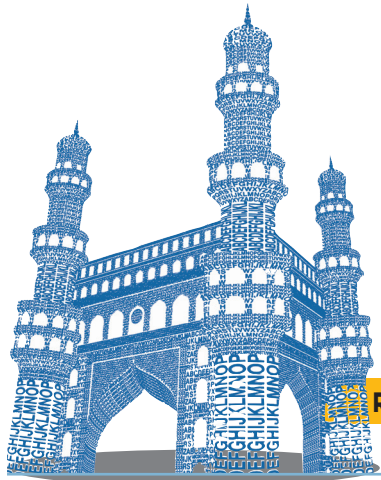




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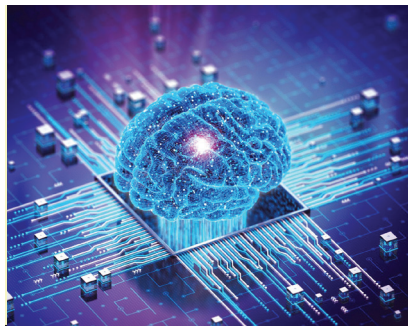
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AI for Good Commission Takes Shape

OPINION

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SAMYUKTHA'S Stunning Silk Look

BOX OFFICE

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JPC SUBMITS CORPORATE LAWS REPORT

New Delhi: Members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to examine amendments to corporate laws formally submitted the Committee's report to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha at 10:40 a.m. today at Hans Dwar in the Parliament House Complex, New Delhi. The Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, along with all its members, was present on the occasion and handed over the report to the Speaker.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

2nd Largest Cancer Hospital Coming to WARANGAL



HYDERABAD, AUG. 4

In a major push to decentralise tertiary healthcare in Telangana, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha announced that the State's second-largest government cancer hospital after the MNJ Institute of Oncology in Hyderabad will be established in Warangal.

The proposed Warangal Regional Cancer Hospital will provide advanced oncology diagnostics and specialised treatment facilities to patients across the erstwhile Warangal district and the

broader northern Telangana region, significantly reducing their reliance on Hyderabad-based hospitals.

Speaking at a review meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Rajanarsimha also confirmed that the state-of-the-art Warangal Super Specialty Hospital currently under construction will become fully operational by the end of this year.

The joint review, conducted alongside Minister for Environment, Forests, and Endowments Konda Surekha and MLAs of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Tight Security for Police Recruitment

- *Special surveillance over the conduct of examinations*
- *Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issues directions to officials*

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 4

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed senior officials to ensure that the police recruitment process is conducted in a strict, transparent, and foolproof manner.

According to the recently issued notification for the recruitment of 7,437 police posts, intelligence agencies have provided important inputs to the Chief Minister. They informed him that certain political parties, along with other vested interests, are allegedly attempting to disrupt the recruitment process.



In response, the Chief Minister held an emergency meeting with Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand and other senior police and government officials. During the meeting, he instructed them to conduct the recruitment process with complete

transparency and in strict compliance with all rules and regulations, leaving no room for errors or irregularities. The Chief Minister also directed officials to remain vigilant throughout every stage of the process, including the preparation, printing, and transportation of question papers. He emphasized the need to

strengthen security at examination centers.

He further instructed authorities to maintain special surveillance over coaching centers and to prevent the spread of misinformation about the recruitment examinations through social media and other platforms.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Karnataka Cabinet Row Could Impact Telangana CABINET EXPANSION

HYDERABAD, AUG 4

The political turmoil triggered by the recent cabinet expansion in Karnataka is now being seen as a factor that could influence the timing of Telangana's long-awaited cabinet expansion.

The Karnataka Congress government has been facing internal discontent after several senior MLAs were left out of the newly expanded cabinet. A number of leaders publicly expressed dissatisfaction, while some reportedly threatened to resign after being denied ministerial positions.

The developments have prompted the Congress high command to closely monitor the situation, with reports suggesting that party leaders have advised caution to prevent further internal unrest.

Political observers believe these events could have implications for Telangana, where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been awaiting the Congress leadership's approval for a cabinet expansion.

At present, the Telangana cabinet has vacant ministerial positions, and there has been speculation about inducting new ministers as well as



reshuffling portfolios. However, the growing competition among senior legislators for cabinet berths has made the exercise increasingly complicated.

Several Congress leaders are said to be in contention for ministerial posts, while demands for representation based on regional and social equations have added to the challenge.

Sources indicate that the Congress leadership is keen to avoid triggering dissatisfaction within the Telangana unit, especially after witnessing the political fallout in Karnataka.

Revanth Reddy is also scheduled to undertake an overseas visit later this month, followed by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Madurai Posters Fuel Trisha Rumours



CHENNAI, AUGUST 4

Rumours surrounding actress Trisha's possible entry into politics have resurfaced after a series of posters welcoming her into public life appeared across Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Rumours surrounding actress Trisha's possible entry into politics have resurfaced after a series of posters welcoming her into public life appeared across Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The posters have gone viral on social media and triggered fresh discussions in both political and film circles.

Speculation about Trisha joining Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam (TVK), the party founded by actor-turned-politician Vijay, has been circulating for quite some time. Some reports have even suggested that she could contest from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

LOK SABHA APPROVES APPROPRIATION BILL AMID OPPOSITION DIN

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026, which seeks to authorise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India towards excess spending incurred during the financial year ended on March 31, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday by a voice vote, amid protests from the Opposition.

Amid the chaos, Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill in the House for consideration.

The Bill seeks to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Finance Act, 2026.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Tuesday, amid persistent protests and an ongoing deadlock

over opposition-led issues. Proceedings were disrupted multiple times due to opposition sloganeering and protests before the Lower House was adjourned. It will reconvene on Wednesday at 11 am.

There were multiple adjournments in both the Houses of Parliament amid noisy protests by the Opposition over various issues on Tuesday. Opposition

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"NATION FIRST" REPLACES FAMILY RULE UNDER MODI: NRR

Hyderabad, Aug. 4: Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao claimed that India has transformed from "family rule" to the principle of "Nation First" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership since 2014. He asserted that India has become a world leader and the direction of the country transformed after Modi took charge as Prime Minister in 2014. Addressing Telugu-speaking NRIs during a 'Meet and Greet' programme in New Jersey, USA, Rao highlighted India's economic growth, infrastructure expansion, indigenous vaccine development during COVID-19, and rising defence exports. He accused the Congress of promoting dynastic politics and corruption during the UPA era, while asserting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

KALESHWARAM PROVES ITS ENGINEERING VALUE AGAIN: KTR

Hyderabad, Aug. 4: Reaffirming the operational value of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president KT Rama Rao stated that the megaproject is once again demonstrating its engineering significance by revitalising the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP) flood canal through reverse pumping. In a statement, Rama Rao highlighted that active reverse pumping from the Rampur and Rajeshwarapet pump houses along the flood canal is currently providing assured irrigation across nearly two lakh acres.

He criticised the ruling Congress government's narrative against the project, noting that while opposition political campaigns aim to discredit Kaleshwaram, farmers on the ground witnessing water reach their fields know the actual reality.

UTTAM CHAIRS A HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW MEETING ON CMR OPERATIONS

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 4:

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy chairs a high-level review meeting on Custom Milling Rice operations at his chambers in Dr B R Ambedkar Secretariat today. He directed officials to conduct an audit of decade-long CMR operations and intensify recoveries from defaulting rice millers and strengthen vigilance, legal enforcement and technology-based monitoring to safeguard government stocks and public money. Senior officials, including Vigilance and Enforcement Director General D.S. Chouhan and Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Raveendra, attended the meeting.



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3 TIMES BETTER

25 TONNES OF ADULTERATED SPICES SEIZED,
3 ARRESTED BY H-FAST

HYDERABAD, AUG.4

Hyderabad City Police's Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST), along with GHMC Food Safety officials, seized over 25 tonnes of adulterated spices during raids on 13 spice trading and processing units across the city on Tuesday. Police registered three criminal cases in Mailarddevally and Balapur police stations and arrested Rahul Bhati, Vishal Panwar and Dulichand Kachhawar.

Addressing newsmen here, city police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said that the officials, during raids, have found spices adulterated with industrial dyes, synthetic colours, talcum powder, fabric dye and rice bran oil to enhance appearance and increase profits. Samples have been sent for laboratory testing, and legal action has been initiated under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Police warned that such adulteration can cause liver and kidney damage, cancer, gastrointestinal disorders, allergies and nervous sys-

tem complications. H-FAST urged citizens to report food adulteration through 'Dial 100' or the dedicated H-FAST helpline 8712661212, and the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

The special drive was conducted by the H-FAST team under the leadership of Sri Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, DCP, Task Force, along with Inspectors Ranjith and Anjaliah, Sub-Inspectors Shanker, Krishna, Akhil, and team.

Operating on a war footing, the 'H-FAST' team, in coordination with officials from GHMC, Food Safety has been conducting extensive field inspections across the city. Within just 140 days of its establishment, the department conducted 659 raids, registered 202 FIRs, and seized nearly 246 tonnes of adulterated food. Additionally, 232 cases were handed over to GHMC Food Safety officials for further action, while inspections were carried out at 46 paner and 83 ghee outlets, alongside the prompt resolution of various complaints received from the public.

Allapur E-Block Development
Work Delayed
Residents Ask for Timely Solutions



Medchal-Malkajgiri, August 04: Congress party in-charge and Chairman of the Telangana State Kamma Corporation, Band Ramesh, visited the Safdar Nagar area in the Allapur Division and took note of public problems on the ground.

During the visit, he said that the issues seen earlier—when he toured the same area four months ago—are still continuing. One major concern was the E-Block road, where development works have not progressed.

According to him, the delay is due to lack of coordination between the GHMC and the Water Works Department. He also said that although funds have already been sanctioned, the road work has not begun. He added that in the rainy season, residents of the E-Block colony are fac-

ing serious difficulties. On the same day, he contacted GHMC officials over the phone and demanded that the road works should start immediately without further delay. He also advised officials to address the issue by coordinating.

Residents raised their grievances directly during the visit. Bandi Ramesh assured them that he would work to resolve their problems **step by step**, based on their needs. The visit was attended by local residents and committee members, including Vajid Pasha, Abdullah, Laxman Goud, Sai Tulasi, Reshmi, Lakshmi, Ramu, Rambabu, Shankar, Narsimha, Narsimha Yadav, Venu, Satish, along with members of the local Katta-maisamma temple committee.

Adluri Slams BRS Over
Godavari Flood Remarks

Says Irrigation Decisions Guided by Science, Not Politics

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 4

Telangana Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar on Monday strongly criticised the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), accusing its leaders of trying to gain political mileage from the Godavari flood situation instead of standing with people during a time of distress. Responding to recent remarks made by BRS leaders over the lifting of floodwaters from Medigadda, the Minister said the opposition was deliberately distorting facts and misleading farmers. He stated that the presence of floodwaters in the Godavari did not mean the entire volume could be lifted immediately.

"The operation of irrigation projects is not decided through political rhetoric or press conferences. It is governed by scientific parameters such as reservoir levels, pumping capacity, canal carrying capacity, downstream storage availability, power supply, technical clearances from engineers and safety protocols," Adluri Laxman Kumar said.

The Minister said the BRS



had no moral right to speak on Medigadda, alleging that the barrage, built with thousands of crores of public money, had deteriorated due to serious structural deficiencies. He said the present condition of Medigadda had placed a massive financial burden on the State exchequer.

"Those responsible for reducing Medigadda to its present condition are now trying to mislead the people in the name of the same project. This is nothing but political bankruptcy," he remarked.

Shri Adluri also criticised the BRS leadership for equating gravity flow with lift irrigation, particularly while commenting on the movement of water from Yellampalli. He

clarified that irrigation projects are designed on the basis of engineering principles, with gravity flow used wherever geographically feasible and lift irrigation adopted wherever technically necessary.

Questioning the BRS record during its ten years in power, the Minister asked why the party had failed to complete the Tummidihatti project despite repeatedly promising it to the people of Telangana. He said it was ironic for a party that could not fulfil its own commitments while in government to now criticise the present administration.

The Minister asserted that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Congress Government in Indiramma Rajyam was committed to ensuring reliable irrigation for farmers and safe drinking water for the people through a scientific, transparent and professionally managed irrigation policy.

He said every decision related to irrigation was being taken based on expert advice, technical assessments and recommendations from the

Irrigation Department, not for political propaganda.

Shri Adluri further asked the BRS leadership to answer who was responsible for the present condition of the Medigadda Barrage, why concerns over construction quality remained unanswered, and whether political expediency was more important than the safety of critical irrigation infrastructure. "The farmers of Telangana are neither naive nor easily deceived. They know how to distinguish between facts and political propaganda," the Minister said.

He added that farmers needed assured irrigation and timely water supply, not baseless allegations or political campaigns built on misinformation.

Reaffirming the State Government's commitment, Adluri Laxman Kumar said the Congress Government would continue to manage Telangana's irrigation resources with transparency, scientific planning and an unwavering focus on protecting the interests of farmers and the people.

Govt Pushes Digital Reforms to
Speed Up DDU-GKY 2.0 Rollout

NEW DELHI, AUG. 4

The Union Government has stepped up the implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) 2.0, with a strong focus on digital reforms, transparency and timely execution to enhance skill development and employment opportunities for rural youth.

Chairing a review meeting at Sanchar Bhawan on Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, directed officials to ensure that training programmes and job placements under the revamped scheme are completed within the prescribed timelines. He also stressed the need for technology-driven governance to improve efficiency and service delivery.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Rural Development Ministry, including Joint Secretary M.G. Jayasree, Director Santosh K. Tiwari, Deputy Director Deepika Aggarwal of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), and other officials.



DDU-GKY, a flagship programme under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), aims to provide placement-linked skill training to rural youth, helping diversify livelihoods and reduce poverty. Since its launch in 2014-15, the scheme has trained 18.45 lakh rural youth, while 12.35 lakh candidates have secured wage employment across various sectors.

The scheme is implemented through State governments in partnership with Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). Revised guidelines introduced in 2025 paved the way for DDU-GKY 2.0, which features a comprehensive digital platform covering every stage of project execution—from PIA onboarding and project approvals to candidate management, training, assessments,

financial monitoring and employment tracking.

During the review, the Minister called for the timely commencement of training batches to ensure that approved projects achieve their targets without delays. He also emphasized the importance of advanced digital dashboards and analytical reports for real-time monitoring of programme performance across States.

One of the key initiatives discussed was the creation of a public candidate registration portal, allowing rural youth to register online, explore available training programmes and compare the performance ratings of different Project Implementing Agencies. The move is expected to improve transparency while enabling candidates to make informed choices.

To accelerate project approvals, the Ministry is also

considering the empanelment of additional appraisal agencies, which would help reduce delays in evaluating and sanctioning new projects.

The review highlighted several technology-driven reforms aimed at making the scheme more efficient and citizen-friendly. These include automated Permanent Registration Number (PRN) generation, blockchain-based verification of training certificates, online grievance redressal systems, real-time assessment dashboards and simplified digital processes.

Officials also discussed measures to strengthen citizen services through face authentication-based attendance in genuine cases, re-enrolment facilities for eligible candidates and integration with the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for automated validation of course details. The government believes these reforms will make DDU-GKY 2.0 more transparent, accountable and outcome-oriented while expanding access to quality skill development and employment opportunities for rural youth across the country.



Mandaviya
Felicitates CWG
Medallists

NEW DELHI, AUG. 4

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday felicitated India's medal winners from the Commonwealth Games 2026, praising their historic achievements in boxing, judo and para-athletics and urging them to inspire and mentor the next generation of sportspersons.

Addressing the athletes at a felicitation ceremony, the Minister said India's sporting success must extend beyond medal wins, calling on athletes to establish sports academies after retirement and help nurture young talent. He emphasized that

also marked the best-ever Commonwealth Games performance by Indian women boxers.

The Minister also honoured the Indian judo team, which produced its finest-ever Commonwealth Games campaign by winning four medals, including two historic golds. Asmita Dey became the first Indian woman judoka to win Commonwealth Games gold, while Harsh Singh became the first Indian man to achieve the feat.

India's para-athletics contingent was also recognised for its outstanding performance, which marked another milestone for the coun-



their mission should always be "India First."

Highlighting the Centre's commitment to sports development, Dr. Mandaviya said the expanded Khelo India programme has been strengthened with an investment of ₹36,000 crore, ensuring sustained support for sports infrastructure, training and athlete development in the coming years.

The medal winners received cash rewards of ₹30 lakh for gold, ₹20 lakh for silver and ₹10 lakh for bronze in recognition of their achievements.

India's boxing team emerged as the standout performer, topping the medal tally with 10 medals—seven gold and three silver. Gold medals were won by Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Sakshi Chaudhary, Priya Ghanghas, Arundhati Choudhary, Sachin Siwach and Ankush Panghal, while Jadumani Singh, Lovlina Borgohain and Narend Bernal secured silver med-

try's para-sports movement. Looking ahead to the Asian Games 2026, Dr. Mandaviya urged athletes to build on their Glasgow success. He encouraged silver and bronze medallists to aim for gold while asking existing champions to maintain their winning standards.

The Minister also reminded athletes to acknowledge the invaluable role of their coaches, saying their guidance and dedication are instrumental in shaping champions.

The government noted that the medal-winning athletes had benefited from support under Khelo India, the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC), national coaching camps at SAI National Centres of Excellence, international exposure, equipment assistance and scientific training programmes, which continue to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

JPC SUBMITS
CORPORATE
LAWS REPORT

>FROM PAGE 1

The report contains several key recommendations aimed at making corporate laws more transparent, efficient, and investor-friendly. The Committee framed its recommendations with the objectives of strengthening corporate governance, enhancing transparency in business operations, creating a more favorable investment climate, and providing greater protection to shareholders' interests.

Following the submission of the report, the Committee members posed for a commemorative photograph with the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha at Hans Dwar.

On this occasion, Bida Mastan Rao Yadav, a Member of the Rajya Sabha and a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, participated in the event and contributed valuable suggestions during the preparation of the report. He stated that the submission of the Committee's report to Parliament marks a significant milestone in the ongoing process of reforming India's corporate laws.

Karnataka Cabinet Row
Could Impact Telangana...

>FROM PAGE 1

Telangana Assembly's monsoon session, leaving little room for an immediate cabinet reshuffle. Political analysts say the Congress high command may prefer to wait until the situation in Karnataka stabilises before taking any major decisions on Telangana's cabinet expansion. While Karnataka's cabinet

Madurai Posters Fuel..

