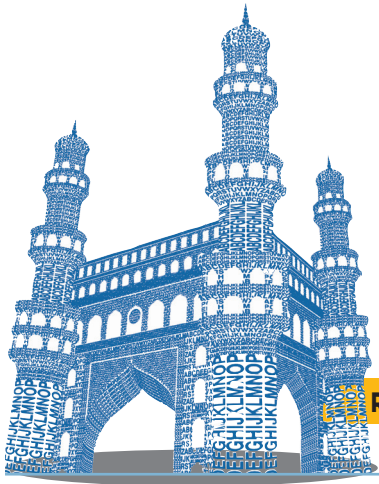




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Is the Voter's Mood Changing?

OPINION 06

KOKA Brings Out Varun's Best Comic Avatar

BOX OFFICE 12



Make Extensive Preparations for the "Telangana Rising-2026" GLOBAL SUMMIT

All departments should prepare coordinated action plans. The Global Summit should serve as a platform to attract major investments.

- Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju

Hyderabad, Aug. 5: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Wednesday directed all government departments to work in close coordination to ensure the successful conduct of the "Telangana Rising-2026" Global Summit, scheduled for December. Chairing a review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat under the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Jaju said the summit would be a key platform to attract large-scale investments and advance the state's Telangana Rising-2047 vision. He stressed that support from national and international organisations would be crucial in positioning Telangana as a preferred investment destination and boosting Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth. Jaju proposed the Young India Skill University campus in Future City as the venue and directed officials to complete essential infrastructure, including roads, power and drinking water facilities, well before the event. Officials also reviewed strategies to attract investments, promote industrial growth, strengthen skill development, generate employment and improve digital public service delivery. Senior officials from the Industries, IT and Invest Telangana departments attended the meeting.



CM Intensifies Push for Tummidihetti Barrage

CM requests Jal Shakti minister CR Patil to arrange a meeting between Telangana and Maharashtra

CM and Union Minister discusses on PMO's response to the letter written to PM on Tummidihetti

CR Patil assures to initiate a dialogue between the two states

New Delhi: Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy urged Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil to arrange a meeting between the Telangana and Maharashtra governments on the long-pending issue of raising the height of the Tummidihetti barrage on the Pranahita river. Accompanied by Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Chief Minister met with CR Patil at his office in Delhi on Wednesday. During the meeting, the CM briefed the Union Minister on the importance of increasing the barrage's height without significant submergence issues in Maharashtra. CM Revanth brought to the attention of CR Patil about the necessity of the construction of Tummidihetti barrage and also the letter he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking approvals, as well as the subsequent communication from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) forwarding the matter to the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CJP Will Continue as PRESSURE GROUP, NOT POLITICAL PARTY

New Delhi, August 5: Amid speculation that the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) could enter electoral politics, founder Abhijeet Dipke has clarified that the organisation has no plans to become a political party at this stage. Addressing supporters in Maharashtra, Dipke said CJP would continue to function as a citizen-led pressure group focused on holding governments accountable and advocating institutional reforms rather than contesting elections. The movement, which gained prominence through social media, attracted nationwide attention during the protests over the NEET-UG



question paper leak, drawing widespread support from students and youth. Dipke said CJP would back initiatives that strengthen democracy irrespective of political ideologies and would focus on mobilising public opinion instead of seeking political power. He also revealed that the organisation is preparing its next nationwide campaign, with details to be announced soon. His remarks come amid growing speculation that the rapidly expanding movement could formally enter politics, but he reiterated that CJP intends to remain a civil society platform influencing public policy rather than an electoral outfit.

7 YEARS AFTER ARTICLE 370: J&K'S NEW CHAPTER

New Delhi, August 5: Seven years after the abrogation of Article 370, the Centre on Tuesday asserted that the constitutional changes made in 2019 have strengthened governance and improved the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status on August 5, 2019, and bifurcated it into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Following the move, the region came under the same legal framework as the rest of the country, replacing the Ranbir Penal Code with central laws, while law and order was brought under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Officials said the change enabled central agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), to intensify investigations into terror financing and alleged separatist funding networks. According to officials, these probes helped uncover financial channels linked to separatist groups and disrupted support systems for militancy.

Security officials also said coordination between central agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir Police has improved significantly, leading to better intelligence-sharing and more effective operations against terror modules and overground worker (OWG) networks. According to officials, separatist or-



ganisations have steadily lost influence in the Valley since 2019, while terror-related incidents have declined, though sporadic attacks continue. They noted that the Pahalgam terror attack remains the deadliest incident in the region since the abrogation of Article 370.

The Centre has maintained that the decision has strengthened national integration, improved governance and enhanced the overall security environment in Jammu and Kashmir, while opposition parties continue to differ on the political implications of the move.

Harish accuses govt of failing to protect Godavari water rights



HYDERABAD, AUG. 5

Former minister and BRS deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao alleged that the Telangana government has failed to protect the state's water interests ahead of the Godavari River Management Board meeting scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on August 18. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, he claimed that while both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states had prepared separate agendas for the meeting, the Telangana government's continued silence raised serious concerns about its commitment to safeguarding the state's interests.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

JURY COMMITTEE SEEKS OFFICIAL GO TO SCRAP PHARMA CITY PROJECT

Hyderabad, Aug. 5: A jury committee that conducted a public opinion survey on the proposed Pharma City / Future City projects has urged the Telangana government to issue an official Government Order (GO) cancelling the Pharma City project, saying it should honour the Congress party's election manifesto promise. The demand was made at a press conference held at the Press Club here on Wednesday, where senior journalist Vemana Vasanthalakshmi, Human Rights Forum President N. Jeevan Kumar, retired Tahsildar V. Balaji and University of Hyderabad representative Dr. G. Vijay released the committee's report. The committee said its survey, conducted with the support of the Telangana Joint Action Committee and the Pharma City Opposition Committee, covered several villages and tribal hamlets in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

No Injustice in 22-A Cases



Hyderabad, Aug. 5: Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has assured that no eligible landowner or poor person will suffer injustice in matters relating to Section 22-A prohibited lands, reiterating that the government's twin objectives are to protect public rights and safeguard government lands. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat here on Wednesday, the Minister said the government had not intentionally included even a single cent of land in the prohibited list since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

From Childhood Friends to Political Rivals: Vijay & Udhay's Power Battle

CHENNAI, AUGUST 5:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin may be political rivals today, but their relationship dates back to childhood. The two reportedly studied together at Don Bosco School in Chennai and later remained connected through the Tamil film industry. Before entering politics, Vijay was one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars, while Udhayanidhi Stalin es-



tablished himself as a film producer and distributor through Red Giant Movies, handling the distribution of several Vijay films.

Their long-standing friendship, however, has taken a dramatic turn following Vijay's

entry into politics and his rise to the Chief Minister's post. Since then, both leaders have engaged in sharp political exchanges inside and outside the Assembly. The political confrontation intensified after recent remarks made by Udhayanidhi Stalin about actress Trisha, a long-time co-star and friend of Vijay. The controversy led to legal action, with the Vijay-led government ordering his arrest, triggering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

THE WOMAN WHO WANTS TO SILENCE THE NOISE INSIDE THE HUMAN MIND

FROM MELBOURNE TO THE WORLD, DR SAROJA GULLAPALLI IS BUILDING A QUIET GLOBAL MOVEMENT THAT DEFIES THE AGE OF DISTRACTION

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The loudest revolutions are not always political. Some begin in silence. In an age dominated by anxiety, digital addiction, emotional fatigue, and relentless mental chatter, an Australian-based Indian spiritual mentor is quietly building an international movement centred on awareness rather than ide-

ology. Brahmavidwanmani Dr Saroja Gullapalli's 2026 North American tour, followed by an expanding global online mission, reflects a growing demand for practical spirituality that transcends borders, cultures, and generations.

The twenty-first century has achieved what no previous civilisation could.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



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Hyderabad Hosts Foreign Policy Meet

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 05

The Department of Political Science, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini alam, Hyderabad, organised a One-Day National Conference on “India’s Foreign Policy: Recent Trends and Challenges” in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Telangana State Council of Higher Education on 29 July 2026 (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Khurshheed Jah Seminar Hall. The inaugural session was chaired by Principal Prof. Appiya Chinnamma and featured eminent dignitaries from leading academic and policy institutions. Among the participants were Dr. Nivedita Ray (ICWA, New Delhi), Prof. Balakista Reddy (Chairman, Telangana Council of Higher Education), Prof. Upendra Choudhary (Aligarh Muslim University), Prof. Afroz Alam (MANUU), Prof. Krishna Kumar (Osmania University), and Dr. K. Bhaskar (Government Degree College, Nayapul, Hyderabad).



Earlier, IQAC Coordinator Dr. K. Sreedevi welcomed the gathering and briefed about the college, while the Conference Convenor and Vice-Principal Dr. Mohammed Ghouse outlined the objectives of the programme. As the Chief Guest, Prof. Balakista Reddy emphasized the relevance of the conference theme and highlighted emerging directions in higher education. Other speakers discussed key aspects of international relations, and the keynote address by Prof. Upendra Choudhary focused on the global

challenges faced by countries while shaping foreign policy, along with the importance of civilisational international relations. The session also underscored the significance of Indian Foreign Policy in contemporary world affairs. Dr. M. Pranitha (Academic Coordinator) proposed the vote of thanks, concluding the inaugural proceedings.

The conference continued with three panel discussions, where scholars and delegates examined India’s foreign policy through the lens of current trends and evolving chal-

lenges. Participants discussed international dynamics, policy responses, and the broader implications for global cooperation.

In the valedictory ceremony, Prof. V. Srilatha (Osmania University) served as the Chief Guest. She provided an overview of India’s foreign policy, while other speakers—including Dr. Islamuddin Mujahed—presented diverse perspectives on the theme. The session was chaired by Principal Prof. Appiya Chinnamma, who congratulated the Department of Political Science for successfully organising the national conference. Dr. Mohammed Ghouse (Convenor) proposed the vote of thanks, highlighting the value of the discussions and inputs received by participants. The programme was moderated by Organising Secretary Dr. Farhana Sultana and saw strong participation from research scholars, delegates from various higher education institutions across India, and large number of students, concluding with the singing of the National Anthem.

Cyberabad Unfurls ‘Suraksha Ka Tiranga’

Hyderabad, Aug. 5: The Cyberabad Police, under the guidance of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) and in association with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), on Wednesday launched "Suraksha Ka Tiranga – Towards a Cyber Independent Telangana," a month-long cyber safety awareness campaign to promote responsible digital behaviour among students.

The campaign was inaugurated at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) Auditorium in Gachibowli, where around 800 engineering students from various colleges participated. The initiative is being conducted under the theme "Be Alert • Be Aware • Be Safe & Secure."

Addressing the gathering, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS, said cyber awareness is the strongest defence against cybercrime. He noted that investment and trading frauds account for nearly 60 per cent of cybercrime cases reported in Cyberabad, urging students to remain cautious while responding to online investment schemes that promise unrealistic returns.

The Commissioner advised citizens to verify the authenticity of investment platforms and financial advisors before investing and to report cyber frauds immediately by calling 1930 or through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. He also unveiled the campaign

posters and released a cyber safety awareness video. Chief guest and actor Anjali lauded the initiative and urged students to follow the message, "Think Before You Click." She appealed to them to spread cyber safety awareness among their families and communities and report cyber offences without delay.

Delivering the cyber awareness session, DCP (Cyber Crimes) K. Pushpa explained how fraudsters lure victims through fake investment advertisements on social media, WhatsApp and Telegram groups, AI-generated celebrity videos, fraudulent trading apps and fabricated profit claims. She warned students against offers of

guaranteed returns and advised them to preserve digital evidence while reporting frauds. She also explained the F.I.G.H.T. Formula—Fear, Ignorance, Greed, Hurry and Trust—which cybercriminals exploit through social engineering tactics.

Representatives of leading banks educated students on safe digital banking practices, including protecting OTPs, passwords, CVV numbers and PINs. As part of the month-long campaign, Cyberabad Police, TGCSB and SCSC will conduct cyber safety awareness programmes across educational institutions, encouraging students to serve as Cyber Ambassadors and help build a cyber-aware Telangana.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

CM Intensifies Push for Tummidihetti Barrage

>FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Minister informed the union minister that an agreement had previously been reached between the two states to construct the barrage at Tummidihetti with a height of 148 meters. The Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune had also conducted a study regarding the construction of a barrage at Tummidihetti with a height ranging from 148 to 152 meters.

