposed earth work between Cherthala and Mararikulam (SRTL-MAKM Reach)

Tender Value : Rs.8387.24 Lakhs,

Bid Security : Rs.1,67,74,500.00/-

Completion Period: 24 Months

2.Tender Notice No. 22-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated 30.07.2026

Name of work: Doubling of track between Mararikulam Alappuzha (MAKM-ALLP) section: Proposed earth work between Mararikulam and Alappuzha (MAKM-ALLP Reach)

Tender Value : Rs.9660.95 Lakhs,

Bid Security : Rs.1,93,21,900.00/-

Completion Period: 24 Months.

3. Tender Notice No. 23-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated 30.07.2026

Name of work: Doubling of track between ALAPUZHA -AMPALAPUZA (ALLP-AMPA) section: - Proposed earth work between Alappuzha and Ampalappuzha stations - ALLP-AMPA Reach.

Tender Value : Rs.9881.30 Lakhs,

Bid Security : Rs.1,97,62,800.00/-

Completion Period: 24 Months.

Date and time of tender closing:08/09/2026, 15:00 Hrs

Complete details and tender document will be available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

For Chief Engineer/Construction Enakulam Junction

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction/Road Safety Projects)
E-Tender

Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-RSP-ROB-5-2026 Dated 01.08.2026

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The Tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Cash Value Rs.	Closing Time and Date
1.	Tender no: SR-CN-RSP-PSSA-02-2026 Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for Road Safety Projects (RSP) of Southern Railway	44,22,05,468.00	09.09.2026 15.00 hrs

For further details, please refer to web site portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
For and On behalf of President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Central Workshops / Golden Rock / Southern Railway / Tiruchirappalli-620004
(Extra Division)

GeM Bid Document No. GEM/2026/B/7837803 dt. 31.07.2026

The Chief workshop Manager, Central workshops, Golden Rock, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli -620 004 for and on behalf of President of India invites GeM ONLINE Bids for the following work as per tender notice given below with complete details in GeM portal <https://www.geem.gov.in>

Name of the work	"Outsourcing the work of Housekeeping of Production wing Shops such as BS, ES, FSS, MMW, MS, TR & FYS and Misc (Inspection and calibration room at CMT Lab) at Central Workshop, Ponnmalai, Southern Railway, Tiruchy - 620 004 for a contract period of one year in GeM Portal".
Approx. value of the work	Rs. 41,02,626.14 (Rupees Forty One Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Six and Fourteen Paise only including GST @18%).
Amount of EMD/ Bid Security	Rs. 82,053/- (Rupees Eighty Two Thousand and Fifty Three Only)
Period of Contract	ONE YEAR
GeM Bid closing date and time	31.08.2026 @ 16:00:00

For CHIEF WORKSHOP MANAGER/GOC Central Workshop-S.Rly/Ponnmalai

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division

No. M-TRD-294-OT-2026-27-6R3 Dt.31.07.2026
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern, Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works. For further details, please refer to www.ireps.gov.in

Sl.No.	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (Rs.)	Closing date/time
1.	M-TRD-294-OT-2026-27-6R3 Improvements to existing OHE by elimination of silver brazed / codal life completed contact wire on condition basis in non-suburban sections of Chennai Division.	29438631.00	20/08/2026 (15:00 hrs)

Divisional Railway Manager Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3

Strengthen MeeSeva Centres to Deliver Best-in-Class Digital Services

- **Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju met with Mahesh Uttamchandani, Regional Director for Digital, Asia-Pacific at the World Bank.**
- **Extensive discussions were held on digital governance, artificial intelligence (AI), cyber-security, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and data centers.**
- **Officials were instructed to complete T-Fiber works within the stipulated timeline.**



Digital, Asia-Pacific at the World Bank Group, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

The meeting focused on several key initiatives aligned with the Digital India and Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, including:

- Modernization of MeeSeva centres across the state. Development of infrastructure for new data centers in Bharat Future City.
- Promotion of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- Expansion of IT-enabled employ-

ment opportunities for youth.

World Bank representatives appreciated the reforms being implemented by the Telangana government in the field of digital governance. They shared their views on providing technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and international best practices to enhance the state's digital capabilities, adoption of advanced technologies, quality of public services, and data governance.

The World Bank delegation stated that Haryana and Telangana are among the most favorable states in

India for digital-sector investments. They advised the state to prepare and submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for projects worth approximately ₹2,000 crore to facilitate potential investments.

Review of T-Fiber Project

Later, the Chief Secretary conducted a special review meeting on the progress of the T-Fiber project. Discussions covered broadband connectivity expansion in rural and urban areas, infrastructure development, and the extension of digital services.

He instructed officials to complete the T-Fiber project within the prescribed deadline so that quality digital services could be made available to the public. He also directed them to resolve implementation issues promptly through coordination among various departments and to continuously monitor the project's progress.

The meeting was attended by IT Department Joint Secretary Anudeep Durishetty, World Bank Regional Director (Digital, Asia-Pacific) Mahesh Uttamchandani, the Managing Director of T-Fiber, and officials from the concerned departments.



CS reviews preparations for Independence Day celebrations

HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Monday conducted a high-level coordination meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat to take stock of the preparations for the State-level Independence Day celebrations to be held on August 15 at the historic Rani Mahal Lawns, Golconda Fort in Hyderabad.

Reviewing the arrangements, the Chief Secretary said the Independence Day celebrations are among the most significant official events of the State and should be organised with meticulous planning, seamless coordination and utmost dignity, befitting the spirit of the nation's freedom.

dence Day celebrations, unfurl the National Flag, inspect the ceremonial parade and address the gathering.

The Chief Secretary directed all departments concerned to make elaborate and foolproof arrangements for the smooth conduct of the celebrations. He stressed that every aspect of the event, including security, traffic regulation, venue readiness, public convenience and emergency response, should be planned well in advance to ensure a flawless execution of the programme.

strued to maintain cleanliness in and around the venue, undertake landscaping, sanitation and beautification works.

The Health department was directed to deploy adequate medical teams, ambulances and first-aid facilities at strategic locations, while the Fire Services department was asked to position fire tenders and emergency response teams at the venue as a precautionary measure.

The Energy department was instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply with adequate backup arrangements throughout the event. Other line departments were also directed to discharge their responsibilities efficiently and complete all assigned works well ahead of the celebrations.

Emphasising the importance of inter-departmental coordination, the Chief Secretary instructed all departments to work in close coordination. He said every effort should be made to ensure that the celebrations are conducted in a grand, dignified and befitting manner.(NSS)



CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates NIMS Medical Team

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy expressed profound delight over successfully performing 1,000 robotic surgeries by the NIMS medical team in just two and a half years. The Chief Minister congratulated NIMS Director Rahul Devaraj, the medical team, the nursing staff, and the operation theatre team for the extraordinary achievement in the medical field.

During the meeting with the NIMS Director, the CM said that the People's Government's resolve to make state-of-the-art medical services accessible to common people in government hospitals has been fulfilled. CM Revanth Reddy commended the NIMS hospital management for performing over 90 per cent of the robotic surgeries free of cost through the Arogya Sri scheme and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Noting that the NIMS had recently completed 2,000 kidney transplant surgeries, the Chief Minister highlighted that the hospital has now set a new record by reaching the milestone of 1,000 robotic surgeries. The Chief Minister expressed his hope that NIMS would achieve many more milestones in the medical field.

BRS trying to gain political mileage from Godavari floods: Adluri

HYDERABAD

Minister for Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar has strongly criticised the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) for attempting to derive political mileage from the Godavari floods rather than standing with the people during a period of distress.

Medigadda Barrage, constructed at the cost of thousands of crores of public money, had deteriorated into its present condition.

"The structural deficiencies in Medigadda have imposed a massive financial burden on the State exchequer. The entire nation has witnessed the controversy surrounding the project. It is therefore nothing short of political bankruptcy for those responsible to now attempt to mislead the public in its name," he said.

In a statement on Monday, Adluri Laxman Kumar remarked that such statements once again exposed the party's lack of even a basic understanding of the functioning of large-scale irrigation systems.

Adluri Laxman Kumar further remarked that the BRS leadership had once again displayed its ignorance by equating gravity flow with lift irrigation while commenting on the movement of water from Yellampalli.

He clarified that every irrigation project is designed according to engineering principles, with gravity flow being utilised wherever geographically feasible, while lift irrigation is adopted wherever technically necessary.

"The mere presence of floodwaters in the Godavari does not imply that the entire volume can be lifted instantaneously. The operation of irrigation projects is not governed by political rhetoric or press conferences. It is determined by scientific parameters, including reservoir water levels, pumping capacity, canal carrying capacity, downstream storage availability, power supply, technical clearances from engineers and established safety protocols," he said. The Minister asserted that the BRS must first explain to the people of Telangana how the

Such decisions, he emphasised, are based entirely on scientific and engineering considerations rather than political narratives. Questioning the credibility of the opposition, the Minister asked why the BRS had failed to complete the Tummidihatti Project despite repeatedly promising it to the people of Telangana throughout its decade-long tenure in power.

Meezan Educational Institute Celebrates 24 Years with Grand Convocation

HYDERABAD

Meezan Educational Institute celebrated its 24 years of service and excellence by hosting its Convocation 2026 at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Red Hills, Hyderabad, on August 2. A total of 240 students graduated during the ceremony and were presented with medals, mementos, and certificates in recognition of their academic achievements. The convocation was attended by Syed Mazharuddin Hussaini, executive director of SEED USA, as the chief guest. In his keynote address, he encouraged graduates to uphold truthfulness, compassion, and integrity while serving society, inspiring students with practical life lessons and motivational insights.

Syed Qutbuddin, guest of honor, urged students to pursue professionalism and excellence in their careers, while Abedunnisa Begum, Chairperson of Shoukath Ali Charitable Clinic, offered prayers and blessings for the graduates and the institution. Zaibunnisa Begum, Principal of Meezan College, congratulated the graduating students and wished them success in their future endeavors. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms Sumaira Begum, followed by the National Anthem. Established over two decades ago, Meezan Educational Institute continues to focus on empowering women through quality education, skill development.

Let's Plant a Sapling in the Name of Mother

■ **Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Social Activist & Writer**

KARIMNAGAR

Temperatures on the globe are gradually rising. El Nino effects are causing drought. Untimely rains are causing havoc. Fossil fuels are causing pollution and haze. Plastic waste is causing disturbance. Biodiversity destruction is increasing at an alarming rate. The forests, which are the lungs of the globe,

are being depleted. The green carpets of Mother Earth's surfaces are thinning. A green revolution is urgently needed as an antidote to all this. Noted author and social activist Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy said that it is a happy development that people are planting at least one tree in the name of Amma in their respective areas, noting that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call "Maa Ke Naam Ek Peed" or "Let's plant a tree in the name of Amma" comes true. On this occasion, he demonstrated his

commitment by planting a green sapling in the name of Amma at his residence in Mankammathota, Karimnagar.

Today, Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy and his wife Smt. Burra Jalaja Reddy planted two coconut saplings, a lemon sapling, an amla and some flower saplings and watered them. Lion Beni Gopal Trivedi, Raju and other elders participated in the plantation program organized as part of this green movement led by Satavahana Lions Club and expressed their joy.

Milk Abhishekam Held to Express Gratitude for Rs.116 Crore Allocation Towards Fishermen's Welfare

HYDERABAD

Minister Dr. Vakati Srihari Mudiraj, a prominent BC leader who has earned the trust and admiration of the people of Telangana, has been consistently working towards the welfare and socio-economic empowerment of the fishermen community. Following discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri Revanth Reddy, the State Government approved the release of ₹116 crore for the welfare of fishermen, reaffirming its commitment to improving the livelihoods of fishermen's families across the State.



Minister Shri Revanth Reddy, and Hon'ble Minister Dr. Vakati Srihari Mudiraj for this significant welfare measure. To mark the occasion, a Milk Abhishekam was performed in Hyderabad to the portraits of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Shri Rahul Gandhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy, and Hon'ble Minister Dr. Vakati Srihari Mudiraj. The ceremony was organized to celebrate and acknowledge the State Government's landmark decision to allocate ₹116 crore for the welfare and economic upliftment of the fishermen community.

Coordination key to effective implementation of flagship schemes: CS

Hyderabad, Aug.3 (NSS): Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju stated that coordination among various government departments is essential for the effective implementation of the State government's flagship development schemes and welfare programmes.

The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretaries Jayesh Ranjan, Vikas Raj, Mahesh Dutt Ekka, Sabyasachi Ghosh, Vani Prasad, Dana Kishore, and Naveen Mittal; Principal Secretaries Sandeep Sultania, Ahmed Nadeem, Christina Z.

programmes, he said.

The Chief Secretary further stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will soon hold a review meeting with the secretaries to assess the performance of flagship schemes, departmental achievements, targets, progress, the State's financial position, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

He instructed all secretaries to be fully prepared for the review and also directed each department to prepare reports highlighting innovative initiatives and success stories.

In addition, a speed cell is being set up to monitor and facilitate the timely achievement of the objectives of these schemes and

NIMS Crosses 1,000 Robotic Surgeries in 3 Years, Over 90% Performed Free

HYDERABAD

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has achieved a major healthcare milestone by successfully completing 1,000 robotic-assisted surgeries in less than three years, reinforcing its position as a leading public institution for advanced robotic surgery in India.

The achievement reflects NIMS' commitment to providing cutting-edge, minimally invasive surgical care while ensuring affordability. Notably, over 90 percent of the robotic procedures were performed free of cost under government-supported healthcare schemes



such as Aarogyasri and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Among the 1,000

surgeries, the Department of Urology performed 590 procedures, including complex

cancer surgeries, robotic renal transplants, paediatric and reconstructive urological

surgeries. The Department of surgical gastroenterology completed 248 procedures, covering hepatobiliary, pancreatic, colorectal and upper gastrointestinal surgeries, while the Department of surgical Oncology carried out 162 robotic surgeries, focusing on ovarian, uterine, colorectal and other cancers using organ-preserving and nerve-sparing techniques.

NIMS Director Dr Rahul Devraj, Senior Professor of Urology and Renal Transplantation and Robotic Surgery Coordinator, congratulated the multidisciplinary teams for achieving the milestone. He said the accom-

plishment reflects the institute's commitment to clinical excellence, innovation and equitable healthcare.

Dr. Devraj also thanked Telangana Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha for his continued support and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his vision in strengthening healthcare infrastructure, enabling NIMS to emerge as a national centre of excellence in robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery.

With this milestone, NIMS continues to set new benchmarks in delivering advanced, patient-centric surgical care for the people of Telangana and beyond.