>FROM PAGE 1

the Tiruchirappalli East Assembly constituency if such a move materialises. However, Trisha has neither confirmed nor denied the rumours so far.

The newly erected posters in Madurai describe Trisha as a leader who should enter public service and claim that the city has historically been the starting point for major political movements in Tamil Nadu. Fans also highlighted the formation of the "Madurai District Trisha Narpani Mandram" and compared the actress to legendary Tamil queen Velu Nachiyar.

expansion became necessary following leadership changes, Telangana currently faces a different challenge—balancing aspirations within the party without creating fresh internal divisions. For now, indications suggest that the Telangana cabinet expansion could remain on hold as the Congress leadership weighs the political risks of reshuffling the min-

ister. According to local reports, Trisha's fan club is planning a social service event in Madurai, and there is speculation that the actress may attend the programme. This has further fuelled rumours that she could make an announcement regarding her political future, although no official confirmation has been made.

Meanwhile, Trisha's name also reportedly echoed during a recent public meeting addressed by Tamil Nadu opposition leader Udhayanidhi Stalin, where enthusiastic fans repeatedly raised slogans in her support.

Tight Security for
Police Recruitment

>FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Minister also called for enhanced cybercrime monitoring to identify and act against fraudsters who promise jobs, as well as fake websites and social media accounts designed to deceive candidates. He directed the Cyber Security and Intelligence wings to remain on high alert until the entire recruitment process is completed.

The emergency meeting was attended by the Chief Minister's Principal Secretary V. Sheshadri, DGP C.V. Anand, Home Department Principal Secretary Shikha Goel, Police Recruitment Board Chairman V.V. Srinivasa Rao, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Sajjanar, and other senior officials.

"NATION FIRST"
REPLACES FAMILY RULE..

>FROM PAGE 1

that the NDA government has prioritized national development, security and self-reliance through initiatives such as Make in India and Startup India. On this occasion, the BJP leader urged all political parties to put national interest above political differences. Our nation is like a human body. Just as we cannot sever a body part and give it to someone else, we cannot relinquish any part of India. Nation's interests are paramount over party interests, and everyone must move forward with the principle of "Nation First", he asked.

LOK SABHA APPROVES APPROPRIATION
BILL AMID OPPOSITION DIN

>FROM PAGE 1

MPs staged protests at the Parliament premises over multiple issues, including the embezzlement of Ram Mandir donations, police action on protesters during the Parliament March on July 20 in the national capital, and the Cauvery water dispute.

day earlier, on Monday, the Lok Sabha passed a Bill to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court without any

discussion amid persistent protests by Opposition members.

Meanwhile, the BJP on Tuesday accused the opposition of repeatedly disrupting Parliament proceedings and preventing the House from functioning during the ongoing Monsoon Session.

The remarks came amid continued disruptions in the Monsoon Session over the NEET paper leak controversy and the police action

against protesters at Jantar Mantar on July 20. Opposition parties have been demanding a response from the Union Home Minister over the alleged "firing" on the protesters.

The BJP accused the Congress and its allies of deliberately obstructing parliamentary business, depriving elected representatives of the opportunity to raise public issues and discuss important legislation.

2nd Largest Cancer..

>FROM PAGE 1

the erstwhile Warangal district, evaluated medical service delivery, staff strength, and facility readiness across Warangal, Hanamkonda, and Jangaon districts.

Officials were instructed to streamline hospital administration and ensure uninterrupted supply chains for essential medicine across all local healthcare centres.

During the meeting, the MLAs briefed the Health Minister on the medical services being provided at hospitals in their respective constituencies and the measures being taken to strengthen the facilities. On the occasion, Rajanarsimha directed the officials to consider the suggestions made by the MLAs and examine the issues raised by them, instructing the concerned authorities to take immediate action.

"At present, medical services in 29 specialties are being provided at MGM Hospital in Warangal, while services in another nine super-specialties will be launched shortly," he said.

The Minister directed the Health Secretary to initiate

the necessary measures immediately for this purpose. He said that the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital would be developed as a major healthcare hub catering to all types of medical needs of people across northern Telangana.

Rajanarsimha further stated that Letters of Credit (LOCs), on the lines of those sanctioned for NIMS, would be issued for the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital.

"Steps will be taken to ensure that the hospital becomes fully operational with state-of-the-art medical equipment, adequate medical specialists and other required staff," he added.

MLAs Kadiyam Srihari, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Naini Rajender Reddy, Revuri Prakash Reddy, Yasahaswini Reddy and K.R. Nagaraj, Health Secretary Dr Christina Z. Chongthu, Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Dr Sangeetha Satyanarayana, Director of Medical Education (DME) Vani, Director of Public Health Ravinder Naik, along with district health officials and hospital superintendents, attended the meeting.



Gitam Hosts Expert Talk on Interdisciplinary Research on Human Trafficking in India

2-day BRICS anti-corruption meet opens in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

The Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, GITAM (Deemed to be) University, Hyderabad, organized an expert lecture on “No Single Lens in Enough: Challenges of Interdisciplinary Research on Human Trafficking in India.” The lecture was delivered by Dr. AjaiIluNiumai, Professor of Sociology, University of Hyderabad. The program was chaired by Dr. Rathin Roy, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Addressing students and faculty members, Dr. Niumai highlighted the complex and multidimensional nature of human trafficking, emphasizing that it cannot be understood through a single disciplinary, perspective. She explained that trafficking is rooted in economic, political, historical, and cultural factors and therefore demands on interdisciplinary research approach in-



volving sociology, law, public policy, economics, public health, and technology.

She observed that despite the large number of trafficking cases, conviction rates remain low, allowing many offenders to evade punishment. She stressed that trafficking continues to exist in forms resembling modern slavery and pointed out that organized criminal networks make research in this field particularly challenging. Building trust with survivors, she noted, is essential for meaningful field-

work, while ensuring their safety must remain the foremost priority.

Dr. Niumai appreciated the contributions of organizations such as Prajwala, Chaitanya Mahila Mandali, and My Choices Foundation, particularly acknowledging the efforts of social activist Sunita Krishnan in combating human trafficking and supporting survivors.

She identified poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, and social discrimination as the major drivers of traf-

ficking and emphasized the need for stronger policies, rehabilitation measures, and financial support for vulnerable communities. She also highlighted the challenges faced by survivors in reintegrating into society, noting that social stigma often leads to re-trafficking.

During the interactive session, Dr. Niumai said that the ultimate objective of her research is to inform policymakers and contribute to developing effective strategies to make India free from human

trafficking. She described human trafficking as one of the world's most profitable organized crimes, after the illegal trade in drugs and arms, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated action by governments, researchers, law enforcement agencies, and civil society.

Earlier, Dr. Saqib Khan, Assistant Professor of Sociology, welcomed the speaker, while Dr. Roma Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Sociology, proposed the vote of thanks in the end.

HYDERABAD

The two-day 2nd BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting commenced in Hyderabad on Tuesday, with senior officials from BRICS nations deliberating on strengthening international cooperation to combat corruption, trace fugitive economic offenders, and recover stolen assets.

Inaugurating the meeting, chief guest Rachna Shah, Secretary to Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, said corruption remains a major obstacle to sustainable development, diverting resources from essential sectors such as healthcare, education and infrastructure while eroding public trust.

She stressed that no country can tackle corruption alone and called for coordinated global efforts to curb illicit financial flows, enhance extradition cooperation, recover stolen assets and prevent jurisdictions from becoming safe havens for economic offenders. Highlighting technology-driven governance,

Shah showcased India's reforms, including the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), faceless taxation and digital public services, as effective tools for promoting transparency and reducing corruption. She also stressed for having technology-enabled vigilance, data-driven monitoring and stronger grievance-redressal mechanisms. The meeting will discuss the BRICS Repository for tracing fugitive offenders, the BRICS Network of Law Enforcement Practitioners, asset recovery mechanisms, and emerging risks from FinTech and Virtual Digital Assets in laundering corruption proceeds. Earlier, BRICS ACWG Chair J Ashok Kumar said the group's focus this year has been on developing practical cooperation mechanisms while avoiding duplication with existing international frameworks.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 222-S/13/W-II, dated: 30.07.2026. Following e-tender is invited online by the Sr. Divisional Engineer/III, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Tender No.: TN-139-26-27. Name of the work:** Provision for construction of sump with drain at LHS total 18 and provision for hump total 6 nos. over the section of Sr.DEN/III/Sealdah. **Tender value:** ₹ 2,08,73,506. **Earnest Money Deposited:** ₹ 4,17,500. **Date and time of closing of tender:** **25.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** **Completion period for the work:** 12 (twelve) months. The tender documents and other details are at **www.ireps.gov.in**. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. Date and time of opening tender is **25.08.2026 at 15.30 hrs.** (SDAH-160/2026-27)

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

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Govt Jr colleges see record admissions in TG, Class XI enrolment crosses 85K

HYDERABAD

Telangana's Government Junior Colleges have registered a record surge in admissions for the 2026-27 academic year, with Class XI (Intermediate first year) enrolment rising to 85,453 students, up from nearly 75,000 last year - an increase of around 14 percent. Total enrolment across first and second-year Intermediate classes has reached 1,64,730 students, reflecting growing public confidence in government-run intermediate education.

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TG BIE) Sec-

retary Abhilasha Abhinav said the rise in admissions underscores increasing trust among students and parents in the State's public education system. She attributed the growth to the Telangana Government's focus on academic reforms, digital learning, modern infrastructure, student welfare and industry partnerships.

The Department of Intermediate Education has strengthened employability through collaborations with IBM and Hetero Pharmaceuticals, offering students industry certifications, internships, apprenticeships, and recruitment



opportunities. Hetero alone has committed employment opportunities for over 300 intermediate-qualified youth, while industry collaborations

have facilitated more than 2,000 placements and apprenticeships.

To improve governance and implementation of educational

programmes, the Directorate of Intermediate Education recently conducted a state-level orientation programme for District Intermediate Education Officers (DIEOs) and Government Junior College principals. The programme covered Samagra Shiksha initiatives, financial management through the SNA-SPARSH Portal, and awareness sessions on the sexual harassment of women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act).

The State has also invested significantly in college infrastructure, allocating funds

for modern toilets, sports facilities, Eco Clubs, computer rooms, libraries, and laboratory facilities. Students continue to receive free textbooks, uniforms, breakfast, and midday meals.

Officials said the combination of curriculum reforms aligned with NCERT standards, technology-enabled learning, improved infrastructure, and welfare measures has transformed Government Junior Colleges into preferred institutions for affordable, quality intermediate education in Telangana. (NSS)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY (TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)					
E - Tender Notice No: No. T-SG-36-III-8, 36-I-genset & 33-I-4-2026-2027 Dt. 01.08.2026					
For and on behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender for the following work up to 14.00 hrs on 24.08.2026					
Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work			
1.	T-SG-36-III-8-2026-2027	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for M/s. Sukhila make Integrated Power Supply (IPS) at Stations/LCs over Tiruchchirappalli division for three years.			
2.	T-SG-36-I-genset-2026-2027	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Generator Sets of Signalling Department over TPJ Division for a period of two years.			
3.	T-SG-33-I-4-2026-2027	Replacement of over aged/defective S&T gears (Relays, LEDs, VDUs, EKTs, cables etc.) over ADSTE/North Jurisdiction of TPJ Division			
Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Validity Offer	Date and Time of Closing	Period of Completion in months
1.	₹ 68,77,398.96	₹ 1,37,600/-	90 days	24.08.2026 & 14:00 hrs	36 months
2.	₹ 18,97,536	₹ 38,000/-	60 days	24.08.2026 & 14:00 hrs	24 months
3.	₹ 4,56,17,795.91	₹ 9,12,400/-	60 days	24.08.2026 & 14:00 hrs	9 months
If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time. The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through https://www.ireps.gov.in/ GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI. Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued.					
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Tiruchchirappalli.					

Not Just Fees—It’s Students’ Hope: BJP Stands With Them — Madavaram Kantha Rao

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Kukatpally BJP in-charge Madhavaram Kantharao said that the Congress government should immediately release pending fee reimbursement and scholarship dues. He warned that BJP will not stay silent until the money is released for students' futures.

Kantha rao made these comments during a protest program held on Tuesday at Bharath Nagar Market under the Kukatpally Assembly area. The protest was organized by BJYM in response to Telangana BJP and student concerns. He attended the protest along with BJP party leaders and supporters.

He said that due to the Congress government's negligence, the future of around 4.5 million (45 lakh) students in Telangana is facing difficulties. He alleged that reimbursement is pending between ₹10,000



crore to ₹15,000 crore and that students have not yet received certificates even after completing their studies.

Kantharao demanded that

the government release funds immediately. He also announced that BJP leaders will visit about 1,800 educational institutions across the state

and collect documents with students' signatures related to pending fee dues.

He criticized the Congress party, alleging discrimination against students. Stating that BJP leaders would sell dosas as part of a "new initiative" to support student fee reimbursements, he urged that funds be raised in this manner—by selling dosas—to provide the necessary resources to the Revanth Reddy government.

Finally, he warned that if the issues are not resolved, BJP will intensify its movement and block Congress MLA camp offices in all constituencies.

Many leaders and workers, including Vaddepally Rajeswara Rao, Corporator Mahender, Tirupati, Srikar Rao, Vijaya Bhavani, Yadagiri, Sathish, youth wing leaders, division leaders, and party workers, participated in large numbers in the program.

Women entrepreneurs are redefining business leadership: Ghazal Alagh

HYDERABAD

Women entrepreneurs are ushering in a new era of purpose-driven leadership and innovation, said Mamaearth founder Ghazal Alagh while addressing an interactive session on "From Idea to IPO - Building Beyond Boundaries" organised by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Hyderabad Chapter at Hotel Dasappa on Tuesday.

Sharing the story behind Mamaearth, Ghazal said motherhood inspired her entrepreneurial journey, recalling how she managed customer calls while caring for her newborn. She said the company, built from scratch without any FMCG background, has grown into one of India's leading beauty and personal care brands with revenues running into thousands of crores.



She attributed Mamaearth's success to identifying an underserved market, solving genuine consumer problems and maintaining consistent execution.

Advising aspiring entrepreneurs, she stressed raising funds only when necessary, building strong business fun-

damentals and trusting one's instincts. Earlier, FLO Hyderabad Chairperson Seetha Reddy said entrepreneurship is a journey of resilience and innovation. She announced that FLO Hyderabad has been allotted 1,000 square yards of land near Shiparamam for its chapter office and one acre at

Bharat Future Park by the Telangana government during the organisation's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The event, moderated by Dr. Suman Rangabhashyam, also featured a Handloom Pavilion showcasing India's rich textile heritage as part of National Handloom Day celebrations.

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SHORT
TAKES

Minister Sridhar Babu Holds Key Review Meeting on T-Fiber at the Secretariat



HYDERABAD: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary of the IT Department Anudeep Durishetty, and T-Fiber Managing Director Venu Prasad attended the review meeting. Minister Sridhar Babu directed that, effective September 1, all government offices across Telangana should receive internet connectivity exclusively through T-Fiber. He instructed T-Fiber officials to ensure that internet services are provided to all government offices within the stipulated deadline. The Minister also directed officials not to make any payments to private internet service providers for government office connectivity after September 1. He instructed officials to complete the transfer of the T-SWAN (Telangana State Wide Area Network) to the T-Fiber network within one month. Minister Sridhar Babu further directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements to ensure full-fledged T-Fiber internet connectivity for the state's prestigious Future City project. He also instructed officials to accelerate the implementation of the government's flagship "Internet to Every Home" initiative across the state.

State Govt Unveils Roadmap to Develop Warangal as Telangana's Second-Largest Medical Hub

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has drawn up a comprehensive action plan to transform Warangal into the state's second-largest medical hub, in line with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision of strengthening public healthcare infrastructure and expanding access to quality medical services.

The roadmap was discussed during a high-level review meeting jointly chaired by Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha and Forests, Environment & Endowments Minister Konda Surekha. The ministers reviewed the progress of government hospitals, medical colleges and other healthcare institutions across the erstwhile Warangal district and issued a series of directions aimed at improving infrastructure, staffing, equipment and healthcare delivery.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy, Kadiyam Srihari, Nagaraju and Nayini Rajender Reddy, Health Secretary Christina Z. Chongthu, and senior officials of the Health Department.

Focus on Super Speciality Hospital

A major focus of the review was the under-construction Warangal Super Speciality Hospital, which is nearing completion. The ministers directed officials to ensure that installation of advanced medical equipment, landscaping, internal roads and other pending works are completed within the stipulated timeframe so that the hospital can be opened to the public at the earliest.

They instructed the Health Department to prioritize emergency services, dialysis units, cath lab facilities, oxygen infrastructure and recruitment of adequate medical and support staff. Once operational, the Super Speciality Hospital is expected to significantly reduce the patient burden on MGM Hospital while offering advanced treatment facilities closer to patients in northern Telangana.



Comprehensive Review of Healthcare Institutions

The ministers reviewed the functioning and development requirements of several major institutions, including MGM Hospital, CKM Government Maternity Hospital, Government Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital, Regional Eye Hospital, Narsampet Government General Hospital, Kakatiya Medical College and other government healthcare facilities in the district.

Detailed discussions were held on inpatient and outpatient services, staffing patterns, infrastructure, patient load and operational challenges. The ministers also examined proposals submitted by local legislators seeking expansion of healthcare services and strengthening of medical institutions.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha sought detailed reports on patient care, available facilities and existing shortcomings, directing officials to address deficiencies without delay.

Infrastructure and Staff Strengthening

Minister Konda Surekha stressed the need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across the district by immediately filling vacancies for doctors, nurses and other healthcare personnel, particularly at MGM Hospital where patient inflow continues to rise. She also urged the government to expedite promotions for hospital employees and undertake

renovation of ageing buildings while upgrading electrical, plumbing and security systems. The minister proposed procurement of advanced medical equipment and modernization of key institutions to improve patient care.

Among the major proposals placed before the Health Minister were:

- * Immediate filling of vacant posts at MGM Hospital and the Regional Eye Hospital.
 - * Procurement of modern ophthalmic equipment.
 - * Expansion of training facilities for medical professionals.
 - * Construction of additional student hostels, academic buildings and an auditorium at Kakatiya Medical College to accommodate increased MBBS and post-graduate admissions.
 - * Recruitment of vacant teaching faculty.
 - * Strengthening infrastructure, staffing and funding for Narsampet Government General Hospital, Government Medical College, CKM Maternity Hospital, Wardhannapet Area Hospital, Anantha Lakshmi Government Ayurvedic College, Government Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital, Primary Health Centres and Urban Health Centres across the district.
- Minister Surekha formally submitted proposals seeking infrastructure upgrades, staff recruitment and procurement of advanced medical equipment for government hospitals and medical colleges throughout the erstwhile Warangal district.