The CM explained the outcome of the study, CR Pail. The study report said that there will be no significant difference in the extent of submergence whether the barrage was built at a height of 148 meters or 152 meters. Further, 50 per cent of the submerged area would lie within the riverbed itself.

Requesting the Union Minister to persuade Maharashtra to agree to a barrage height of 150 to 152 meters, CM Revanth Reddy informed Patil that a height of 148 meters would not allow for sufficient water supply via gravity from the barrage. Constructing the barrage at a height of 150 to 152 meters at Tummidihetti would enable water supply through gravity. The importance of the gravity-based supply, which would ease the burden of electricity consumption, was discussed in the meeting.

In view of the increasing irrigation needs in Telangana, CM Revanth Reddy requested Jal Shakti Minister to arrange a meeting between Telangana and Maharashtra at the earliest. The completion of the Tummidihetti barrage would

CM appeals to Centre for clearances to FOUR KEY IRRIGATION PROJECTS

HYDERABAD, AUG.5

CM A. Revanth Reddy has appealed to Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, to grant environmental clearances for the Palamuru-Rangareddy, Gauravelli, Seethamma Sagar, and Dindi projects immediately. During the meeting with the Union Minister at the Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday, the Chief Minister explained the requirement of the environmental clearances for the completion of the three project works expeditiously.

Revanth Reddy informed the Union Minister that the government has already spent ₹36,437 crore on the Palamuru project, ₹3,187 crore on the Dindi Lift Irrigation scheme, ₹1,835 crore on

Seethamma Sagar, and ₹1,350 crore on the Gouravelli project. Stalling of the project works due to lack of clearances and escalation of the project cost was also brought to the notice of the Union Minister.

Following the recent Supreme Court verdict, Revanth Reddy requested Bhupender Yadav to immediately grant clearances for the projects. Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, MPs Dr. Mallu Ravi, Vem Narendar Reddy, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Porika Balram Naik, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, M. Anil Yadav, and Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, along with the State Government’s Special Representative in Delhi, A.P. Jitender Reddy, Irrigation Advisor Adityanath Das were also present.

provide irrigation facilities to the underdeveloped erstwhile Adilabad district.

Responding to the CM’s plea, the union minister said that his ministry has received the letter from the Prime Minister’s Office. A meeting would be organized first under the leadership of the Central Water Commission (CWC) to initiate dialogue between officials from Telangana and Maharashtra. The Union Minister further assured the CM that a meeting between the Irriga-

tion Ministers of Telangana and Maharashtra would be arranged subsequently.

Telangana MPs— Dr. Mallu Ravi, Vem Narendar Reddy, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Porika Balram Naik, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, M. Anil Yadav, and Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, State Government’s Special Representative in Delhi, A.P. Jitender Reddy, Irrigation Advisor Adityanath Das, Principal Secretary to Irrigation E. Sridhar were also present in the meeting.

JURY COMMITTEE SEEKS...

>FROM PAGE 1

Ranga Reddy district. It claimed that farmers overwhelmingly opposed surrendering their lands for the project. The panel demanded that all farmers’s lands be exempted from acquisition, names of landowners who did not part with their lands be restored in the Bhu-Bharathi online records, and their properties be removed from the prohibited list to enable registrations. It also sought a halt to land acquisition already identified by the government in line with court orders.

The committee further called

No Injustice

>FROM PAGE 1

Wasssuming office and dismissed allegations that dispuite-free private lands were wrongly added. He directed the officials across all districts to examine every application based on facts, records and legal provisions while ensuring that all complaints are disposed of within the 45-day deadline stipulated by the Telangana High Court. The Minister also instructed the officials to prioritise grievances received through the Prajavani programme and remain vigilant against illegal registrations, land encroachments and fraudulent transactions involving government land.

THE WOMAN WHO WANTS TO SILENCE THE NOISE INSIDE THE HUMAN MIND

>FROM PAGE 1

Humanity has conquered distance. It has compressed time. It has placed the entire world inside a smartphone. Yet millions confess that they have never felt more restless. Information has multiplied. Peace has diminished. Knowledge has expanded. Wisdom has become scarce.

Against this extraordinary contradiction emerges a woman who has chosen an unusual battlefield. She is not fighting governments. She is not contesting elections. She is not leading corporate empires. Her campaign is directed at something far more personal: the restless human mind.

From her base in Melbourne, Australia, Brahmavidwanmani Dr Saroja Gullapalli has steadily transformed what began as a personal journey of self-discovery into a growing international mission dedicated to helping people move beyond mental turbulence and rediscover inner balance. Her message is remarkably uncomplicated. Observe the mind. Do not become the mind. Become the witness.

This principle, which she calls “Witness Mode” or “Sakshi,” has become the philosophical foundation of the Beyond Your Mind Foundation and the Crystal Children Corner Academy, organisations that now connect thousands of seekers across continents.

Unlike celebrity spirituality driven by stadium-sized spectacles or commercial branding, Dr Saroja’s approach has largely evolved through intimate interactions, sustained community engagement, and continuous digital accessibility.

The numbers may not dominate global headlines. The impact on individual lives certainly deserves attention.

WHEN AN ENGINEER CHOSE A DIFFERENT EQUATION

Every remarkable journey has a turning point. Dr Saroja Gullapalli’s story does not begin inside an ashram. It begins in the structured world of engineering and corporate professionalism. Having worked during her corporate career, including with ExxonMobil, she understands deadlines, targets, productivity, and the pressures that define modern professional life. Perhaps that explains why her teachings rarely reject contemporary living. Instead, they seek to transform how people experience it. Her philosophy does not encourage escaping the world. It encourages functioning within it without becoming psychologically imprisoned by it.

That distinction has attracted professionals, parents, students, entrepreneurs, and retirees alike. Recognition followed over the years. She received the Victorian Multicultural Award in Australia in 2011. She was conferred the title BRAHMAVIDWANMANI in 2019. More recently, her contributions have also been recognised through the conferment of a doctorate by East Brook Global University, while her followers also highlight appreciation received for selfless service. Yet titles alone cannot explain the loyalty of her growing global community. Relationships can.

A SUMMER ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

The summer of 2026 became one of her busiest international outreach programmes. Between June and early July, Dr Saroja travelled across Canada and the United States, conducting meditation programmes, wisdom sessions, discussions, and community interactions. Each destination became another chapter in an expanding spiritual map.

Toronto welcomed extended sessions that stretched over several hours as participants immersed themselves in practical discussions on awareness, emotional healing, and conscious living. Detroit followed with another intensive engagement. Charlotte became one of the emotional highlights of the tour. Here, the “Love Circle Meditation” evolved into something beyond a guided practice. Participants later shared deeply personal experiences of healing, emotional release, gratitude, and renewed hope. For many, the programme was remembered not only for philosophical discourse but for the emotional connections forged within the circle.

Dallas continued the momentum. The San Francisco Bay Area, through Fremont gatherings, at-

tracted another enthusiastic audience. Atlanta added yet another significant milestone. International Yoga Day celebrations at the Atlanta Pyramid Meditation Academy combined yoga, breathing practices, meditation, and Dr Saroja’s widely recognised “Be in Witness Mode” session. Photographs from the event reflected something increasingly uncommon in modern life. People sitting together without distraction. Listening. Breathing. Observing. Connecting. Not with devices. But with themselves.

GRATITUDE THAT CANNOT BE MANUFACTURED

Perhaps the most revealing chapter of the North American tour arrived after it ended. Rather than statistics or attendance figures, the strongest testimony came from the participants themselves. A gratitude video released following the tour brought together voices from different cities. Some called her Amma. Others described her as a spiritual mother. Many spoke not about miracles but about clarity.

Several recalled how her guidance had helped them navigate family conflicts, emotional uncertainty, parenting challenges, and personal crises.

Such expressions cannot be measured through analytics. Neither can they be purchased through advertising. They emerge only when human relationships evolve into trust.

GURU POORNIMA AS A MOMENT OF SELF-AUDIT

For many organisations, anniversaries celebrate institutional success. Guru Poonnima within the Beyond Your Mind community follows a different philosophy. The central question is not how much the organisation has grown. The central question is how much the individual has evolved. Following her return from North America, Dr Saroja led extensive Guru Poonnima programmes combining meditation, reflections, poetry, music, wisdom sharing, and interactive participation. Rather than encouraging dependence upon a teacher, the sessions emphasised self-observation.

Participants were invited to reflect honestly upon the previous year.

Where had they improved emotionally?
What relationships had healed?
What fears remained?
Which habits still dominated them?
What should the next twelve months become?

It transformed a spiritual festival into an annual audit of personal consciousness.

A GLOBAL ASHRAM WITHOUT WALLS

One reason behind the continued expansion of Dr Saroja’s work lies in its accessibility. The Beyond Your Mind Foundation has effectively converted digital technology into a worldwide meditation platform. Through daily Zoom sessions operating across multiple time zones, participants join from India, Australia, North America, Europe, and elsewhere. Programmes are conducted in Telugu, English, Hindi, music-based meditation, healing sessions, forgiveness practices inspired by Ho’oponopono, brain coherence exercises, and guided awareness practices.

For shift workers, homemakers, students, professionals, and senior citizens, different schedules ensure that geographical distance rarely becomes an obstacle. One Zoom link has effectively become a global meeting point. It is an illustration of how spirituality has adapted to the digital age without surrendering its human essence.

INVESTING IN CHILDREN BEFORE THE WORLD CHANGES THEM

Among Dr Saroja’s most distinctive initiatives is the Crystal Children Corner Academy. Instead of waiting for adulthood to repair emotional wounds, the academy attempts to nurture emotional intelligence from childhood itself. Children from more than twenty countries participate in programmes focusing on awareness, compassion, confidence, communication, creativity, and mindful liv-

ing. Complementing this effort are workshops on Spiritual Parenting and Inner Child Healing.

The underlying philosophy is simple yet profound. Healthy families create healthier societies. Parents who understand themselves raise emotionally secure children. Children who grow with awareness become adults capable of making wiser decisions. In an age when childhood is increasingly shaped by screens, performance pressure, and constant comparison, this approach offers an alternative narrative.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

Modern journalism often celebrates power, politics, markets, technology, conflict, and celebrity. These stories deserve coverage. Yet another transformation unfolds quietly beneath the headlines. Across continents, millions are searching not merely for success but for stability. Not merely for achievement but for meaning. Not merely for wealth but for emotional resilience. The popularity of meditation, mindfulness, holistic wellness, and conscious parenting reflects a deeper social reality. People are looking inward because external progress alone has not answered every question.

Dr Saroja Gullapalli’s growing international mission belongs within that larger global conversation. Whether one agrees with every philosophical position or not, her expanding reach demonstrates that practical spirituality continues to resonate across cultures. From Melbourne to Toronto. From Detroit to Dallas. From Charlotte to Atlanta. From Fremont to countless Zoom rooms connecting participants before dawn and long after midnight.

Her message continues traveling. Quietly. Patiently. Without spectacle.

BEYOND THE MIND Founder: Beyond Your Mind Foundation

Based In: Melbourne, Australia

Core Philosophy:
Witness consciousness through Sakshi awareness

Global Presence: Daily online meditation community spanning multiple countries

Key Initiatives: Crystal Children Corner Academy, Spiritual Parenting, Inner Child Healing, Guided Meditation, Emotional Wellbeing
Languages: Telugu, English, Hindi and multilingual meditation formats

A DIGITAL TEMPLE THAT NEVER CLOSSES

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Beyond Your Mind movement is that it operates continuously across time zones. While physical tours conclude, daily guided meditation sessions continue online almost around the clock. A participant logging in before sunrise in India may find another joining after work in Australia or beginning the day in North America. In many ways, the movement represents an emerging model of twenty-first century spirituality where geography no longer defines community.

"TECHNOLOGY CAN CONNECT PEOPLE ACROSS OCEANS. AWARENESS ALONE CAN CONNECT PEOPLE WITH THEMSELVES."

MY SHOT

History often remembers those who built monuments. Future generations may equally remember those who rebuilt minds. Whether through a community hall in Toronto, a meditation gathering in Atlanta, a family workshop in Melbourne, or an online session reaching homes across continents, Brahmavidwanmani Dr Saroja Gullapalli’s work reflects a simple but increasingly relevant proposition.

The greatest journey of the modern human being may not be towards another destination. It may be towards mastering the landscape within.