Andhra: YSRCP demands inquiry into relaxation of tender norms by TTD

TIRUPATI, AUG 3

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has demanded an inquiry into the relaxation of bidding qualifications for the supply of medicines and medical equipment to hospitals run by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). The opposition party alleged that the relaxation of norms would lead to corruption and compromise the quality of medicines and medical equipment. Speaking to the media, former TTD Chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy said the TTD Governing Board had decided to relax the eligibility criteria for bidding companies from Rs 100 crore to Rs 25 crore for the supply of medicines and medical equipment to TTD-run hospitals.

Vijay goes to Supreme Court over fight for Cauvery water with Karnataka

Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court against Karnataka for allegedly failing to release Cauvery water despite CWMA directions, claiming the neighbouring state has sufficient reservoir storage and must comply with the mandated release.

The Tamil Nadu government has moved the Supreme Court against Karnataka, accusing the neighbouring state of failing to release its share of Cauvery water in accordance with directions issued by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC). The petition was filed on Monday on the instructions of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister



C Joseph Vijay after Karnataka allegedly failed to release the required amount of Cauvery water despite repeated directions from the river authorities. At its 139th meeting held on July 28, the CWRC reviewed the hydrological and meteorological conditions in the Cauvery basin and directed Karnataka to ensure the release of 3,500 cusecs of water per second at Biligundlu for 15 days, from July 29 to August 12, by releasing water from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) and Kabini reservoirs. The CWRC's decision was subsequently reaffirmed by the CWMA during its 54th emergency meeting on July 30 after reviewing the basin's water availability and rainfall conditions. However, according to the Tamil Nadu government, the inflow recorded at Biligundlu

between July 29 and August 2 ranged between only 158 and 550 cusecs, well below the mandated 3,500 cusecs. The state further argued that Karnataka had sufficient water available in its reservoirs to comply with the release order. As of August 3, the Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir held 23.078 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water, Kabini 18.610 TMC, Harangi 7.827 TMC and Hemavathi 28.022 TMC. The combined storage in the four reservoirs stood at 77.537 TMC, including 67.517 TMC of utilisable water. Tamil Nadu contended that there was no practical difficulty preventing Karnataka from releasing its rightful share of water on a proportional basis. The state also pointed to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of the KRS

and Kabini reservoirs, which has significantly increased inflows. Based on the proportional sharing formula, Tamil Nadu claimed it was entitled to receive 26.954 TMC of water at Biligundlu, substantially higher than the 4.536 TMC directed by the CWMA for the current period.

Arguing that Karnataka had failed to release even the quantity ordered by the CWMA, Tamil Nadu said the state government, acting on the advice of senior legal counsel, decided to move the Supreme Court.

The petition seeks appropriate directions to ensure Karnataka complies with the Cauvery authorities' orders and that Tamil Nadu receives its rightful share of Cauvery water within the stipulated timeframe.



Ekadantha Sanskrit Fundamental Course

Level IV Launched at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti

BY DR SUNEELKUMAR YANDRA

Anaikatti, Tamilnadu, August 03 : Ekadantha – The School of Ancient Indian Studies, an institution dedicated to promoting the Sanskrit language and making India's ancient knowledge tradition accessible worldwide through modern technology, has launched its Sanskrit Fundamental Course – Level IV (Classical Sanskrit Grammar) on 24 July 2026 at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, Tamil Nadu, in the gracious presence of Pujya Sri Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati. On this occasion, Pujya Swamiji unveiled the course poster and appreciated Ekadantha's efforts in promoting Sanskrit education. More than 5,000 students from different parts of the world are already learning Sanskrit online through Ekadantha. Designed in a systematic, step-by-step

manner—from the beginner level to Classical Sanskrit Grammar—this course enables students to develop the ability to independently read and understand Sanskrit texts. In addition, the Ekadantha YouTube channel features more than 40 Sanskrit conversational short films. Among them, the short film "Asteyam" received an award at the 7th International Sanskrit Short Film Festival – Ujjain (2026). The launch ceremony was attended by Pujya Sri Swami Sadatmananda Saraswati, Swami Satyatmananda Saraswati, Sri Dayanand Shanmugam, Sri Kripanand Shanmugam, Acharya Chintakindi Sadguna, Smt. K. Lalithamma, and M. V. Satish Kumar, Founder of Ekadantha. The organizers stated that the course is open to everyone who wishes to learn Sanskrit in a simple and systematic manner. **For more details: www.ekadantha.com**



CM directs officials to focus more on drinking water supply in all the regions

Simplify procedures by removing unnecessary conditions to make Transport department people-friendly: CM

AMARAVATI :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure that there should be no drinking water scarcity in any region of the state. He instructed officials to continuously monitor rainfall conditions and reservoir levels and take timely measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. Reviewing the performance of various departments during a meeting at Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) in Secretariat on Monday, the Chief Minister directed the officials to focus on reservoir water availability and preparedness measures. The Officials informed the Chief Minister that rainfall in the upper catchment areas is expected to improve water availability in the Krishna and Godavari river basins. They also briefed him on the flood situation in the Godavari River. The Chief Minister directed officials

to fully utilize inflows into the Krishna basin from upstream rainfall. He also instructed departments to ensure there is no shortage of fodder and to prepare sufficient reserves to meet livestock needs for the entire year.

Referring to transport department initiatives the officials briefed the Chief Minister on measures being implemented in the department, including the extensive use of technology and the removal of unnecessary regulations. They explained that these reforms would help reduce corruption and enable the delivery of more efficient and citizen-friendly services. The Chief Minister directed the officials to simplify procedures by removing unnecessary conditions to transform the transport department people-friendly.

Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad and senior officials were present in the review meeting.

BRAOU A STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

Historic partnership agreement between BRAOU and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) to Advance Digital Education
Open University is a model in the field of digital education: CoL President & CEO Prof. Peter Scott
This historic agreement is a major game-changer : Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani

VANCOUVER (CANADA):

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University and Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada, entered into a landmark Partnership Agreement to strengthen collaboration in digital education, Artificial Intelligence, faculty development and technology-enabled learning on Thursday at Vancouver, Canada. The MoU was signed by Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor, BRAOU and Prof. Peter Scott, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning in the presence of Mr. Venkatesh Dhotre, IAS, Special Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Telangana.

Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani described the Partnership Agreement as a transformative initiative for BRAOU. "This collaboration brings cutting-edge global expertise, advanced digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence, and international best practices to BRAOU. It will significantly accelerate our journey towards becoming a globally recognised AI-enabled digital university. The partnership will strengthen our world-class digital ecosystem and enable us to provide high-quality, accessible, and affordable higher education to learners at scale. The Agreement also provides for the joint development of Open Educational Resources, scholarly publications, research studies, international



mentorship programmes, expert consultations, peer-learning networks, and Joint Expert Teams to oversee the implementation of each work stream through structured Joint Contribution Agreements. The Partnership Agreement represents a major milestone in BRAOU's internationalization, digital transformation journey. It reinforces the University's commitment to innovation, technology-enabled learning, and global collaboration, while strengthening its vision of becoming a world-class Digital Open University serving learners across Telangana, India, and the Commonwealth.

Prof. Peter Scott, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning, highly appreciated the visionary leadership of Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani in transforming BRAOU into a digitally empowered Open University. He lauded the University's remarkable initiatives in building a comprehensive digital ecosystem and observed that BRAOU is emerging as a digital hub for the future of

higher education. He expressed confidence that the Partnership Agreement would further strengthen BRAOU's capacity to become an international model for AI-enabled Open, Distance, and Digital Learning and would contribute significantly to expanding quality higher education across India and the Commonwealth.

The Partnership Agreement operationalises the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between BRAOU and the Commonwealth of Learning on 18 November 2025 in Hyderabad in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri A. Revanth Reddy.* While the MoU laid the broad framework for collaboration, the new Agreement provides a detailed implementation roadmap with clearly defined work streams, institutional mechanisms, and measurable outcomes. Under the Agreement, BRAOU and COL will collaborate in three major areas:

1. Digital Transformation: COL will support BRAOU in

developing a comprehensive Learning Technology Ecosystem Roadmap to strengthen its digital infrastructure, including the University's Learning Management System (LMS), digital courseware, Open Educational Resources (OER), e-Books, Digital Badges, BRAOU TV, Hi-BRAOU Digital Radio, learner support systems, and other technology-enabled platforms.

2. Capacity Building: The partnership will facilitate faculty development, leadership training, digital pedagogy, instructional design, micro-credential programmes, and capacity building for academic and administrative staff through joint training programmes and knowledge exchange.

3. Artificial Intelligence in Education:* COL will collaborate with BRAOU in strengthening AI-enabled teaching and learning through the AI in Education Research Laboratory, collaborative research, faculty mentoring, internships, multilingual AI applications, and language translation technologies to enhance learner support and improve access to quality education.

Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, Prof. Rabinranath Solomon, Prof. Pallavi Kabde, and senior officials of the Commonwealth of Learning were presented at the MoU signing ceremony.

Odisha Seeks UNESCO Tag for Puri Rath Yatra

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 3

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has urged Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, to support the nomination of the world-famous Rath Yatra of Shree Jagannatha, Puri, for inscription on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Drawing the Union Minister's attention to the proposal originally submitted by the Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in a letter, highlighted that, "the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannatha is not merely a religious festival but a timeless civilisational tradition that embodies India's rich cultural diversity, inclusivity, spirituality, craftsmanship, music, dance and community participation." He noted that the festival, celebrated for centuries, attracts millions of devotees and visitors from across the globe every year and stands as one of the most enduring symbols of India's living heritage.

After chairing an emergency meeting of the State Disaster Management Authority, Chief Minister VD Satheesan said the government had reviewed the situation across Kerala and found conditions to be largely under control, except in a few pockets of Pathanamthitta, the worst-hit district.

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Monday said the death toll in rain-related incidents across the state had risen to 15, while seven people remained missing, adding that the overall situation was under control as rescue and relief operations intensified. After chairing an emergency meeting of the State Disaster Management Authority, Satheesan said the government had reviewed the situation across Kerala and found conditions to be largely under control, except in a few pockets of Pathanamthitta, the worst-hit

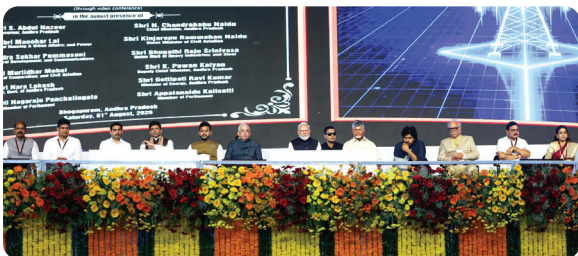


district. He said preparedness measures had been initiated even before the heavy rain began. To strengthen rescue efforts, 14 fishing boats from Kollam were deployed to Chennannur, while two helicopters from Sullur in Tamil Nadu arrived in Thiruvananthapuram. One National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team has been deployed in Pathanamthitta and two in Kottayam, with two additional teams expected from Arakkonam. The government has also kept Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel and Defence Security

Corps units on standby for deployment if required. "Food packets have been prepared for distribution through helicopters and ground teams, and all necessary arrangements have been completed," Satheesan said. As of 9 am on Monday, 316 relief camps were sheltering 11,018 people across the state. Providing a district-wise update, the chief minister said Kottayam reported three deaths, Idukki two, Kollam two, Malappuram four, and one each in Vizhinjam, Muthalapozhi, Kannur and Kozhikode. One person each

remains missing in Vizhinjam and Muthalapozhi, two in Kollam, one in Malappuram and two in Kannur, taking the total number of missing persons to seven. Preliminary estimates indicate crop damage across 164.98 hectares, affecting 3,596 farmers, though Satheesan said the figures were likely to rise after a detailed assessment. He also urged people not to believe rumours circulating on social media about water being released from major reservoirs. "False reports claiming that water is being released from major reservoirs are creating unnecessary panic. Strict action will be taken against those spreading such rumours," he said, adding that all major dams remained well within safe operating levels. The Chief Minister announced an immediate Rs 10,000 towards funeral expenses for each deceased person and Rs 10,000 for every family returning home after floodwaters entered their houses. Families of those who

lost their lives will receive Rs 8 lakh in compensation, while financial assistance for houses completely destroyed in major landslides has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 12 lakh. The government also plans to enhance compensation for crop losses after the next Cabinet meeting. Describing the disaster as a flash flood event, Satheesan said the extreme rainfall developed suddenly overnight, leaving little time for evacuation. "Until late in the night, there was no indication from the IMD that such an extreme event would occur. Once rainfall of this intensity begins, there is practically no time left for evacuation," he said, noting that several areas recorded more than 300 mm of rainfall, while Vadasserikara received nearly 350 mm. He said rescue, relief and preparedness measures would continue across Kerala as authorities monitored the flood situation, casualties, missing persons and damage to property and agriculture.



PM dedicates POWERGRID's two transmission projects

VISAKHAPATNAM:

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone for one transmission project and dedicated two significant transmission projects of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, marking another major milestone in India's clean energy transition.

On this occasion, Sh. S. Abdul Nazeer, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh; Sh. Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Hon'ble Governor of Goa; Sh. N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; Sh. K. Pawan Kalyan, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; Sh. Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation; Dr. Chandrasekhar Pemmasani, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications; Sh. Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel; and Sh. Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Human Resource Development and RTG, Government of Andhra Pradesh, were present.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated two key transmission projects implemented by POWERGRID. These include the transmission system for Kurnool wind energy zone / solar energy zone (Andhra Pradesh) – part-A & part-B, developed at an investment of approximately ₹3,547 crore, and the transmission system for solar energy zone in Ananthapuram (2,500

MW) and Kurnool (1,000 MW), developed at an investment of approximately ₹823 crore. These projects have been developed to facilitate the evacuation of renewable energy generated in the Kurnool and Ananthapuram renewable energy zones and its seamless transfer to beneficiaries across the National Grid. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the transmission system for Integration of Kurnool-IV renewable energy zone (REZ) – phase-I (4.5 GW), to be developed at an investment of approximately ₹5,550 crore. The project will strengthen the transmission network for integrating an additional 4.5 GW of renewable energy from the Kurnool renewable energy zone into the National Grid.

The commissioning of the two transmission projects and the foundation stone laying of the Kurnool-IV REZ transmission system represent another significant step towards strengthening India's green energy infrastructure. These transmission systems will facilitate the transfer of renewable energy across the country and make a substantial contribution towards achieving India's target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed capacity by 2030, thereby accelerating the nation's clean energy transition. As on 30th June 2026, POWERGRID has commissioned and is operating 291 substations, 1,86,595 circuit kilometres (ckm) of transmission lines and 6,34,516 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of advanced technologies, enhanced automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has consistently maintained over 99.80% transmission system availability.

EDITORIAL

Managing Household Budgets in an Era of Rising Living Costs

The rising cost of living has become one of the defining economic realities for households today. Whether it is groceries, fuel, electricity, healthcare, education, or transportation, the gradual increase in the prices of everyday essentials has made financial planning more important than ever. While the pace and causes of price increases vary, the need for careful household budgeting is a common challenge shared by many families.