Special Officer Proposed

Observing that Warangal is rapidly emerging as Telangana's second-largest medical hub after Hyderabad, Minister Surekha proposed appointment of a Special Officer to coordinate healthcare services and oversee implementation of development initiatives across the district.

She said centralized monitoring would help improve coordination among various

healthcare institutions and ensure timely completion of projects.

Green Hospitals Initiative

The minister also proposed launching a "Green Hospitals" initiative by banning the use of single-use plastics in all government hospitals and replacing them with eco-friendly alternatives.

She directed officials to remove accumulated scrap material from CKM Hospital so that the reclaimed space could be utilized for expanding healthcare facilities.

Recognizing the historic importance of MGM Hospital and CKM Hospital, she called for a comprehensive modernization plan for both institutions. She also instructed officials to improve facilities at Ursu Maternity Hospital functioning under CKM Hospital.

Commitment to Quality Healthcare

Reaffirming the government's commitment to public health, Minister Surekha said every government healthcare institution in Warangal should become a trusted centre for quality treatment.

She instructed Health Department officials to ensure there are no shortcomings in medical services, infrastructure, staffing or availability of advanced medical equipment.

"The Telangana Government remains fully committed to providing high-quality, free healthcare to every citizen. Healthcare initiatives should be implemented with sincerity and dedication, keeping people's health as the highest priority and in accordance with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision," she said.

The review meeting concluded with directions to officials to accelerate ongoing works, strengthen healthcare infrastructure and ensure that all proposed improvements are implemented within prescribed timelines, paving the way for Warangal's emergence as a major healthcare destination in Telangana.



13,046 Farm Ponds to be Completed by August 15: Special CS M. Dana Kishore

HYDERABAD

Special Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Shri M. Dana Kishore, has directed district officials to complete the construction of 13,046 farm ponds across the State by August 15. He issued the directions during a State-level video conference held on Tuesday from the office of the Commissioner, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, with District Rural Development Officers (DRDOs), District Panchayat Officers (DPOs), Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Parishads (CEOs, ZPs), MPDOs, Panchayat Secretaries and other district and mandal-level officials.

Reviewing the implementation of VB-G RAM-G, Telangana Jalasiri and the Gram Panchayat Samagra Abhivruddhi Pranaliika (GPSAP), Mr. Dana Kishore instructed officials to ensure 100% identification, administrative sanction and grounding of farm ponds in every Gram Panchayat.

He also directed each district to take up at least 50 eco farm ponds through convergence with SERP-NRLM, the Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Fisheries Departments. Officials were asked to accord top priority to water conservation works under Telangana Jalasiri, including farm ponds, soak pits, percolation tanks, borewell recharge structures and open wells.

The Special Chief Secretary instructed district officials to undertake daily field inspections, hold regular review meetings with mandal-level officers and closely monitor the progress of works to ensure that the targets are achieved within the stipulated timeline.

He further directed officials to complete the manual preparation of Gram Panchayat Samagra Abhivruddhi Pranaliika (GPSAP) plans and compile comprehensive Gram Panchayat-wise data for preparing a three-year perspective development plan for all Gram Panchayats.

Commissioner, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Divya, and senior officials of the Department participated in the video conference.

Bonalu celebrated with traditional fervour at Lok Bhavan

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

HYDERABAD

Bonalu, the vibrant festival that reflects Telangana's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, was celebrated with traditional fervour at Lok Bhavan on Tuesday. Governor of Telangana Shiv Pratap Shukla and the First Lady Janaki Shukla, offered Bonam and silk vastrams to the presiding Goddess and performed special prayers, invoking Her blessings for the health, prosperity, peace and well-being of the people of Telangana. The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from Lok Bhavan officials, employees and their



family members, who joined the festivities in keeping with the State's cherished traditions and devotional customs. The spiritual ambience was further enriched by devotional folk songs in praise of the Goddess rendered by traditional artists, while the energetic performances of Pothurajus emerged as a major attraction. The rhythmic beats of traditional drums and colourful cultural performances added to the grandeur of the celebrations, filling the atmosphere with devotion and festive spirit.

Telangana building skill-to-employment ecosystem through ATCs, says Vivek



HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is establishing Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) across the state with the objective of equipping youth with industry-relevant skills and connecting them to employment opportunities in India and abroad, said SHAKTI (Labour, Employment, Training & Factories), Mines & Geology Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy. The Minister stated that the government is building a comprehensive ecosystem where students receive support from training to placement, ensuring they do not have to struggle in search of jobs after completing their courses. He laid the foundation stone for the new ATC building at Rudrangi in Vemulawada Assembly constituency on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Venkatswamy said the nature of employment is rapidly changing due to emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Electric Vehicles, Robotics and Drones.

To prepare youth for the future workforce, the state government is setting up 120 Advanced Technology Centres across 119 Assembly constituencies, offering cutting-edge training in-

stead of outdated conventional courses, he said. Recognising the growing role of technology in agriculture, the Minister directed Director of Employment and Training (DET) Kanti Wesley to examine the feasibility of introducing an advanced agriculture-based technology course at the Rudrangi ATC. He also suggested holding consultations with ICRISAT for designing the programme. Vivek Venkatswamy said the government is providing a monthly stipend of ₹2,000 to students studying in ITIs and ATCs so that financial constraints do not force them to discontinue their education.

He stressed that the government's responsibility does not end with imparting training and that every effort will be made to support students until they secure employment. Highlighting overseas employment initiatives, the Minister said the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) is implementing a dedicated strategy to connect skilled youth with international job opportunities. Germany, Japan and several other countries currently have a strong demand for nurses, electricians, caregivers and skilled professionals, he said.

Governor of Telangana calls on universities to lead anti-drug campaign

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana and Chancellor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday called upon universities in Telangana to play a proactive role in building a drug-free India, stating that the country's aspirations of becoming a developed nation by 2047 depended on a healthy, disciplined and empowered youth. Addressing Vice-Chancellors of universities at Lok Bhavan, Mr. Shukla asked them to intensify student enrolment on the My Bharat portal and ensure active participation in the 'Nasha Mukti Yuva for Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'. He urged universities to appoint nodal officers and student ambassadors in every college to monitor registrations and review progress on a daily basis. Launching the 'Narcotics Free India' initiative across universities, the Governor reviewed awareness programmes related to My Bharat and Red Cross membership. He described the 'Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan' as a people's movement that would contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Vikasit Bharat-2047, saying a drug-free society was es-



sential for national development. Mr. Shukla said Telangana had been assigned a target of enrolling 14.90 lakh youth on the My Bharat portal, of which 4.04 lakh registrations had been completed. He asked universities to conduct special registration drives by August 14 to accelerate enrolment in affiliated colleges. He also noted that the State had a target of securing 2.73 lakh online pledges under the 'Nasha Mukti Yuva for Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', with more than 91,000 pledges recorded so far. He appealed to students, National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, teachers and other youth to take the

anti-drug pledge and participate in the 100-week awareness campaign.

Special Chief Secretary to the Governor M. Dana Kishore said the Telangana branch of the Indian Red Cross Society had added over 60,000 members in the last three months, taking its total membership to 1.17 lakh under the leadership of Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, who is also its State President. He said the Red Cross was organising blood donation camps, disaster relief activities, services for thalassaemia patients, first-aid training and Youth Red Cross programmes. Youth Red Cross units in universities would also organise blood donation camps, disaster management activ-



ities and anti-drug awareness campaigns. Mr. Dana Kishore said efforts were under way to enrol 16,000 Red Cross members from universities by August 15 through an online registration facility. The Governor also released campaign posters promoting a drug-free India and felicitated the senior-most of the Vice-Chancellors present, Prof. Khaja Althaf Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda, at the beginning of the meeting. Joint Secretary to the Governor K. Sasikirana Chari, Eagle Force Director Sandeep Kumar Shandilya, My Bharat Director Anvesh, Vice-Chancellors and Registrars attended the meeting.

Young India Police School to be Developed as a National Model: DGP C.V. Anand

DGP Calls for early completion of construction works

Focus on value-based education and character building

produce responsible citizens with strong moral character

HYDERABAD

Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand has directed officials to expedite the construction of the Young India Police School (YIPS) at Manchirevula and develop it into a model educational institution for the country.

Reviewing the progress of the school during a Society Committee meeting held on Tuesday, DGP Anand, accompanied by President of IPSOWA or IPS Officers' Wives Association, Lalita Anand and committee members, assessed the status of infrastructure development and other key initiatives. The



ipsowa has also decided to pitch in with their might to help complete the school which is mainly for police children.

Prior to the meeting, the DGP interacted with students, joined them in a game of football, and watched demonstrations of archery, fencing and other sporting activities. He appreciated the students for their enthusiasm and talent.

DGP sir said the school had been established by the Telangana Government and the State Police Department with the objective of providing world-class education to the children

of police personnel, police martyrs and members of the public. Stressing the importance of holistic education, he said the institution should nurture discipline, moral values, patriotism, service-mindedness and responsible citizenship among students.

Expressing concern over the increasing influence of drug abuse and other harmful habits among youngsters, the DGP said the school should maintain the highest standards of discipline and values-based education. "This institution should produce responsible citizens with strong moral character and

a deep sense of commitment to society and the nation," he said.

During the review, the committee discussed the progress of the school buildings, academic plans, the proposed curriculum and infrastructure requirements. Pending proposals, bills and development works were examined, and necessary approvals were accorded.

The DGP also advised senior police officers to visit the school regularly and mentor students in leadership, discipline, patriotism and public service. The Young India Police School, which commenced operations last year with an initial batch of 125 students, now has a total enrolment of 345 students up to Class VI for the 2026-27 academic year. The meeting was attended by Mahesh Bhagwat, Director General (Law & Order); Dr. Anil Kumar, DG (octopus), IG, P&L Gajaraa Bhupal, IG (Welfare) Uday Kumar Reddy, Srinivas DCP Serilingampally; Finance Adviser Sharath Kumar; Principal Anita; Founder Vishal; and other members of the school staff.





Prof. Appiya Chinnamma Honoured for Educational Leadership

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 04, 2026:

Government Degree & PG College for Women, Hussainialam, Hyderabad, witnessed an emotional and memorable occasion as the college fraternity organized a grand Superannuation and Felicitation Ceremony in honour of its esteemed Principal, Prof. Appiya Chinnamma, on her retirement from government service. The programme was not merely a farewell, but a heartfelt celebration of a teacher, administrator, mentor, and leader whose service has left a lasting mark on the institution. Distinguished academicians, retired principals, officials from the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students, family members, and well-wishers gathered to honour her remarkable contribution to higher education. The ceremony was graced by Prof. Bala Bhaskar, Joint Director of Collegiate Education, and Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Academic Guidance Officer, as chief dignitaries. Addressing the gathering, they praised Prof. Appiya Chinnamma for her visionary leadership, integrity, dedication, and exemplary commitment to academic excellence. They observed that her sincere efforts in strengthening institutional quality, promoting student welfare, and encouraging faculty development would continue to inspire future generations.

Speakers recalled that during her tenure, Government Degree & PG College for Women, Hussainialam, witnessed meaningful progress in academics, student support activities, NAAC quality initiatives, faculty enrichment, and community outreach programmes. Her leadership gave renewed direction to the institution and created an environment where discipline, learning, confidence, and service were valued equally. Several dignitaries described Prof. Appiya Chinnamma as a compassionate administrator, an inspiring mentor, and a disciplined leader. They said her contribution to women's education was especially significant, as she constantly encouraged girl students to dream higher, work harder, and face life with courage and confidence. Faculty members shared touching memories of working under her guidance. They appreciated her humility, sincerity, administrative clarity, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Party first, posts later, Shivakumar tells disgruntled Congress MLAs to stay patient

CM DK Shivakumar warned disgruntled Congress MLAs that their resignations would be accepted "within minutes" if they chose to quit, stressing that the party was more important than individual's political futures. He also said it was his patience that had brought him to the position he holds today.



Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday issued a stern warning to disgruntled Congress MLAs threatening to resign after being left out of the recent Cabinet expansion, saying the party was bigger than individual ambitions and any resignation would be accepted "within a few minutes". Urging the disappointed legislators to remain patient, Shivakumar said

opportunities would come in due course and assured them that appointments to state-run boards and corporations would be made soon. "I have said whatever I have to... Resignations keep happening in politics. No one can stop those resigning. If they want the party and their future, the party is important. If there is a party, there is everything else," he said in response to questions about

MLAs threatening to quit. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar cited his own political journey, saying, "I too could have resigned" when he was not made a minister during the tenures of former chief ministers Dharman Singh and Siddaramaiah. Instead, he and Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara chose to wait for their opportunity. Recalling the careers of senior Congress leaders,

he said, "When Veerendra Patil was CM, Bangarappa, Kharge and Dharman Singh were not made ministers. Didn't Bangarappa and Singh become CMs later? One needs to have patience." Reiterating that the party comes first, Shivakumar warned, "If anyone gives resignation, within a few minutes I'm going to accept."

He also announced that state-run boards and corporations would soon be reconstituted. Noting that the tenure of the current office-bearers had already run beyond the promised two-and-a-half years, he said they would first be asked to step down before fresh appointments were made. "I will first ask our workers to resign from the posts and fill up those posts afresh, then I will speak to MLAs one by one," he said.

The remarks come a day after Shivakumar expanded his Cabinet, inducting 19 ministers in the first major reshuffle since assuming office two months ago.

While the long-awaited expansion ended months of speculation, it also triggered discontent within the ruling Congress, with several ministerial aspirants left out. Indi MLA Yashavanarayagouda V Patil even submitted his resignation from the Assembly on Monday after being denied a berth. Supporters of several disappointed aspirants staged protests across Karnataka, reflecting the growing unease within the party ranks. The state's ministry has a sanctioned strength of 34, including the chief minister, and following the latest expansion, one ministerial berth remains vacant.

Train Services Diverted, Delayed Due to Maintenance Works

CHENNAI, AUG. 4

Southern Railway has announced changes in the operation of several train services during August following the approval of fixed-time corridor blocks for safety and maintenance works in the Tiruchchirappalli Division. The Chennai Egmore-Tiruchchirappalli Cholan Superfast Express (Train No. 22675) departing at 8 a.m. on August 5, 12, 14 and 21 will be diverted via Cuddalore Port-Vriddhachalam-Tiruchchirappalli, skipping halts at Chidambaram, Sirkazhi, Vaithisvarankoil, Mayiladuthurai, Aduturai, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Budalur and Tiruverumbur. The train will instead stop at Vriddhachalam, Ariyalur, Lalgudi and Srirangam. The same train on August 26 and September 2 will operate via Villupuram-Vriddhachalam-Tiruchchirappalli, bypassing Panruti, Tirupadriyulur, Cuddalore Port and the other regular stations up to Tiruverumbur. Additional halts will again be provided at Vriddhachalam, Ariyalur, Lalgudi and Srirangam. Meanwhile, the Jodhpur-Mannargudi Express (Train No. 22673) leaving Jodhpur on August 6, 20 and 27 will be regulated for about one hour at a convenient location between Chennai Egmore and Mundiampakkam. In addition, the Tiruchchirappalli-Chennai Egmore Cholan Superfast Express (Train No. 22676) scheduled to depart Tiruchchirappalli at 12.10 p.m. on August 4, 11 and 18 has been rescheduled to leave at 12.45 p.m. Southern Railway has advised passengers to check the revised timings and routes before commencing their journey to avoid inconvenience.

CM Chandrababu Attempting to Suppress the Shetty Balija Community

Allegation by Peddimsetti Venkateswara Rao, Founding President of Telugu Janata Party

BY DR SUNEELKUMAR YANDRA,



Kakinada, August 04 : Peddimsetti Venkateswara Rao, Founding President of the Telugu Janata Party, alleged that CM Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh Naidu are harboring a vendetta against the Shetty Balija community and are determined to suppress it. Speaking to the media at the party's central office in Kakinada, Peddimsetti lashed out at CM Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Lokesh Naidu, accusing them of targeting the Shetty Balija community. He pointed out that while the Shetty Balija population is significant in two districts, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has failed to provide them with due recognition or appropriate positions. In contrast, he noted that the YCP government under Jagan Mohan Reddy had allocated two MP seats, four MLA seats, four MLC seats, and one Rajya Sabha seat to the community, in addition to appointing them to various high-ranking positions. He stated that the TDP is politically and professionally victimizing and harassing the Shetty Balija people in these two districts, despite the fact that they had voted for the party. Furthermore, he alleged that the government is deliberately delaying or denying Shetty Balijas opportunities for posts such as RDO and MRO in the Revenue Department, and DSP, CI, and SI positions in the Police Department across the twin Godavari districts. He stated that the Shetty Balija community was denied opportunities in constituencies such as Tuni, Prathipadu, Jagampeta,

Peddapuram, Kakinada-2, Mummdivaram, Amalapuram, Razole, Kothapeta, Rajahmundry-1, Rajahmundry-2, Rajanagaram, Rampachodavaram, Kovvur, Nidadavolu, Denduluru, Unguturu, Tanuku, Bhimavaram, Narsapuram, Undi, and Polavaram within the undivided Godavari district. He questioned whether there were any political leaders from the Shetty Balija community within the TDP at all. He further alleged that officials from their community in the Revenue Department (at RDO and MRO levels) and the Police Department (at DSP, CI, and SI levels) were being sidelined to "loop line" postings—such as Vigilance, Transco, Intelligence, CID, Railway, Marine, Eagle, SB, and DCRB. He asserted that all Shetty Balijas in these two districts are witnessing the political and professional suppression of their community by Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh Naidu. Peddimsetti lamented that while liquor shops were allocated to the Geetha (toddy-tapping) community, these shops were subsequently absorbed into syndicates, effectively depriving them of that opportunity as well. He warned that the time is fast approaching when they will demonstrate their strength in the upcoming local body elections and send the TDP packing.