Monsoon Shortfall in Telangana Sparks Call for Smart Water Use

Officials say conserving rainwater this season can help households avoid summer shortages and tanker dependence



SAMUDRALA KIRAN, Correspondent

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

As Telangana continues to face an uneven and weak monsoon in 2026, water conservation has become more urgent than ever, said HMWSSB (KPHB) Manager Mamatha, urging households to save every possible drop now to avoid summer shortages later.

The warning comes at a time when the state has been battling rainfall deficits for much of the season. Reports in July showed that Telangana's monsoon rainfall remained below normal across many districts, with officials and meteorological updates linking the weak spell to El Niño conditions that are suppressing rainfall activity over the region. Although some late-July rains helped narrow the overall deficit temporarily, several districts still remain deficient, and the seasonal pattern has been highly uneven.

Water experts say the message is especially important this year because monsoon rainfall is not only lower than expected but also scattered and short-lived. In such conditions, much of the rainwater runs off quickly instead of recharging groundwater or getting stored for future use. This makes household-level water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and leak prevention critical to managing the months ahead.

The appeal also connects closely with the Sustainable Development Goals. It

supports SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, by promoting rainwater harvesting, reduced wastage, and reliable access to water for daily needs. It aligns with SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, by helping urban households and neighborhoods build resilience against water

stress. It also advances SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production, by encouraging responsible use and prompt repair of leaks. In addition, it supports SDG 13, Climate Action, as communities that conserve and store rainwater are better prepared for climate-driven rainfall variability.

At the household level, officials and conservation advocates recommend rooftop rainwater harvesting for non-drinking purposes such as cleaning, washing, gardening, and flushing, subject to local guidance and water quality. Proper storage in covered tanks, regular cleaning, and maintenance of inlet and outlet systems can prevent contamination and make monsoon water a dependable reserve. Where feasible, recharge pits and safe percolation systems can also help replenish



groundwater and improve water availability in the dry months.

A major concern in this monsoon season is invisible water loss. Leaking taps, overflowing tanks, damaged pipelines, and careless usage can waste large amounts of water without immediate notice. With rainfall already under pressure in many parts of Telangana, fixing these losses now is more important than ever because any avoidable waste will add to summer hardship later.

Residents are also advised to prepare a simple water-security plan before summer peaks. This includes cleaning overhead tanks and sumps, keeping covers intact, checking for leakages,

using water carefully for non-essential purposes, and maintaining a buffer for emergency needs. Conservation, officials stress, should not reduce hygiene; instead, it should focus on efficiency, careful storage, and disciplined use.

Community participation is equally important. Water stress often becomes visible at the neighborhood level, where many households depend on the same supply systems. Local coordination can help identify leak points, spread awareness on harvesting and recharge, and reduce wastage in public spaces and shared pipelines. When entire communities act together, the impact is far greater than isolated individual efforts.

By saving water during the monsoon, families can reduce health risks, lower expenses, and avoid the panic of tanker dependence in summer. Less dependence on emergency water supply also means fewer unsafe storage practices and better control over household hygiene.

In a year when rainfall has already been affected by El Niño related conditions, every effort to conserve water becomes a step toward resilience.

The message is clear: catch rain where possible, store it safely, fix leaks immediately, recharge groundwater responsibly, and use water wisely throughout the season. If households and communities act now, the coming summer can be met with preparedness rather than panic.

BRAOU will organise Prof. K. Jayashankar Memorial Lecture

Hyderabad: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University will be organizing a mark of respect to the visionary, Academician and Social Reformer Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Memorial Lecture at Prof. Kethu Vishwanatha Reddy Seminar Hall, Academic Building at its campus, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad – 500033 @ 11.00 a.m. Sri Malepalli Lakshmaiah, Buddhavanam Project Special Offi-

cer and Chairman, Centre for Dalit Studies will be attending as the chief guest and delivering a lecture on "Prof. Jayashankar's Ideologies – Social Movements" The lecture aims to reflect on Acharya Jayashankar's contributions to social thought, education, and the people's movements of Telangana. Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor, BRAOU will presided over the program.

Prof Jayasankar birth anniversary

■ Kcr conveyed his greetings to the people

HYDERABAD

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Professor Jayashankar (August 6), the ideologue who worked throughout his life for spreading the Telangana ideology and who dreamed of self-governance, former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao conveyed his greetings to the people of the state.

On this occasion, he paid rich tributes to Professor Jayashankar, remembering his contributions, sacrifices, and the close association he shared with him.

KCR recalled that when he had formed a political party with the goal of achieving Telangana statehood, in accordance with the aspirations of

the people, and was fighting a lone battle for the cause, Professor Jayashankar stood by him with his advice and guidance. He praised Professor Jayashankar for sacrificing his personal family life and dedicating himself to spreading the ideology of the statehood movement with strong ideological commitment.

KCR stated that Professor Jayashankar's thoughts and approach toward preserving Telangana's identity would remain an inspiration for the state forever. He said that the then BRS government, recognizing Professor Jayashankar's sacrifices and contributions, named the newly formed Bhupalpal district after him. He added that the BRS government had taken and implemented several decisions to ensure that Professor Jayashankar's name would remain remembered forever.

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-tender is invited by Chief Bridge Engineer, Eastern Railway, 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001 from reputed and eligible contractors for the under mentioned work: **E-Tender No.: W2_623_16_01_SDAH_2026-27, Date: 31.07.2026. Name of the work:** [i] Provision for Re-girdering of Bridge No. 1A (all span of Line No. NCC 12 and CA Goods and only Shore span of Line No. NCC 10] in NCC Yard of Sealdah Division and [ii] Rerigdering of Bridge No. 27 on Up Main, Dn Main, Line No. 7 and common line in between station Bidhannagar Road and Dum Dum Junction in Sealdah-DumDum Jn. section in Sealdah Division. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 10,23,92,659.92. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 20,47,900. **Period of completion:** 18 months. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 24.08.2026 at 14:00 hrs. The details of tender documents are available at website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer on line on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (MSC-129/2026-27) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION (SIGNAL & TELECOM BRANCH)

E-Tender Notice No.SA-SG-1204-OT-11-2026 Closing Date : 26/08/2026

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Southern Railway/Salem Division, Salem -636005 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal "www.ireps.gov.in" and only online tenders will be accepted. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal).**

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender form including	Eligibility criteria for similar single work previously executed	Period of Completion in months
1	SA-SG-1204-OT-11-2026	SALEM DIVISION: Provision of interlocking arrangements including EOLB with SLB at LC.No.73 between PRV-MKSP Station	₹ 89,17,446.32	₹ 1,78,400.00	Nil	Applicable	06 Months

Sl. No 1 : Tender closing date and time : 26/08/2026 at 15.00 Hrs.

NOTE: Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, "www.ireps.gov.in". For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the Tender documents which are available at "www.ireps.gov.in" website.

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Salem - 636 005

Dr Peruka Raju Conferred Life Membership by the International Academy of Ethics

HYDERABAD

The International Academy of Ethics has conferred Life Membership upon Dr Peruka Raju, a distinguished Indian poet, author, literary critic multilingual translator and Junior Commissioned Officer in Indian Army in recognition of his outstanding contributions to literature, translation, ethical values and humanitarian service.

Fondly regarded as Telangana's proud son who brings honour to Mother India, Dr Peruka Raju holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, a Master's degree in English Literature, a Ph.D. and three Honorary Doctorates. He has authored thirteen books in various languages and



has made remarkable contributions to poetry, fiction, literary criticism and translation. Patriotism, human values, social justice and national integration are the defining themes of his literary works.

As the founder of the voluntary organisation My Gift, Dr Peruka Raju has been actively involved in educational and

humanitarian initiatives for the underprivileged. Guided by his inspiring motto, "Encouragement is the Greatest Gift," he continues to motivate and empower countless individuals through selfless service.

On the occasion, Dr Jernail Singh Anand, Founder President of the International Academy of Ethics, Dr P. Ramakrishna and Dr Maja Herman Sekulic, Vice-President, stated that the Life Membership was conferred in recognition of Dr Peruka Raju's lifelong dedication to literature, ethical values, cultural harmony and humanitarian service. They praised him as an exemplary soldier, scholar, and literary humanist whose contributions continue

to inspire society.

Accepting the honour, Dr Peruka Raju expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr Jernail Singh Anand, Dr P. Ramakrishna, Dr Maja Herman Sekulic, and the International Academy of Ethics. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving literature, upholding human values and contributing to society with greater dedication.

The conferment of Life Membership by the International Academy of Ethics marks yet another significant milestone in Dr Peruka Raju's distinguished literary journey and stands as an international recognition of his enduring contributions to literature, ethical values and humanitarian service.

GITAM Hosts Inaugural Lecture on Domestic Workers' Politics by Cambridge Historian Prof. Samita Sen

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized the inaugural lecture of the Urbanization, Gender and Labor(UGL) Cluster under the Centre for Asian Studies on Wednesday. The lecture, titled "Maids in Movement: Domestic Workers' Politics in West Bengal," was delivered online by Prof. Samita Sen, Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge. UGL Dialogue has been conceived as a platform for bringing together scholars working on questions of urbanisation, labour, gender to foster meaningful conversations across disciplines.

The lecture explored the evolving political consciousness, organization, and collective struggles of domestic workers in West Bengal. Prof. Sen highlighted how domestic workers, despite operating in the informal sector, have increasingly mobilized to demand recognition, dignity, fair wages, and legal protection. She emphasized that domestic work remains deeply intertwined with issues of gender, class, migration, and urbanization, making



it an important area of interdisciplinary research.

Prof. Sen discussed the challenges faced by domestic workers, including precarious employment, lack of social security, and limited legal safeguards. She noted that the growing organization of domestic workers' unions and collectives has played a significant role in bringing their concerns into public discourse and policy debates. Stressing the importance of documenting workers' lived experiences, she encouraged scholars to adopt interdisciplinary approaches to better understand labour, gender, and urban transformations in con-



temporary India. The session witnessed active participation from faculty members, research scholars, and students, who engaged in an interactive discussion with the speaker on labour rights, women's movements, and the changing nature of domestic work in urban India.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Debadrita Chakraborty, Assistant Professor Department of English and Other Languages and Coordinator of the Urbanisation, Gender and Labour Cluster.

About the Speaker

Prof. Samita Sen is the Vere Harmsworth Professor of Im-

perial and Naval History at the University of Cambridge. She previously served as the first Vice-Chancellor of Diamond Harbour Women's University and has taught at the University of Calcutta and Jadavpur University, where she also served as Director of the School of Women's Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies. A recipient of the Trevor Reese Prize in Commonwealth History, she has published extensively on labour history, gender studies, and colonial India. She has also been an active member of the women's movement through the organization Sachetana since 1982.

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STOP SPREADING FALSEHOODS, SAYS UTTAM

- **First Explain Kaleshwaram Kickbacks**
- **Uttam Hits Back at Harish Rao**
- **Minister Says Telangana Will Defend Every Project Before GRMB**
- **Chhattisgarh NOC for Sammakka Sagar Expected This Month**

HYDERABAD, AUG 5

Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on BRS leader T. Harish Rao, accusing him of indulging in "false propaganda and fabricated stories" to mislead the people on irrigation issues. He asserted that the Congress government remained fully committed to safeguarding Telangana's water rights and would firmly defend every State project before the Godavari River Management Board

(GRMB). Responding to Harish Rao's criticism over the agenda of the proposed GRMB meeting on August 18, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the issues listed by Andhra Pradesh were neither new nor unexpected. He pointed out that Andhra Pradesh had been raising identical objections before the GRMB, Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for the past 12 years, irrespective of which party was in power in Telangana. The Minister said the Congress government had consistently and successfully countered Andhra Pradesh's objections with strong legal and technical submissions. He cited the successful Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) clearance secured on April 24, 2025, for the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project as evidence that the State was effectively protecting Telangana's interests despite repeated objections from Andhra Pradesh. He said Andhra Pradesh had opposed approvals for seven ma-



door Telangana projects, including Kaleshwaram, Sitarama, Sammakka Sagar, Chinna Kaleshwaram, Chanaka-Korata, Modikunta Vagu and Gudem Lift Irrigation Scheme. However, the Telangana government had successfully defended its projects before the competent authorities. Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that the previous BRS government had failed to safeguard Telangana's in-

terests despite remaining in power for nearly a decade. He questioned whether the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, Pattiseema Lift Scheme and the Polavaram-Banacherla project had not progressed during the BRS regime. The Minister also alleged that the previous BRS government itself had advocated the constitution of a Krishna Water Tribunal during earlier GRMB and Apex Council

meetings. In contrast, he said, the present government had acted with foresight and successfully prevented the constitution of such a tribunal through sustained engagement with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. He said the previous government had made little effort to secure Inter-State Matters (ISM) Directorate clearance or inter-state approvals for irrigation projects. On the issue of Chhattisgarh's consent for Sammakka Sagar, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the present government had actively pursued negotiations with the neighbouring State. He disclosed that the Telangana government had approached the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister three times seeking a No Objection Certificate (NOC), and was informed that the clearance was expected by the end of this month. He questioned whether the previous BRS government had ever held such discussions with the Chhattisgarh leadership. Highlighting the government's sustained efforts to protect Telangana's water rights, the Minister said

the Chief Minister had personally taken up the issue with the Centre twice, while he himself had held seven rounds of discussions. The Chief Secretary had reviewed the matter ten times, and senior irrigation officials had held numerous meetings with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the CWC, GRMB, KRMB and Polavaram Project Authority. He said the government had also initiated legal proceedings before the Supreme Court by filing an Original Suit and interlocutory applications, and the Court had already directed all respondents to file their replies within four weeks. The Minister said the government had also taken proactive steps to secure Telangana's rightful share of Krishna waters, strengthen its case before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal, and convince Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to cooperate on the modernization of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS). Launching a political offensive,