For most households, the monthly budget has become a careful exercise in prioritization. Essential expenses naturally come first, leaving less room for discretionary spending on leisure, entertainment, or luxury purchases. Families are increasingly making thoughtful decisions about where and how they spend their money, reflecting a growing awareness of the importance of financial discipline. Inflation remains a significant factor in shaping household finances. When the cost of goods and services rises faster than incomes, purchasing power is reduced, making it harder for families to maintain the same standard of living. This underscores the value of prudent financial management rather than impulsive spending. Budgeting, once viewed as a personal preference, has now become a practical necessity.

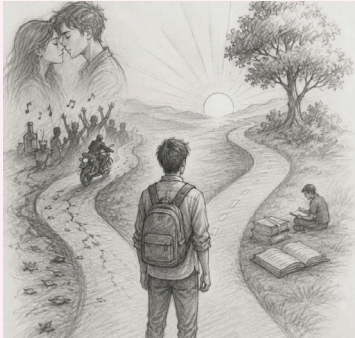
Encouragingly, many households are responding with resilience. Greater use of budgeting tools, digital payment applications, and expense trackers has enabled consumers to monitor spending more effectively. Planning purchases, comparing prices, reducing waste, and conserving energy are simple yet meaningful steps that help stretch household income. These habits not only address immediate financial pressures but also promote long-term financial stability. At the same time, building financial resilience extends beyond reducing expenses. Developing new skills, exploring additional sources of income, and strengthening savings can improve a family's ability to cope with changing economic conditions. Even modest emergency savings can provide valuable financial security during unexpected circumstances.

Financial literacy also deserves greater attention. Understanding budgeting, responsible borrowing, savings, and long-term financial planning equips individuals to make informed decisions. Schools, community organizations, financial institutions, and public awareness initiatives all have a role to play in encouraging sound money management practices that benefit households across income levels. Economic conditions will continue to evolve, bringing both opportunities and challenges. While no single solution can eliminate the pressures associated with rising living costs, careful planning, informed choices, and responsible financial habits can help families navigate uncertainty with greater confidence.

Ultimately, the rising cost of living serves as a reminder that financial stability is built not only through income but also through thoughtful management of available resources. By embracing disciplined budgeting and preparing for the future, households can better protect their financial well-being and adapt to an ever-changing economic landscape.



WHAT CAN I SAY!



Surface love... mere attraction!
This and that—just a chain reaction.
A heart too young to understand,
A mind too wild to make a stand.

No room for thought in this dizzying trance,
Marks and remarks get no second glance.
They dream of life like they know it all,
Chasing mirages in a summer squall.

Like chilled water in a blazing May,
They think love is just a getaway.
To those craving purity and grace,
They sell sweet lies with a smiling face.

No brakes, no bounds, they ride their fate,
Wandering far, till it's far too late.
Midday dreams feel real and right—
But vanish soon in morning light.

And when the truth unfolds at last...
What's the use? The moment's passed.
Like grasping leaves with burnt-out hands,
It's regret in shifting, sinking sands.

Life's no TV serial show,
No cinema script with highs and low.
It's not in thrill or reckless flight
It's knowing wrong, then choosing right.

Learn your roots, seek what's true,
Let values rise and guide you through.
This is the age to grow and learn,
Not to fall, but to rise and earn.

So what can I say...
Be serious. Today.



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



OPINION

NAGARJUNA SAGAR AT 60: FROM INDIA'S TEMPLE OF DEVELOPMENT TO A TEST OF COOPERATIVE WATER GOVERNANCE

A dam that defeated drought, transformed agriculture and now stands as a reminder that sharing water is as important as storing it

On August 4, 1967, when the first waters surged through the massive gates of Nagarjuna Sagar, India witnessed more than the completion of a dam. It was a moment when a young nation demonstrated its ability to convert ambition into reality. Carved through the rugged landscape of the Nallamala hills at Nandikonda, the project represented the confidence of a country determined to overcome poverty, drought and underdevelopment through science and engineering. Decades later, as Nagarjuna Sagar enters its 60th year, its story has acquired a new dimension. The dam that once symbolised the triumph of collective national effort has now become a test of how effectively India can manage shared rivers in an era of growing water stress.

Nagarjuna Sagar was born out of a stark contradiction. The Krishna River carried enormous volumes of water during the monsoon, yet vast stretches of land in the region remained dependent on uncertain rainfall. Floods and droughts existed side by side. For generations, farmers watched precious river waters flow into the sea while their fields struggled for survival. The idea behind Nagarjuna Sagar was to transform this uncertainty into water security and create a foundation for agricultural prosperity.

Built across the Krishna River between the Nallamala hills, Nagarjuna Sagar emerged as one of independent India's most ambitious multipurpose river valley projects. With a height of about 124.66 metres from the foundation, a total length of nearly 4.8 kilometres including earth dams, a Full Reservoir Level of 590 feet and a vast storage capacity, the project represented a remarkable achievement in masonry dam engineering. Its 26 radial gates and extensive canal network carried Krishna waters to millions of acres of farmland, turning a drought-prone region into one of southern India's major agricultural zones.

The economic impact of Nagarjuna Sagar went far beyond irrigation. By providing water to nearly 22 lakh acres of farmland, the project changed the rural economy of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.



Rain-dependent farming gradually gave way to assured irrigation. Agricultural production increased, rural employment expanded and markets linked to farming—from transport and machinery to seeds and fertilisers—grew rapidly. The dam did not merely store water; it created an ecosystem of economic activity around agriculture. Its significance extends beyond farming. With an installed hydropower capacity of 815.6 MW, Nagarjuna Sagar contributed significantly to electricity generation. It became an important source of drinking water for Hyderabad and several towns and villages across the two Telugu states. Fisheries, tourism and local livelihoods also developed around the reservoir. The true value of Nagarjuna Sagar lies not only in the water it holds but in the millions of lives connected to it.

However, six decades of continuous service have brought new challenges. Sedimentation has gradually reduced effective storage capacity. Ageing gates, seepage issues, deteriorating canal infrastructure and transmission losses have affected operational efficiency. Climate change has further complicated water management by altering rainfall patterns, increasing the frequency of both extreme floods and prolonged dry spells. The future of large reservoirs will depend as much on maintenance and modernisation as on their original construction.

The project entered a new phase

after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. A reservoir that once served a single administrative unit became a shared resource between two states with competing demands. Nagarjuna Sagar supports millions of acres of agriculture in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, making every water release a sensitive decision during periods of scarcity.

At the heart of the dispute is the unresolved issue of Krishna water allocation. Telangana argues for a greater share based on its geographical position, river basin area and emerging requirements. Andhra Pradesh emphasises historical usage, established irrigation systems and drinking water needs. Both perspectives reflect genuine concerns, but prolonged uncertainty over allocation creates challenges for farmers and water managers every year.

This is where institutions such as the Krishna River Management Board become crucial. Effective river governance requires transparent data, scientific assessment of water availability and predictable decision-making mechanisms. Rivers do not recognise political boundaries; therefore, their management cannot depend only on political negotiations. It requires cooperation, technology and trust between stakeholders.

The future of Nagarjuna Sagar depends on a transition from traditional water management to smart water

governance. Real-time telemetry systems to monitor inflows and releases, transparent digital platforms shared by both states, modernisation of gates, restoration of canals and improved dam safety measures should become priorities. At the farm level, expanding micro-irrigation, promoting water-efficient crops and improving water productivity are equally important.

Climate change has made this transformation urgent. The challenge before India is no longer simply building more reservoirs; it is managing existing water assets intelligently. Every drop saved, every decision supported by reliable data and every conflict resolved through cooperation will determine future water security.

As Nagarjuna Sagar completes six decades, its message is clear. The success of a great infrastructure project is measured not only by the scale of its construction but by how wisely it is managed across generations. The dam once represented India's ability to harness nature for development. Today, it represents the country's ability to share resources through cooperative governance.

If Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can transform Nagarjuna Sagar from a symbol of dispute into a model of collaboration, the project will continue to stand not merely as an engineering marvel, but as a lasting example of how shared rivers can unite people rather than divide them.

THE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE AND THE PATHWAYS TO SOLUTIONS IN MAHAVIRA'S PHILOSOPHY

Today, human civilization stands at the pinnacle of unprecedented scientific and technological advancement. Ironically, however, while technology has connected the world at an extraordinary pace, it has also distanced people from one another. Means of communication have multiplied, yet genuine dialogue has diminished. Information has exploded, but understanding has failed to expand. As a result, individuals are burdened with stress, families are disintegrating, societies are becoming increasingly fragmented, nations are entangled in ideological conflicts, and the world continues to grapple with war, terrorism, violence, and a deepening crisis of mistrust. If we seek the root cause of these challenges, one truth becomes unmistakably clear: the absence of meaningful dialogue. This is precisely why "Dialogue for Solutions" is not merely a programme but one of the greatest necessities of our time. Initiated by the Mahavirayatan Foundation, this visionary national movement is both timely and far-sighted. By bringing together Governors, policymakers, spiritual leaders, educationists, social reformers, and eminent thinkers from across the country on a common platform, it seeks to revive the culture of constructive dialogue and reaffirm the very soul of Indian philosophy. In this series, the "Dialogue for Solutions" programme, to be held in Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand, in August 2026 under the chairmanship of Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh (Retd.), is far more than an event—it is a powerful declaration in favour of social harmony, national integration, and global peace.

The entire philosophy of Lord Mahavira is founded upon the spirit of dialogue. He never imposed his views upon others. Instead, he inspired humanity to perceive truth from multiple perspectives. His doctrine of Anekantavada (the Principle of Non-Absolutism) teaches us that truth cannot be monopolized by any one individual, ideology, or viewpoint. Every person perceives only a fragment of truth through the lens of his or her own experiences and understanding. Genuine dialogue begins only when we listen to others with respect and sincerely strive to understand their perspectives. This is the practical essence of Anekantavada. The greatest crisis confronting the modern world is that people wish to speak, but not to listen. Everyone tends to regard his or her own opinion as the ultimate truth. Consequently, differences of opinion evolve into differences of heart, and emotional alienation eventually gives rise to conflict. Lord Mahavira cautioned that ego is the greatest enemy of truth. Where ego prevails, dialogue cannot flourish; and where dialogue is absent, solutions remain impossible.

The family offers the most natural illustration of this principle. The generation gap between parents and children ceases to be a problem as long as they continue to communicate openly. Most conflicts between husband and wife arise not from differences in opinion but from the absence of dialogue. Whether between siblings, parents and children, or grandparents and grandchildren, every enduring relationship is sustained by love enriched through meaningful communication. When people stop talking to one another, misunderstandings inevitably multiply. Silence is not always a sign of peace; often, it signals the gradual death of relationships. The same reality is reflected in society. Rising tensions based on caste, class, language, region, or ideology are fundamentally rooted in the lack of dialogue. If different communities regularly came together, listened to one another's concerns, and sought common solutions, many social conflicts could be resolved naturally. Society needs dialogue even more than it needs laws, because while laws can maintain order, only dialogue can build trust.

Dialogue occupies an equally vital place in politics. The soul of democracy lies not merely in elections but in continuous dialogue. Parliaments, legislative assemblies, and public forums exist to facilitate the healthy exchange of ideas. When political parties begin to regard one another as enemies and replace dialogue with accusations and hostility, democracy itself begins to weaken. A truly healthy democracy is one where differences may be profound, yet the doors of dialogue are never closed. The same principle applies to international relations. History bears witness that even the longest and most devastating wars have ultimately concluded at the negotiating table. Whether disputes concern territorial boundaries, economic interests, or strategic conflicts, lasting solutions

emerge not from weapons but from dialogue. War leaves behind only destruction, whereas dialogue builds the future. Bombs and missiles may alter borders, but they cannot unite hearts. Only dialogue possesses the power to bridge hearts and foster lasting peace.

Many of the world's greatest leaders have affirmed the transformative power of dialogue. Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to truth, non-violence, and constructive dialogue, never abandoning communication even with his strongest opponents. Nelson Mandela, after enduring decades of injustice, chose reconciliation over revenge and dialogue over conflict, thereby saving South Africa from civil war. Even the United Nations ultimately serves as a global platform for dialogue among nations. These examples reaffirm that humanity's greatest achievements have emerged not from confrontation, but from communication. Lord Mahavira spoke not only of dialogue with others but also of dialogue with oneself. A person who does not engage in self-reflection cannot engage meaningfully with others. Self-introspection, self-awareness, and self-purification constitute the very foundation of Mahavira's philosophy. When individuals recognize and overcome their own anger, ego, greed, and hatred, their conduct naturally becomes gentle and compassionate. Such individuals create an atmosphere of harmony rather than conflict.

In today's age of social media, genuine dialogue has increasingly been replaced by arguments, accusations, and hostility. People are more interested in defeating others than in understanding them. Civility in language is eroding, and sensitivity toward one another is steadily diminishing. At such a critical juncture, Lord Mahavira's message of disciplined speech, non-violent thought, and Anekantavada has become more relevant than ever before. If we think before speaking, listen before reacting, and strive to understand before judging, countless disputes can be prevented before they even arise. Viewed from this perspective, the Mahavirayatan Foundation's "Dialogue for Solutions" initiative assumes profound significance. It is not merely a platform for discussion but a bridge of trust connecting diverse sections of society. When spiritual leaders, policymakers, administrators, intellec-

tuals, and representatives of civil society come together to deliberate upon issues concerning the nation and humanity, new pathways and meaningful solutions are bound to emerge. This culture of dialogue represents a renaissance of India's timeless civilizational tradition that has, for centuries, offered the world the ideals of tolerance, harmony, coexistence, and mutual respect.

Today, dialogue must not remain confined to conferences or public forums. Every home should nurture dialogue; every school should encourage dialogue; every workplace should practice dialogue; every village council and Parliament should strengthen dialogue; and every nation should uphold dialogue as the foundation of international relations. If dialogue survives, trust will survive. If trust survives, relationships will endure. And if relationships endure, humanity itself will remain secure. The present age calls not merely for studying Lord Mahavira's philosophy but for living it. His doctrine of Anekantavada teaches us the art of co-existence amidst differences. His principle of non-violence nurtures compassion and sensitivity. His ideal of self-restraint cultivates humility and discipline. Together, these three pillars constitute the foundation of meaningful dialogue.

The world today does not need new weapons—it needs a new spirit of dialogue. It does not need greater competition—it needs deeper understanding. It does not need new conflicts—it needs stronger cooperation. If humanity truly seeks lasting peace, social harmony, and sustainable progress, it must embrace Lord Mahavira's timeless message: "Where there is dialogue, there is solution. Where there is a solution, there is peace. And where there is peace, there lies the bright future of humanity."