Andhra Pradesh secured Rs 19,619 crore under SASCI in 2.5 years

AMARAVATI, AUG 4

Andhra Pradesh has secured Rs 19,619 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme in two-and-a-half years, the Centre told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. According to the state government, this is 72 per cent higher than the Rs 11,386 crore received by the previous YSRCP government under the same scheme between 2020 to 2024. The figures were officially placed before Parliament by the Union Ministry of Finance in a response to a question by YSRCP MP PV Midhun Reddy. The achievement reflects the present

Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition government's emphasis on fiscal discipline, timely project preparation and efficient implementation. Andhra Pradesh has consistently secured higher allocations by submitting eligible capital investment proposals and ensuring faster execution, enabling the state to access significantly greater financial resources for infrastructure development within a much shorter period, an official statement said here on Tuesday. According to the Union government's reply in Parliament, Andhra Pradesh has received Rs 31,005.47 crore under the SASCI scheme since 2020-21. Of this, Rs 19,619



crore has been released during the tenure of the present TDP-led state government, including Rs 7,901.56 crore in 2024-25, Rs 8,289.61 crore in 2025-26 and Rs 3,428.14 crore during 2026-27 (till August 1, 2026). SASCI scheme provides 50-year interest-free capital loans to states for capital expenditure. As per the

Union government, assistance is released expeditiously once states submit complete project proposals in accordance with the scheme guidelines, allowing states to undertake critical infrastructure and development projects.

Andhra Pradesh had secured Rs 688 crore under the scheme in 2020-21. It rose to Rs 501.79 crore in 2021-22 and jumped to Rs 6,105 crore in 2022-23 before coming down to Rs 4,090.81 crore in 2023-24.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also told the YSRCP MP that The State Finance Accounts, published by the Accountant General (Accounts and Entitlement) of

Andhra Pradesh, Shanthi Priya S, and Accountant General (Accounts and Entitlement) of Telangana, Chanda Pandit, had assessed an amount of Rs 16,078.76 crore as revenue deficit for Andhra Pradesh for the year of bifurcation, i.e. 2014-15. The entire audited revenue deficit from 2014-15 to 2023-24.

The state government said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proven track record of governance, coupled with the Centre's continued support, is enabling Andhra Pradesh to accelerate infrastructure development, attract greater investments and deliver faster, inclusive growth.

South Central Railway Conducts Massive

Ticket Checking Drive Across the Zone.. Day Long Drive Conducted By 186 Ticket Checking Staff On 169 Trains across the Zone on 03rd August, 2026

HYDERABA, AUGUST 4

The Commercial Department of South Central Railway conducted a massive ticket checking Drive spanning the entire jurisdiction of the zone (Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded divisions) on 03rd August, 2026. During the day long Drive, 169 trains were thoroughly checked involving 186 ticket checking staff, with focus on detecting passengers travelling without ticket, irregular travelers and passengers carrying un-booked luggage. Emphasis was also laid on penalizing offenders for smoking, littering in railway premises and unauthorized hawking.

As part of the Drive, 4121 passengers travelling without ticket/irregular travelling and carrying un-booked luggage were detected and ticket checking revenue of Rs. 30.53 lakhs was realized. In addition, 35 passengers were penalized for littering, with fines amounting to Rs. 7,300. Action was also taken against 19 unauthorized hawkers from whom penalties worth Rs. 38,000 were collected. Further, 2 passengers smoking in Railway premises were fined with Rs. 4,000.



During the drive, Ticket checking staff also educated passengers about the penalties for various offences. Passengers were also sensitized about the fire hazards associated with smoking in trains and railway premises. In addition, they were urged to refrain from littering and to help maintain clean railway stations and trains by following good civic practices.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway commended the efforts of the Commercial Department for successfully conducting the intensive ticket checking drive and also creating awareness among passengers about the penalties. He stated that ticket checking plays a vital role in the Railways as it helps curb ticketless and irregular travel,



ensures comfortable journeys for genuine passengers and helps build confidence in the railway system. South Central Railway appeals to passengers to travel with proper and valid tickets, cooperate with Ticket Checking Staff and adhere to railway rules. Safe, Secure and Comfortable journeys are a shared responsibility of Railways and its passengers.



ments by relying on sports certificates that did not meet the prescribed eligibility rules. He placed sample certificates before the court and argued that some candidates had only participated in local competitions instead of recognised state or national-level events. He contended that these examples showed a pattern of irregularities and not isolated mistakes. Sriram pointed out that the government later withdrew the Government Orders relating to the sports quota after public criticism. According to him, this withdrawal itself raised serious questions about the policy changes and justified an independent investigation. The counsel informed the court that much of the material relied upon had been obtained through Right to Information (RTI) applications and other public sources. He explained

‘SADAREM’ Services Now on ‘MANA MITRA’

Persons with disabilities can now check slot availability, book SADAREM appointments, and download certificates through Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance, eliminating the need to visit MeeSeva or Swarna Grama/Ward offices. Users can access the service by sending a "Hi" message to 9552300009 on WhatsApp and selecting "SADAREM Services" under Citizen Services for a seamless, mobile-based experience.

AMARAVATI, AUGUST 4, 2026

In line with its commitment to providing citizen-centric and accessible digital services, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for Access Rehabilitation and Empowerment) services through Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance, making the process of obtaining disability assessment services faster, simpler, and more convenient. As per the directions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu, SADAREM services have been made available

to Persons with Disabilities through the Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance platform, the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) said in a statement. With this initiative, persons with disabilities no longer need to visit MeeSeva Centres, Swarna Grama or Swarna Ward offices to book SADAREM slots or download their certificates. These services can now be accessed directly through a mobile phone using the Mana Mitra WhatsApp platform. By sending a "Hi" message to 9552300009, users can check SADAREM slot availability, book assessment appointments, and download their certificates without

visiting MeeSeva Centres or Swarna Grama/Ward offices. **How to Access the Service**

Open WhatsApp on your mobile phone. Send a "Hi" message to "9552300009" (Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance). Select Citizen Services from the available menu. Choose SADAREM Services. **Select any of the following services:** Slot Availability, Slot Booking, and Certificate Download. Then Complete the required process by following the on-screen instructions.

The new digital facility enables beneficiaries to check

slot availability in real time, book appointments at their convenience, and download their SADAREM certificates without visiting any government service centre. The initiative significantly reduces travel, waiting time, and paperwork while ensuring seamless access to essential disability-related services.

The Government has appealed to all eligible persons with disabilities across the State to make use of this digital facility and benefit from the convenience of Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's vision of delivering government services anytime, anywhere through technology.

AP HC Hears Mega DSC CBI Probe PIL

AMARAVATI, AUG 4

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday took up for hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), seeking orders for investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation into alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025 for recruitment of teachers. Senior Advocate and former Andhra Pradesh Advocate General, S. Sriram Subrahmanyam, appearing for the petitioner, urged the High Court to order a CBI investigation into the entire recruitment process. He argued that the alleged irregularities were not isolated incidents but rather pointed to a systemic failure affecting the fairness and integrity of the recruitment. After hearing the submissions, the High Court posted the matter for further hearing after three weeks. Sriram argued that the



government made major changes to the sports quota policy just before issuing the Mega DSC-2025 notification. He pointed out that the reservation under the sports quota was increased from 2 per cent to 3 per cent. He also submitted that the requirement of qualifying in the entrance examination was removed. According to the counsel, these changes benefited a predetermined group of candidates and were introduced without transparency. The counsel submitted that several candidates allegedly received appoint-

that only representative examples had been filed before the court because the government had not published the complete merit list. Contending that many affected candidates had not approached the court because they feared legal action and intimidation, he also argued that government communications discouraged the publication of allegations relating to the recruitment process, and undertook to place supporting material before the court. Addressing the petitioner's political affiliation, the counsel submitted that the PIL was filed in the larger public interest as the issue affected thousands of teacher aspirants. He argued that while individual writ petitions could address personal grievances, only a PIL could seek an investigation into the systemic issues affecting the recruitment process.

EDITORIAL

Scientific Temper in Public Health: Facts Over Fear

Public health is built on one essential principle: decisions should be guided by scientific evidence rather than fear, rumours, or speculation. In an age where information travels instantly through television, websites, and social media, health-related news can spread rapidly. While this allows people to stay informed, it also increases the risk of misinformation creating unnecessary anxiety. Promoting scientific temper is therefore essential for protecting both public health and public confidence. Scientific temper means approaching health issues with curiosity, critical thinking, and respect for evidence. It encourages people to rely on verified research, expert medical advice, and established scientific methods instead of unverified claims. Every new health concern, whether related to an infectious disease, a diagnostic test, or a new treatment, deserves careful investigation before conclusions are drawn. This evidence-based approach has enabled medical science to make remarkable progress in preventing diseases, improving treatments, and increasing life expectancy.

Healthcare decisions are rarely based on a single study or isolated observation. Scientists evaluate evidence from multiple sources, conduct clinical research, review findings independently, and update recommendations as new information becomes available. This process may take time, but it ensures that policies and medical advice are based on reliable knowledge rather than assumptions. Science is not static; it evolves as fresh evidence emerges, making transparency and continuous learning its greatest strengths. Equally important is responsible communication. Health information should be presented accurately, avoiding sensational headlines or exaggerated claims that may cause confusion. Governments, healthcare institutions, researchers, and the media all share the responsibility of providing clear, factual, and timely information. When official communication is transparent and easy to understand, public trust grows, and people are more likely to follow health advisories.

Citizens also have a role to play. Before forwarding health-related messages or acting on unverified advice, it is wise to check credible sources and consult qualified medical professionals. A few moments spent verifying information can prevent the spread of misinformation and unnecessary panic. Digital literacy and awareness are becoming as important as medical knowledge in today's interconnected world. Public health challenges will continue to evolve with changing lifestyles, emerging diseases, and technological advances. Meeting these challenges requires confidence in science, investment in research, and a society that values evidence over emotion. Constructive public debate is healthy, but it should always be rooted in facts and supported by credible evidence.

Ultimately, scientific temper is not merely a scientific value; it is a social responsibility. By choosing facts over fear and evidence over speculation, society can respond to health challenges with confidence, compassion, and resilience. In doing so, we strengthen public trust, support informed decision-making, and create a healthier future for everyone.



CRAVINGS OF POWER

Think for a moment, pause the race,
What's become of this sacred place?
Day before yesterday Telangana Bandh,
Today Samaikyandhra takes its stand.

Yesterday, streets in a fury flared,
Effigies burned, while none were spared.
Leaders clashed at Chowrasta square,
Destroying what the people share.

But tell me what's the purpose, why?
Just to let another promise die?
It's not for justice, not for right,
It's hunger dressed in public fight.

Cravings clothed in a noble name,
The next election is their game.
Pretenses, protests, every shout,
Hide the truth they care for clout.

And while they play with smoke and flame,
The poor still toil, still bear the shame.
No work, no food, no dreams to chase,
No leader lifts the lowly's face.

A separate state or one combined,
Will not uplift the suffering kind.
Not unless a heart is stirred
That speaks not just, but keeps its word.

So think again what do we need?
A voice that heals, not one that feeds
On selfish aims and reckless pride
But one that stands with us, beside.



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



AI FOR GOOD GLOBAL COMMISSION: A GLOBAL COMMISSION TO MITIGATE THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The AI for Good Global Commission is a high-level international commission established with the support of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was officially launched during the AI for Good event held in July 2026. The Commission comprises 44 founding commissioners and members, including heads of state, chief executive officers (CEOs) of leading global companies, technology experts, and representatives of international organizations. The Commission is co-chaired by Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and Marc Benioff, Chairman and CEO of Salesforce. Do-reen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), serves as the Vice-Chair. From India, Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, and Lakshmi N. Mittal have been appointed as founding members of the Commission.

The inaugural meeting of the AI for Good Global Commission was held on 8 July 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland. Although the Commission's first meeting took place on 8 July, it formed part of the broader AI for Good Global Summit 2026, held from 7 to 10 July 2026. The four-day summit featured more than 300 sessions, including conferences, exhibitions, training workshops, demonstrations, and high-level discussions. The deliberations focused primarily on AI governance, technological innovation, and the role of artificial intelligence in achieving sustainable development, along with strategies to maximize AI's benefits while mitigating its potential risks and adverse impacts.

More than 40 founding commissioners participated in the inaugural meeting of the AI for Good Global Commission. During the meeting, the Commission adopted several key resolutions. Among the most significant were strengthening trustworthy and ethical AI governance and expanding global access to artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. The Commission also resolved to promote international collaboration among governments, industries, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations. It emphasized the effective use of AI to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, climate change, and agriculture.

Another key priority identified by the Commission was reducing the digital di-

vide by investing in digital infrastructure, skill development, and capacity building. In addition, the Commission reaffirmed that the development of human-centric artificial intelligence that safeguards human rights, promotes inclusiveness, and enhances public welfare is of paramount importance. It further emphasized that its primary objective is to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared equitably by all countries and all sections of society. However, the AI for Good Global Commission is not a regulatory body. Rather, it serves primarily as an advisory and co-ordinating platform. Consequently, for its recommendations to have a meaningful and lasting impact, they must be adopted and implemented by national governments and other relevant institutions around the world.

Artificial Intelligence: Impact on Employment and Sustainable Development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is bringing about significant transformations in the global economy. Its impact is particularly evident in the areas of employment and sustainable development. According to the Future of Jobs Report 2025 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), AI and other emerging technologies are expected to create approximately 170 million new jobs worldwide by 2030. At the same time, around 92 million jobs are projected to disappear, leading to major changes in the global labour market.

Routine and repetitive tasks in sectors such as manufacturing, customer service, administration, and data processing are particularly vulnerable to automation. As a result, millions of workers will need to undergo reskilling and upskilling to adapt to the changing nature of work. According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), nearly one-quarter (25%) of global employment is likely to be affected by generative AI. Clerical and administrative occupations, in particular, are expected to experience the greatest impact due to the increasing automation of routine office tasks.

If the benefits of AI are concentrated primarily among highly skilled workers and technology-driven enterprises, there is a significant risk that income inequality will widen further. Therefore, governments, industries, and educational institutions must work together to ensure that the gains from AI are distributed more equitably through inclusive policies, workforce development, and access to digital skills.

From the perspective of sustainable de-

velopment, AI systems require large-scale data centres that consume substantial amounts of electricity and water for their operation and maintenance. If these facilities are not powered by renewable or clean energy sources, they can place additional pressure on the environment and contribute to higher carbon emissions. Developing countries may also face significant challenges due to limited digital infrastructure and a shortage of AI-related skills, increasing the risk of falling behind in the global digital economy. This could further widen the technological and digital divide between developed and developing nations.

At the same time, the responsible and ethical use of AI offers immense opportunities. AI can improve energy efficiency, enable more accurate climate change forecasting, enhance the accessibility and quality of healthcare services, and increase agricultural productivity through precision farming and data-driven decision-making. Therefore, it is essential to implement effective AI governance, strengthen quality education, promote skill development, and invest in reskilling and upskilling initiatives. These measures are crucial to ensuring that the benefits of AI are inclusive, sustainable, and contribute positively to long-term economic and social development.

Significance of the AI for Good Global Commission for India

The AI for Good Global Commission is of great significance to India. It supports the development of responsible and ethical artificial intelligence, promotes digital inclusion, and helps the country effectively address the economic and social challenges arising from the rapid adoption of AI.

India's AI ecosystem is expanding rapidly. Recognizing its strategic importance, the Government of India approved the India AI Mission in 2024 with a budget of ₹10,371.92 crore. The mission aims to strengthen AI infrastructure, skill development, innovation, and research, thereby positioning India as a global leader in artificial intelligence.

AI has the potential to deliver substantial benefits across several key sectors in India, including healthcare, agriculture, education, disaster management, and public service delivery. In particular, the Commission can support India by promoting ethical and trustworthy AI standards, strengthening international cooperation on AI governance and innovation, enhancing cybersecurity and digital resilience, and facilitating access to global best practices in AI development

and regulation.

Furthermore, the Commission can help developing countries, including India, bridge the digital divide by encouraging equitable access to AI technologies and digital infrastructure. It also promotes the extension of AI's benefits to rural areas and socially disadvantaged communities, ensuring that technological progress is more inclusive.

In addition, the Commission can play a crucial role in helping India mitigate the potential adverse impacts of AI on employment, society, and the environment through responsible AI governance, capacity building, and sustainable policy frameworks. This will enable India to harness the transformative potential of AI while ensuring that its benefits are shared broadly across all sections of society.

To achieve its objectives, the AI for Good Global Commission promotes global collaboration among governments, technology companies, researchers, and civil society organizations. By fostering cooperation among these key stakeholders, the Commission seeks to ensure that artificial intelligence is developed and deployed in a responsible, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

The Commission also plays a vital role in maximizing the benefits of AI for individuals and societies worldwide while minimizing its potential risks and adverse impacts. It aims to encourage the adoption of ethical AI practices, strengthen international coordination, and support policies that ensure AI serves the broader public interest. If governments, industry, academia, and civil society work together to implement the Commission's recommendations, the AI for Good Global Commission can make a significant contribution to building a safer, more equitable, and AI-driven global economy that promotes sustainable development and shared prosperity for all.



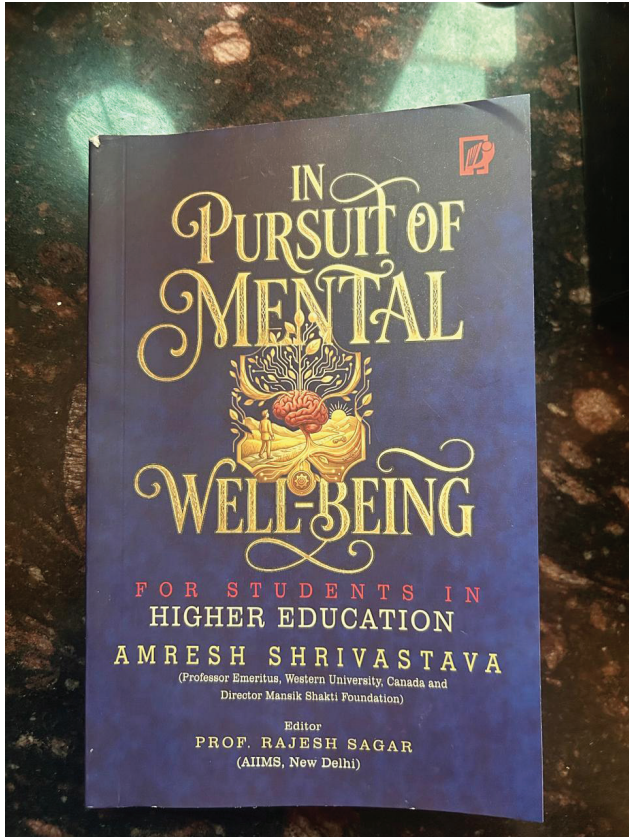
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WELLNESS AS STRENGTH: PRACTICAL CASE FOR MENTAL WELL-BEING

Amresh Shrivastava, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Western University and a clinician-researcher with decades of experience spanning India, the UK, and Canada, brings substantial authority to the subject. His prior works, including multi-volume studies on suicide from a global perspective, Schizophrenia Treatment Outcomes, the Handbook on Optimizing Patient Care in Psychiatry, Mind Matters, The Battle Within, and Sacred Resonance: Gayatri Mantra & Mental Health Development-establish him as a consistent advocate for bridging scientific psychiatry with practical, culturally sensitive approaches to resilience, prevention, and positive mental health. This recent volume continues that trajectory, focusing on the active pursuit of well-being rather than crisis response alone.