Uttam Kumar Reddy challenged Harish Rao to first answer allegations made by BRS MLC K. Kavitha regarding alleged kickbacks from Andhra Pradesh contractors during the construction of the Kaleshwaram project. He questioned Harish Rao on "what his share was" in the alleged kickbacks and accused the BRS of colluding with Andhra Pradesh to create disputes over the Nagarjunasagar Project after losing power in Telangana. The Minister further alleged that the BRS had spent nearly Rs 1 lakh crore on the Kaleshwaram project only to leave it submerged and dysfunctional, and accused the party of resorting to political theatrics instead of accepting responsibility. Reiterating the government's commitment, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government would continue to defend Telangana's constitutional and legal rights over its river waters and would not compromise on the interests of the State's farmers under any circumstances.

Social Justice Telangana Resolution Meeting all set for Thursday

HYDERABAD

Preparations have been completed for the "Social Justice Telangana Resolution Meeting", which will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Saroor Nagar Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad. The programme, organised by Telangana Rakshana Sena, is expected to draw around 10,000 representatives from across the state, along with several prominent personalities.

Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kalvakuntla Kavitha will lead a pledge for the realisation of Social Justice Telangana, outlining the party's vision for inclusive development, empowerment of marginalised communities and equitable governance.

Focus on social justice agenda According to the organisers, Kavitha will present the party's roadmap for achieving comprehensive development in Telangana by improving the economic and social conditions of weaker sections. She is also expected to explain the policies and programmes that Telangana Rakshana Sena intends to pursue in the coming years. The party says the initiative draws inspiration from the vision of Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar, who had maintained that the struggle for a separate Telangana should eventually be followed by a movement for a socially just Telangana.

Party highlights representation The organisers highlighted Telangana Rakshana Sena's emphasis



on representation for backward and marginalised communities. They stated that: Out of 42 Assembly constituencies in-charges, 22 are BC leaders. BC, SC and ST leaders have been given significant representation among the nine Lok Sabha constituency in-charges. BC leaders have been appointed to head key party wings, including the women's and student wings. The party says it will continue providing opportunities to BC, SC, ST and minority communities in organisational and leadership positions. Resolution meeting to launch statewide campaign The Saroor Nagar meeting is expected to mark the beginning of a statewide campaign promoting the concept of Social Justice Telangana. Telangana Rakshana Sena plans to carry the message from Hyderabad to villages across the state through public outreach programmes.

Venue honours social reformers Extensive arrangements have been made at the Saroor Nagar In-

door Stadium, with flex banners, portraits and installations dedicated to leaders who contributed to social reform, equality and the Telangana movement.

Portraits and statues displayed at the venue include Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Savitribai Phule Bhagya Reddy Varma Chakali Ilamma Doddi Komuriah Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud Kanshi Ram Komaram Bheem Konda Laxman Bapuji Karpoori Thakur T. N. Sadalakshmi Panduga Sayanna Vaddera Obanna Sant Sevalal Maharaj Sangam Lakshmi Bai Shoaibullah Khan Maroju Veeranna Mahkdoom Mohiuddin According to the organisers, the displays are intended to honour the contributions of leaders who fought for social equality, justice and the rights of marginalised communities, while reinforcing the meeting's theme of building a socially inclusive Telangana. The organisers say the resolution meeting will serve as a platform to present Telangana Rakshana Sena's vision for inclusive governance and social transformation, with participation from representatives of various communities from across the state.

Bury the Nuclear Bomb, Not the Future

(On the occasion of "Hiroshima Day" on 06 July)

This year 2026 marks 81 years since the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima city of Japan. Even now there are still over 12,000 nuclear weapons in existence on this planet Earth. On August 06, 1945, an atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima during the 2nd world war for the first time in human history. Within that year, the bomb took the lives of over 1,40,000 innocent people. Hiroshima Day, which falls on the 6th of August, should be recognised as the day of remembrance for the devastating effect of atom bomb on Hiroshima and in recognition of victims of nuclear-as-a means to reiterate the requirement of global nuclear disarmament.

No More "Little Boys"

In the morning of 06 August 1945, the American B-29 bomber dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, killing over 1,30,000 people instantly, with gradual deaths from injuries and radiation sickness approaching 1,40,000 by the end of



the year. This bombing continued to haunt the local population with a log term health hazards as well as environmental consequences. The bombing was responsible for Japan's surrender and the consequent cessation of World War-2. This trag-

edy still influences global debates about peace and disarmament as the ominous reminder of the terrifying power of nuclear weapons.

Humanity and Peace must Always Triumph

over Violence: Hiroshima Day invites all generations to pause and remember not only the tragedy but also the urgent need for nuclear non-proliferation and global cooperation. This day is expected to focus on collective responsibility, reconciliation, and building a just world free from the threat of nuclear arms. The bitter lessons drawn from Hiroshima Day continues to inspire movements for world peace, human rights protection, and international dialogue, echoing the motto that "Humanity and peace must always triumph over violence". The activities like memorial ceremonies, silent prayers, educational sessions, peace marches, art and essay competitions, poster campaigns, screening related films, survivor talks, creative expressions, webinars, anti-nuclear slogans, and social media initiatives. Let's raise the voice by saying, no more Hiroshimas, never again. Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice. Humanity and peace must prevail for ever.

- Prof : Burra Madhusudhan Reddy 994700037

Permanent solution should be found for the Jawahar Nagar dumping yard issue



■ **Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender appeals to Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar**

NEW DELHI

Malkajgiri MP Shri Etela Rajender has urged Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Manohar Lal Khattar to immediately provide a permanent solution to the Jawahar Nagar dumping yard issue, stating that lakhs of people in the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency are suffering from severe health problems due to the dumping yard.

Speaking to the media at the Parliament premises in Delhi today, he said ■ The Jawahar Nagar dumping yard was established when Hyderabad's population was around 30 lakh. However, even though the city has now expanded to a population of more than 2 crore, all the garbage is still being dumped in the same location. ■ Nearly 10,000 metric tonnes of garbage reaches the site every day, causing waste to pile up like mountains. People living within a 40-kilometre radius are facing severe difficulties because of this. He expressed concern that people's earnings are being spent on hospital expenses due to

health issues. ■ He said that he met Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar and submitted a request regarding this serious problem. ■ He requested that alternative arrangements be made so that not even a single kilogram of garbage is dumped in Jawahar Nagar, and that waste should be recycled through "zero pollution" methods without causing air or water pollution. ■ The MP said that the Union Minister assured that steps would be taken to implement in Hyderabad the waste management systems being followed in metropolitan cities like Delhi. ■ He criticised that although the waste-to-energy plant has a capacity of only 3,500 metric tonnes, nearly 10,000 metric tonnes of garbage arrives every day. He also alleged that there is no proper authority monitoring whether the plant is functioning effectively. ■ He recalled that he had approached the Supreme Court regarding the dumping yard issue and that the present Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had also filed a case when he was an MP. However, he criticised that even after becoming Chief Minister, the situation of the people has not changed and the outcome has remained zero.

Professor Jayashankar: The Guiding Spirit of the Telangana Movement

■ **Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy**

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said that the people of Telangana will always remember with great respect Professor Jayashankar, the chief ideologue of the Telangana movement, who dedicated his entire life to the cause of achieving a separate Telangana state. On the occasion of Professor Jayashankar's birth anniversary on August 6, the Chief Minister recalled his outstanding contributions to the realization of Telangana as a separate state. The Chief Minister said that Professor Jayashankar was a towering personality who made the dream of Telangana the very essence of his life and continued to strive for it until his last breath. He praised him for dedicating his entire life to the cause of Telangana, making it both his mission and his ultimate goal. He further stated that Professor Jayashankar played a pivotal role in keeping the movement for a separate Telangana alive for over six decades by presenting, with facts and statistics, the injustices and discrimination faced by the Telangana region during the united Andhra Pradesh era. According to the Chief Minister, the credit for providing the Telangana movement with strong ideological foundations and clear direction belongs to Professor Jayashankar. He added that Professor Jayashankar's ideological guidance and contributions to the movement will always be remembered, and affirmed that the people's government remains committed to fulfilling his ideals.

FDDI Hyd holds 6th convocation; graduates urged to embrace AI & innovation

HYDERABAD

The Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), Hyderabad, celebrated its 6th convocation ceremony on Wednesday, with chief guest Dr Malini Divakala, director of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), urging graduates to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI), innovation and lifelong learning while upholding ethics and professional values. Addressing the graduating students, Dr. Divakala said AI and emerging technologies should be viewed as tools to enhance creativity, productivity and problem-solving



rather than merely technological trends. She stressed that technological advancement must be balanced with integrity, creativity and social responsibility. FDDI executive director Dr Narsimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy encouraged students to build careers founded on discipline, ethics

and continuous skill development to meet evolving industry demands. A total of 56 students from the Schools of Fashion, Footwear, Leather Lifestyle and Product Design graduated during the ceremony. Gold Medals were awarded to Sailashmi diddi (M.Des.-Fashion) and Ishika Bhardwaj (B.Des.-Fashion), while Silver Medals went to Poojaleskmi S. (B.Des.-Footwear) and Benecia Mariam Babu (B.Des.-LLPD). The ceremony concluded with the oath-taking, presentation of medals, vote of thanks and the National Anthem, marking the students' transition into professional careers.

Ministers review progress on Saidabad steel bridge, Musarambagh flyover

HYDERABAD

Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin and Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar inspected the ongoing construction works of the Saidabad-Santosh Nagar steel bridge and the Musarambagh flyover in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The Ministers reviewed the progress of both projects along with GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Hyderabad District Collector Priyanka Ala, senior officials of

GHMC, and engineers. They closely inspected the pace and quality of the works and directed the officials to complete the projects within the stipulated time while maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Mohammed Azharuddin said the state government under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is giving top priority to strengthening Hyderabad's infrastructure and improving urban connectivity. He said that the Saidabad-San-



tosh Nagar steel bridge and the Musarambagh flyover are important infrastructure projects that will significantly reduce traffic congestion, improve travel time, and pro-

vide safe and convenient transportation for thousands of commuters every day. The Minister stressed that quality should never be compromised and instructed the officials to ensure timely completion of the projects so that the public can benefit at the earliest. Azharuddin reiterated that modern infrastructure is the foundation of a growing city and reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing world-class infrastructure projects that improve public convenience, strengthen connectivity, and enhance the overall

quality of life for the people of Hyderabad. Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said that the government would take a decision regarding the inauguration of the projects after reviewing the progress of the works. He stated that whichever project is completed first will be inaugurated accordingly. Ponnamp Prabhakar further informed that the inauguration schedule will be finalised after consultations with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, senior officials, and the concerned departments,

keeping in view the readiness of the projects and the Chief Minister's schedule. Both Ministers appreciated the dedicated efforts of the officials, engineers, public representatives, and local residents for their cooperation in ensuring the smooth execution of these important infrastructure works. The Saidabad-Santosh Nagar steel bridge and the Musarambagh flyover are expected to become major traffic relief corridors, providing faster connectivity and supporting Hyderabad's continued urban growth and development. (NSS)



CM Honours
Judoka
Asmita Dey
for CWG
Gold

AGARTALA: (AUG 5)

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Wednesday felicitated judoka Asmita Dey, who hails from the state, on winning India's first-ever gold medal in Judo at the Commonwealth Games, an official statement said.