SWAMI DEVENDRA
BRAHMACHARI



Water Cannons
Used on Karni
Sena Protesters
in Jaipur
JAIPUR, AUG 3

Tension flared in Jaipur on Monday as police used water cannons to disperse members of the Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena and supporters participating in a rally demanding the rollback of recent UGC decisions and the fulfillment of various demands related to the Savarna community. The protesters gathered at Ravan Gate and began marching towards the Jaipur Collectorate to submit a memorandum. The rally, led by Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena National President, Mahipal Singh Makrana, was scheduled to proceed via Panipech. However, police attempted to stop the procession by erecting barricades near Kalwar Puliya. As protesters pushed forward, a confrontation broke out between the crowd and police personnel. Police resorted to water cannons to control the situation, while some protesters reportedly attempted to move towards the water cannon vehicle. Despite the police action, demonstrators removed the barricades and continued their march towards the Collectorate through the Jhotwara-Panipech route.

Prashant Kishor knocks out BJP in Bihar's Bankipur, first poll win for Jan Suraaaj

Jan Suraaaj founder Prashant Kishor scripted history on Monday by securing his party's maiden electoral victory in the high-stakes Bankipur Assembly bypoll in Bihar, defeating BJP's Neeraj Kumar Sinha by 19,324 votes.

And finally, Prashant Kishor can rest easy tonight. After months of relentless campaigning, door-to-door outreach and countless hours on the ground, the Jan Suraaaj founder has his reward. On Monday, Kishor scripted history by securing his party's maiden electoral victory, defeating the BJP in the high-stakes Bankipur Assembly bypoll and ending its uninterrupted 35-year hold over one of its strongest bastions in Bihar. Kishor defeated BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar Sinha by 19,324 votes, polling 64,151 votes against Sinha's 44,827, while RJD's Rekha Gupta finished a distant third with 14,273 votes. Having surged ahead in the early counting trends, Kishor steadily widened his lead, with his victory becoming virtually certain



by the 15th round of counting out of a total of 32 rounds. The Bankipur bypoll was necessitated after the seat fell vacant following the resignation of BJP leader Nitin Nabin, who later entered the Rajya Sabha. **EARLY CAMPAIGN PAID OFF** The victory capped months of groundwork by the Jan Suraaaj chief, who hit the campaign trail nearly two months before the BJP and the RJD launched their full-fledged election efforts. During this period, Kishor held public meetings, conducted extensive door-to-door outreach and built a booth-level organisation across the constituency, giving his fledgling party a head start over its rivals. Throughout the campaign,

Kishor projected the by-election as a "referendum on the Samrat Choudhary government". His campaign focused heavily on governance, education and employment, with a special emphasis on first-time and Gen Z voters. The BJP, meanwhile, treated the contest as a prestige battle, deploying around 40 star campaigners and thousands of party workers to retain the seat. Several senior leaders campaigned extensively in Bankipur during the final phase of the election. **BANKIPUR WILL SEE CHANGES: PK** Speaking to reporters after his victory became clear, Kishor said his immediate priority was to honour the trust reposed in him by the

people of Bankipur. "Our first priority after this victory is to honour the blessings and trust that the people of Bankipur have placed in us. We will do everything we can to improve Bankipur. You will begin to see those changes over the next two to three months," he said. Tempering expectations, Kishor said his election as an MLA would not transform Bankipur "into Bengaluru overnight", but assured residents that visible improvements would begin to take shape within the next few months. **MESSAGE TO BJP LEADERSHIP** Kishor also claimed the verdict had sent a clear political message to the BJP leadership. "The people of Bankipur have sent a clear message to the BJP leadership: 'Please appoint a good person as the Chief Minister of Bihar.' ... Whoever is chosen should be a capable and upright person. Bihar must progress under all circumstances... What truly matters is the development of Bihar," he said. **BJP ACCEPTS VERDICT, PROMISES REVIEW** Reacting to the result, Bihar

BJP president Sanjay Saraogi congratulated Kishor in advance and said the party would undertake a detailed review to understand the reasons behind its defeat. "We have consistently worked for the development of Bankipur, and it will remain our priority in the future. The people of Bankipur are our own. We will conduct a detailed review to understand why we received fewer votes," he said. State minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said the BJP respected the people's mandate and would introspect instead of questioning the electoral process. "This is the land of democracy, and we respect the people's mandate. The Bharatiya Janata Party has always stood by democratic values. Unlike the opposition, we do not blame the Election Commission or the EVMs. We believe in democracy, respect constitutional institutions and accept the people's verdict. We will conduct a thorough review to understand where the mistakes were made and why they occurred. This is Bihar, and it has not even been six months since we won 202 seats. People should remember that," he said.

India to Host the Second BRICS

Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting in Hyderabad under Its BRICS Presidency

NEW DELHI,03 AUGUST 2026:



The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, will host the Second Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the Second Meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery in Hyderabad, Telangana, on 4-5 August 2026, under India's BRICS Presidency 2026. The meeting is being organized in line with the theme of India's BRICS Presidency, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The meeting will be inaugurated by Ms. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training. The event is expected to witness participation from BRICS member countries, along with senior policymakers, experts, practitioners and representatives of anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies. The Hyderabad meeting builds upon the outcomes of the First BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, held virtually on 2-3 June 2026. BRICS members will deliberate on strengthening international cooperation for asset recovery, combating cross-border corruption, and enhancing transparency and accountability in governance. The discussions will focus on advancing practical cooperation through: strengthening informal cooperation for tracing fugitive offenders sought in corruption cases and supporting extradition proceedings; enhancing information-sharing and

operational cooperation through the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery; and sharing experiences and good practices in preventing and combating corruption-related risks arising from FinTech, digital assets and emerging digital financial instruments. A dedicated side event titled "Ethical Governance through Innovation and Tech-Driven Systems" will also be organized on 5 August 2026. The side event will provide a platform for BRICS members to exchange experiences on technology-enabled governance, including digital public procurement, citizen engagement, transparency, accountability and innovative approaches to strengthening integrity in public administration. The Hyderabad meeting will reaffirm India's commitment to promoting practical cooperation among BRICS members through dialogue, exchange of experiences and collaborative initiatives. As the final Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting under India's BRICS Presidency, it is expected to consolidate the progress achieved during the year and lay the foundation for sustained cooperation among BRICS members in asset recovery, prevention of cross-border corruption, technology-enabled governance and institutional capacity-building.

Dharali Rebuilds After Disaster, ₹33 Crore Invested in Recovery

DEHRADUN/UTTARKASHI

One year after a devastating natural disaster struck Dharali, Harshil, Bhatwari and the Bhagirathi Valley in Uttarkashi district, the region has witnessed a remarkable recovery through extensive rehabilitation and redevelopment efforts led by the Uttarakhand Government. On August 5 last year, massive landslides destroyed homes, shops, agricultural fields, orchards and infrastructure, severely affecting livelihoods. Today, roads, electricity, drinking water and irrigation facilities have been restored, while farming, horticulture and tourism are gradually returning to normal. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the state adopted a phased approach covering rescue, relief, rehabilitation and long-term redevelopment. The

Chief Minister personally visited affected areas, monitored relief operations and directed officials to ensure timely assistance for every affected family. Over the past year, more than ₹33 crore has been invested in recovery. This includes over ₹16 crore for infrastructure restoration and development through departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Irrigation, Energy, Tourism and Public Works, along with more than ₹17 crore in financial assistance to affected families. The rehabilitation programme also focused on restoring livelihoods. Farmers received seeds, saplings and compensation for damaged orchards, while support was extended for livestock rearing. Flood protection measures were strengthened, damaged roads rebuilt, and tourism revival initiatives launched to boost the local economy.

Nepal Delegation Studies Telangana's Urban Governance

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 3

As part of a 10-day International Capacity Building Programmesponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, and organized by the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), a delegation comprising 21 Mayors, Municipal Chairpersons and Government Officials from Nepal is undertaking a study visit to Hyderabad. The urban governance component of the programme is being coordinated by the National Institute of Urban Management (NIUM) on 3-4 August 2026. The programme aims to provide participants with firsthand exposure to Telangana's innovative urban governance practices, municipal



reforms and sustainable urban development initiatives. During the inaugural technical sessions held at NIUM on 3 August 2026, the delegates were introduced to Telangana's best practices in urban governance, municipal administration, solid waste management, sewage and wastewater management, urban infrastructure development, implementation of gov-

ernment programmes, and capacity-building initiatives. Senior officials highlighted the State's progressive policies, institutional reforms and successful urban management models that have positioned Telangana as a leader in urban development. On 4 August 2026, the delegation will undertake field visits to the Hyderabad Integrated Municipal Solid



BLW Joins Varanasi for Scientific Waste Disposal

VARANASI:

Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) and the Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN) have signed two important service agreements to implement scientific and eco-friendly solid waste management across the BLW township in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

The service agreement documents were exchanged by ShriSaket, Deputy Chief Engineer, BLW, and Shri Durgesh Mishra, Additional Commissioner, Varanasi Nagar Nigam, in the august presence of Shri Ashutosh Pant, General Manager, BLW, and ShriHiman-shu Nagpal, Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Varanasi. Under the first agreement, will undertake the bioremediation, scientific processing and safe disposal of the accumulated legacy waste at the BLW dump site. The second agreement, valid for one year, provides for the collection, transportation and scientific processing of municipal solid waste gen-

erated daily within the BLW township. BLW will collect the waste in designated bins, while VNN will carry out its transportation and processing on a fixed monthly service fee. The initiative marks a significant step towards achieving Zero-Landfill objectives, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and promoting a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Varanasi. Both organizations reaffirmed their commitment to environmental protection and pledged to continue working together on sustainable waste management initiatives. Among those present on the occasion were Shri Manish Kumar, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer; Shri Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer; Shri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Financial Adviser; Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Engineer; Shri Sagar, Deputy General Manager, along with senior officers of BLW and the Varanasi Municipal Corporation.

CM Sarma camps in Upper Assam, launches rehabilitation drive

GUWAHATI, AUG 3

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the state has moved from the emergency response stage to the rehabilitation phase in the flood-ravaged districts of Upper Assam, announcing that over 75,000 affected families have received the first tranche of financial assistance while assuring that every flood-hit household would be supported in rebuilding their lives. In a series of posts on X after reviewing the flood situation in Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat and Charaideo districts, Sarma said the devastating floods were triggered by nearly 400 per cent excess rainfall in the upstream areas, causing unprecedented inundation in regions that do not usually experience floods. "The floods in Upper Assam have left behind a trail of devastation. The 400 per cent excess rainfall upstream led to the sudden deluge in districts which usually don't flood," the Chief Minister said, adding that he had been continuously monitoring the situation while three ministers remained on the ground since the disaster struck.

CM Reviews Draft Development Plans for Four Haryana Cities

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 3

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Monday chaired a meeting of the State-Level Committee (SLC) at the Haryana Civil Secretariat to deliberate on and consider the draft development plans for Narayan-garh-2031, Kurukshetra-2041, Narnaul-2041, and Panipat-2041. The plans, prepared by the Department of Town and Country Planning, aim to promote planned land use, orderly urban growth and regulated building development across the state. The Chief Minister directed officers to align all urban development plans with the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, ensuring that future planning adequately addresses projected population growth, modern urban infrastructure requirements, environmental sustainability, efficient transport systems and balanced urban expansion. He further directed that adequate provisions be made for sewage treatment plants, water treatment facilities, power infrastructure, entertainment zones and other essential civic amenities so that residents do not face shortages of basic services in the future. **Narayanagarh-2031** The Chief Minister was apprised that the development plan for Narayanagarh



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, presiding over the meeting of SLC regarding proposed draft development plan of urban areas in the state, at Chandigarh on August 3, 2026.

has been prepared keeping in view a projected population of 95,000 by 2031. The proposal envisages the development of six residential sectors and takes into account the growth opportunities arising from National Highway-72, expansion of industrial areas, conservation of the natural drainage system and the creation of green zones. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini directed that sufficient distance be maintained between industrial and residential areas to ensure a healthy and convenient living environment for residents. **Kurukshetra-2041** Reviewing the draft plan for Kurukshetra, the Chief Minister emphasised that the district's religious and cultural significance should remain central to future development. He called for the conservation of the Jyotisar area, development aligned with the Saras-

wati River, expansion of green spaces, effective flood management measures and other necessary modifications. He also directed that adequate land be reserved for the 250-acre Iconic Destination Scheme, saying the project would give a new direction to Kurukshetra's development. The Chief Minister further stressed the need for a comprehensive plan to address flooding in the Saraswati River catchment area. **Narnaul-2041** The Chief Minister was apprised that the draft development plan proposes the development of 20 residential sectors in Narnaul. In the meeting, discussions were also held regarding the development of industrial areas in line with the proposed Integrated Multi-Modal Logistics Hub (IMLH), inclusion of a new bypass in the

plan, and balanced development of residential, industrial, transport and green zones. The Chief Minister directed that forest areas be protected while finalising the plan and suggested reserving selected areas for eco-tourism. **Panipat-2041** The committee reviewed the draft development plan for Panipat in view of the city's growing population. The proposal includes the development of new residential areas on both sides of the existing city in line with the 2021 Master Plan, along with expansion of the road network, sewage treatment plants (STPs), boosting stations and other urban infrastructure. The Chief Minister directed officers to prepare a plan for developing industrial zones extending up to one kilometre on either side of the Panipat-Shamli National Highway.

He also instructed officials to make arrangements, including the use of Ranney wells, to meet the water requirements of industries. The committee also deliberated on a proposal to develop the land of the old sugar mill in Sector 34 as a special zone or a mixed-use development, besides reviewing other development proposals related to the district. Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sh. Rajesh Khullar, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Sh. Sudhir Rajpal, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Sh. A.K. Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Town & Country Planning and Urban Estates Department, Sh. Anurag Agarwal, Commissioner & Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Dr Amit Agrawal, Commissioner & Secretary, Excise & Taxation Department, Smt. Ashima Brar, Commissioner & Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Sh. Ashok Kumar Meena, Director, Town & Country Planning Department, Sh. Amit Khatri, Deputy Commissioner, Kurukshetra, Sh. Vishram Kumar Meena and senior officers from various departments also remained present during the meeting.

Maha Govt Mandates Five Service Reforms

Mumbai, Aug 3: The Maharashtra government has mandated five major process re-engineering reforms across all administrative departments to eliminate physical office visits, drastically cut approval layers and accelerate public service delivery. Issued through a Government Resolution (GR) by the state planning department on Monday, the Government Process Re-engineering (GPR) initiative seeks to make

government welfare schemes and daily administrative services transparent, accessible and digital-first. According to the GR, departments must rely exclusively on online verification and digital validation systems so citizens no longer need to visit government offices. Forms will be simplified by auto-fetching citizen data directly from established databases such as Aadhaar and Maha-Samanyav.



Italy has not lived up to expectations on Ceuta crisis: Spanish Foreign Minister

MADRID

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares on Monday said that Italy has not lived up to expectations while reacting to the Ceuta migration crisis, noting that Italy is the country with the highest number of irregular entries in Europe, local media reported.