The book's central argument aligns with emerging dual-continuum models in psychiatry: mental illness and mental wellness function as related but partially independent dimensions. Individuals can experience psychiatric symptoms yet maintain high levels of meaning, functioning, and quality of life; conversely, people without diagnosable disorders may still suffer diminished well-being and elevated future risk. Shrivastava draws on clinical observation, population evidence, and neuroscience to frame wellness as adaptive capacity-a dynamic set of psychological virtues including emotional regulation, resilience, meaningful engagement, ethical orientation, and social connectedness. This perspective moves beyond symptom reduction toward measurable outcomes such as self-contentment, optimism, and the ability to navigate ordinary life stresses productively.

Strengths of the work lie in its integration of evidence-based psychiatry with accessible guidance. Shrivastava emphasizes



early intervention, stigma reduction, and lifestyle factors that support positive circuitry in the brain and behavior. He discusses the roles of structured self-care, social support, purpose, and, in places, traditional practices that can complement modern treatment-reflecting his longstanding interest in culturally resonant methods suitable for diverse populations, including those in India and the diaspora. Practical elements appear throughout: recognition of warning signs, the value of protective factors, pathways to professional help, and strategies for building mental strength amid everyday turbulence. The writing retains the clinician's clarity seen in his earlier public-facing books, avoiding excessive jargon while grounding recommendations in research on recovery, quality of life, and prevention.

Particularly relevant is the attention to contemporary pressures-academic stress, life transitions, and the lingering effects of societal disruptionthat erode well-being even in the absence of frank illness. Shrivastava's experience with suicide prevention and complex disorders informs a measured, non-alarmist tone: he neither pathologizes ordinary distress nor minimizes the need for specialist care when indicated. The emphasis on wellness as cultivatable through intentional practices echoes broader positive psychiatry developments while remaining pragmatic about biological, psychological, and social determinants.

Limitations exist. Readers seeking highly novel theoretical frameworks or extensive original data may find the book synthesizes existing knowledge more than it

breaks entirely new ground. Prof. Rajesh Sagar is the editor of the book and it is published by Pravasi Press Publishing.

At roughly the length and accessibility of his other educational volumes, In Pursuit of Mental Well-being functions effectively as both an orientation for students, caregivers, and non-specialists and a reminder for clinicians that optimizing care requires attending to flourishing, not only pathology. It reinforces Shrivastava's consistent message across his career: mental health literacy reduces stigma, early recognition improves trajectories, and wellness is an active pursuit available to people across health states.

In an era of rising reported distress, especially among younger populations facing academic and social pressures, the book's focus on adaptive capacity and protective factors is constructive. It does not promise quick fixes or replace individualized professional assessment, but it equips readers with a clearer conceptual map and practical orientation. For those already familiar with Shrivastava's earlier titles, it extends the same humane, evidence-informed voice; for newcomers, it serves as a solid entry into contemporary thinking on mental well-being. Recommended for mental health professionals, educators, parents, and anyone seeking a grounded perspective on moving from mere survival toward more sustained psychological strength.



VIVEK SHUKLA



COAS Reviews
Central
Command
Readiness in
Lucknow

LUCKNOW: (AUG 4)

The Chief of Army Staff, General Dhiraj Seth, on Tuesday visited the Central Command headquarters in Lucknow and reviewed the prevailing operational preparedness and capability enhancement initiatives, the Army said.

Gen Seth interacted with commanders and all ranks, reaffirming that operational preparedness, adaptability and self-reliance remain the bedrock of military effectiveness.

In an X post, the Army said, "General DhirajSeth, COAS, visited Headquarter Central Command, Lucknow, to review the operational preparedness and ongoing capability enhancement initiatives. He was briefed on the Command's operational posture, security situation, infrastructure development, modernisation efforts and measures to further strengthen combat readiness."

Karnataka
LC Chairman
to Consult
Opposition on
Resignation

BENGALURU: (AUG 4)

Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Tuesday said Chief Minister D K Shivakumar phoned him requesting his resignation from the post, adding that he would decide after discussing the matter with BJP and JD(S) leaders.

He also asserted that electing the council chairman and assembly speaker is the prerogative of the House, not the high command of a political party.

This development followed a letter from the Congress high command to CM Shivakumar on Monday approving Saleem Ahmed as the nominee for chairman of the state legislative council and Umashree for deputy chairperson, along with the list of ministers who were sworn in on Monday.

Have undertaken
comprehensive
overhaul to
eliminate NEET
paper leaks:
Centre tells SC

NEW DELHI: (AUG 4)

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it has undertaken a comprehensive overhaul of the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) to eliminate paper leaks and systemic failures.

In a compliance affidavit filed before a bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha, the Ministry of Education said the reforms are aimed at creating a robust and institutionalised system that preserves institutional memory, strengthens examination security and prevents future incidents of paper leaks or other malpractices.

The affidavit was filed in response to the apex court's May 29 direction asking the Union government to explain how future NEET examinations would be conducted and how regulatory authorities would build and retain institutional memory to improve examination processes over successive years.

Farmers Back Ethanol After
Meeting Union Agriculture Minister

Farmer leaders across the country talk openly about ethanol in Krishi Bhawan

S. N. VERMA

New Delhi: The delegation of the All India Farmers Co-ordination Committee (AI-KCC) met Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday and made it clear that ethanol is a big opportunity for farming, provided its policy is farmer-centred and the right price of the crop reaches the farmer directly; Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh listened to all the suggestions of the farmer leaders carefully, gave his guidance and assured that the government will take the farmers' talk on ethanol seriously. Shivraj Singh said that the farmer is like God for him and the doors of Krishi Bhavan are always open for farmers.

The AIKCC delegation met Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi, which included farmer leaders from across the country including Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu. The main focus in the meeting was on ethanol, farmers' income, MSP, market and national agricultural policy, but the farmers said in no uncertain terms that they are in favour of ethanol, just want the real benefits of this program to go to the farmer, not just the companies or middlemen. Farmer leaders clarified their stand on ethanol in the meeting and said that the field product from ethanol will not be limited to the market, but will go to the petrol pump and the energy market, which will create a



new and strong market for the farmers. When ethanol is produced from sugarcane, maize, rice and other feedstocks, farmers will find more buyers and less crop failure or storage problems.

The farmers said that they are not against ethanol, but in full support, but it is important that farmers get a fair price for any crop, be it maize or sugarcane. Farmer representatives said that we want ethanol policy to create a new path for farming, not a new concern for us. We are with ethanol, if ethanol also stays with us.

In the meeting, many farmer leaders said that confusion is being spread on social media and some platforms in the name of ethanol - sometimes by saying damage to vehicles, sometimes by saying loss to farmers. The farmers demanded that the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer organisations come together to clearly explain which crops will benefit from ethanol, and how they can be shifted from water crops to drought-tolerant crops. He said that to reach

the younger generation, it is important to show an accurate picture of ethanol through reels, short videos and ground gatherings.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan listened carefully to the farmers all the time and kept asking questions from time to time to understand the ground situation. He said that the thinking of the central government is clear - the benefit of the ethanol program should be in the entire chain from the field to the fuel tank, but the biggest part should go in the interest of the farmer. Chouhan said that ethanol will also strengthen the energy security of the country and the pockets of the farmers, our emphasis is that there should be no injustice with any crop and any state.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan assured in the meeting that the policy will be reviewed to maintain the balance of price and demand of maize, rice, sugarcane and other feedstocks. Decisions will be taken in view of the interest of farmers, especially

maize, in view of the benefit of farmers. Through scientific studies and technical reports on ethanol, negative narratives will be responded to, and a fact-based dialogue will be conducted with farmers.

At the end of the meeting, AIKCC representatives said that they would convey the message to farmers in villages that the confusion about ethanol would be broken based on facts and ground experience, and the process of policy making in the interest of farmers will be strengthened in collaboration with the government.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan also gave a clear message that farmers' organisations are not opponents of the government, but are partners of the policy. He said that we listened carefully to the farmers on ethanol, now our task is to create such a structure on the basis of these suggestions in which farmers, the country and energy - all three are strong.

The delegation of All India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC) includes

National President AIKCC and former Member of Indian Kisan Union (MAN) Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann, National Vice President AIKCC and President National Farmer Producers Association Shri Binod Anand, National Vice President AIKCC Shri Gurusahab Singh Mann, National General Secretary AIKCC and Instructor Shetkari Sangathan (Sharad Joshi), Maharashtra Shri Gunwat Patil, Member AIKCC and National Secretary General Secretary Bharatiya Kisan Union Mann and President Kisan Union (Pradesh-UP) Shri Ajay Anmol, Member AIKCC and Vice President Shetkari Sangathan (Sharad Joshi), Maharashtra Shri Lalit Baade Patil, Member AIKCC and National Secretary Indian Kisan Union Mann (Haria) Shri Balraj Singh Sandhu, Member AIKCC and President BKU Mann (Haryana) Shri Surjit Singh Mani Gurjar, Member AIKCC and State Vice President BKU Mann (Haryana) Shri Jugnu Rana, Member AIKCC and State General Secretary BKU Mann (Haryana) Shri Manphool Singh, Member AIKCC and President Vymalan Kisan Sangathan (Tamil Nadu) Shri V. Manikkam, Member AIKCC and President Kisan Jagran (Telangana) Shri Sugunakar Rao, Member AIKCC and President BKU Mann (Chandigarh) Shri Balwant Singh Nadiali, Member AIKCC and Spokesperson Shetkari Sangathan (Sharad Joshi), Maharashtra Shri Dinesh Sharma, Member AIKCC and President Malwa BKU Man Shri Balveer Singh and Member AIKCC Shri Shivraj Singh were present.

Focus on Technology-Driven Governance at BRICS Anti-Corruption Meeting

NEW DELHI:

Union Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, Rachna Shah said that proactive vigilance and technology-driven governance are essential for effectively combating corruption. She emphasized that technology is a key solution to addressing evolving corruption risks. She noted that digital identity systems, electronic service delivery, digital payments, and transparent public procure-

ment platforms significantly reduce opportunities for corruption while strengthening public oversight and accountability. Shah cited India's Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes as successful examples of technology-driven governance reforms. She also highlighted that faceless and paperless tax administration, technology-enabled vigilance, data-driven monitoring, and robust grievance redressal mechanisms

are contributing to greater transparency in governance. She stated that the special session on "Ethical Governance through Innovation and Technology-Driven Systems" would provide BRICS member countries with an opportunity to exchange best practices on technological solutions, scalable vigilance mechanisms, and preventive monitoring strategies.

Key Agenda Items of the Two-Day Meeting

Discussion on a BRICS

Informal Cooperation Repository to facilitate the identification and extradition of fugitives involved in corruption cases. Meeting of the BRICS Law Enforcement Authorities Network. Second meeting of the BRICS Experts Network on Asset Recovery. A special session on measures to combat the concealment of illicit wealth and money laundering through the misuse of FinTech and Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs). At the inaugural session, J. Ashok

Kumar welcomed delegates from the BRICS member countries. He stated that this year's discussions are focused on strengthening anti-corruption cooperation among BRICS nations through dialogue and the development of practical mechanisms. He emphasized that the objective is not to duplicate existing international frameworks but to develop more effective approaches that enhance mutual cooperation among member countries.

Congress Pursued Vote-Bank Politics

at the Cost of Youth, Dalits and Backwards Classes- CM
Chief Minister Seeks Answers from Congress and AAP over Recruitment Examinations in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday said the Congress had always pursued vote-bank politics and used the poor, backward classes and Scheduled Castes merely for political gains. Referring to former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, he said a leader who had stood firmly with the Punjab Congress during difficult times was now being sidelined by his own party. In a way, the Congress has insulted Dalits and other deprived sections of society. It is unfortunate, he said.

The Chief Minister was interacting with mediapersons at Haryana Niwas.

Responding to a question on the NEET paper leak case, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Union Government had taken decisive action, while the Congress and the INDIA alliance had consistently sought to mislead the youth on the issue. He said Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi has dedicated his entire life to the welfare of every section of



society and continues to work tirelessly in the service of the nation, with safeguarding the future of the country's youth among his foremost priorities.

He said the Centre had enacted stringent laws to deal with paper leak cases, ensured strict action against those responsible and made the recruitment process fully transparent. Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi treated the issue with utmost seriousness and made it unequivocally clear that anyone attempting to jeopardise the future of the country's youth would not be spared. No one has the right to

play with the aspirations and future of young people, said the Chief Minister

This Generation Has Not Seen the Congress Era

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said today's generation had not witnessed the conditions that prevailed during the Congress regime. Recruitment processes lacked transparency and candidates often had to travel on the roofs of buses merely to appear for examinations, he said. Even when question papers were leaked, there was hardly any accountability, leaving young aspirants

to bear the consequences. He said that the Congress had ignored the future of the youth for years in pursuit of vote-bank politics. The people of the country, he added, now understood the politics of the Congress and the INDIA alliance and would no longer be misled by them, said the Chief Minister.

CM Questions Congress, AAP over Punjab Recruitment Examinations

Replying to a question on the Punjab Assembly's resolution condemning paper leaks, the Chief Minister questioned whether the Punjab Government had adopted a similar resolution over the recent pharmacy examination paper leak in the State. Referring to the recently declared recruitment examination results in Punjab, he said the names of several successful candidates had themselves raised serious questions and reflected the concerns being expressed by the State's youth over the fairness of the recruitment process. The Chief Minister said the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party should answer

the youth on issues relating to recruitment examinations. Recalling an earlier statement by AAP leader Manish Sisodia that the Punjab Education Minister would resign if a paper leak occurred in the State, he said the silence over recent incidents clearly exposed the gap between the party's words and actions. He further said that Rahul Gandhi should first explain what the Congress had done for the country's youth during its years in power.

'Bharti Roko Gang' Won't Be Allowed to Derail Recruitment- CM

Responding to a question on the time taken to complete recruitment processes, the Chief Minister said certain elements in the State were actively working as part of what he described as the "Bharti Roko Gang." He said such vested interests repeatedly attempted to obstruct transparent recruitment by creating unnecessary hurdles. However, he asserted that the government would not allow any conspiracy to derail a fair, transparent and merit-based recruitment process.



Gwalior Telecom Zone
Attracts ₹1,550 Crore
Investment

DR.BHUPNDRA VIKAL

Bhopal, 4 August: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central Government and the State Government have jointly established a Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior. In the last two and a half years, Madhya Pradesh has received unprecedented investment in almost every sector due to the industry friendly policies and rules of the state government. This sequence continues continuously. In the last two and a half years, the state government has implemented many investment friendly and attractive policies to encourage industries. With these policies, Madhya Pradesh has received unprecedented confidence from investors from India and abroad and investment proposals have been received on a large scale. He said that this trust of the industry is the biggest proof of the transparent policies and good governance of the state. Madhya Pradesh is progressing rapidly in all sectors. The trust of investors from across the country and the world is with us. The cheapest electricity in India and the world is available in Madhya Pradesh. Skilled workers are available in Madhya Pradesh for the development of industrial sector. If employment based industries are started then the government also provides support in salary for 5 to 10 years. Chief Minister DrYadav was addressing a round table conference organized to invite industrialists and investors at Telecom Manufacturing Zone, Gwalior in Mumbai on Tuesday. He said that investment proposals worth Rs 3,500 crore were received in the first

round table meeting held in Delhi recently on the belief of 'Make in MP' and 'Faith in MP', as a result of which employment opportunities will be created for 14 thousand people. This was the first Investor Round Table Meeting with the Central and State Government, which was an unprecedented success. Madhya Pradesh government has organized road-shows to attract investment in different cities of the country. Madhya Pradesh is attracting all the industrial houses and investors. Once a person comes here and does business, he remains a resident of Madhya Pradesh after getting influenced by its investment-oriented facilities and administrative facilities. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh is the heart of the country, in any direction East-West-North-South, one definitely passes through Madhya Pradesh. The law and order system of Madhya Pradesh is the best. There is no problem of labor here. After the success of the Global Investors Summit held in Bhopal, GIS-2027 is going to be organized again next year. On the day of the Bhoomi Pujan, plots were allotted in an area of 1000 acres in the Electrical Equipment Park at Babai-Mohasa in Narmadapuram district. PM Mitra Park, being developed in Dhar district, is the country's largest cluster of textile sector. Here too, all the plots were allotted as soon as the Bhoomi Pujan was done. The Telecom Manufacturing Zone, to be developed on plug and play model in an area of about 170 acres, will emerge as the country's first integrated telecom technology ecosystem. This ambitious project is a historic initiative towards developing telecom manufacturing, research, design, test.



NFR Introduces GoLukBuk
Digital Travel Assistance Kiosks
at Guwahati Railway Station

MALIGAON, 04 AUGUST, 2026:

In a significant step towards enhancing passenger convenience through digital innovation, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) inaugurated Digital Travel Assistance Kiosk Network at Guwahati Railway Station. The initiative, branded as GoLukBuk, marks the first-of-its-kind project in NFR and has been introduced under the New Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS). The Digital Travel Assistance Kiosk Network was inaugurated by Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, in the gracious presence of Shri Niraj Sahay, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway and other Senior officials. As part of this initiative, strategically located digital kiosks have been installed at Guwahati Railway Station, with additional kiosks also planned at Kamakhya Railway Station, ensuring easy accessibility for passengers seeking travel assistance and digital booking services. GoLukBuk is an integrated digital platform

that enables passengers to conveniently compare and book a wide range of travel-related services through interactive kiosks. These include hotel accommodation, cab and car rental services, food and beverage delivery, sleeping pod bookings, meeting pod reservations and other travel assistance services from a single digital interface. The platform is designed to offer passengers a seamless, quick and user-friendly booking experience while reducing the need to access multiple applications or service providers. The kiosks also feature high-resolution digital display screens and LED hologram fan technology, creating a modern Digital Out-of-Home (DOOH) advertising platform that offers businesses an opportunity to connect with thousands of railway passengers every day. Additional services, including Quick Commerce, are planned to be integrated in the near future to further expand the range of passenger amenities. The project has been implemented under the NINFRIS scheme with an initial licence period of one year, extendable based on satisfactory performance.