The CM, who is in Delhi to attend a BJP meeting, met Dey at Tripura Bhavan in the national capital and congratulated her and lauded her determination, discipline, perseverance, and dedication.

Saha said her outstanding performance on the international stage has brought immense pride and honour to Tripura and the entire nation.

Jagan slams Andhra govt, accuses
TDP of apathy towards tobacco farmers

AMARAVATI, AUG 5

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Wednesday slammed the NDA coalition government led by the TDP, for its "apathy" towards tobacco farmers and demanded that tobacco be procured through Markfed.

Speaking to the media after interacting with the farmers at Devarapalli in East Godavari district, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that tobacco farmers are in deep distress as the cultivation cost has gone up manifold on one hand and the procurement prices have been falling, with companies forming a syndicate and manipulating market dynamics.

The YSRCP chief said, "The average price has been drastically falling and the farmers who were assured by the Tobacco Board of procurement



have reneged on their promise and the traders formed a cartel to keep the prices low, forcing the farmers to opt for distress sales. "The Chandrababu government is hand in glove with the syndicate and only 20 per cent of the crop is procured, though the Board has encouraged the farmers to go for tobacco farming assuring procurement, but has gone back (on its word)." Reddy stated that during the YSRCP's term in 2023-24 the average price of tobacco was Rs

289 per kg and in 27 months after the coalition government led by the TDP assumed office, it has fallen to Rs 220. Farmers said that they were selling tobacco at even Rs 170 per kg. "We had a robust mechanism to safeguard the interest of farmers and made Markfed a buyer to increase competition and keep the prices higher. This apart we have given Rs 1 lakh zero per cent interest loans to farmers," Reddy said.

The former Chief Minister alleged that Chief Minister

Chandrababu Naidu has done away with the zero per cent interest and the farmers' plight is further aggravated with the cultivation cost going up and the produce not getting MSP. Now farmers are losing at least Rs 70 per kg. "A tobacco farmer Venkateswar Rao has committed suicide unable to bear the loss and there is no response from the government, no public representative had come to console his family," Reddy said. He said in a month's time buyers will shift to Karnataka for auctions and the prices will further fall pushing the farmers into further turmoil. The Rs 20 subsidy announced by the government will only help the traders to further reduce the prices. YS Jagan demanded the government bring in Markfed to procure the produce and create competition, failing which farmers will further suffer. "In the 27 months after the coal-

ition government was formed, farmers are not getting MSP to any of the crops be it paddy, banana, tobacco, pulses and others and all sections of people are venting their anguish. Education, health, agriculture and all sectors have been affected under Chandrababu's governance. Anyone questioning the government is being targeted with false cases and arrests," he said. All sections of people are unhappy with the 'backstabbing' party which is depriving them of all welfare schemes, he remarked.

During the interaction with farmers, Reddy was told that they were getting only Rs 170 and Rs 10 was increased following the news that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was coming. They said during the YSRCP's term low grade tobacco was also procured but now that practice is not there and small and marginal farmers are affected badly.

MP Chintakayala Vijay
strongly raises his voice in Rajya
Sabha for speedy justice

NEW DELHI:



Rajya Sabha MP Chintakayala Vijay, representing the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), extended his full support to the "Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2026" introduced in Parliament. He stated that increasing the number of Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37 is a timely and commendable decision. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking steps towards providing speedy justice through the establishment of e-courts and fast-track courts. He also appreciated Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision and efforts towards developing judicial infrastructure in Amaravati. MP Vijay firmly stated that everyone, whether an ordinary citizen or a powerful individual, is equal before the law, and that "justice delayed is justice denied." In this context, he highlighted the alleged disproportionate assets cases against former

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the Rajya Sabha. He stated that the CBI and ED cases registered against Jagan in 2013 have still not progressed even after 13 years. He alleged that the proceedings were being deliberately delayed under the pretext of discharge petitions and transfers of judges. He asserted that those who commit wrongdoing, regardless of their position, must face timely trials, and warned that such prolonged delays weaken public confidence in the judicial system. MP Vijay said that at a time when India's population has reached around 150 crore, the aspiration is to ensure that even ordinary citizens receive justice quickly and transparently.

CM directs officials to
prepare micro-level plans

for comprehensive development of Visakha Economic Region
Constitute a Special Executive Committee for implementation of Bay City project:CM*
Visakhapatnam Zoological Park should be upgraded into a major international-standard tourism attraction:CM

AMARAVATI :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to prepare micro-level plans for comprehensive development of Visakha Economic Region (VER), ensuring that no area or sector within the region is left behind. He emphasized that the development strategy should promote balanced and holistic growth across the entire region. Reviewing the VER development plans at Camp office on Wednesday the Chief Minister said Micro-level plans must be prepared for the comprehensive development of the Visakha Economic Region. From Mulapeta port in Srikakulam district to the Akhanda Godavari project in Rajamahendravaram, every region, every tourism destination and every sector should be developed to attract investments. Experience zones should also be created wherever required. All projects should be integrated to ensure the region's overall progress. The Visakhapatnam Bay City project will play a pivotal role in the VER. Large-scale urban development should take place through this project by converging funds from various government schemes. Greater efforts should also be made to secure Central Government funding. The six Urban Development Authorities within the VER should witness remarkable transformation. This project should be leveraged to create world-



class infrastructure across the region, the Chief Minister added. During the meeting, the officials briefed the Chief Minister on the projects proposed within the region, Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) reclassification, the Visakhapatnam Bay City project and the proposed Bay City Authority. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the VER has the potential to attract investments worth Rs 9.5 lakh crore, including Rs 5.3 lakh crore from the private sector, while government investment of Rs 3.5-4 lakh crore would also be required. They highlighted that major projects such as the Google AI Data Centre and the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel Plant have already positioned Visakhapatnam and North Andhra has been emerging investment destinations. They further explained that Visakhapatnam already possesses a strong ecosystem for IT, data centres and several other sectors and that the VER development

plan has been designed accordingly, with the Bay City project serving as the anchor project for the region's overall development. The Chief Minister said development should be aligned with the aspirations of local communities, while attracting projects and investments that generate employment opportunities. Local youth must be equipped with upgraded skills to meet the demands of emerging industries. Projects should be implemented in line with Coastal Management Plans. Industrial ecosystems, townships and tourism projects should be developed. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects should be promoted and the feasibility of extending Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support should also be examined. The VER project must fully comply with CRZ regulations. The government should continuously communicate to the public the ongoing development works, projects being undertaken

and the employment and livelihood opportunities they will create. Educational institutions and universities should be actively involved in the planning process. In particular, the expertise of Andhra University should be effectively utilised. The Chief Minister also directed officials to constitute a special Executive Committee for the implementation of the Bay City project. He said that integrating all major projects would yield better outcomes and stressed the need to focus on sectors such as GCCs (Global Capability Centres), fintech and logistics integration. "The concept of East-West Connectivity is now being discussed at the national level and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also recently highlighted its importance. Keeping this in view, project planning and investment mobilisation should be aligned accordingly. Road and rail integration must be strengthened. Kakinada and Visakhapatnam should be effectively connected with various regions in western India. Linking four airports and three ports will significantly accelerate development and attract greater investments. The Chief Minister said the Visakhapatnam Zoological Park should also be upgraded into a major international-standard tourism attraction. As Visakhapatnam evolves into a global city, its zoological park has the potential to become a premier tourism destination, he added.

Lokesh Inaugurates
IBM FutureNow Centre

Centre to Support Global AI and Digital Transformation Services

VISAKHAPATNAM:

Building a Future-Ready Technology Workforce

Global technology giant IBM has inaugurated its new IBM Consulting FutureNow Centre in Visakhapatnam. Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh, along with IBM India and South Asia Managing Director Sandeep Patel, inaugurated the centre at the Lansum Square building near Isukathota Junction on Wednesday.

The FutureNow Centre has been established to support IBM's global Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital transformation consulting services. During the visit, Minister Lokesh was briefed on AI governance intelligence and operations in the chemicals and petroleum industries.

The centre marks another significant milestone in IBM's continued investment in India's technology innovation ecosystem and skilled workforce. It will provide consulting and technology services to clients worldwide in key areas including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Hybrid Cloud
 - Software Engineering
 - Data and Analytics
 - Cybersecurity
 - Enterprise Transformation
- The facility will also serve as a major hub for AI-driven cloud transformation, platform engineering, service integration, quality engineering, and user experience services.

The FutureNow Centre reflects IBM's commitment to expanding innovation and service capabilities across India's emerging technology hubs. With its rich talent pool, strong educational institutions, and rapidly growing technology ecosystem, Visakhapatnam is well-positioned to serve the needs of global clients.

Through this centre, IBM aims to strengthen its presence in Andhra Pradesh while contributing to the development of a future-ready workforce equipped with advanced digital skills. Enabling Andhra Pradesh's Youth to Participate in the Global Digital Economy Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nara Lokesh said the IBM FutureNow Centre would strengthen Visakhapatnam's emergence as a global hub for artificial intelligence, digital services, and technology-driven innovation. "Our objective is not merely to attract technology investments but to create high-quality employment, develop future-ready talent, and build a comprehensive ecosystem that enables the youth of Andhra Pradesh to become active participants in the global digital economy," he said. He welcomed IBM's continued commitment to Andhra Pradesh and expressed the government's eagerness to work with the company in making Visakhapat-

nam one of India's leading centres for AI and digital transformation.

Positioning India as a Global Innovation Hub
IBM India and South Asia Managing Director Sandeep Patel said India has an unprecedented opportunity to lead the world in the digital era as it works towards the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

He said this goal could be achieved by leveraging India's talent, innovation, and technological capabilities. "At IBM, we are committed to helping our clients adopt AI and other emerging technologies while building the capabilities needed to create long-term value. The IBM Consulting FutureNow Centre in Visakhapatnam is a testament to that commitment and will further strengthen India's position as a global centre for innovation and technology services," Patel said.

Better Employment Opportunities for Youth

Usha Srikanth, Managing Partner of IBM Consulting FutureNow Centre India, said Visakhapatnam's growing technology talent, strong academic institutions, and expanding technology ecosystem make it an ideal location to support the digital transformation needs of global clients.

She said the centre would combine advanced technological expertise with local talent to accelerate AI and digital transformation while creating better em-

ployment opportunities for the region's youth.

IBM's Presence in India
IBM Consulting currently operates FutureNow Centres across 15 locations in India, including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Mysuru, Noida, Pune, and Visakhapatnam.

Globally, IBM is a leading provider of hybrid cloud, artificial intelligence, and business consulting services. Organizations in more than 175 countries use IBM's solutions to derive value from data, streamline business processes, reduce costs, and enhance competitiveness.

Thousands of public and private sector organizations across industries such as financial services, telecommunications, and healthcare rely on IBM's Hybrid Cloud Platform and Red Hat OpenShift to accelerate secure and efficient digital transformation initiatives. IBM also provides innovative technologies in AI, quantum computing, industry-specific cloud solutions, and business services, helping customers adopt flexible and scalable technology solutions.

Earlier, Minister Lokesh interacted with IBM employees, encouraged them to strive for excellence, and answered several questions from the audience. Senior IBM executives also attended the event.

BMC Scraps
Mayor Bungalow
Upgrade Tender

MUMBAI: (AUG 5)

The Mumbai civic body on Wednesday night scrapped a controversial tender after Mayor Ritu Tawde clarified that the proposal for upgradation and infrastructure works was not linked to her official heritage bungalow, but related to the "surrounding" area. The civic body formally cancelled the tender through a corrigendum uploaded on the Maharashtra government's e-procurement portal, citing "administrative reasons/issues" as the reason. The cancellation was published at 7:17 pm, hours after the proposed works around the Mayor's bungalow triggered a political controversy.

Mohan Yadav Praises Student
Cabinet, Promotes Responsible AI

BHOPAL, AUG 5

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday advised students to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT responsibly, saying technology should be used to assist learning but facts must always be verified through independent thinking. Interacting with students during the 'Kitab Se Kal Tak' programme at Kamla Nehru Sandipani Government Girls School in Bhopal, the Chief Minister answered questions on AI, education, career planning, social media and stress management. Responding to a student's query on whether he uses ChatGPT, Chief Minister



Yadav said he uses AI tools to gather the latest information on subjects related to programmes and speeches. "I use AI to understand new developments on a subject. But whether it is ChatGPT or any other AI tool, it is not the final authority. Use AI, but apply your own mind and cross-check facts and data," he added.