"There have been countries and governments that have not lived up to expectations, as well as politicians and parties, even in Spain," Albares stated to broadcaster RTVE. "The Italian government was one of them. Here in Spain, I hear irresponsible statements from the Popular Party and Vox," he continued, Italian News Agency Adnkronos reported. "As for Italy," Albares recalled, "it is the country with the highest number of irregular entries in Europe, while Spain has the lowest number. Italy would like to resolve the situation in Lampedusa as the one in Ceuta was resolved," he stressed further.

Trump: Iran Must Make Deal or Surrender

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Monday called the Iranian leadership 'duplicitous' and stated that nothing gets through to Iran unless a deal, or total surrender of the country, is accomplished.

"Iranian leadership is unbelievably duplicitous! They ask for a meeting, some would say 'beg,' talks begin, with more scheduled in the immediate future, and they say, openly and proudly, that they're not having any discussions, that nothing is being talked about, and they're only dealing with 'Oman,'" President Trump stated on his social media platform Truth Social.

He also said that the Strait of Hormuz is completely controlled by the US Navy and stressed that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon.

China pressurised Nepal over conference on Tibetan studies: Report

LHASA

Just weeks after China's new 'Ethnic Unity and Progress Law' came into effect, the country has pressured Nepal over an upcoming Tibetan studies conference in Kathmandu, a report has revealed.

"This development is the latest sign that Beijing is expanding its campaign of transnational repression into academic discourse as part of its broader efforts to turn Tibetology into an ideological tool that reinforces the state's vision of a unified Chinese national identity, while silencing scholarship that challenges its official narrative," a report by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) mentioned.

Kathmandu is set to host the 17th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) from August 23 to August 29; however, according to media reports, the Dharamshala-based Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has decided not to send its researchers in an official capacity to the seminar to 'avoid jeopardising the conference and to ease Chinese pressure on Nepal.'

According to the report, Nepal's Foreign Secretary Amrit



Bahadur Rai and Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Zhang Maoming met on July 21, where Zhang raised China's concerns about presumed statements critical of China.

"Citing a senior Nepalese foreign ministry official, the Kathmandu Post on July 22 reported that the Chinese Ambassador raised concerns that 'some individuals could speak against China and in support of Tibet and

urged officials to make sure that no such things happen," it stated. There was no formal diplomatic protest or written demand for cancellation; the report stressed that China's actions led to the withdrawal of CTA researchers.

"The significance of this incident extends well beyond a single academic conference. Beijing is institutionalising a system in which diplomacy, repressive domestic legislation implement-

ed outside China's borders, and state-directed academic scholarship reinforce one another," said Tencho Gyatso, President of the ICT.

"The new Ethnic Unity and Progress Law, together with China's efforts to recast Tibetology as a vehicle for 'forging a strong sense of the Chinese national community,' is designed to advance the forced assimilation of Tibetans while reshaping

international understanding of Tibet. Global governments and academic institutions must recognise this as part of Beijing's broader pattern to eliminate Tibetan identity and expand its transnational repression and call for the repeal of this repressive law," she added.

The majority of Nepali citizens from its northern region bordering Tibet share cultural and religious traditions with Tibetan people, and Nepal also hosts a considerable size of Tibetan refugee community.

According to the report, Beijing's latest intervention over the IATS seminar in Kathmandu fits a broader pattern of China's efforts to control all international discussions on matters relating to Tibet. It stated that China is also sending delegates to the seminar, which is an independent academic conference.

"The reported participation of the state-controlled China Tibetology Research Centre at an independent academic forum is a cause of major concern as the centre has been mandated by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to drive a narrative that advances its forced assimilation agenda," the report highlighted.



Sheikh Hasina should not make political statements: B'Desh PM advisor to Indian High Commissioner

DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Advisor Humayun Kabir on Monday sought the Indian government's cooperation to ensure that no one from the Awami League, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, can use Indian territory to make political statements, local media reported.

According to Bangladesh's Prothom Alo newspaper, Advisor Kabir stated this during a courtesy call by the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, on Monday afternoon.

Citing a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Prothom Alo said that the social media news about Sheikh Hasina making a public speech on August 5 came up during the discussion.

"In this regard, the Foreign Advisor informed the High Commissioner that Bangladesh expects India's cooperation in ensuring that any person from the banned organisation, including the fugitive Sheikh Hasina, cannot use Indian territory to make political statements or conduct any activities aimed

at creating instability within Bangladesh," the statement said, according to the newspaper. It also stated that "the Indian High Commissioner assured that he would take the matter into due consideration and make necessary inquiries and remain vigilant in this regard," citing the statement.

According to the High Commission of India in Dhaka, the discussion during the courtesy call focused on increasing people-centric cooperation between India and Bangladesh, based on mutual interest and mutual benefit.

"High Commissioner reiterated India's intent to work positively with the Government of Bangladesh to advance the developmental aspirations of the peoples of India and Bangladesh," the High Commission stated on X. According to the statement by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, both sides stressed the importance of continuing regular dialogue and constructive engagement and expressed the hope that long-term and sustainable solutions to all issues can be achieved through mutual trust and discussion, Prothom Alo reported.

EAM Jaishankar meets Uzbekistan FM, appreciates steady growth in ties

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Monday appreciated the steady momentum in India-Uzbekistan ties as he held a meeting with his counterpart from the Central Asian country, Bakhityor Saidov, who is currently on a three-day visit to New Delhi. EAM Jaishankar expressed confidence that the meeting would contribute to the deepening of India-Uzbekistan ties.

"We in India consider Uzbekistan to be part of our extended neighbourhood, and there is always a continuous exchange of people, ideas, and goods in both directions. We share very long and deep historical and cultural linkages," EAM Jaishankar stated

during his opening remarks at the meeting. "In modern times, we've had regular interactions at the political level between our systems at an institutional level, and I am very glad to see that there's been a steady momentum in our ties. Our leadership has maintained very close contact, and my Prime Minister has a very special regard for your President," he added.

According to him, bilateral relations between India and Uzbekistan have expanded over the years, and now they really span a very diverse range of domains -- from construction and digital to energy, health, and education. The EAM also expressed interest in expanding into mining and noted that the trade between the two countries.

Nepal sees marginal growth in tourist arrivals in July

KATHMANDU

Nepal recorded marginal growth in foreign tourist arrivals in July, welcoming a total of 71,775 foreign visitors during the month, the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) said on Monday. The figure represents a 2.3 per cent increase compared to 70,193 foreign tourist arrivals recorded in July 2025. Except

for March and April, Nepal recorded year-on-year growth in foreign tourist arrivals in every month through July this year, according to NTB statistics.

The conflict between the United States and Iran, disruptions to flight operations, and higher airfares driven by increased fuel prices affected international travel, contributing to the modest growth in

arrivals. According to the NTB, Indian tourists once again accounted for the largest share of international visitors in July. A total of 23,490 Indian tourists visited Nepal, representing 32.73 per cent of total arrivals. However,

after a sharp surge in Indian tourist arrivals in May and June, the number declined in July. Nepal recorded a significant

increase in Chinese tourist arrivals during the month. According to NTB statistics, the country welcomed 11,099 visitors from China, a 61.09 per cent increase from 6,890 arrivals in July 2025. The figure also surpassed the pre-Covid level of 10,215 Chinese visitors recorded in July 2019, standing 8.65 per cent higher.

The United States ranked

third in terms of tourist arrivals, with 7,754 visitors in July. It was followed by Bangladesh with 4,179 visitors, the United Kingdom with 3,773, and Australia with 2,428.

Driven largely by the high number of Indian visitors, South Asia remained the largest source market for Nepal's tourism in July. A total of 29,755 visitors from South Asian As-

sociation for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries arrived in Nepal during the month, accounting for 41.46 per cent of total international arrivals. However, this was 11.93 per cent lower than the 33,787 visitors recorded in July 2025. Among the other SAARC countries, Bhutan contributed 991 tourists, while Pakistan accounted for 475 visitors.

EU chief calls for tighter border checks amid Ceuta migrant crisis

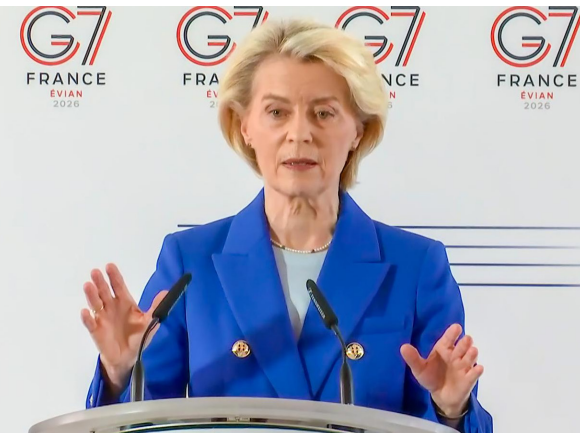
BRUSSELS

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday called for physical barriers and stronger border control at critical points along European Union (EU) borders amid the migrant crisis in Ceuta. Local authorities said some 60,000 migrants had entered Ceuta, Spain's autonomous city on the North African coast bordering Morocco, illegally in recent days by land and sea.

In a letter to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, von der Leyen sought tighter security along critical points of the EU border and referred to an ongoing EU-Morocco deal on migration aimed at preventing similar situations.

A meeting of EU Interior Ministers on the emergency has been convened for August 4. The request was made in a letter signed by 22 European countries, led by Italy and Denmark, but without France and Portugal, the two countries bordering Spain.

On Sunday, von der Leyen received the letter from the 22 countries and from Sanchez, accepting the request for an



emergency videoconference to assess the crisis. She reiterated that combating illegal migration required solidarity and a united European response.

Prime Minister Sanchez, in his communication to the EU, criticised the positions of some countries on the Ceuta migration crisis and requested an urgent summit of Interior Ministers. The move followed Italy's suspension of Schengen with Spain.

He asked the Irish Presidency for an extraordinary meeting, stressing that the security of external borders was a shared responsibility. Sanchez

asserted that Madrid had re-established border control, assisted migrants, repatriated "practically all" irregular arrivals and prevented movements to other countries with little European support. He defended Spain's migration policy, saying irregular entries had reduced, making Spain the "second safest external border of the EU."

Spain fully deployed a floating sea barrier on Sunday along the maritime border of Ceuta as authorities tightened controls. Officials also reported that the death toll linked to the crisis had risen to 72.

As PoJK situation worsens, calls grow for humanitarian and medical assistance

ISLAMABAD

The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) has written a letter to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, requesting for urgent humanitarian and medical assistance in Rawalakot and other affected areas of the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) amid the ongoing unrest in the region.

In the letter, JKJAAC mentioned that the situation in PoJK has developed into a "serious humanitarian and medical emergency" after the events that occurred on July 27-28. It mentioned that the reports received from affected communities indicate civilian casualties, injuries related to firearms, disruption of ambulance routes, limited access to hospitals and difficulties in getting medicines, blood supplies and emergency trauma care.

"The Jammu Kashmir Human Rights Observatory has documented reports that critically injured people were transported approximately 40 kilometres from Rawalakot to Palandri Hospital because immediate trauma care was not available or accessible locally. Its report also records allegations that road closures, security



cordons and communications restrictions delayed the evacuation and treatment of injured civilians. These findings remain subject to continuing medical, family and independent verification," the JKJAAC letter stated.

"Internet and telecommunications services have also remained severely restricted, leaving families unable to locate injured, detained or missing relatives and making it extremely difficult to coordinate emergency assistance," it added.

The JKJAAC urged the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to deploy an independent emergency assessment and medical team in Rawalakot and other affected places of the occupied territory, provide ambulances, mobile medical units,

trained first-aid personnel, trauma-care supplies in the affected region and also establish temporary first-aid and emergency treatment points along affected routes and near major gathering areas.

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is currently witnessing the most extensive confrontation between the local population and the Pakistani state in decades. The protests reportedly began on June 5 and have continued to intensify. Protesters have alleged that Pakistani security forces launched a severe crackdown in which more than 50 people have been killed and hundreds injured over the past several weeks.

Earlier in the day, JKJAAC shared a video on X showing Pakistani forces dragging and assaulting an unarmed civilian

on the road in Muzaffarabad city. It urged the United Nations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, international media, and diplomatic missions to examine the footage, independently verify the facts, and press for an immediate, independent and impartial investigation into the reported events.

"We call on the United Nations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, international media, and diplomatic missions to examine this footage, independently verify the facts, and press for an immediate, independent and impartial investigation into the reported events.

We also urge the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to closely monitor the humanitarian situation and ensure that those who are injured and other civilians affected receive protection and humanitarian assistance in accordance with its mandate," the JAAC stated.

On Sunday, people in PoK continued to participate in the long march that began on June 9. The JAAC said that the protest held on Sunday demonstrated that the movement is rooted in the demands of the public for fundamental rights, justice, and the implementation of commitments made by the authorities.

"The Long March that began on 9 June continues. Despite weeks of arrests, killings, injuries, and intimidation, the people continue to march with determination. Today's protest is another reminder that this movement is rooted in the people's demand for fundamental rights, justice, and the implementation of commitments made by the authorities. This movement belongs to the people. As long as those legitimate demands remain unmet, the voices of the people will continue to be heard," the JAAC posted on X.





Makthala Leads First Delegation to Meet New Dubai Consul General

DUBAI, UAE:

In a significant diplomatic engagement, Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, IFS, the newly appointed Consul General of India to Dubai, held his first official meeting after assuming charge with a high-level delegation led by Mr. Sundeeep Kumar Makthala, Chairman of ICIE (International Council for Innovators & Entrepreneurs), Chairman of TConsult Global, and a UAE Golden Visa Honoree.

The delegation comprised prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, including Mr. Thota Ramkumar, a leading Dubai-based industrialist, Mr. S. V. Reddy, Mr. Vura Krishna, and other distinguished representatives from the business and innovation ecosystem.

The meeting marked the continuation of a long-standing professional association between Mr. Makthala and Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy. Over the years, they have worked together through several international engagements across the United States, Canada, Singapore, and other countries, promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, technology partnerships, investment facilitation, and global business collaboration.

During the meeting, Mr. Makthala briefed the Consul General on the global initiatives led through ICIE, TConsult Global, and other innovation platforms focused on fostering cross-border collaboration between governments, industry, academia, investors, startups, and entrepreneurs. The discussions centered on expanding India-UAE cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, digital transformation, startups, innovation, investment promotion, and emerging technologies. The delegation also explored opportunities to strengthen strategic partnerships between India and the United Arab Emirates by facilitating innovation-led investments, business expansion, technology exchange, and international market access for entrepreneurs and enterprises from both countries.

Sensex ends 544 points higher, Nifty above 24,500; IT stocks rally

The BSE Sensex climbed 544.39 points, or 0.70%, to settle at 78,639.03, while the NSE Nifty50 jumped 390.70 points, or 1.60%, to end at 24,774.30. The Sensex touched an intraday high of 78,895.10, while the Nifty hit a fresh high of 24,774.30 before closing at the day's peak.