Islamabad subjugating PoJK residents through political manipulation, military oppression

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif equating protesters of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) with India and calling them "enemies" showcases how Islamabad continues its illegal occupation in the territory, considers it as a colony and treats the people of the region as second-class citizens.

"It's about Islamabad subjugating Kashmiris of PoJK through constitutional restrictions, political manipulation as well as military oppression, ironically proclaiming that they are azad (independent/free). Most importantly, it's about the fact that indiscriminate firing on peaceful protesters proves lives of PoJK residents don't matter and the abject apathy of the international community on these killings," a report in Eurasia Review mentioned.

Transporters, lawyers, students and other civic groups in PoJK joined hands in 2023 and established Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action



Committee (JKJAAC) after they faced political indifference and institutional apathy for decades. The coalition gained the support of people in PoJK as it raised demands for basic economic and governance reforms.

The economic issues raised by JAAC included reduced power tariffs for residents in PoJK based on the production cost of electricity generated from the local Mangla Dam, and providing wheat at subsidised prices. The governance demands

raised by JAAC include ending perks and privileges enjoyed by politicians and bureaucrats and the abolition of 12 seats in the PoJK legislative assembly reserved for refugees from Jammu and Kashmir, as these were being exploited by ruling parties to manipulate political decision-making by creating an artificial majority, according to a report in Eurasia Review.

Protests erupted in PoK in 2023 against a hike in the prices of flour and electricity tar-

iffs, and the PoJK government agreed to enforce subsidies on flour and freeze electricity tariff prices. However, lack of official sincerity from PoJK authorities resulted in protests in the occupied territory in 2024, 2025, and the current ongoing unrest showcases that the local and federal governments have not learned any less.

Pakistani authorities have not been able to suppress the protests despite the use of brutal force against peaceful protest-

ers, resulting in several fatalities and serious injuries. The Pakistani authorities proscribed the JAAC under the anti-terrorism laws.

"This crisis is the consequence of his (Asim Munir) own obdurate mindset and so do the people. However, it seems that he appears to be extremely proud of his Field Marshal and Chief of Defence Forces new clothes, and so someone needs to tell him that he's wearing none," the report in Eurasia Review mentioned.

PoJK 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.

Amid the ongoing unrest in PoJK, the JKJAAC has written a letter to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, requesting urgent

humanitarian and medical assistance in Rawalakot and other affected areas of the occupied territory.

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 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.

US Treasury Secretary says deal may be reached by Wednesday to reopen Strait of Hormuz



WASHINGTON

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Tuesday that a deal with Iran could be reached on Tuesday or Wednesday to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. "We are in talks with the Iranians, and I think there is a chance we may have a deal today or tomorrow to open the strait and move towards a more normalised position in this conflict," Bessent said in an interview with CNBC, Xinhua News Agency reported.

When asked whether Iran would be allowed to charge a toll on ships that pass through the Strait of Hormuz, the US Treasury Secretary said, "It would be freedom of movement." He added that prices should fall further when hundreds of ships stuck in the Gulf are able to exit, noting that the

impact extends beyond energy to include fertilisers, refined petroleum products, and industrial gases.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday that while the United States sees the denuclearisation of Iran as its "ultimate deal," reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is the "immediate" one. "So the denuclearisation of Iran is the ultimate deal. I think the immediate deal, the one that you see a lot of focus on, is the Strait," Rubio told reporters. There is no final agreement yet on the Strait of Hormuz, but "we're hoping that will happen very shortly," he added. Iranian officials so far have made no response to the remarks. Qatar confirmed on Tuesday that mediation efforts between the United States and Iran remain underway, with draft language for a possible agreement.

Indian vessel sinks after attack in Red Sea, 13 Indian sailors rescued



ADEN (YEMEN)

An India-flagged cargo vessel sank after being attacked by an explosives-laden boat in the Red Sea off Yemen's western coast. Yemeni forces rescued 14 crew members; 13 of them are Indian sailors, while one is from Yemen, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The government-affiliated National Resistance Forces (NRF) said in a statement that coast guard and naval units carried out a joint operation for the crew of the vessel Faize Noore Oliya after it was attacked about 13 nautical miles south of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeidah.

The statement did not specify when the attack occurred. All 14 people aboard were rescued and taken to safety, the statement said, adding that they received medical assistance and no casualties were reported.

The NRF blamed Yemen's Houthi group for the attack, while the Houthis have yet to comment. Last month, a Saudi company-owned tanker was attacked and caught fire while sailing in the Red Sea, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, cit-

ing an official source at Saudi Arabia's Transport General Authority (TGA).

The source said the attack caused a consequent fire at the ship's bow and all crew members aboard the vessel, Encelia, were safe. Relevant authorities in the Gulf country have taken all necessary measures to secure the vessel and its crew, and protect the marine environment, it said.

According to a United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) advisory, the attack occurred about 70 nautical miles (130 km) southwest of Al Shuqaiq, Saudi Arabia, in the southern Red Sea.

In a statement aired on July 23, Yemen's Houthi group said it had attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, identified as Encelia and Layla, using "ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as drones," claiming that the vessels had violated its recently announced maritime restrictions.

The group had announced a maritime ban on Saudi-linked vessels earlier, citing what it described as Saudi Arabia's long-running blockade on areas under its control.

Ceuta migration crisis resolved; no one crossed border: EU Commissioner

BRUSSELS

European Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, on Tuesday confirmed that the Ceuta migration crisis is now "resolved", local media reported.

"Spain confirmed today, as previously stated, that practically all those who entered Ceuta have now returned. No one has crossed the border from Ceuta to mainland Spain and continental Europe," stated the European Commissioner at a press conference in Brussels at the end of the informal videoconference of the Council of Interior Ministers, Italian News Agency Adnkronos reported.

He also mentioned that there were no "criticisms" regarding the massive regularisations of migrants decided by Spain, also because "we do not currently see a direct link between the regularisations and the events in Ceuta."

"Regularisations are not a good signal for the rest of



Europe, absolutely not. I understand that it is a national competence and that they were done because they mainly concern Latin Americans, who speak the same language and share the same culture, but the message for the rest of Europe is not positive. Absolutely not," said Brunner.

He also said that the integrity of the Schengen area has been preserved and it is the result of close and constant cooperation between Spain, Morocco, and the Commis-

sion in recent days. "I also wish to clearly acknowledge and thank Spain and the administration of Ceuta for restoring order and for the close collaboration with Morocco, to ensure a rapid return to normality."

Brunner states that the creation of hubs for repatriations in safe third countries is "legitimate" for countries wishing to pursue it, but it would also be necessary to focus on the possibility of carrying out asylum procedures outside EU terri-

tory. Repatriation centres, the European Commissioner said, have been mentioned by some Member States, particularly by those who are setting them up or who are preparing negotiations with third countries regarding these centres. "The Italy-Albania project is different. It is an Italian project. But 5 or 6 Member States are collaborating to discuss repatriation centres with third countries," he said.

"I wanted to emphasise that, yes, let's focus on repatriation hubs; it is legitimate, and it is the task of the Member States who wish to do so, but let's also focus on the concept of a safe third country. Which means that the asylum procedure can actually be carried out outside the European Union, where the concept of a safe third country allows it. Both things- repatriation hubs, but also asylum procedures outside the European Union have been mentioned by some Member States," he concluded.

EAM Jaishankar interacts with visiting UN Permanent Representatives from 17 countries

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Tuesday interacted with Permanent Representatives of the United Nations (UN) from 17 countries who are visiting India on a study tour.

"Delighted to interact with Permanent Representatives of the United Nations from 17 countries, visiting India on a study tour. As the global order transforms, re-

formed multilateralism reflecting the aspirations of the Global South is the need of the hour," EAM Jaishankar said on social media platform X. "Our discussions also

touched upon technology, maritime safety, peacekeeping, development partnership and disaster response. Wish them a pleasant stay in India," he added.

On Sunday, Sibi George, MEA Secretary (West), hosted a dinner for a United Nations delegation and shared India's perspectives on multilateralism.

"MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George hosted a welcome dinner for a delegation of Permanent Representatives to the UN who are on a week-long familiarisation visit to India. He shared India's perspectives on multilateralism and the UN and wished the delegation

a fruitful stay in India," the MEA said on X. In July, EAM Jaishankar launched India's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term in New York, outlining New Delhi's vision for a more representative, effective and future-ready global order. Highlighting India's broad-er vision for global governance, the EAM said: "India's focus will be on working for a secure, peaceful and equitable world. A world where the voice of the Global South is heard in equal measure. A world where peacekeeping is ready for contemporary and future challenges."

'Rogue state' Pakistan has no regard for morality, religious sensitivities of people'



QUETTA

Highlighting the complete contradiction between the state's claim and its actions, a leading Baloch student organisation on Tuesday stated that while Pakistan projects itself as an Islamic country through its speeches, diplomatic forums and constitutional provisions, the country's rule has been the "worst for Muslims".

"No one is safe under its rule, from being Muslims to being part of other religions; this state has been a hell for everyone surviving here," the Baloch Students Organisation (BSO)-Azad said. The organisation further said that helicopter shelling by Pakistani forces in the Khadkocha area in Mastung district of Balochistan last month has once again brought these questions to the forefront. It noted that the Pakistani authorities described the operation as one targeting Baloch insurgents but local residents alleged that the shelling struck civilian areas, including a mosque, damaging the building, sur-

rounding infrastructure, and religious books like the Quran kept inside. "The Baloch people resisted these crimes and, in reaction, protested against it; the shutter-down strike was also observed in the area, reflecting not only anger but also a profound sense of resistance," the BSO mentioned.

Emphasising that Pakistan repeatedly presents itself as an Islamic Republic founded on principles derived from Islam, the BSO said, in reality, it has been a "big foe of the religion". The organisation said that the claims have been proved in "past criminal history" across Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces where Pakistani authorities continue to violate and disrespect the religious beliefs of the local population. "Mosques are not ordinary structures; they are among the most sacred places in Islam, symbolising worship, unity, and peace. The Holy Quran and other religious texts are revered by Muslims as deserving the highest respect. But Pakistan's military operations result in damage

to such places or materials; the burden lies squarely on this colonial state to acknowledge the contradiction behind its claim of being an Islamic state," it highlighted.

The BSO claimed that Pakistan is nothing less than a "rogue state" that has no regard for morality, religious sensitivities, or the sentiments of the people. "Pakistan and its army should be held accountable with transparency for damaging religious sites and targeting innocent people through the use of brutal force. But for Baloch, every act of violence is stored in our memories, ultimately strengthening the resistance seeking freedom from the colonial rule of Pakistan," it stressed. Reaffirming its commitment to exposing the true nature of Pakistan, which it claimed has undermined the Baloch cultural values and the religious sentiments, the BSO said, "The Baloch nation must realise the truth that the Pakistani state is not Islamic, but only misusing the name of sacred Islam."

Three Female Kin of Baloch Leader Forcibly Disappeared

QUETTA

Three female family members of the Balochistan National Party (BNP) leader Jumma Khan have been forcibly disappeared, a leading human rights organisation said on Tuesday. Paank, the Baloch National Movement's (BNM) Human Rights Department, revealed that on July 30, personnel of the Pakistani paramilitary forces, Frontier Corps (FC), stationed at the Lakhpas FC Checkpost in Mastung District, intercepted a civilian passenger van travelling from Kalat to Quetta.

According to it, the FC personnel forcibly removed and detained Rafia Bibi, the wife of Jumma Khan; Tania, his daughter; a school teacher in Quetta; and Jaweria, his niece, a seventh-grade student.



Paank noted that they were transferred to an undisclosed location and their whereabouts are unknown.

"The detention of women and family members of political activists raises serious concerns regarding intimidation, collective punishment, and

reprisals against those exercising their fundamental rights," stated the human rights organisation.

It also urged Pakistani authorities to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Rafia Bibi, Tania, and Jaweria, ensure they have immedi-

ate access to their families and legal counsel, and release them without delay.

Paank further called for a prompt, impartial, independent, and transparent investigation into their enforced disappearances and for all those responsible to be held accountable in accordance with Pakistan's obligations under international human rights law.

Paank also expressed grave concern over the reported enforced disappearances of Allah Bakhsh, 28, son of Basham Baloch, and Zubair Ahmed, 23, son of Noor Ahmed, in separate incidents in Balochistan and Karachi.

Allah Bakhsh, a teacher and resident of Tikri Village, Mauripur, Karachi, was abducted from his home at approximately 5:00 am on August 2 during an operation carried out by Rangers.

Since then, his whereabouts remain unknown. In a separate incident, Zubair Ahmed, a chemistry graduate and resident of Charai Baloch Abad, Hub Chowki, was subjected to enforced disappearance at around 2:30 pm on July 30 from Charai Baloch Abad, Hub Chowki. According to his family, personnel from Military Intelligence (MI) were responsible for his enforced disappearance, and no official information has been provided regarding his whereabouts.

"Enforced disappearance is a serious violation of international human rights law. Paank urges the Pakistani authorities to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Allah Bakhsh and Zubair Ahmed, ensure they have access to their families and legal counsel," stated Paank.

Mega transport project back on track in Pune as civic body invites bids for consultants

PUNE: (AUG 4)

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has started the process of reviving the long-pending High Capacity Mass Transit Route (HCMTR) project in the city by inviting bids to appoint consultants for technical work and land acquisition, officials said on Tuesday. The move follows Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' direction to expedite the ambitious transport project, which has remained on the drawing board for more than a decade due to land acquisition hurdles, environmental issues and changes in the city's transport infrastructure. The civic body has floated separate tenders for a principal consultant to undertake pre-tender technical work and another consultant to oversee land acquisition, surveys and statutory procedures.

SIDBI sets up 71 new branches to boost credit flow to MSME sector

NEW DELHI, AUG 4

Some major initiatives have been undertaken by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) during the last five years to improve the flow of credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. These measures include the opening of 71 new SIDBI branches across India from April 1, 2024 to July 29, 2026 to expand its reach to serve major MSME clusters and provide direct credit to them, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. As on March 31, 2026, the SIDBI's direct credit outstanding portfolio stands at Rs 51,687 crore, as against Rs 37,781 crore as on March 31, 2025, registering a year-on-year growth of 36.8 per cent. The bank also provides refinance assistance to augment resources of Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) to increase their flow of credit to MSMEs. As on March 31, 2026, the SIDBI's refinance outstanding portfolio stands at Rs 4,50,571 crore, as against Rs 3,85,327 crore as on 31 March, 2025, registering a Y-o-Y growth of 16.9 per cent. Besides, the SIDBI has launched a product on a co-lending arrangement with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to provide affordable credit to smaller MSMEs, especially



new borrowers, as part of its effort to reach underserved MSMEs. During FY 2025-26, the bank initiated co-lending arrangements with Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to strengthen credit delivery and broaden financial access in underserved and untapped areas. The Prayaas Scheme has been launched by the SIDBI to facilitate access to affordable credit to informal micro-entrepreneurs, especially women and the poor. A GST Sahay app for 'on tap' invoice-based small value credit to micro enterprises using trade data and digital frameworks has also been put in place. Another measure taken by the government to boost credit to the MSME sector is the introduction of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 in May, 2026. Under the scheme, MSMEs are eligible for additional credit up to 20 per cent of the peak fund-based working capital outstanding during the fourth quarter of FY 2025-26. The scheme provides 100 per cent guarantee coverage to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) towards the amount in default for such additional credit facility extended to the eligible MSME.

Luxury Cruise Boosts Statue of Unity Tourism

NARMADA: (AUG 4)

A new 600-passenger luxury cruise vessel was launched on Tuesday on the Narmada river at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat's Narmada district to boost tourism infrastructure near the iconic Statue of Unity, state government officials said. "The Statue of Unity, home to the world's tallest statue, has added another landmark attraction with the successful launch of a 600-passenger capacity cruise on the Narmada river," an official release stated. Commercial operations will commence upon receipt of the required statutory approvals and compliance with prescribed safety requirements, it said.



MONEY MATTERS
Medicover Saves African Baby with Rare Heart Defect

Specialised paediatric cardiac surgery at Medicover Hospitals, Financial District draws international patients to Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 04

An 8-month-old baby girl from Africa is recovering well after undergoing a complex heart surgery at Medicover Hospitals, Financial District—a procedure that has significantly improved her oxygen levels and given her family fresh hope. Baby Maiza was born with multiple heart defects that prevented blood from flowing normally to her lungs. From birth, she had low oxygen levels, struggled to feed, gained very little weight, and frequently experienced breathlessness—warning signs that, if left untreated, could become life-threatening. Following a comprehensive evaluation, the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery team led by Dr. Amol Gupta, Senior Consultant – Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, along with Dr. Priyanka Patil, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, successfully performed a Bidirectional Glenn



procedure on July 14. The surgery rerouted blood flow directly to the lungs, reducing the workload on the heart and significantly improving oxygen supply to the body. One of the major highlights of the procedure was that the baby was able to breathe on her own soon after surgery without requiring prolonged ventilator support. She made a steady recovery under the close super-

vision of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) team and is now being discharged in stable condition. Speaking about the case, Dr. Amol Gupta, Senior Consultant – Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, Medicover Hospitals, Financial District, said, "This baby was born with multiple complex heart defects that made it difficult for her body to receive enough oxygen—the

kind of condition that affects a child's feeding, growth, and breathing from the very first weeks of life. We carefully planned the surgery to improve blood circulation and reduce the strain on her heart. Seeing her breathe comfortably and get ready to go home is deeply rewarding for the entire team. With timely diagnosis and the right treatment, many children born with seri-

ous heart problems can go on to lead much healthier lives."

Dr. Gupta advised parents not to ignore warning signs in infants such as bluish lips or fingertips, fast breathing, poor feeding, repeated chest infections, or failure to gain weight. He emphasized that early diagnosis and treatment by a specialised pediatric cardiac team can make a life-saving difference and significantly improve a child's quality of life. The successful outcome highlights Medicover Hospitals, Financial District's growing expertise in managing complex congenital heart diseases. Equipped with advanced technology and a dedicated multidisciplinary pediatric cardiac team, the hospital continues to attract patients not only from across India but also from several countries, reaffirming Hyderabad's position as a destination for world-class pediatric cardiac care.

LIC OFS explained: How retail investors can bid for the government's stake sale

The government's LIC offer for sale has entered the retail phase on August 5. The stake sale aims to raise public shareholding and gives investors a Rs 15 discount.