During the programme, Chief Minister Yadav also interacted with the school's elected student cabinet, comprising students holding portfolios such as head girl, sports, culture and discipline. The students told the Chief Minister that the cabinet is elected through a voting process similar to democratic elections, with

campaigning, voting and regular meetings with teachers. Appreciating the initiative, Chief Minister Yadav invited the cabinet members onto the stage and discussed their responsibilities. The Chief Minister encouraged students to continue learning beyond classroom education and pursue their goals with discipline. "Education should continue throughout life. Students should set clear goals, study sincerely and also devote time to sports, self-study and personality development," he said. Replying to another query, Chief Minister Yadav said social media has become an important platform for public representatives and added that he follows Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on Instagram.

He also advised students to help accident victims whenever possible, inspire their younger siblings to pursue education and contribute to society. Later, the Chief Minister held an interaction with teachers and urged them to motivate students to explore opportunities in agriculture, entrepreneurship, the armed forces, public service and politics. Kamla Nehru Sandipani Government Girls' School, established in 1958, has more than 1,800 students from nursery to Class 12. The school has introduced smart classrooms, laboratories and an elected student cabinet as part of its academic and leadership development initiatives.

CM Revanth Reddy pays
rich tributes to Gaddar
on his death anniversary

Hyderabad: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy paid a heartfelt tribute to renowned Telangana people's singer and 'Praja Yuddha Nauka' Gaddar on the occasion of his death anniversary on August 6. In a statement, the Chief Minister hailed Gaddar as a visionary who breathed life into the movement for a separate Telangana state and as an extraordinary people's poet for constantly igniting the spirit of the movement among the masses. The CM recalled his personal and close association with Gaddar. Although Gaddar was born into a poor family and pursued an engineering education, the popular Telangana poet dedicated his entire life to the poor and the downtrodden sections of society by relinquishing a lucrative job. Gaddar used his songs as a weapon throughout his life to instill consciousness among the people, driven by the noble goal

of ensuring food, shelter, and security for everyone, CM Revanth Reddy remembered. The Chief Minister also stated that Gaddar stood at the forefront during the second phase of the Telangana movement and built various platforms for the movement by taking the aspirations of Telangana to every village. The CM noted that Gaddar remained dedicated to his ideology for his entire life despite facing numerous hardships and challenges. The CM described Gaddar as a 'Praja Yuddha Nauka' who turned his voice into a roar and his songs into bullets while fighting for the rights of the people. CM Revanth Reddy mentioned that, as a mark of respect for the cultural and literary contributions made by Gaddar, Telangana Film Awards have been instituted in his name and are presented to film artists and prominent figures in the film industry every year.

EDITORIAL

Building India's Semiconductor Future

Semiconductors are the invisible engines of the modern economy. They power everything from smartphones and electric vehicles to medical devices, telecommunications networks and advanced defence systems. As digital technologies become increasingly central to economic growth and national development, the ability to build a resilient semiconductor ecosystem has emerged as a strategic priority. For India, this is an opportunity to move beyond being a major consumer of electronics and become a significant contributor to the global technology value chain. The country has already established a strong foothold in semiconductor design and research. Indian engineers play a vital role in the development of chips used by leading global technology companies. The challenge now is to complement this design expertise with manufacturing, assembly, testing, packaging and a dependable supply chain. Achieving this integration would deepen India's participation in the semiconductor industry and strengthen its manufacturing base.

Building such an ecosystem requires more than investment alone. Semiconductor fabrication is among the most sophisticated industrial processes in the world, demanding uninterrupted power, high-quality water, precision infrastructure and efficient logistics. These requirements underscore the importance of sustained policy support, ease of doing business and coordinated efforts between governments, industry and academic institutions. Equally critical is the development of a highly skilled workforce. As semiconductor technologies evolve rapidly, educational institutions must align their curricula with industry requirements. Greater collaboration between universities, research centres and manufacturers can foster innovation while equipping students with practical skills. Expanding specialised training programmes and encouraging industry-led research will help create a steady pipeline of talent capable of supporting long-term growth.

Research and innovation must remain at the heart of India's semiconductor ambitions. Investments in advanced materials, chip architecture, artificial intelligence applications and next-generation manufacturing technologies will determine future competitiveness. Encouraging start-ups, supporting research laboratories and facilitating technology partnerships can accelerate innovation while creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs and scientists. A robust semiconductor ecosystem also carries wider economic benefits. It can stimulate growth across electronics manufacturing, renewable energy, healthcare, automotive production and telecommunications. The expansion of these sectors will generate high-value employment, strengthen exports and enhance India's integration into global supply chains. As businesses increasingly diversify their manufacturing networks, India has an opportunity to position itself as a reliable and competitive destination for advanced technology industries.

The semiconductor journey is necessarily a long-term endeavour. It demands sustained investment, policy consistency and continuous technological advancement. Success cannot be measured solely by the establishment of fabrication facilities, but by the creation of an integrated ecosystem that nurtures research, manufacturing, innovation and skilled human resources.

India possesses many of the ingredients required to achieve this transformation: a large domestic market, a growing pool of technical talent and an expanding digital economy. By maintaining a clear long-term vision and strengthening collaboration across government, industry and academia, the country can build a resilient semiconductor ecosystem that supports innovation, enhances industrial competitiveness and contributes meaningfully to sustainable economic growth in the decades ahead.



MAN ONLY IN NAME

Is man fashioned merely from dust and bone?
No—

The mind, the heart, the moral tone
Are his truest shape, his inner throne.
Yet see this age—how cruel the sight:
The soil stands firm,
The soul caves in overnight.
We lit education as a pilgrim's flame,
Trusting it would show the way;
Now that very flame exhales dark smoke,
Blinding tomorrow's eyes today.
Milk turns poison when filth is stirred;
So does learning, when bribes are heard.
When corruption stains the writer's pen,
It doesn't murder just one man—
It strangles generations yet unborn.
Justice once walked a road of sun,
Barefoot, fearless, answerable to none.
Now shadows shoulder her weary frame,
While falsehood mounts the throne of claim.
Truth—once crowned in living breath—
Rides a palanquin of death,
Not toward power, not toward praise,
But into a silent, unmarked grave.
Bribes have swollen into thunderous streams,
Where values drown with unheard screams.
The poor man's right, a trembling dove,
Is crushed beneath indifferent feet,
Denied the dignity it dared to love.
If corruption is a ravenous beast,
Silence is its loyal priest.
If a question blooms like sacred fire,
Fear pours water, kills desire.
Womanhood glows on decorated stages,
Moonlit words, rehearsed pages—
Goddess in speech, prey by day,
Worshipped aloud, bled away.
A sacrifice in daily disguise,
Garlanded lies over broken cries.
Towers of wealth claw open the sky,
While morality's roots rot dry.
Gold screams loud, blinds the eye,
And humanity fades—
Ashamed, thirsty, pushed aside.
Parents' teachings hang on the wall,
Framed gods watching our fall.
They see the stains upon our hands,
And from their eyes, without a sound,
A quiet rain of sorrow lands.
To rise is not to climb above,
But to lift your head against the wrong.
Greatness is not crown or chair or name,
Not rank, not gold, not hollow fame—
It burns within the soul's own flame.
No more delay.
Break this silence into clay.
Breathe life into sleeping sense,
Sever the hand that sells the law,
Clasp the hand of truth—unbent, intense.
Then—
Earth and sky will reconcile,
Like brothers long estranged, now mild.
And on this soil, at last we'll see
Not man by name,
But humanity—
Standing real.
Standing free.



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



| Straight Talk

THE MANDATE OF BY-ELECTIONS: IS THE VOTER'S MOOD CHANGING? BIG POLITICAL MESSAGES HIDDEN IN SMALL ELECTIONS

In democratic politics, small elections often deliver large messages. For a long time, assembly by-elections were viewed merely as a formal procedure to fill vacant seats. The prevailing belief was that whichever party held power in a state would easily win by-elections due to administrative leverage, organizational strength, and the influence of power. For this reason, the results of by-elections were rarely viewed as broader political indicators. However, over the past few years, this perception has changed rapidly. Today, by-elections do not merely decide a single seat; they also signal the immediate sentiment of the public, satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the government, organizational strength, leadership acceptance, and the future political direction.

The assembly by-elections in Bankipur (Bihar), Datia (Madhya Pradesh), and Manjalpur (Gujarat) have delivered this exact message. Out of the three seats, the BJP's loss in two and victory in only one has compelled political analysts to consider whether these are merely the result of local circumstances or early indications of new political challenges emerging before the BJP. By-elections are not a mandate for a change of government, but they are certainly the first echo of a changing public mindset, which is why these results need to be understood seriously. The most widely discussed seat was Bankipur in Bihar. This seat was not just an assembly constituency; it was considered a symbol of the BJP's political prestige. For nearly three decades, it remained an impregnable fortress for the party. First, the father of BJP President Nitin Nabin, and later Nitin Nabin himself, won consistently from here. The seat became vacant after Nitin Nabin was elected to the Rajya Sabha, and the BJP was fully confident that its bastion would remain secure. However, Prashant Kishor, founder of the Jan Suraj Party, not only dismantled this fortress but also strengthened the possibility of a new political alternative in Bihar.

This result is seen not just as a de-

feat for the BJP, but also as the consequence of its strategic missteps. Confusion surrounding candidate selection until the last moment, dissatisfaction among local workers, and overconfidence hurt the party. Winning a seat continuously over a long period can sometimes breed complacency within an organization. This exact situation was visible in Bankipur. The BJP likely assumed that its traditional vote bank and organizational network would guarantee victory under any circumstances, whereas voters have become far more alert and independent in their decision-making. The Bankipur result is equally significant for Prashant Kishor. Having helped numerous parties achieve success as an election strategist, Kishor entered the electoral arena himself for the first time and succeeded. Although his party had failed completely in the general assembly elections, this victory proved that if a party remains continuously among the people and effectively raises local issues, it can challenge established political equations. This victory also gives momentum to the possibility of a third political alternative in Bihar.

On the other hand, the Datia seat in Madhya Pradesh is a matter of even greater concern for the BJP. This defeat is not merely a success for the opposition, but is also viewed as an expression of discontent within the BJP's own organization. Following the denial of a ticket to former Home Minister Narottam Mishra, the resentment among his supporters remained a continuous topic of discussion throughout the election campaign. In electoral politics, a candidate is not just a representative of the party, but also the centerpiece of local organizational sentiment. When workers themselves lose enthusiasm or when sabotage occurs from within, even a strong organization fails to yield expected results. The Datia outcome confirms this truth. For a long time, the Madhya Pradesh BJP was known for its extremely strong organizational structure under the leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Maintaining the tradition of dialogue developed

between the organization, government, and public with the same effectiveness following a leadership change remains a challenge for the new government. The by-elections have signaled that merely being in power is not enough; organizational unity and the acceptance of local leadership are equally essential.

In Gujarat's Manjalpur, the BJP did register a victory, demonstrating its organizational capacity; however, the shift in the victory margin indicates that the opposition is gradually trying to strengthen its ground there as well. Although the BJP's position in Gujarat remains robust, electoral figures suggest that self-satisfaction is unwise for any political party. An important facet of the discussion surrounding these by-elections was the "Gen-Z movement." The elections took place at a time when issues concerning youth—such as competitive examinations, paper leaks, employment, lack of opportunities, and administrative accountability—were at the center of the national discourse. Naturally, it is difficult to state that this movement alone influenced the election results, as local equations, candidate popularity, and organizational strength play far more decisive roles in any by-election. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that growing dissatisfaction among youth impacts the broader political atmosphere. If young voters feel disappointment toward a government, its psychological effect can manifest in electoral behavior. Today's voter—especially the youth—is no longer voting solely on the basis of caste or traditional political identity; employment, education, corruption, transparency, good governance, equality of opportunity, and administrative accountability are becoming top priorities. Social media and digital communication have also made voters more aware than before. For governments, mere claims of development are no longer sufficient; concrete results must also be visible.

The biggest lesson for the BJP from these results pertains to candidate selection. Over the past few years, dissatisfaction at the local level regarding ticket distribution has been observed across several

states. Ignoring organizational input, worker sentiment, and local popularity can sometimes lead to electoral losses. If the party does not seriously address this aspect in a timely manner, similar situations could arise in future major elections. The BJP must also understand that no political bastion is permanent. In a democracy, the public changes its decisions from time to time, and the party that succeeds in the long run is the one that continuously engages in self-assessment. The by-elections have delivered the message that organizational strength, leadership credibility, and sustained dialogue with the public have become more essential than ever. However, drawing a hasty conclusion from these results that national political equations are changing entirely would be premature. The results of three assembly seats cannot be the final gauge of a government's popularity. Still, ignoring small signals in a democracy is considered unwise from a political standpoint, as these very small signals lay the groundwork for major political shifts ahead.