Benchmark equity indices ended sharply higher on Monday as a steep fall in crude oil prices boosted investor sentiment, while a late surge in information technology stocks helped the markets extend gains and close near the day's highs. The BSE Sensex climbed 544.39 points, or 0.70%, to settle at 78,639.03, while the NSE Nifty50 jumped 390.70 points, or 1.60%, to end at 24,774.30. The Sensex touched an intraday high of 78,895.10, while the Nifty hit a fresh high of 24,774.30 before closing at the day's peak.

The rally came as Brent crude prices tumbled nearly 5% to around \$83.7 per barrel, while WTI crude slipped about 6% below the \$80 mark after hopes of renewed diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran eased fears of prolonged supply disruptions in the Middle East. For India, which imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements, lower oil prices are seen as a major positive as they reduce inflationary pressures, improve corporate profitability and ease the country's import bill. Reflecting the improving risk appetite, buying was broad-based across the market. The Nifty 100, Nifty 200 and Nifty 500



indices gained between 1.46% and 1.55%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 and Nifty Midcap 100 rose 1.29% and 1.21%, respectively.

Sectorally, Nifty IT emerged as the biggest winner, rallying 3.28% as heavyweight technology stocks staged a strong comeback in the second half of the session. FMCG stocks also witnessed healthy buying, with the Nifty FMCG index gaining 1.72%, followed by Metal (1.54%), Auto (1.48%), PSU Bank (1.43%), Financial Services (1.36%) and Private Bank (1.90%). Pharma was the only major sector to end

in the red, falling 0.48% amid profit booking after its recent run-up. Among Sensex stocks, IndiGo topped the gainers with a 4.22% jump, followed by TCS (+3.57%), Infosys (+3.54%), Eternal (+2.53%) and ITC (+1.90%). Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro and SBI also ended with solid gains. On the other hand, Sun Pharma fell nearly 2%, while Bharti Airtel, Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the notable losers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said the decline in crude oil prices, driven by expectations of renewed dialogue between the US and Iran, lifted market sentiment by easing concerns over inflation and the earnings outlook for companies.

He added that a recovery in FII inflows and a strengthening rupee further supported investor confidence, although elevated US bond yields remain a key risk for sustained foreign investment into emerging markets.

According to Nair, IT and FMCG led the gains during the session, while pharma stocks witnessed profit booking following recent gains and the latest Q1FY27 earnings announcements. He also said that the earnings season has so far progressed better than expected, with small-cap companies emerging as the strongest performers compared with large- and mid-cap peers. Investors, he said, will now closely track the RBI's upcoming monetary policy decision for cues on inflation, liquidity and the future interest rate trajectory, although the central bank is widely expected to keep rates unchanged. The rupee also remained supportive for market sentiment, while the sharp fall in crude helped reinforce expectations that inflationary pressures could soften if oil prices remain subdued. This, coupled with improving earnings and returning foreign investor interest, helped equities end the session firmly in positive territory despite lingering global uncertainties.

Why India bought record Russian oil in July despite Trump's 100% tariff threat

India imported a record volume of Russian crude in July even as a US tariff proposal advanced. The surge underlines refiners' focus on price and supply security amid legal uncertainty and West Asia shipping risks.

In July, more than one out of every two barrels of crude oil India imported came from Russia — the first time Moscow's share has crossed the halfway mark. According to commodity analytics firm Kpler, India imported a record 2.78 million barrels per day (mbd) of Russian crude during the month, up 1.5% from June, against overall crude imports of 4.96 mbd. The UAE and Saudi Arabia remained the second and third-largest suppliers, but together supplied far less than Russia. The record, however, comes at a curious time. The US Senate has advanced legislation that could impose tariffs as high as 100% on the world's largest buyers of Russian oil and gas, with India and China widely expected to be among those affected if it becomes law. Yet Indian refiners aren't pulling back. So why hasn't the threat of potentially punishing



US tariffs changed India's Russian oil strategy? The simple answer is that the proposed US tariffs are still far from becoming law. The legislation, named in honour of the late Senator Lindsey Graham, has cleared procedural hurdles in the US Senate and could pass the upper chamber soon. However, it faces a much tougher path in the House of Representatives, which is currently in recess until the end of August. The bill has drawn opposition not only from Democrats but also from some Republicans and industry groups, who argue it would hand President Donald Trump sweeping new tariff powers and could fuel inflation in the US. Republican Senator Rand Paul has already proposed amendments to limit those powers, while trade experts believe the legislation could struggle to pass the House in its current form. In other words, Indian refiners are dealing with a proposal, not an enacted law. Until there is clarity on whether the legislation will become law—and what its final provisions look like—there is little commercial incentive to overhaul procurement strategies that have worked well over the past three years.

WHY RUSSIAN OIL STILL MAKES COMMERCIAL SENSE

Russian crude oil also continues to make economic sense. Since Western sanctions reshaped global oil trade in 2022,

Russian crude has consistently been available at competitive prices compared with many other grades. For Indian refiners, that has meant access to reliable supplies while keeping feedstock costs under control. Even though benchmark crude prices have eased in recent days, Russian barrels continue to remain commercially attractive for refiners that have already established supply chains and long-term purchasing relationships. According to Kpler Senior Research Analyst Nikhil Dubey, India's diversified sourcing strategy has helped refiners maintain supply security despite evolving geopolitical risks. Ironically, the recent conflict in West Asia has strengthened the case for buying Russian crude. Escalating tensions around the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait disrupted shipping routes and raised fears over supplies from traditional Middle Eastern producers. Kpler notes that any prolonged disruption could force tankers to divert around the Cape of Good Hope instead of using the Red Sea route. Such a diversion would add nearly two weeks to shipping time while significantly increasing freight costs, fuel consumption and war-risk insurance

premiums. Against that backdrop, Russian supplies have become even more valuable because they offer greater certainty at a time when geopolitical risks continue to cloud Middle Eastern exports.

FALLING OIL PRICES MAY NOT CHANGE THE EQUATION

Oil prices have cooled sharply over the past few sessions, but that doesn't immediately change India's buying pattern. On Monday, Brent Crude was trading around \$83.36 a barrel while US benchmark WTI crude slipped to \$79.57, as hopes of renewed diplomacy in the Middle East eased concerns over supply disruptions. Lower crude prices are undoubtedly positive for India, the world's third-largest oil importer, as they help reduce the country's import bill, ease inflationary pressures and support the rupee. However, refiners do not make procurement decisions based solely on day-to-day movements in benchmark prices. Crude purchases are planned weeks and often months in advance, and supply reliability remains just as important as price. As a result, the recent fall in oil prices is unlikely to immediately reduce India's dependence on Russian crude.

TCS, Infosys, HCLTech to reduce bench strength by 8-10%. Here's what's changing

Top IT services companies are moving towards leaner bench strength as AI and demand-led hiring reshape staffing. The shift points to tighter deployment, more reskilling and a sharper focus on specialised talent.

The average bench strength across leading IT services companies, including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra, has already fallen to late single digits, or at most 12%, over the past three years. It is expected to decline further to around 8-10% in FY27, reported Moneycontrol. The report, citing staffing firm TeamLease Digital, said this is a sharp drop from the pre-AI era, when companies typically maintained bench strength of around 20-30%. In the IT services industry, "bench" refers to employees who remain on a company's payroll but are not deployed on active client projects. Traditionally, firms maintained a sizeable bench so they could quickly assign engineers whenever new

client projects came in.

WHY IS BENCH STRENGTH SHRINKING?

IT companies are no longer hiring large numbers of employees in anticipation of future demand. Instead, recruitment has become far more demand-driven, with companies focusing on specialised skills in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity and data analytics, as per the report. "The bench has become a lot leaner over the last three years than what it used to be. Hiring has become far more demand-led and focused on niche skills. Companies are using AI, better workforce planning and stronger demand forecasting to improve utilization instead of maintaining large standby teams," Neeti Sharma, CEO of TeamLease Digital, told Moneycontrol. The report added that bench timelines have also reduced, with employees now typically remaining on the bench for around 30-45 days compared to 45-60 days earlier.

COMPANIES ARE PRIORITISING UTILISATION

Another reason for the



shrinking bench is the industry's focus on improving employee utilisation amid slower revenue growth and AI-led productivity gains. Sumit Pokharna, Vice President – Fundamental Research at Kotak Neo, told Moneycontrol that companies are increasingly looking for a "relevant" workforce that is AI-skilled and can be deployed quickly. "Currently, utilisation rates for IT firms are very high. Controlling and maintaining a tight workforce is the only way for companies to deal with the topline and revenue challenges amid AI deflationary pressures. Otherwise, it could become a margin issue," he said.

DOES THIS MEAN MORE LAYOFFS?

The report says companies are currently focusing more on reskilling existing employees than reducing headcount. According to Neeti Sharma, companies are investing in upskilling and reskilling programmes to redeploy employees into newer technology projects. "Companies are making investments in upskilling and reskilling their workforce to redeploy them in newer projects. However, in cases where this redeployment is not possible, companies have no choice but to churn out excess capacity. This is less about reducing headcount and more

about reshaping the workforce," she said. Francis Padamadan, CEO of specialist staffing firm Xpheno, told Moneycontrol that IT firms have already shed much of the excess capacity created during the post-pandemic hiring boom. "IT service firms have gone through cycles of off-floating excess capacity since the post-pandemic buoyant hiring phase. There hence isn't much of a flab to shed at this point or churn out excess capacity, unless the AI investments pay back in the near term and replace more seats," he said.

HIRING IS CONTINUING, BUT THE FOCUS HAS CHANGED

Despite operating with leaner benches, hiring is not coming to a halt. According to the report, most major IT companies have indicated they will continue or resume hiring, though with a stronger focus on specialised talent. TCS is investing in experiential and project-based learning to improve deployment readiness while moving towards a more skills-centric workforce. Infosys plans to hire around 6,000 frontier engineers over

the coming years. HCLTech is sharpening its hiring strategy by focusing on a select group of specialised freshers who are expected to evolve into frontier deployed engineers over the next two to three years. Tech Mahindra, which skipped campus hiring last year, has also indicated that it will restart fresher hiring as business visibility improves. Wipro is the only major IT company that has not announced similar hiring plans, according to the report. The findings suggest that India's IT industry is moving away from the long-standing practice of maintaining large standby workforces. Instead of hiring in bulk and keeping engineers on the bench until projects arrive, companies are increasingly relying on AI-enabled workforce planning, demand forecasting and continuous upskilling to keep employees deployed. For job seekers, the shift means employers are placing greater emphasis on specialised, industry-relevant skills and deployment readiness rather than maintaining large pools of employees waiting for future projects.



Jio Unveils Complete Home Entertainment Package from Rs 400 a Month

HYDERABAD, 3 AUGUST 2026:

Reliance Jio has launched all new Jio Home Broadband and Home Entertainment plans across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, bringing together high-speed WiFi, over 1,000 Live TV channels and subscriptions to leading OTT platforms in a single package starting at Rs 400 per month. The bundled offering enables customers to access broadband, television and streaming entertainment through one connection and one monthly bill.

The plans are designed to cater to different household needs, ranging from TV-only subscribers to homes seeking high-speed broadband bundled with Live TV and OTT entertainment. Depending on the plan selected, customers can enjoy unlimited WiFi, more than 1,000 Live TV channels, over 200 HD channels, and access to 12-plus OTT platforms, including aha, Jio-Hotstar, ZEE5 and Sony LIV. The service also includes YouTube on TV, free installation and maintenance by Jio service engineers, and play, pause and rewind features for Live TV.

For households across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Jio Home delivers television over its fibre network, offering a reliable viewing experience even during adverse weather conditions that often affect conventional DTH services. Customers can also pause and rewind Live TV, ensuring they never miss

- their favourite Telugu serials, movies, live sports or news programmes.
- The new plans include:**
- TV Only Pack
 - JioHome TV – Rs 400/month
 - 1,000+ Live TV channels, including 200+ HD channels
 - 12+ bundled OTT apps
 - Play, Pause and Rewind for Live TV
 - YouTube on TV
 - Prepaid options: Rs 1,000 for 2 months or Rs 2,000 for 5 months
 - **Welcome offer:** Access to all 12 OTT apps at no additional cost
 - **WiFi + TV + OTT Packs**
 - 30 Mbps – Rs 555/month
 - Unlimited 30 Mbps WiFi
 - 1,000+ Live TV channels
 - 12 OTT apps
 - **Prepaid offer:** Rs 2,222 for 3 months with one month free
 - **100 Mbps – Rs 707/month**
 - Unlimited 100 Mbps WiFi
 - 1,000+ Live TV channels
 - 12 OTT apps
 - **Prepaid offer:** Rs 2,122 for 2 months with one month free
 - **WiFi Only Packs**
 - 30 Mbps – Rs 450/month
 - Unlimited high-speed WiFi
 - **Prepaid options:** Rs 1,100 for 2 months or Rs 2,200 for 5 months
 - **100 Mbps – Rs 600/month**
 - Unlimited high-speed WiFi for multiple connected devices
 - **Prepaid options:** Rs 1,500 for 2 months or Rs 3,000 for 5 months

FIEO to conduct 2-Days Certificate Program on

Export Opportunities and How to Start an Export Business

HYDERABAD , AUGUST 3

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) is organizing a Two-Days Certificate Program on Export Opportunities and How to Start an Export Business on 6 th & 7 th August, 2026 at Hyderabad. The objective of the program is to equip entrepreneurs, startup, exporters & businesses with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in international markets. The program is designed for both beginners and experienced professionals and will equip the participants with practical knowledge on starting an export business, procedures, documentation, compliance, trade finance, GST, export incentives, selection of product & market, Identification of foreign buyers, FTAs and recent development, credit risk management and more. The program will provide an opportunity to interact with officials from banks and ECGC, and build the skills needed to succeed in the global marketplace. The program will be highly useful for

businesses looking to expand internationally and provide an understanding on compliance, export documentation, and market entry strategies, including government support and financial incentives, said Mr. Unnikrishnan K., Joint Director General, FIEO. Participants will also receive a certificate upon completion. For participation and other details, please contact: Mr. R. Kulkarni, Head - Telangana Chapter on 9848286640, email: kulkarni@fieo.org

About FIEO

Federation of Indian Export Organisations popularly known as 'FIEO' was set up by Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India in 1965. FIEO is the apex body of the Government recognised Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and Development Authorities in India. FIEO provides a wide range of services to exporters, including market research, trade information, export promotion activities, organizing overseas trade fairs and exhibitions, training programs, and policy advocacy.

Over 250 data centres in pipeline by 2030; to create 4.3 lakh jobs, drive housing demand: Report

NEW DELHI: (Aug 3) India's data centre sector is expected to generate around 4.3 lakh direct and indirect jobs across major cities, creating an estimated housing demand of 195 million sq ft by 2030, according to Square Yards. Real estate consultant Square Yards, which is also into home

loan brokerage, on Monday released a report, highlighting that India's rapidly expanding data centre ecosystem is set to become a significant driver of housing demand in the coming years. The report mentioned that more than 250 data centres are proposed in India by 2030.