Retail investors can bid for the Government's Offer for Sale (OFS) in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Wednesday, August 5, as the Centre looks to dilute its stake in the country's largest insurer to meet Sebi's minimum public shareholding norms. The government is selling up to a 6.5% stake in LIC through the OFS. At the floor price of Rs 382 per share, the sale could fetch around Rs 31,410 crore if the entire offer, including the additional shares under the green-shoe option, is subscribed. The retail bidding comes after strong demand from institutional investors on the first day. According to BSE data, the non-retail portion of the OFS was subscribed 1.66 times, with investors bidding for 47.27 crore shares on August 4 as of 3 PM. Here's everything retail investors need to know before applying. Any investor with a demat and trading account can apply under the retail category.

There is no need to open an account with the brokers managing the OFS. Investors can place their bids through any SEBI-registered broker that offers the OFS facility. The OFS opened for non-retail and institutional investors on August 4. Retail investors and eligible LIC employ-

ees can bid only on Wednesday, August 5, between 9:15 am and 3:30 pm, through the stock exchange mechanism. An individual investor whose total bid value across both stock exchanges does not exceed Rs 2 lakh is treated as a retail investor. If the total application value exceeds Rs 2 lakh, the investor will not be eligible under the retail category.

WHAT IS THE OFFER STRUCTURE? According to the OFS notice, the government is offering a base issue of 12.65 crore equity shares, representing 2% of LIC's paid-up equity capital. It also has an option to sell an additional 28.46 crore shares, or 4.5% of the company's equity, if there is strong demand. This takes the total offer size to 41.11 crore shares, representing 6.5% of LIC's equity capital. The floor price for the OFS has been fixed at Rs 382 per share.

Retail investors can either: Place a bid at Rs 382 or above, or Choose the Cut-Off Price option, under which they agree to buy shares at the final discovered price. The cut-off option is

generally considered the simpler choice for retail investors as it improves the chances of receiving an allotment. Will retail investors get a discount? Yes. Retail investors and eligible LIC employees will receive a Rs 15 per share discount on the final discovered price.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE LIC OFS The application process is straightforward. Log in to your trading account and navigate to the Offer for Sale (OFS) section on your broker's platform. Select LIC from the list of available OFS issues, enter the number of shares you wish to purchase, choose either your bid price or the cut-off price option, and submit the application after making the payment.

DO YOU HAVE TO PAY THE ENTIRE AMOUNT? Yes. Retail investors are required to pay 100% of the bid amount upfront while placing their bids. Retail investors can revise or cancel their bids during market hours until the OFS closes on August 5.

HOW WILL SHARES BE

ALLOTTED? At least 10% of the total offer has been reserved for retail investors. If the retail portion is oversubscribed, allotment will be made in accordance with Sebi's OFS guidelines among eligible bidders. If it remains undersubscribed, the remaining shares may be allocated to other investor categories. The OFS also reserves at least 25% of the offer for mutual funds and insurance companies. The government has reserved 50 lakh equity shares for eligible LIC employees. Employees can apply for shares worth up to Rs 5 lakh and will also receive the Rs 15 per share discount.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT SELLING ITS STAKE? The OFS is aimed at helping LIC meet Sebi's minimum public shareholding (MPS) requirement. As of June 30, 2026, the government held a 96.5% stake in LIC, while more than 20.92 lakh retail shareholders together owned 1.55% of the insurer. If the full 6.5% stake is sold, LIC's public shareholding will increase to 10%, helping the insurer meet the regulatory milestone ahead of the May 2027 deadline. The stake sale is also the government's first divestment in LIC since the insurer's landmark IPO in May 2022. LIC shares came under pressure after the OFS announcement as the floor price was set at Rs 382 per share, around an 11% discount to the previous closing price of Rs 428.50 on the NSE.



Apple crosses \$10 billion in annual India sales for 1st time. Key things to know

Although India still contributes only a small share of Apple's global business, it is emerging as one of the company's most important growth markets outside the US and China.

Apple has crossed a major milestone in India. The iPhone maker recorded more than \$10 billion in annual sales in the country for the first time during the last financial year, highlighting India's growing importance in the company's global business, according to a Bloomberg report. Here's what you need to know about Apple's latest sales milestone in India.

SALES CROSS THE \$10 BILLION MARK Apple's revenue in India grew at a double-digit rate in the 12 months ended March, crossing the \$10 billion mark for the first time. This is up from around \$9 billion in the previous financial year, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The report said iPhones accounted for most of the company's sales, while demand for iPads and MacBooks also increased.

INDIA IS BECOMING A KEY GROWTH MARKET

Although India still contributes only a small share of Apple's global business, it is emerging as one of the

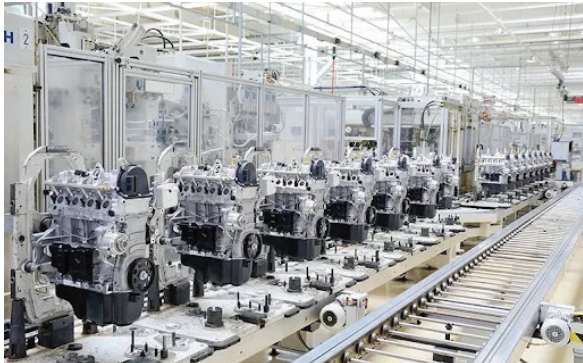
company's most important growth markets outside the US and China. Growing demand for premium smartphones and other Apple products has helped the company strengthen its position in the country.

APPLE IS EXPANDING ITS RETAIL PRESENCE

Apple has been steadily increasing its retail footprint in India. As part of its expansion plans, the company opened a new store in Mumbai in February, taking the total number of its official retail stores in the country to six. Apple products continue to cost more in India because of higher taxes. For instance, the entry-level iPhone 17 is priced at Rs 82,900 in India, compared with \$799 in the US. To attract more buyers, Apple has tied up with banks to offer credit card discounts. It also provides student discounts and exchange offers on older devices.

INDIA IS PLAYING A BIGGER ROLE IN MANUFACTURING

India has also become an important manufacturing base for Apple. The company now has five factories producing iPhones in the country. According to the report, one in every four iPhones is now made in India, with the country serving as a major production hub for devices exported to the US.



Centre has released Rs 16,172 crore for setting up 20 industrial cities across states

NEW DELHI, AUG 4

The Centre has released Rs 16,172.95 crore for the Industrial Corridor Development Scheme under which 20 industrial cities have been approved through the Centre-State partnership model across the country, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The Centre has undertaken development of industrial townships under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) formed jointly with state governments. The project development activities include identification of industrial nodes as per the prioritisation of the state government, followed by preparation and approval of concept master plan and development plan, environmental clearance and detailed design plan by the state government, prior to consideration of the project for approval. The state government's contribution is in the form of land, and the Centre's contribution is in the form of equity and debt, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha. Out of the 20 projects approved under the NICDP, four projects have been completed with world-class infrastructure while work has

been fast-tracked in the 16 other ongoing projects. The total construction timeline for project completion is 36-48 months from the actual date of appointment of the EPC contractor, the minister said.

The internal trunk infrastructure, including roads, water supply, sewerage and power distribution within the industrial city, is executed through EPC contractors engaged by the respective project SPVs. External connectivity infrastructure such as bulk water supply, power, telecom and roads -- have been comprehensively mapped and examined on the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) portal and undertaken by concerned state SPVs in consultation with state departments and Central agencies, Prasada said.

The Centre's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released funds amounting to Rs.16,172.95 crore to the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) for development of Industrial Corridor Projects. The NICDIT has further released funds to the extent of Rs 14,569.97 crore to the project SPVs to carry out project development for various industrial nodes under the NICDP, the minister further stated.

Sensex ends 210 points lower, Nifty below 24,700; HUL down 2%

Benchmark indices ended lower, breaking its 4-day rally on Tuesday as the Nifty extended its decline by reversing part of Monday's sharp closing-auction driven rally, while investors remained cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision.

The BSE Sensex fell 210.08 points, or 0.27%, to close at 78,428.95, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 159.40 points, or 0.64%, to settle at 24,614.90. The broader Nifty underperformed the Sensex as the benchmark continued to adjust to the new Closing Auction Session (CAS) mechanism introduced for stocks in the futures and options



(F&O) segment. The divergence came a day after the Nifty had witnessed an unusual late-session surge under the new auction framework. Tuesday's decline largely reflected a normalisation of those price moves rather than a deterioration in market fundamentals. Sectoral trends remained largely

weak, with Realty emerging as the biggest loser, falling 2.39%. IT stocks also came under pressure, with the Nifty IT index ending 0.82% lower after its recent sharp rally. FMCG, Financial Services, Auto and Consumer Durables also finished in the red. However, there were pockets of strength. Nifty

Media rose 2.03%, Metal gained 0.91% and Financial Services Ex-Bank advanced 0.47%. Among broader markets, the Nifty Smallcap 100 index managed to rise 0.23%, while the Midcap 100 slipped 0.29%. India VIX climbed nearly 2%, indicating a rise in market volatility. Among Sensex constituents, Asian Paints climbed 1.31%, Tata Steel gained 1.22%, Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 1.08%, Trent added 0.97% and Bajaj Finance advanced 0.94%. On the losing side, Hindustan Unilever fell 0.71%, Infosys declined 0.44%, Titan slipped 0.31%, Maruti lost 0.19% and TCS edged 0.08% lower. Crude oil prices moved higher during the session, with Brent crude rising 2.46% to \$85.83 a barrel, while

WTI crude gained 1.83% to \$81.81 per barrel, keeping concerns over global energy prices alive. Meanwhile, the rupee remained largely stable. The domestic currency ended nearly unchanged at 95.3775 against the US dollar as portfolio inflows, importer dollar demand and caution ahead of the RBI's policy decision balanced each other out. Investors are now awaiting the outcome of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting later this week, with the central bank widely expected to keep interest rates unchanged. Market participants will closely monitor the RBI's commentary on inflation, liquidity and the growth outlook for cues on the policy trajectory in the months ahead.





El Niño and Agriculture

How a Climate Phenomenon Influences Farming, Food Security and Rural Livelihoods

Agriculture is one of the sectors most vulnerable to climate variability, and among the natural climate phenomena that significantly influence farming worldwide, El Niño stands out as one of the most important. Although it originates in the tropical Pacific Ocean, thousands of kilometres away from many agricultural regions, El Niño alters global weather patterns,

affecting rainfall, temperature, soil moisture and water availability. These changes have profound consequences for crop production, livestock, fisheries and the livelihoods of millions of farmers. In countries like India, where agriculture depends heavily on seasonal rainfall, particularly the southwest monsoon, the arrival of an El Niño year often raises concerns

about drought, declining crop yields and rising food prices. However, El Niño's effects are not uniform across the world. While some regions experience severe droughts, others may receive excessive rainfall and flooding. Understanding how El Niño affects agriculture is therefore essential for farmers, policymakers, scientists and consumers alike.

Effects on Livestock

El Niño also affects livestock farming. Reduced rainfall decreases the availability of fodder and pasture, making it difficult to feed cattle, sheep and goats. High temperatures place animals under heat stress, reducing feed intake and lowering milk production. Dairy animals may produce less milk, while poultry farms often report reduced egg production during extremely hot weather. Water shortages further complicate livestock management, increasing the cost of maintaining animals. Disease outbreaks may also become more common as weakened animals become more susceptible to infections.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The warming of ocean waters during El Niño affects marine ecosystems. Along the western coast of South America, reduced upwelling decreases nutrient availability, causing fish populations to decline. In inland fisheries and aquaculture, lower water levels in ponds and reservoirs reduce fish production. Higher water temperatures may lower dissolved oxygen levels, increasing fish mortality and reducing overall productivity. Communities that depend on fishing for income and food security may therefore experience significant economic hardship.

Soil Health and Land Degradation

Dry conditions associated with El Niño contribute to soil degradation. Reduced vegetation cover leaves soil exposed to wind erosion and water erosion when rainfall eventually occurs. Lower soil moisture reduces microbial activity, slowing nutrient cycling and decreasing soil fertility. Repeated droughts can lead to declining organic matter, making soils less productive over time. In some regions, excessive groundwater irrigation during drought years may increase soil salinity, further reducing agricultural productivity.

Increased Pest and Disease Problems

Changing weather conditions during El Niño can alter pest and disease patterns. Some insect pests multiply rapidly under warmer temperatures, while drought-stressed crops become more vulnerable to infestations. Certain fungal and bacterial diseases may decline under dry conditions, but others become more severe if rainfall becomes erratic. Farmers often need to spend more on pesticides and crop protection, increasing production costs. Unpredictable weather also complicates pest management because traditional seasonal patterns become less reliable.

Economic Consequences for Farmers

Agricultural losses caused by El Niño have serious economic implications. Lower yields reduce farm income while production costs often increase because of greater irrigation, fertilizer and pest control expenses. Farmers may struggle to repay loans or invest in the following season's crops. Rural employment opportunities decline when agricultural activity slows, affecting agricultural labourers and related industries. Lower agricultural production also affects food processing

industries, transport services and agricultural input suppliers, creating ripple effects throughout the rural economy.

Food Security and Rising Prices

Reduced agricultural production during El Niño years often leads to higher food prices. Staple cereals, vegetables, fruits and pulses may become more expensive because supplies decline while demand remains constant. Food inflation particularly affects low-income households, which spend a larger share of their income on food. Governments may need to release food stocks, increase imports or provide subsidies to stabilize markets and protect vulnerable populations. At the national level, reduced food production can increase dependence on imports, affecting trade balances and economic stability.

Regional Differences in Agricultural Impact

Although El Niño often causes drought in many countries, its effects vary across regions. Some parts of South America may receive excessive rainfall that benefits agriculture in certain areas but causes flooding and crop damage in others. Similarly, some regions may experience only mild impacts because local weather systems offset El Niño's influence. Therefore, agricultural planning requires region-specific climate forecasts rather than general assumptions.

Adaptation Strategies

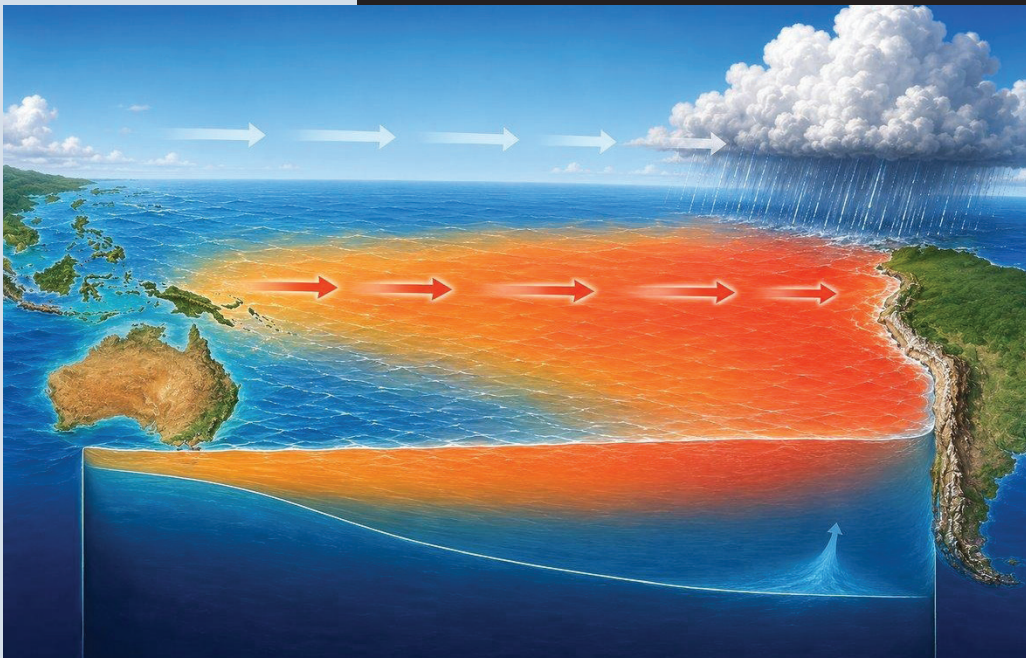
Farmers and governments increasingly adopt measures to reduce El Niño's agricultural impacts. Improved weather forecasting enables farmers to make informed decisions about planting dates and crop selection. Drought-resistant crop varieties, efficient irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler irrigation, rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge projects help improve resilience. Crop diversification reduces dependence on a single crop, while conservation agriculture practices improve soil moisture retention. Governments often support farmers through crop insurance, drought relief programmes, subsidized seeds and agricultural advisories. Modern technologies, including satellite monitoring, mobile weather alerts and precision agriculture, further strengthen farmers' ability to respond to changing climate conditions.

Building Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Climate scientists expect weather variability to increase as global temperatures continue to rise. Although El Niño is a natural phenomenon, climate change may intensify its impacts by increasing heatwaves and water stress. Building climate-resilient agriculture has therefore become a priority. Investments in irrigation infrastructure, improved seed technology, sustainable soil management, watershed development and climate-smart farming practices can help farmers adapt to future challenges. Research institutions are also developing crop varieties that tolerate drought, heat and changing rainfall patterns, providing long-term solutions for food security.

Conclusion

El Niño is one of the most influential climate phenomena affecting global agriculture. By altering rainfall patterns, increasing temperatures and reducing water availability, it creates significant challenges for crop cultivation, livestock production and fisheries. Farmers often face lower yields, higher production costs and uncertain incomes, while consumers experience rising food prices and concerns about food security. Despite these challenges, advances in climate forecasting, scientific research and sustainable farming practices have improved agriculture's ability to cope with El Niño. Continued investment in climate-smart agriculture, efficient water management and resilient crop systems will be essential to safeguard food production and rural livelihoods. Understanding El Niño is therefore critical not only for farmers but also for governments, researchers and society as a whole, as agriculture remains the foundation of food security and economic stability.



Understanding El Niño

El Niño is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon marked by the abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Normally, strong trade winds push warm surface waters westward toward Indonesia and Australia, allowing cold, nutrient-rich waters to rise along the western coast of South America. During an El Niño event, these trade winds weaken or reverse, allowing warm water to spread eastward. This shift changes atmospheric circulation and alters rainfall and temperature patterns across many parts of the world. These changes directly affect agricultural conditions by influencing rainfall distribution, soil moisture and the length of growing seasons. El Niño generally occurs every two to seven years and can last from nine months to more than a year. The intensity of its impacts depends on the strength of the event and local climatic conditions.