For the opposition, these results carry a message of hope. But this hope will prove meaningful only if, rather than relying solely on an anti-incumbency wave, it presents credible leadership, a clear alternative policy, and a strong organization. Meanwhile, for new political parties like Jan Suraj, this is both an opportunity and a test; turning success in a single seat into broad public trust will be a far more challenging task. The most significant message of these by-elections is that the voter has become more aware, more demanding, and more independent in making decisions than before. Elections can no longer be won purely through organizational might or old political equations. The public places equal importance on leadership credibility, candidate acceptability, solutions to local issues, and a clear vision for the future. Ultimately, the greatest power in a democracy rests with the people, and the people never forget to deliver big messages—even through small elections.

ARTICLE 370: FROM CONSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION TO A NEW KASHMIR - A CONSTITUTIONAL TURNING POINT

Constitutions are remembered not for the provisions they preserve, but for the transformations they enable. The abrogation of Article 370 was one such moment. Seven years on, the question is no longer whether Jammu and Kashmir's special status ended, but whether constitutional integration is translating into peace, opportunity and lasting development.

Few constitutional decisions in independent India have generated as much debate—or carried as much long-term significance—as the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. More than the removal of a constitutional provision, it marked the beginning of a new constitutional, political and administrative framework for Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, reorganised the erstwhile State into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In December 2023, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Union government's decision, giving judicial finality to the legal challenge while also emphasising the restoration of democratic governance through the Assembly and the eventual restoration of statehood. Seven years later, the debate has shifted from constitutional legality to constitutional outcomes.

One Constitution, Equal Rights:

The most enduring consequence of the decision has been the constitutional integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India. Central laws, welfare programmes and constitutional safeguards now apply in the region on the same footing as elsewhere in the country. Legal protections relating to women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes have acquired wider and more direct applicability. Administrative procedures have become more uniform, creating conditions for improved governance, greater policy convergence and smoother implementation of Central schemes. The principle of "One Nation, One Constitution" has consequently acquired practical administrative meaning rather than remain-

ing merely a political slogan.

Security, Connectivity and Economic Momentum:

The post-2019 period has witnessed significant changes in the security environment. Organised stone-pelting incidents have declined sharply, while the broader trend in terrorist violence has moderated compared with the years preceding the constitutional change. Sustained counter-terrorism operations, stronger inter-agency coordination and improved border management have together contributed to a more stable security environment. Although security challenges have not disappeared entirely, the overall atmosphere has become more conducive to normal civic and economic activity.

One of the clearest reflections of this changing environment has been the remarkable revival of tourism. Jammu and Kashmir has recorded record tourist arrivals in recent years, generating new opportunities for hotels, transport operators, handicrafts, hospitality services and thousands of small enterprises. Tourism has not only strengthened the local economy but has also deepened people-to-people engagement between the region and the rest of the country.

Infrastructure development has gathered unprecedented momentum. National highways, strategic tunnels, expanding railway connectivity, better healthcare facilities, educational institutions and digital infrastructure are gradually reducing geographical isolation and improving regional connectivity. Better transport networks are facilitating trade, encouraging investment and opening new avenues for employment. Together, these developments are integrating Jammu and Kashmir more closely with India's economic mainstream.

Building on the Foundation:

Constitutional reforms rarely transform societies overnight. Their true significance lies in the institutions they strengthen and the opportunities they create. The abrogation of Article 370 has established a governance framework that is more closely aligned with the constitutional and administrative architecture of the rest of the country. Wider access to Central welfare programmes, expanding public infrastructure, a more investment-friendly policy environment

and growing opportunities for young people are collectively laying the foundation for long-term development.

The long-term success of this transformation will ultimately be measured not merely by constitutional change but by sustained economic growth, greater employment opportunities and continued improvements in the quality of life. The trajectory, however, is becoming increasingly visible. Constitutional integration is steadily evolving into administrative, economic and developmental integration.

A Defining Chapter:

The abrogation of Article 370 was never simply about removing a constitutional provision. It represented the beginning of a broader national effort to integrate Jammu and Kashmir more fully with India's constitutional institutions, governance systems and development process. Seven years later, the region appears to be moving beyond a framework of constitutional exceptionalism towards one founded on equality before the Constitution and expanding developmental opportunities.

History rarely judges transformative decisions by the intensity of the political debates surrounding them. It judges them by the institutions they strengthen, the opportunities they create and the lives they improve. By that measure, the lasting legacy of Article 370 will not be found in constitutional texts alone, but in a peaceful, connected and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir that participates fully in India's democratic and economic journey.



K. AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO



Northeast
Railway Earns
Over ₹165 Crore
from Freight
Loading

GORAKHPUR, AUGUST
5, 2026:

Owing to improved facilities being provided by the railway administration to traders and industrial establishments, along with the well-planned efforts of Business Development Units at both the headquarters and divisional levels, freight loading on the Northeast Railway has continued to grow. During the current financial year 2026–27, up to July 2026, a total of 1.412 million tonnes of freight was loaded, generating ₹165.56 crore in revenue. In July 2026 alone, 0.47 million tonnes of freight was loaded, earning ₹57.78 crore in revenue. As a result of the coordinated efforts of railway officers and employees, the Northeast Railway earned ₹165.56 crore from freight loading during the period up to July 2026 in the current financial year 2026–27. This represents an increase of 1.89% compared with the ₹162.49 crore earned from freight loading during the corresponding period of the previous financial year 2025–26.

Jharkhand
Students
Intensify Exam
Protest
RANCHI: (AUG 5)

Students intensified their protest over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations in Jharkhand with five demonstrators joining an indefinite hunger strike, even as Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday said the question paper leak issues are a national problem and offered talks to resolve the impasse. The protest, which began on July 25 under the banner of the JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium here, emerged as one of the biggest student-led movements in the state in recent years. The demonstrators are demanding cancellation of the 14th Jharkhand PSC Civil Services Examination and an independent probe into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment test either by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or by a panel of retired high court judges from outside the state.

National Conclave “Dialogue for Solutions”
Resonates at Lok Bhawan, Dehradun

Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh Unveils Nirgun Chadariya, Authored by Eminent Writer Lalit Garg

DEHRADUN, AUGUST 5 2026

The serene and spiritually vibrant land of Uttarakhand witnessed a landmark national event as Mahavirayan Foundation, under the inspiration and guidance of its Founder Swami Devendra Brahmachari, organized the grand conclave “Dialogue for Solutions” at Lok Bhawan, Dehradun. Inspired by Lord Mahavira’s timeless principles of “Live and Let Live” and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (The World is One Family), the event brought together distinguished personalities from across India to deliberate on national integration, social harmony, education, culture, ethical values, and human consciousness. The programme was graced by Hon’ble Governor of Uttarakhand, Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh (Retd.), as the Chief Guest. Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat, Cabinet Minister, Government of Uttarakhand, and Mahant Shri Lokesh Das Ji Maharaj attended as Guests of Honour. The gathering also included eminent saints, jurists, academicians, senior administrators, industrialists, social leaders, and intellectuals from different parts of the country. The event commenced



with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp before the portrait of Lord Mahavira, followed by an auspicious invocation. Students of The Lakshya Public Senior Secondary School, Barhwa, Dehradun, captivated the audience with a vibrant cultural performance reflecting India’s rich heritage and value-based traditions. Mahavirayan Foundation extended a warm welcome to all distinguished guests and delegates by presenting ceremonial shawls and honour stoles. A special highlight of the event was the release of the book Nirgun Chadariya, authored by eminent writer, columnist, and social thinker Shri Lalit Garg. The book was formally unveiled by Hon’ble Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), marking a memorable literary moment that underscored the significance of value-based

literature in contemporary society. On the occasion, several distinguished personalities were honoured for their exemplary contributions in their respective fields. Those felicitated included Advocate Anand Prakash Yadav, renowned author Dr. Prabhavikaran Jain, Shri Piyush Jain, Shri Sandeep Jain, and Er. J. C. Jain, Chairman of COER University, Roorkee, with mementoes and certificates of appreciation.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.) emphasized that meaningful dialogue remains the most effective way to resolve the complex challenges confronting society and the nation. He observed that Lord Mahavira’s ideals of non-violence, compassion, and peaceful coexistence continue to offer timeless guidance to humanity. Cabinet Minister Dr.

Dhan Singh Rawat highlighted that education, moral values, and constructive dialogue constitute the foundation of a strong and developed India. He stressed the importance of nurturing ethical values among the youth and appreciated initiatives that promote social awareness and national unity. Mahant Shri Lokesh Das Ji Maharaj remarked that Lord Mahavira’s message transcends all boundaries and serves the welfare of humanity. He said that lasting peace and social harmony can only be achieved through dialogue, mutual respect, and selfless service. In his keynote address, Swami Devendra Brahmachari, Founder of Mahavirayan Foundation, described “Dialogue for Solutions” as more than a programme—it is a national movement dedicated to connecting society, strengthening the nation, and serving humanity. He stated that Lord Mahavira’s principles of “Live and Let Live” and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” provide the foundation for global peace, social harmony, and human welfare. He reaffirmed the Foundation’s commitment to carrying forward this mission through meaningful dialogues across the country. Welcoming the guests, Trustee Shri

Chand Kumar Jajodia expressed gratitude to all participants and acknowledged the collective efforts that ensured the event’s grand success. The programme was elegantly anchored by Ms. Akshata Jain, while the formal vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Sohan Giri, who expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Hon’ble Governor, distinguished guests, saints, delegates, government officials, partner organizations, media representatives, volunteers, and all attendees. In his concluding remarks, Swami Devendra Brahmachari thanked every contributor, including the Governor, invited dignitaries, spiritual leaders, speakers, partner institutions, The Lakshya Public School family, media professionals, volunteers, and the entire Mahavirayan Foundation team. He expressed confidence that the “Dialogue for Solutions” initiative would continue to inspire social harmony, national integration, ethical leadership, and human values throughout the country. The programme concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen nation-building, foster social harmony, and spread the eternal message of Lord Mahavira for the welfare of humanity.



Indian Railways to Operate
Examination Special
Trains for RRB Aspirants

MALIGAON, 05 AUGUST,
2026:

To facilitate candidates appearing for the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) examinations and to manage the anticipated increase in passenger traffic, Indian Railways has decided to operate Examination Special Trains during the examination period. As part of this initiative, Train No. 08181/08182 Tatanagar – Rampur Bazar – Tatanagar Examination Special will be operated to provide additional travel accommodation for examination aspirants and other passengers.

Train No. 08181 Tatanagar – Rampur Bazar Examination Special will run daily at 19.30 Hours from Tatanagar from 3rd August to 6th August 2026 and 9th August to 14th August 2026, while Train No. 08182 Rampur Bazar – Tatanagar Examination Special will operate from Rampur Bazar at 10.00 Hours from 4th August to 7th August 2026 and 10th

August to 15th August 2026. Each service will run for 10 trips, providing additional rail connectivity during the examination period.

The Examination Special train will comprise 16 coaches, offering enhanced accommodation for passengers. During its journey, the train will halt at Kharagpur Jn., Andul, Dankuni, Bardhaman Jn., Bolpur Shantiniketan, Rampur Hat, Pakur, New Farakka Jn., Malda Town, Eklakhi, Buniadpur and Gangarampur ensuring convenient connectivity for candidates travelling from different regions. The operation of Examination Special Trains reflects Indian Railways’ commitment to facilitating safe, convenient and hassle-free travel for examination aspirants while easing passenger congestion on regular train services. Passengers are advised to check the train schedule and availability before planning their journey and make use of the additional services introduced for their convenience.

Indian Railways Steps Up
Safety, Infrastructure Push;
Spends ₹1.15 Lakh Crore by July

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5:

Indian Railways has utilised ₹1,14,973 crore, nearly 39 per cent of its ₹2.93 lakh crore budget allocation for the financial year 2026-27 by the end of July, reflecting steady progress in railway modernisation, safety enhancement and infrastructure expansion across the country. The update was shared by Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The Railways has continued to place safety at the centre of its development strategy, with increasing investments in modern signalling systems, track upgrades and indigenous technologies. One of the major highlights is the rapid expansion of the Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, which has now been commissioned on 2,633 route kilometres covering key sections of the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors.