Leh-Ladakh in August

The Ultimate Monsoon Escape to India's High-Altitude Wonderland

Why August Is the Perfect Time to Visit Leh-Ladakh

When most parts of India are covered by heavy monsoon rains, there is one destination that offers a completely different experience—Leh-Ladakh. Nestled in the northernmost region of the country, this spectacular Himalayan landscape remains largely untouched by the southwest monsoon because it lies in a rain-shadow region. As a result, August becomes one of the most rewarding months to explore its majestic mountains, crystal-clear lakes, ancient monasteries, and thrilling mountain roads.

For travelers seeking adventure, breathtaking scenery, spiritual peace, or simply a break from crowded tourist destinations, Leh-Ladakh offers an unforgettable journey. During August, the famous highways connecting Leh with Srinagar and Manali are generally open, making road trips easier and more scenic than at many other times of the year. Snow-covered mountain peaks contrast beautifully against bright blue skies, while green valleys bloom with life thanks to melting glaciers.

Every turn along Ladakh's winding roads reveals a new landscape that feels almost unreal. Towering mountains, colorful prayer flags fluttering in the wind, peaceful prayer flags perched on rocky cliffs, and sparkling lakes reflecting the sky create memories that last a lifetime.



The Journey to Leh Is an Adventure in Itself

For many travelers, reaching Leh is as exciting as exploring the destination itself. The two famous road routes—from Manali to Leh and Srinagar to Leh—are among the most scenic highways in the world. The Manali-Leh Highway takes visitors through dramatic mountain passes, deep valleys, and rugged terrain that constantly changes in appearance. Travelers witness snow-covered peaks, waterfalls, alpine meadows, and barren mountain deserts all within a single journey. The road climbs through several high-altitude passes where colorful prayer flags wave against a backdrop of towering Himalayan ranges. The Srinagar-Leh Highway offers an equally spectacular experience but with greener valleys, picturesque villages, and historical significance. Travelers cross famous mountain passes while enjoying panoramic views of rivers, glaciers, and ancient settlements. Those who prefer quicker travel can fly directly to Leh. The aerial view of the Himalayas is breathtaking, as endless snow-covered peaks stretch toward the horizon before the aircraft lands in one of the world's highest commercial airports. Regardless of how one arrives, the first glimpse of Leh's mountains leaves visitors amazed by nature's grandeur.

Leh Town: Where Tradition Meets Modern Adventure

Leh serves as the gateway to Ladakh and offers the perfect blend of culture, history, and modern tourism. Despite its growing popularity, the town has managed to preserve its traditional charm. Walking through Leh's bustling market is an enjoyable experience. Small shops sell handcrafted

souvenirs, Tibetan jewelry, prayer wheels, woolen shawls, local handicrafts, and colorful traditional clothing. Cafés serve delicious Ladakhi cuisine alongside international dishes, making it easy for travelers from around the world to feel comfortable. The peaceful atmosphere of Leh allows visitors to spend relaxed evenings exploring narrow streets while admiring traditional architecture. Local people welcome tourists with warm smiles, reflecting the region's rich culture and hospitality.

The town also provides excellent facilities, including hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, travel agencies, and equipment rentals for trekking and biking adventures.

Pangong Lake: The Jewel of Ladakh

No trip to Leh-Ladakh feels complete without visiting the world-famous Pangong Lake. Located at an altitude of over 14,000 feet, this magnificent lake has become one of India's most iconic tourist destinations. Pangong Lake stretches across India and Tibet, creating an endless blue expanse surrounded by towering mountains. What makes the lake extraordinary is its constantly changing colors. Depending on the sunlight and weather conditions, the water transforms from deep blue to turquoise, emerald green, and even shades of violet. August offers particularly pleasant weather for visiting Pangong Lake. The roads remain accessible, and the surrounding mountains are beautifully illuminated under clear skies. Sunrise and sunset are magical moments at Pangong. As the sun rises above the mountains, golden light reflects across the calm waters, creating breathtaking scenes that photographers dream of capturing. Many visitors choose to spend a night near the lake in luxury camps,

allowing them to experience the peaceful silence and star-filled skies that make Pangong unforgettable.

Nubra Valley: A Desert in the Himalayas

One of Ladakh's greatest surprises is Nubra Valley. While many expect only snow-covered mountains, they are amazed to discover vast sand dunes nestled between towering Himalayan peaks. Often called the Valley of Flowers, Nubra combines fertile farmland, rivers, monasteries, sand dunes, and snow-covered mountains in one spectacular destination. The valley is famous for its rare double-humped Bactrian camels, which have historical connections to the ancient Silk Route. Camel rides across the white sand dunes provide a unique experience found nowhere else in India. Small villages surrounded by apricot orchards and green fields add charm to the landscape. Visitors can interact with local communities, learn about traditional Ladakhi lifestyles, and enjoy authentic regional cuisine. The contrast between fertile villages, barren mountains, and sandy deserts makes Nubra Valley one of the most photogenic places in the country.

Adventure enthusiasts consider Khardung La one of the highlights of any Ladakh journey. Located at an elevation of over 17,000 feet, this legendary mountain pass attracts thousands of bikers and road trip lovers every year. The drive to Khardung La is thrilling, with winding roads climbing through dramatic mountain landscapes. Every turn reveals breathtaking views of glaciers, valleys, and rugged Himalayan terrain. Standing at the summit gives travelers an incredible sense of achievement. Colorful prayer flags flutter in the icy winds while visitors celebrate reaching one of the world's most famous high-altitude roads. August generally provides safer driving conditions compared to winter months, making it one of the best times to experience this iconic route.

Khardung La: Conquering One of the World's Highest Motorable Passes

Ancient Monasteries That Reflect Ladakh's Spiritual Soul

Beyond its dramatic landscapes, Ladakh is deeply spiritual. Ancient Buddhist monasteries have stood peacefully among the mountains for centuries, preserving traditions that continue to shape local life. Monasteries such as Hemis, Thiksey, Diskit, Spituk, and Alchi welcome visitors seeking peace, history, and cultural understanding. The architecture itself is remarkable. White-washed buildings cling to mountain slopes while golden statues, colorful murals, prayer wheels, and intricate artwork decorate the interiors. Visitors often hear monks chanting ancient prayers, creating an atmosphere of profound calm and reflection. Watching monks perform daily rituals offers a glimpse into traditions that have remained largely unchanged for generations. Many travelers describe visiting these monasteries as one of the most meaningful experiences of their Ladakh journey.

Ancient Monasteries That Reflect Ladakh's Spiritual Soul

Adventure Awaits Around Every Corner

Leh-Ladakh has earned its reputation as one of India's greatest adventure destinations. August provides ideal conditions for many outdoor activities. Motorcycle enthusiasts from around the world travel to Ladakh to ride across legendary Himalayan roads. Driving through high-altitude mountain passes becomes an unforgettable achievement for adventure seekers. Trekkers can explore scenic mountain trails leading through remote villages, alpine meadows, and glacier-fed rivers. River rafting on the Zaskar and Indus rivers offers excitement for thrill seekers, while mountain biking provides another exhilarating way to experience Ladakh's rugged terrain. Camping beneath clear Himalayan skies allows visitors to enjoy countless stars, free from city lights and pollution. Wildlife enthusiasts may even spot rare Himalayan animals, including blue sheep, marmots, Himalayan foxes, and, with extraordinary luck, the elusive snow leopard in certain protected regions.

Ladakhi Culture and Hospitality

The people of Ladakh add warmth to the region's dramatic beauty. Despite living in one of the world's harshest climates, Ladakhis are known for their kindness, resilience, and welcoming nature. Traditional festivals celebrated during the summer months feature colorful masks, cultural dances, music, and religious ceremonies that attract visitors from around the world. Local cuisine offers unique flavors influenced by Tibetan traditions. Dishes such as momos, thukpa, skuyu, butter tea, and locally grown apricots provide an authentic taste of the region. Visitors often leave Ladakh not only with beautiful photographs but also with lasting memories of meaningful interactions with local families and communities.





CRICKET

Pakistan appoints South African Mike Smith as batting coach



MUMBAI: To solve their consistent batting woes, Pakistan have appointed former South African first-class cricketer Mike Smith as the batting coach of the national Test team ahead of their next assignment against England, replacing Test star Asad Shafiq. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is all set to officially announce the appointment a few days before the team's upcoming Test series against England, a report in Telecom Asia Sport said on Monday. "Smith applied for the post of batting coach after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) advertised the post and he will take charge on Pakistan's tour of England," sources told www.telecomasia.net on condition of anonymity. The report said Shafiq's role as batting coach was criticised as he was also a member of the men's and women's selection committee besides being the head of PCB's academy in Karachi.

ATP Masters 1000

Rain delays start of play at Canadian Open



MONTREAL: Play on the second day of the Canadian Open, the sixth ATP Masters 1000 event of the season, has been delayed by rain in Montreal on Monday. The action was set to begin at 11 a.m. in Montreal. As of 11:45 a.m. local time, play is not expected to begin before 12:30 p.m. Rain also impacted the tournament on Sunday, when two matches were completed. Shang Juncheng and Jaume Munar advanced to the second round. Among the stars scheduled to be in action Monday are Matteo Berrettini, Gael Monfilis and Stefanos Tsitsipas. Learn more about the Montreal schedule. Meanwhile on Sunday, China's Wang Xiyu was eliminated in the women's singles first round of the 2026 National Bank Open in Toronto, losing 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 to the Czech Republic's Sara Bejlek. Despite suffering a leg strain during the match, Wang persisted until the end.

Inauguration of TCA Arena is a significant milestone for cricket in Tanzania, says Jay Shah



DAR ES SALAAM

International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah has termed the inauguration of the brand-new TCA Arena as a "significant milestone" for cricket in Tanzania, adding that the country's rapid emergence as a key player in the sport's global expansion is a positive development. "The inauguration of the TCA Arena is a significant milestone for cricket in Tanzania and demonstrates what can be achieved through vision, commitment and strong collaboration. "The progress made by the Tanzania Cricket Association is remarkable. TCA have shown great ambition and determination in developing a modern cricket facility while continuing to expand participation, strengthen its workforce and create better opportunities for players across the country," said Shah in an ICC statement on Monday. Apart from Shah, Prof. William A.L. Anangisyee, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Ms Nee-ma Msitha, Secretary General of the National Sports Council, and Dr B.S. Sreekumar, Chairman of the Tanzania

Cricket Association, were present at the event. The historic inauguration comes just days before Tanzania hosts the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B 2026 from August 8-18, with the new TCA Arena acting as the principal venue for the international tournament. "The TCA Arena represents an exciting future for cricket in Tanzania and the wider African region. It will provide an important platform for Tanzania to host international cricket, develop its players, coaches and match officials, and inspire more young people to become involved in the game. "The ICC will continue to work alongside Tanzania and its other Members to enhance cricket infrastructure, build local capability and ensure that the opportunities available through ICC programmes are used to create sustainable growth," added Shah. The development of the TCA Arena officially kicked off in October 2024, following a land allocation by the University of Dar es Salaam. A formal groundbreaking ceremony was held in April 2025, attended by ICC Directors and delegates from member nations. Full-scale construction began a

month later in May 2025 with extensive site clearing and ground preparation. The project reached completion in July 2026, leaving the facility fully equipped and ready to host international fixtures. Echoing the sentiment, TCA Chairman Dr B.S. Sreekumar termed the arena's launch a transformative moment for local cricket. "The inauguration of the TCA Arena is a defining moment for cricket in Tanzania. This facility is far more than a cricket ground; it represents a vision for the future of our sport and demonstrates what can be achieved through strong partnerships, commitment and belief. "We are proud to provide our players, coaches and future generations with a world-class home for cricket, while creating new opportunities to host international competitions and inspire more young Tanzanians to embrace the game. "On behalf of the Tanzania Cricket Association, I extend my sincere appreciation to the International Cricket Council, the University of Dar es Salaam, the Government of Tanzania, our sponsors, partners, contractors, staff and everyone whose dedication has made this dream a reality," he concluded.



Golf: Kuwaki makes it two-in-a-row for Japan at Women's Open, disappointment for Indians

LANCASHIRE (ENGLAND)

Japan's Shiko Kuwaki beat Esther Henseleit in a two-hole playoff to win the 50th edition of the AIG Women's Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes near Lancashire in England. Her win meant a second straight win for Japan, as she emulated the 2025 champion Miyu Yamashita. Kuwaki has been near the top of the leaderboard all week with an opening 66 (-5) followed by a 70 (-1) and a 73 (+2). On the final day, she held her nerve to shoot a round of 70 (-1), which included three birdies and two bogeys. American Yealimi Noh, who led at the 54-hole mark, had a tough final day, carding a 74 (+3) to finish in solo third place on four-under-par. World number one Nelly Korda and world number two Jeeno Thitikul shared fourth place on two-under-par.

India's Hero-supported Diksha Dagar and Aditi Ashok had missed the cut earlier this week. Kuwaki, who set the clubhouse lead on five-under-par, was joined by Germany's Henseleit at the top of the leaderboard, and then the duo headed back down the 18th and each made a par on the first playoff hole. The 23-year-old then found the fairway and green in two on her second attempt, while Henseleit's ball went in the gorse off the tee. Despite recovering well, the German missed her par putt and made bogey, leaving Kuwaki to sink her par putt and win the 2026 AIG Women's Open. Kuwaki said, "After last year, Yamashita's win, and to be able to win again as a Japanese player is such an amazing feeling. I hope as part of Team Japan we can continue to light up the golf world and hope

everyone enjoys it as well." Germany's Henseleit was in the final group of the day, and she also produced a round of 70 (-1) to put herself on five-under-par and in the playoff. The two-time LET winner had an up-and-down day with a bogey on the third followed by a birdie on the sixth before back-to-back bogeys on holes eight and nine. Henseleit found some form on the back nine with birdies on the 11th, 12th and 15th holes. She made another bogey on 16 but finished in style with a clutch birdie on 18 to secure her place in the playoff. Six players tied for sixth place on one-under-par, including 2025 LET Order of Merit champion Shannon Tan and English duo Charley Hull and Lottie Woad. In the LET Order of Merit, South Africa's Casandra Alexander extended her lead at the summit and has 1,899.98 points.