Reduced Rainfall and Drought

One of the most significant impacts of El Niño on agriculture is reduced rainfall. In many countries, including India, Australia, Indonesia and parts of southern Africa, El Niño weakens seasonal rains, resulting in drought conditions. Insufficient rainfall reduces soil moisture, making it difficult for crops to germinate and grow properly. Farmers often delay sowing because fields do not receive adequate moisture at the beginning of the planting season. Crops that have already been planted may experience moisture stress, leading to poor growth and lower productivity. Prolonged drought also affects groundwater recharge and reduces the availability of water for

irrigation. In rain-fed farming areas, where irrigation facilities are limited, crop losses can be particularly severe.

Higher Temperatures and Heat Stress

El Niño often brings above-normal temperatures in many agricultural regions. High temperatures increase the rate of evaporation from soil and water bodies, reducing the moisture available to crops. Heat stress affects plant growth in several ways. Photosynthesis becomes less efficient, flowering periods may shorten and grain filling may be incomplete. Crops exposed to prolonged high temperatures often produce fewer grains, smaller fruits and lower overall yields. Fruit trees may experience premature fruit drop, while vegetable crops can suffer from reduced quality and shorter shelf life. Heat also accelerates crop maturity, giving plants less time to develop fully.

Water Scarcity for Irrigation

Agriculture depends heavily on reliable water supplies. During El Niño years, reservoirs, rivers, ponds and groundwater sources often receive less recharge because of reduced rainfall. Farmers relying on canal irrigation may receive less water, forcing them to reduce cultivated area or switch to less water-intensive crops. Groundwater extraction increases as farmers attempt to compensate for reduced rainfall, but excessive pumping can lower water tables and increase irrigation costs. Small and marginal farmers, who often lack access to reliable irrigation infrastructure, are usually the most affected.

Decline in Crop Production

The combined effects of drought,

heat and water scarcity often lead to lower agricultural production. Rice, one of the world's most important food crops, is highly sensitive to water shortages. Delayed transplantation, poor tillering and reduced grain filling can significantly reduce yields. Wheat production may decline if high temperatures occur during the grain-filling stage. Maize experiences reduced pollination under heat stress, while pulses and oilseeds produce fewer pods and seeds. Cotton plants may develop fewer bolls, and sugarcane growth slows under moisture-deficient conditions. In horticulture, vegetables and fruit crops may suffer from poor flowering, reduced fruit size and lower market quality. These production losses directly affect farmers' incomes and national food supplies.





Andreescu, Zheng, Kenin, Liutova headline US Open qualifying entries

FOOTBALL

'Withdrawing the project was absolutely necessary,' says Wenger

NEW DELHI: FIFA's chief of global football development Arsene Wenger has backed the decision to withdraw the controversial FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal, saying abandoning the project was 'absolutely necessary and beyond question' and reaffirming his belief in an independent and transparent world governing body. In a statement, Wenger clarified that he had no involvement in the strategic proposal, which sought to create a commercial subsidiary to manage FIFA's major competition rights.

FOOTBALL

Coventry City sign goalkeeper Carl Rushworth on a deal from Brighton

COVENTRY: Carl Rushworth has completed a permanent return to Coventry City from Brighton & Hove Albion, signing a long-term contract with the newly promoted Premier League club for an undisclosed fee. The 25-year-old goalkeeper returns to the Coventry Building Society Arena after playing a pivotal role in the club's successful promotion campaign last season during a loan spell from Brighton. Rushworth enjoyed an outstanding campaign as Coventry secured the Championship title and a return to the Premier League after a 25-year absence. The England Under-21 international featured in all 46 league matches, keeping 17 clean sheets to claim the Championship Golden Glove Award. His consistent performances established him as one of the division's standout goalkeepers.

Golf: Diksha remains India's highest-ranked LET Player despite missing Women's Open cut

LONDON

Diksha Dagar has retained her position among the leading players on the Ladies European Tour (LET) despite missing the cut at the AIG Women's Open, continuing to lead the Indian challenge in the 2026 Race to Costa del Sol standings.

The two-time LET winner slipped from sixth to eighth in the season-long Order of Merit following the year's final major, but remains comfortably the highest-ranked Indian on the circuit. Her position reflects a season built on consistency, highlighted by multiple top-10 finishes and a string of solid performances that have kept her firmly in contention among the Tour's elite. Diksha will now turn her attention to the London Championship at Centurion Club, where she will once again lead a five-player Indian contingent. With valuable Race to Costa del Sol points on offer, the tournament provides another opportunity for the left-hander to strengthen her position inside the top 10 and continue her push towards one of the best season-ending finishes of her career.

Although the missed cut at Royal Lytham & St Annes brought an end to her campaign in the season's final major, it has done little to overshadow what has been an impressive year. Diksha has been one of the most consistent performers



on the LET, regularly featuring on leaderboards and reinforcing her reputation as India's leading player on the European circuit.

She will be joined in London by four fellow Indians, all at different stages of their LET careers. Rookie Avani Prashanth has enjoyed an encouraging first full season and is currently 45th in the Race to Costa del Sol standings. The young Bengaluru golfer has shown glimpses of her immense potential with several steady performances and will be looking to continue building momentum during the second half of the season.

Close behind is Pranavi Urs, another Hero-backed player, who occupies 48th position on the Order of Merit. Pranavi has produced several competitive displays this season and will be aiming to climb further up the

standings with a strong week at Centurion Club.

Five-time LET winner Aditi Ashok, India's most successful golfer on the European Tour, is placed 58th after a mixed campaign. While she has shown flashes of her trademark brilliance, consistency has proved elusive this season. A strong performance in London could provide the spark she needs as she looks to move back towards the upper half of the rankings.

Completing the Indian line-up is Hitaashee Bakshi, who is continuing to gain valuable experience in her maiden full season on the Ladies European Tour. Ranked 127th, Hitaashee will be hoping to make further progress as she adapts to the demands of competing regularly against Europe's best players.

The Race to Costa del Sol re-



1-1. The tie was eventually decided in the doubles, where Srishti and Padmapriya battled gamely before losing 3-6, 4-6 to the Italian pairing of Giulia Luchetti and Olivia Serena Conticello.

Earlier, India had gone down by an identical 1-2 margin against

ster scripted a remarkable comeback to take the set 7-5 before wrapping up the second set 6-3 to level the tie. However, Japan sealed the contest by winning the deciding doubles, with Ayaka Iwasa and Shina Okuyama defeating the Indian pair 6-3, 6-1.

The Indian team, captained by Asha Sharma, qualified for the World Finals after securing a fourth-place finish at the Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying event held in Kuching, Malaysia, in April 2026. They play their last round-robin tie against Morocco on Wednesday. Earlier, Srishti Kiran was among three players from Karnataka who were selected to represent India in the ITF Asia 14 & Under Development Championship 2026 Finals held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from March 29 to April 10, 2026.

BWF World Championships 2026: Sindhu seeded ninth, Satwik-Chirag are fifth

NEW DELHI

Japan Open champion PV Sindhu will be seeded ninth, and the 2022 Asian Games gold medalist duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy has been handed the fifth seeding for the upcoming BWF World Championships 2026 to be played at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi from August 17 to 23. India has two entries in each of the five categories of the championships, with at least one seeded entry in four of them.

Apart from Sindhu and Satwik-Chirag, former World Championships bronze medalist Lakshya Sen, seeded 14th in men's singles, and the mixed doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto are seeded 15th. Sindhu is one of the few players in the Badminton World Championship to win a complete set of medals between 2013 and 2019, winning the gold medal in the 2019 edition at Basel, Switzerland.

While the players qualified for the prestigious championships based on their world rankings of April 28, 2026, the seedings were decided on the basis of world rankings on July 28, 2026. Men's singles World Champion Shi Yuqi of China and South Korea's women's singles star An Se Young are the top seeds in their respective categories.

Women's singles World Champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan is seeded second while the third and fourth spots have gone to Wang Zhi Yi and Chen Yufei of China. The draw for the championships will take place here on Wednesday, and the final seedings could change if any seeded players withdraw before then. South Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae are expected to be at the top of the men's doubles seeding chart, with China's Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning getting the top billing in women's doubles.



135th Durand Cup: Manvir hat-trick headlines Mohun Bagan's eight-goal rout of South United FC

KOLKATA

Manvir Singh starred with a clinical hat-trick as Mohun Bagan Super Giant secured their second straight win after a ruthless show of attacking power to rout South United Football Club 8-0 in their Group A fixture of the 135th Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Manvir struck in the 4th, 22nd and 60th minutes, while Suhail Ahmad Bhat (90', 90+1') got a brace and Alberto Rodriguez and Rahul Bheke also got on the scoresheet, with an own goal from South United captain Noel S. Mohun Bagan Super Giant remained on top of the group with six points from two matches while South United are in third place with three points from the same number of matches.

With both teams entering the contest on the back of opening victories, Mohun Bagan head coach Panagiotis

Dilimperis retained his preferred 4-4-2 formation, handing starts to new signings Dejan Dražić and Rahul Bheke. South United FC head coach Kaja Mohideen Bhadussa lined his side up in a 3-4-3 system with Makakmayum Daniyal leading the attack.

The Mariners wasted little time in stamping their authority on the contest. Liston Colaco threatened early with a powerful effort from the left before Anirudh Thapa tested goalkeeper Sunil Singh as Mohun Bagan mounted wave after wave of attack.

The breakthrough came in just the fourth minute through a moment of brilliance from Sahal Abdul Samad. Receiving possession on the edge of the penalty area, the midfielder produced an exquisite no-look reverse pass that split the South United defence. Manvir Singh controlled with his left foot before calmly finishing with his right to hand the Mariners an early lead.

Stokes says not ready to return as player but open to coaching role with England

LONDON

Ben Stokes has insisted that his England career as a player has ended but said he is open to returning to the dressing room in a coaching capacity in the future, the former all-format captain of England said in a podcast. Stokes ended his international career in controversial circumstances after a 2-1 Test series defeat to New Zealand in June. After being dropped due to disciplinary reasons following their win in the Lord's Test, Stokes admitted that four years as captain had exhausted him and that he did not have "any more fight left in me."

England Director of Men's cricket Rob Key stated last week he "wouldn't be surprised" if Stokes were to return. Stokes, who had earlier reversed his ODI retirement to play in the 2023 World Cup, told the For the Love of Cricket podcast by former team-mate Jos Buttler that he has definitely retired. The 35-year-old Stokes added: "I'm doing my level three coaching now while I'm still playing, because when the day comes that I'm not playing anymore, I'd love to be able to have all that stuff signed off and done."

"I know what I want to do in terms of staying within the game, which is to be a coach. "And would I love to be coach of England one day? Absolutely. I just really like the idea of being in some



form of leadership away from playing," Stokes said. Joe Root, who led the Test team after the Lord's match against New Zealand, has since been reappointed as Test captain.

Root won a record 27 Tests during his first stint as captain between 2017 and 2022, but his reign ended on a low note with one win in 17 matches while navigating Covid restrictions.

Root, England's record run-scorer, admitted when he stood down he had a "very unhealthy relationship" with the job, although he declared over the weekend he is relishing working under new head coach Stephen Fleming. Stokes added: "I wish him nothing but success. I hope he goes on and achieves amazing things in his role as captain and I think he's going to really enjoy it with Flem. He's a great man."

Four Indian-origin stars set for historic PGA Tour playoffs

DETROIT

The 2026 PGA Tour FedExCup Playoffs will mark a historic milestone for Indian-origin golfers, with four players - Akshay Bhatia, Aaron Rai, Sahithi Theegala and rookie Sudarshan Yellamaraju - set to feature in the season-ending competition. Although Akshay Bhatia missed the cut at the Rocket Classic, all four players remain comfortably inside the top 70 of the FedExCup standings, ensuring their places in the opening playoff event, the FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis. Bhatia leads the Indian-origin contingent in 14th place with 1,723 FedExCup points. Aaron Rai is 35th with 1,114 points, Sahithi Theegala occupies 43rd with 883 points, and rookie Sudarshan Yellamaraju is 54th on 737 points.

With the Wyndham Championship this week serving as the final event of the regular season, all four have already mathematically secured their playoff berths, removing any pressure to qualify. Rai and Theegala are among those teeing up at Sedgefield Country Club for one final opportunity to improve their playoff positions before the postseason begins. The quartet's qualification underlines the growing



SAMYUKTHA'S Stunning Silk Look

Kerala beauty Samyuktha Menon, who impressed audiences this year with Nari Nari Naduma Murari, is now gearing up for another exciting project, Slumdog: 33 Temple Road, directed by Puri Jagannadh. This pan-India action drama also stars Vijay Sethupathi and Tabu, and has already generated buzz for its gritty, hard-hitting theme. Meanwhile, Samyuktha continues to turn heads with her stunning fashion choices. In her latest look, she stunned in a traditional red and gold silk saree paired with a cream embroidered blouse, layered emerald-studded necklaces, and statement jhumkas, a timeless, festive avatar that perfectly balanced elegance with glamour. Between the applause for her acting and the constant buzz around her style, Samyuktha Menon is having quite the moment. And with this challenging new role lined up alongside such a strong cast, there's clearly a lot more in store for her, both on screen and off.

Another Star Actress Falls Victim to Deepfake Videos

With advancements in technology and the widespread use of Artificial Intelligence, there is greater good happening. However, on the other side, there are also shortcomings attached to this. Many people are misusing AI by creating deepfake videos and resorting to morphing. The police acted strictly in the past when Rashmika was a victim of this. Now, it is Mrunal who openly shared her story. Mrunal Thakur took to X, sharing that several people are misusing her identity by creating fake videos. "Creating or sharing deepfake content using my likeness is illegal and unacceptable. Consider this your formal notice to stop immediately. Any further misuse of my identity will result in legal action," she wrote. A lot of videos showing Mrunal Thakur have surfaced online in the recent past, and most of them are not real. Several actors continue to become victims of some online abusers who are misusing technology and unnecessarily creating content that is diverting the attention of netizens. Many people urge that police should take strict and strong actions this time so that this won't repeat in the future for others. However, some argue that strict cyber policies must be enforced so that the culprits will be punished strictly.

Denim Diva Neha Shetty

Neha Shetty may not have had a breakout moment with her recent song in the pan-India actioner They Call Him OG, but that hasn't stopped her from keeping fans hooked with her effortless style game. In her latest shoot, Neha kept it casual yet chic, pairing a denim bralette with high-waisted ripped denim shorts for an easy off-duty look. She layered it up with a cozy oversized orange knit cardigan draped over her shoulders, adding warmth and contrast to the outfit. Delicate layered gold necklaces and stacked rings rounded off the look, while her soft wavy hair and warm-toned makeup gave the frame a relaxed, golden-hour feel.

Ram's Pondicherry Buzz

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni is pushing ahead with his ambitious venture, #RAPO23, as the shoot is progressing at brisk pace in the picturesque locales of Pondicherry. Ram is actively involved in every creative aspect of the film, balancing the dual responsibilities of actor and director as he makes his directorial debut. The current schedule spans 15 days and covers some of the film's most important sequences. Along with an energetic song composed for the narrative and choreographed by celebrated dance master Brinda, the team is also filming intense action portions under the supervision of action choreographer



Vikram Mor. The stunt director Vikram Mor is known for his work in blockbuster films such as KGF: Chapter 1, Kantara, and Karuppu. Inspired by an original concept from Ram Pothineni, #RAPO23 is being made as a psychological action thriller. Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the Rapo Cinematics banner, the prestigious project is mounted on a lavish budget, with Thirru crafting the visuals.

Lokesh Can't Ignore Telugu

Director Lokesh Kanagaraj is debuting as an actor with the upcoming Tamil film DC. When everyone learned about Lokesh's debut, they thought it would be a normal film, but Lokesh stunned everyone by choosing a romantic action thriller. Directed by Arun Matheswaran and produced by Sun Pictures, the film is creating a special interest among film lovers. However, what is disappointing the audiences in Telugu is the lack of promotions. With the film gearing up for a grand release on the 7th, the team is not promoting the film in Telugu. The film has music featuring Anirudh Ravichander, and Lokesh is not a small name in the Telugu market. The lead actor Wamiqa Gabbi also did Telugu films earlier and is currently doing the Goodachari sequel. Despite all this, the importance given to the promotions in Telugu is concerning. The Telugu market can do wonders if the film is promoted well. A proper release for DC with solid promotions could bring profits to the film. Now, DC is also an intense action drama, and it could fetch a notable viewership in Telugu states. Better late than never, the team must consider pushing one event further, and especially when Lokesh will next be directing Allu Arjun, it will only hype the film more. Usually, any director in that scenario would love to take help of Allu Arjun's craze and fandom and Lokesh must not ignore the Telugu land for his memorable debut.

Can Paradise Crack North America?

After the Sankranti festival in Jan 2026, the North America box office has been a weak spot for Telugu cinema. Except for one or two films like Maa Inti Bangaram, many Telugu movies that emerged as commercial hits in domestic markets failed to perform well in the US. This has become a worrying trend for producers and overseas distributors. Considering that the North America is one of the most important overseas markets for Telugu films, and strong US collections play a key role in boosting a film's overall worldwide box office numbers. However, in recent months, several Telugu releases have struggled to attract audiences despite enjoying success in the domestic market. With this backdrop, all eyes are now on next big release i.e Nani's The Paradise. The Paradise is sched-



uled for a grand theatrical release on September 24, while special premiere shows will be held on September 23 across North America. As of now, there are no other major films arriving on this date, hence Paradise has solo release advantage as well. Trade circles believe if the film receives positive word of mouth from US premieres, it could enjoy a strong opening weekend and sustain its theatrical run for several weeks. The overseas trade is eagerly waiting to see whether The Paradise can finally reverse the recent trend and bring back the massive North America box office numbers that Telugu cinema has been missing over the past few months.

Satya Becomes One Of The Selling Point For Kanakaraju!

Korean Kanakaraju has garnered decent buzz initially. But it's the trailer that raised the curiosity bar on the film. It is a litmus test for both Varun Tej and director Merlapaka Gandhi. As the film is all set to hit screens this August 7, all eyes are on . Ever since the film's teaser and trailer has come out, Satya's role got noticed well. It looked quite promising and interesting. The makers also revealed that Satya's fun timing would engage the audiences in theatres. Interestingly, lead actor Varun Tej has also admitted during the film's promotional interviews that Satya's role would be crucial in the film and entertaining. As Satya is also part of Korean Kanakaraju's unique promotions, the buzz on the film and focus on Satya's role in the movie has caught the eye-balls. If the film gets positive talk and if Satya's role is thoroughly entertaining from the start to the end, the film will get a big boost in theatres. Given that comedy is the happening theme to pull crowds to cinemas and Satya's role is now the key USP of Korean Kanakaraju. The onus also lies on the lead cast and the film's director on how the overall film has shaped up. Let's see what is in store for Korean Kanakaraju.