Sourav was amazing at building team culture during this year's SA20, says Maharaj

NEW DELHI



Pretoria Capitals captain Keshav Maharaj has credited head coach Sourav Ganguly's exceptional leadership for fostering a positive team culture, which played a pivotal role in driving the franchise to reach the SA20 season four final. "I think in tournaments like this, you've got to build a nice team culture around everything, and Sourav was amazing at that. "We had a lot of guys that bought into what we tried to achieve. Often during the competition, when we weren't playing, we'd get in the team room, have dinner together, watch other games, and chat cricket. "There was a real buzz and energy within the camp, which was a privilege to be a part of. To create something so special in the first season was really exciting. Hopeful-

ly, we can build on that, and that will last for generations to come," Maharaj told SA20 on Monday. The Capitals are set to kick off their season five campaign against defending champions Sunrisers in Gqeberha on January 17, 2027, in a high-stakes rematch of last edition's summit clash. The tournament will run until February 21, the day when the final is played at Newlands in Cape Town. Maharaj added that he prefers to focus on starting the new campaign on a strong note rather than dwelling on past heartbreaks.

"It's always going to be the case to the public (revenge), but I think it's just about putting our best foot forward. We know it's always important to start the competition really well on the front foot, and to do it against the defending champions would be a nice step in the right direction towards the new season." Maharaj led from the front both as a strategist and with the ball in his debut season at Centurion, picking up 12 wickets in as many matches at an economy rate of 6.54. Having previously spent three seasons with Durban's Super Giants, the left-arm spinner was full of praise for the passionate home support at the SuperSport Park. "When I made the transition to play in Pretoria, that was one of the things I looked forward to - seeing the crowd - and they really didn't disappoint.

Cycling: Harshita Jakhar becomes first Indian woman to feature at Tour de France Femmes

AIGLE (SWITZERLAND)

Harshita Jakhar created history on Sunday by becoming the first Indian woman to feature in the Tour de France Femmes, the ladies' version of the world's most renowned cycling competition, leading a group of riders during the ceremonial start of Stage 2 in Aigle, Switzerland. The 19-year-old cyclist from Rajasthan was one of eight riders who were chosen for the UCI World Cycling Talent Programme, an initiative aimed at giving promising cyclists from developing cycling countries exposure to elite racing environments. Harshita took part in a 4.5km neutralised ride which took place before the second stage of the prestigious race and which was attended by riders from Afghanistan, Algeria, Chile,



Ethiopia, Namibia and Uganda. The Tour de France Femmes, which is one of the major events on the UCI Women's World Tour schedule, started in Lausanne on August 1 and will end in Nice on August 9. David Lappartient, president of the UCI, welcomed Harshita's involvement and praised the young Indian cyclist, stating that he was con-

fident she would one day come back to compete in the race. Lappartient said that he is delighted to have such a talented woman as Harshita Jakhar in the esteemed UCI World Cycling Talent Programme and that she will enjoy taking part in the Tour de France Femmes, soon returning to take part in the actual competition. Harshita is trained at the

Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence in Patiala with her father and coach, Rakesh Jakhar, who was a former cyclist and competed for India at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. She became one of India's most promising young cyclists following her win of three gold medals at the 2025 Khelo India Youth Games, and her record also consists of a silver medal and two bronze medals at the 2024 Asian Junior Cycling Championships. The fact that Harshita is taking part in the Tour de France Femmes represents another important achievement for Indian cycling and provides the teenager with valuable experience when riding alongside some of the best cyclists in the world as she proceeds on her way to competing at the top level of the sport.

Jr Men National Hockey: Karnataka, Jharkhand, MP win on Day 7

COIMBATORE

Hockey teams from Karnataka, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh registered important victories, while Manipur Hockey and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey shared the spoils in a thrilling draw in Division 'A' encounters on the seventh day of the 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 at the Coimbatore Hockey Ground on Monday. The day began with Hockey Karnataka securing a hard-fought 4-3 victory over Hockey Bengal. After Suraj Kumar Sah (11') handed Hockey Bengal the lead, Pradip Mandal restored parity with a goal just before halftime (30+'). Nitesh Sharma (38') then put Hockey Karnataka ahead before Pradip Mandal struck again (51'). Achaiah MM (49') also found the score-sheet for Hockey Karnataka. Hockey Bengal fought back late through Rasin Aind (58') and Abed Lugun (60'), but Hockey Karnataka held on to claim all

three points. In another closely contested Division 'A' fixture, Hockey Jharkhand edged Delhi Hockey 4-3. Sabian Kiro gave Hockey Jharkhand an early lead in the 4th minute before Prabhjot Singh (40') levelled the scores for Delhi Hockey. Sabian Kiro completed his brace (47'), while Sujeet Kerketta (48') and Ghuran Lohra (58') extended Hockey Jharkhand's advantage. Delhi Hockey mounted a late comeback through Nishant, who scored twice (52', 60'), but Hockey Jharkhand held firm to seal the victory. The third match of the day saw Manipur Hockey and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey play out an entertaining 4-4 draw. Ricky Tonjam (33') and Amarjit Singh Ningombam (37') gave Manipur Hockey an early advantage before Yumkham Bideyananda Singh struck twice (47', 52'). Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey responded with four goals in the final quarter through Moohamed Jaed (45'), Sumit Rajbhar (50'), Sami Rizwan (53'),

Badminton: Tanvi, Srikanth to spearhead India's challenge at Korea Masters 2026

ASAN (SOUTH KOREA)

Fresh from winning her maiden BWF World Tour title, teenage sensation Tanvi Sharma will lead India's campaign alongside former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth at the Korea Masters 2026 badminton tournament, which gets underway in Asan on Tuesday. Having won the Taipei Open title on Sunday, the 17-year-old is going to South Korea in top form, thus becoming the fourth Indian woman to win a BWF Super 300 or higher title after Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu and Devika Sihag, by beating Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam in the final. Since P.V. Sindhu, the two-time Olympic medallist, is taking a break and Unnati Hooda is not attending the tournament, Tanvi, who is third-seeded, will be the highest-ranked Indian player in the women's singles section. Anmol Kharb, Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha, Aakarshi Kashyap, Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, Isharani Baruah, Shriyanshi Valishetty, Tanya Hemanth and Mansi Singh will also



be taking part. Kidambi Srikanth, the third seed, is making his return to competitive play for the first time since his first-round loss at the Canada Open in July. Earlier in the season at the US Open, the former world

No. 1 had a remarkable performance, beating Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia, who won a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics, and Yuda Okimoto from Japan, before losing in the final to Su Li Yang from Chinese Taipei. Kiran

George, Tharun Manneapalli, Mithun Manjunath, Rounak Chouhan and Saneeth Dayanand will also be taking part in the men's singles event, while S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian and Tushar Suveer will start off in the qualifying rounds. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will, however, be missing from the Indian team at the Asian Games as Satwik is still recovering from the shoulder injury he received at the Indonesia Open in June. World No. 77 pair Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu will lead India's men's doubles effort. Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra will lead the women's doubles team. India will also send three mixed doubles teams. These are Ishaan Bhatnagar and Shruti Mishra, Dhruv Rawat and Maneesha K, and Sathwik Reddy Kanapuram and Radhika Sharma. The BWF Super 300 event takes place from 4 to 9 August and will be available for live streaming in India on the BWF TV YouTube channel. However, there will be no live television broadcast of the tournament in India.

MP Hockey Academy clinch double glory at Women Academy Championship

GWALIOR

Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy enjoyed a memorable day as they emerged champions in both the Sub-Junior and Junior categories of the 4th Hockey India Women Academy Championship 2026 - Zone A & B in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, on Monday. In the Sub-Junior Women's Final, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy defeated Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy, Sonapat 2-2 (3-1 SO) after an engrossing contest. Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy took the lead through captain Diya (6'), before Geethasri Nammi (9') equalised for Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy. Gunjan (44') restored Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy's lead, but Jagriti Yadav struck in the 55th minute to force the match into a shootout. In the shootout, Bhavika, Saroj Mansi and Geethasri Nammi converted their attempts for Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy, while goalkeeper Paridhi Mewada.





Suriya & Jyothika Steal the Spotlight

After a long wait, Suriya is finally tasting the blockbuster success he deserves. His recent release *Karuppu* turned into a massive hit, marking a career resurgence for the actor after a rough patch. Riding on this high, he's now gearing up for his next big release, *Vishwanath & Sons*, directed by Venky Atluri, hitting theatres on August 14. Amid the buzz, Suriya also treated fans to a stunning visual with wife Jyothika, as the couple came together for a striking monochrome and sepia-toned photoshoot for *The Hollywood Reporter India*. Dressed in coordinated ivory and beige tones, the duo's chemistry radiated warmth and elegance, giving fans a rare glimpse of their off-screen bond. Between a career revival and a glamorous couple moment, it's clearly a good phase for Suriya. Fans have long wished to see Suriya and Jyothika reunite on screen after their last film together, *Sillunu Oru Kaadhal*, back in 2006. While no fresh collaboration has been officially confirmed yet, moments like this photoshoot keep the buzz alive, with admirers hoping the real-life couple will find their way back to the big screen together someday.



MB Failed in Mangapuram, All Eyes on Paradise's Maalik

Mohan Babu is a versatile actor. The Pedarayudu actor is back in the limelight as he continues to bag important roles in films of late. The latest is that he was recently seen in Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's acting debut, *Srinivasa Mangapuram*. Expectations were high for Mohan Babu's character in *Mangapuram*, but it failed to leave a mark. Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, MB's role couldn't make a lasting impact. Now, all eyes are on Nani and Srikanth Odela's much-awaited *The Paradise*. Mohan Babu will be seen as Shikanja Maalik. The recently released look and teaser have garnered good attention. Ever since Mohan Babu was roped in for *The Paradise*, there has been a strong buzz in industry circles. As the film nears completion and is all set to hit the screens on September 24, the hype and buzz surrounding it are only escalating. Directors like SS Rajamouli have successfully banked on Mohan Babu, casting him as Lord Yama in the socio-fantasy film *Yama Donga*, starring Jr NTR in the lead role. Will Srikanth Odela recreate that magic with MB in *The Paradise*? Will Mohan Babu score a hit with *The Paradise* after *Srinivasa Mangapuram* failed to make an impact? Let's wait and watch.

Janhvi Kapoor Dazzles In Sequin Sage Gown

Janhvi Kapoor is once again reminding everyone why she's one of Bollywood's most reliable style stars. At a close friend's wedding festivities, the actress turned heads in a stunning white and silver ensemble, proving her fashion game is as sharp as ever. The look featured a shimmering sequined gown with a fitted, mermaid-style silhouette, paired with a sheer lace-trimmed dupatta that added movement and drama.

A structured cutout blouse with a dramatic open back gave the outfit its edge, while soft glam makeup, a sleek updo, and statement earrings rounded off the elegance. It's been a big few weeks for the actress on every front. She recently tasted blockbuster success with *Peddi*, further cementing her box office pull. Adding to the buzz, Janhvi and Ishaan Khatter reunited for a viral bridal-themed ad, eight years after *Dhadak*, with fans calling it the happy ending their debut film never got, some even briefly mistook the shoot for a real wedding.

Raashi Proves Style Is Forever

Raashi Khanna is serving an overdose of glamour in her latest photoshoot, proving that nearly one and a half decades in the industry have only elevated her style game. The actress effortlessly blends confidence with elegance, reminding everyone why she continues to be one of the most fashionable faces in Indian cinema. Dressed in a black lace bralette, high-waisted denim, and an oversized leather jacket, Raashi keeps it chic yet bold. Her soft wavy hair, subtle makeup, and striking poses make every frame look effortlessly glamorous. On the work front, Raashi has a good lineup of Hindi films in the pipeline. She is also set to return with the much-awaited *Fanzi 2*, adding another exciting project to her growing pan-India filmography.

Satyadev Surrendered Himself to Rao Bahadur



Satyadev has once again proved why he is regarded as one of the finest performers in Telugu cinema. Speaking about his role as Ramappa in an Exclusive interview with Gulte pro's Ram Venkat Srikar, the actor revealed how the character demanded complete emotional surrender rather than just memorizing dialogues or performing scenes. According to Satyadev, wearing the costume itself became the biggest transformation. The moment he stepped into Ramappa's attire, he felt connected to the character's soul. That helped him naturally express emotions, body language, and silence without forcing anything. One of the biggest talking points of the film remains the lengthy single shot sequence that runs for nearly eleven minutes. Satyadev explained that the uninterrupted scene was designed to make the audience experience Ramappa's emotional stagnation and mental state without any distractions. The actor also admitted that silent acting turned out to be far more challenging than dialogue driven scenes. Every expression, pause, and movement had to communicate the pain, obsession, guilt, and loneliness that defined Ramappa's journey. Satyadev credited director Venkatesh Maha and the entire team for conducting detailed workshops before filming. Every scene was rehearsed multiple times, allowing the actors and technicians to understand the emotional rhythm before facing the camera. The physical demands were equally intense. From carrying heavy prosthetics to performing emotionally exhausting sequences, Satyadev said the role tested him both mentally and physically. Yet he believed such efforts were necessary to make Ramappa feel authentic on screen. Despite embracing intense content driven cinema, Satyadev said he is equally excited about entertaining audiences with commercial films in the future. For him, every project is about respecting the efforts of hundreds of technicians and delivering a performance that stays with the audience long after the film ends.

Mythri, Mouli's DNK First Look: Playful Heist Vibe!

Known for delivering both blockbuster entertainers and refreshing content-driven cinema, Mythri Movie Makers has once again expanded its impressive lineup by announcing a new film starring Mouli Tanuj Prasanth, who earned appreciation for *Little Hearts*. Sreenu Kambala makes his directorial debut. The film gets an intriguing title *Donga Naa Koduku*. The makers have also unveiled an imaginative first-look poster that immediately captures attention. The poster showcases Mouli stepping out through a massive Jack playing card with infectious enthusiasm, suggesting a lovable rogue at the center of the story. Mouli's cheerful appearance, coupled with Gold ornaments strewn across the frame, a suspicious backpack, and fluttering paper scraps subtly point towards a heist narrative. The first look poster creates intrigue about what lies ahead. Sushmitha Shetty plays the leading lady in the movie that features cinematography by Suriya Balaji and music by Sinjith Yerramilli. From its humorous title to its visually inventive first-look poster, *Donga Naa Koduku* has announced itself as a fun-filled entertainer.



The Paradise Clocks 80+ Crore Biz In AP & TS?

Natural Star Nani's *The Paradise* is red hot in the trade right now. The movie is registering sensational business everywhere. Mythri locked Nizam rights of the film for a whopping 37 Crore (with 2 Crore Recovery). Sithara Naga Vamsi and *Paradise* Producer Sudhakar Cherukuri each have a 25% stake in Nizam. *Andhra Business* is going on in the 35 Crore ratio. In *Ceeded*, the Producer is asking for 12 Crore NRA but Sobhan is ready up to 10 Crore. The Producer is not budging. Nani's highest Pre-release Business is around 40 Crore for *HIT 3*. And now, we already have 82-84 Crore just from AP and Telangana. That means the movie has to do wonders at the box office and record new benchmarks in openings for a Nani-starrer. *The Paradise* is being planned for a September 24th release with Premieres on the 23rd in India and Overseas.