Safety Spending Continues
to Rise

Indian Railways has significantly increased expenditure on safety-related activities over the years. The allocation has grown from ₹39,200 crore in 2013-14 to ₹1,20,389 crore in 2026-27, reflecting the government’s continued focus on reducing accidents and improving passenger safety. Officials said that sustained investment in advanced signalling systems, track renewal, modern equipment and maintenance has contributed to a sharp decline in railway accidents over the past decade.

Kavach Expansion Gains
Momentum

Kavach, India’s indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system, has emerged as a key component of railway safety. The technology automatically applies brakes if a loco pilot fails to respond within the prescribed speed limits and also ensures safer train operations during adverse weather conditions. First tested on passenger trains in 2016, Kavach was adopted as the national ATP system in 2020. Following operational experience on the South Central Railway, the upgraded Kavach Version 4.0 received approval in July 2024 with several technological improvements. The latest version offers enhanced location accuracy, improved signal information in complex railway yards, station-to-station communication through optical fibre networks and direct integration with electronic interlocking systems.

These features make the system suitable for large-scale deployment across the country’s diverse railway network. As of July 31, 2026, Kavach Version 4.0 has been commissioned on 1,423 route kilometres of the Delhi-Mumbai corridor and 1,210 route kilometres on the Delhi-Howrah route, covering several high-density railway sections. Besides completed sections, trackside Kavach installation work is underway on 21,794 route kilometres across major railway corridors. Supporting infrastructure has also expanded rapidly, including 11,547 kilometres of optical fibre cable, 1,721 telecom towers, 1,009 station data centres, trackside equipment across 7,726 route kilometres, and Kavach installation in 6,290 locomotives. The Railways has also initiated installation of the system in another 7,190 locomotives and 1,200 EMU and MEMU coaches. In another milestone, Kavach has successfully completed trials at 160 kmph using a Vande Bharat trainset on the Delhi-Howrah route. The Railways has already spent ₹3,875 crore on Kavach implementation up to June 2026, while ₹2,066 crore has been allocated for the current financial year to accelerate deployment.

Railway Speeds Improve
Across the Network

Indian Railways has undertaken extensive track modernisation over the past 12 years to improve train speeds. The upgrades include stronger 60-kg rails, wider concrete sleepers, thicker web switches, advanced crossings, longer welded rail panels and modern maintenance technologies. These improvements have significantly increased the speed potential of the railway network. Today, nearly 81 per cent of railway tracks are capable of supporting speeds of 110 kmph or higher, compared to a much smaller share in 2014. The Railways is also implementing Mission Raftaar, aimed at increasing operational speeds up to 160 kmph on the important New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah routes.

Major Infrastructure Expansion
Underway

Capacity enhancement remains another major priority. During the period from 2014 to 2026, Indian Railways commissioned 36,429 kilometres of new railway lines, averaging 8.32 kilometres per day, almost double the pace achieved during the previous five-year period.

"Samudra Manthan" Towards
Self-Reliance in Oil and Natural Gas

In modern life, not a single moment passes without the consuming energy. Whether it is homes, farms, industries, transportation, commercial centers, electronic media, IT, or government institutions, energy is the only prime driving force. Per capita energy consumption defines the development of a country. Energy serves as the foundation for development. The development of a country depends on reliable, affordable, and safe energy supply. Energy needs are increasing day by day. Availability of crude oil and natural gas is becoming a challenge. Energy security has become a major challenge for India. We are dependent on other countries for crude oil. We are having to spend our precious foreign exchange on energy imports. As the Israeli, US-Iran, and Russia-Ukraine wars have disrupted international crude oil and natural gas supplies, oil prices have increased and the prices

of essential commodities are skyrocketing. Today, the economic conditions of countries that are self-sufficient in crude oil and natural gas are better.

Funds for the Extraction
of Hydrocarbon Reserves
in Sea Waters:

India has vast reserves of hydrocarbon resources hidden deep in the earth and sea. These need to be continuously extracted and converted into petrol, diesel, LPG, petrochemicals, fertilizers and various industrial products. There are huge reserves of hydrocarbons in the coastal basins of the Indian Ocean. To identify and extract these, modern exploration, modern drilling capabilities and strong supply systems are required. To accelerate these efforts, the Union Cabinet of the Government of India approved the “Samudra Manthan - National Offshore Exploration Scheme” on 31 July 2026 and allocated ₹84,084 crore for its implementation up to the financial year 2030-31. We hope that this scheme, which will promote hydrocarbon exploration, production and supply chains, will bring about significant benefits such as alleviating our crude oil shortage, strengthening energy security, saving foreign exchange, and alleviating the fear of oil shortage. Exploration for oil raw materials is taking place today as part of the Samudra Manthan scheme. ₹ 28,534 crore has been allocated for identifying oil and gas deposits through 2D and 3D seismic surveys. As part of this scheme, ₹ 43,200 crore (₹ 675 crore per well) has been allocated for drilling about 60 deep water wells. ₹ 10,000 crore will be provided for general offshore infrastructure. ₹ 2,000 crore has been allocated for setting up an oil, gas and services zone.

Energy Security : Need if the Hour:
India is the third largest consumer of crude oil. India’s annual oil imports are worth about \$144 billion or about Rs 13 lakh crore. The recent political developments in the Strait of Hormuz have made it clear how crucial it is to have uninterrupted fuel supply. Domestic oil products are becoming increasingly important for sustainable development. A large part of India’s future oil and gas lies offshore. Deep sea basins are known to be full of oil reserves. It is estimated that there are about 5,600 million metric tons of oil equivalent hydrocarbon reserves in our offshore basins. It should be noted that oil exploration in offshore basins is not only an expensive but also a laborious activity. It can take 5-10 years from the completion of exploration to production. A deep sea exploration well costs about \$150 million. The broad benefits of the Samudra Manthan scheme include large reserves, high production, low import costs, investment promotion, employment generation, indigenous strength, and the potential to take steps towards oil/gas self-reliance. Oil exploration/production routes will be smoothed with features like making offshore areas accessible, new licensing regime, fair deal channels, modern laws, enforcement rules, equal opportunities, and a clear vision. Oil exploration will be smoothed in deep water and ultra deep water areas. The Samudra Manthan project will increase domestic energy security and reduce foreign imports. Let us hope that Samudra Manthan will enable to reach the goals of Vikasit Bharat, Make in India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat by reducing risks in offshore exploration, attracting private investment, accelerating domestic oil and gas production, reducing dependence on imports, and strengthening energy security.

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quality of water available from various sources will also be assessed. In addition, scientific methods will be developed to raise groundwater levels and ensure long-term water security. Officials said that this initiative would provide a strong scientific foundation to the Saraswati revival project. It would not only help ensure a continuous flow of water in the river but also promote groundwater recharge in surrounding areas, which is extremely important for a state like Haryana. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister’s Chief Principal Secretary Sh. Rajesh Khullar, Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretaries Sh. Sudhir Rajpal, Sh. A.K. Singh, Sh. Anurag Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department Sh. Pankaj Yadav, Member Secretary, Kurukshetra Development Board, Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal, Director General, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department Sh. K. Makarand Pandurang, CEO, Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board Sh. Kumar Supravin, Vice Chairman Sh. Dhooman Singh Kirmach, OSD to the Chief Minister Sh. B.B. Bharti, former Minister Sh. Subhash Sudha, and Chairman Ashish Sharma Chakrapani.

Several Key Decisions Taken for
Conservation and Development of Saraswati River

Detailed Report to be Prepared by IIT Roorkee.. Saraswati Will Flow, Tourism Will Grow; Groundwater Level Will Also Improve: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 5

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the Saraswati River is not only a centre of religious faith but also a living witness to India’s ancient civilisation and culture. He said the state government has accorded the Saraswati revival project the highest priority. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was chairing a meeting of the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board at the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday. During the meeting, he also released a report detailing the achievements and activities of the Board. Detailed discussions were held on important issues related to the holistic development, conservation and public awareness of the Saraswati River, and several key decisions were taken. Officials of the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board also presented details of ongoing activities and upcoming plans before the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation arrangements at all religious sites in the Pehowa area. Directing officials to expedite the work, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that all works, including those at Adi Badri, should

be completed at a fast pace. He said the project would not only help develop sources of drinking water and irrigation but also promote religious tourism in the Pehowa area. During the meeting, officials informed the Chief Minister that a 350-acre Saraswati reservoir is being developed and that excavation work involving 10 lakh cuces of earth has so far been successfully completed from the main reservoir, marking a major achievement in the project. Taking a status report on the construction of the barrage, the Chief Minister directed Irrigation Department officials to accelerate the work without any delay. He made it clear that technical shortcomings or any laxity in adhering to timelines would not be tolerated and directed officials to conduct regular reviews of the project themselves. Discussions were also held on the development of Pehowa and other related aspects. The beautification of the Prachi Saraswati tributary, construction of steps and cultural programme sheds, among several other important projects, were also discussed. These projects are estimated to cost approximately Rs. 56 crore. The Saraswati Board has prepared an integrated plan for all these developmental activities. Officials of



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini presiding over a meeting of Saraswati Heritage Board at Chandigarh on August 5, 2026.

the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board informed the Chief Minister that ghats equipped with modern facilities are being constructed along the Saraswati River. Modern bridges will also be constructed to facilitate smooth connectivity. Work is also underway towards the renovation of ancient temples, construction of water conservation structures, cleaning and beautification of ponds, demarcation and cleaning of the river, and development of the riverfront as a world-class tourist destination. In addition, the establishment of a museum and interpretation centre in Pehowa in coordination with the concerned departments is also being considered.

Signage Boards to Be
Installed at Key Locations

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that conservation of the historic river would not be possible

until the general public is made aware of its significance. To achieve this objective, he directed that large signage boards be installed at 40 to 50 important locations in and around the area. These boards will provide detailed information about the historical, mythological and cultural significance of the Saraswati River, enabling citizens to actively participate in the river revival campaign.

No Untreated Water Should
Enter the River Under Any
Circumstances

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini issued environmental directives to protect the Saraswati River from pollution. He said that all liquid waste management systems around the Saraswati River must remain fully operational. If any system is non-functional, the concerned officials must get it repaired and ensure regular follow-up. He

said that untreated water from nearby villages must not be allowed to enter the Saraswati River under any circumstances. To ensure this, it was decided that the maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) would be ensured through coordination among the concerned departments, including Municipal Corporations, Panchayat Raj and the Irrigation Department. Officials were directed to ensure that all STPs remain operational at full capacity and that the quality of river water is monitored regularly.

Proposal to Seek Consultancy
from IIT Roorkee Also
Approved

The meeting also approved a proposal to seek consultancy from IIT Roorkee for water linkage between the Tons Basin and Saraswati Basin and sustainable groundwater management. The primary objective of the consultancy is to ensure sustainable water recharge in the Saraswati River. With the support of IIT Roorkee, a detailed report will be prepared to study how water from the Tons River and seasonal streams can be brought to the Saraswati River. The Tons River is considered a major and perennial tributary source of the ancient Saraswati River system and originates from a glacier. The quantity and



Bangladesh in 'grip of fear', says former PM

Hasina promising return to country by year-end

NEW DELHI

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said that the South Asian country's situation has worsened over the last two years with people continuing to live in an atmosphere of fear, insecurity and economic distress despite the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) assuming office following, what she described as, a "rigged election".

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi via an audio link, Hasina, who has been living in exile in India for the past two years, also said that she would return to her home country by the year-end.

"Even after a rigged election brought the BNP to power, the situation did not change. Bangladesh remains in the grip of fear, terror, depression, economic hardship and deep in-

security," said Hasina in her address to the media in New Delhi.

Hasina broke down several times during her address. Recalling the events of the past two years, the former Bangladesh PM said she has watched her "beloved Bangladesh suffer". Accusing organised groups of exploiting the July-August 2024 student protests to serve a political agenda, she claimed the movement was not a peaceful campaign for reform but was transformed into a tool for violence.

"For the last two years, I watched my beloved Bangladesh suffer... This is not the Bangladesh we built; this is not the Bangladesh for which three million people sacrificed their lives in 1971. Let me begin with the truth about July and August 2024. It was not a peaceful student movement. From the beginning, my government



tried to resolve the issue peacefully through dialogue, legal process, and patience. But behind the language of reform, organised groups were working to turn students' demands into violent political instruments."

Hasina said her government had attempted to resolve the protests through dialogue and legal means, alleging that the quota reform movement was deliberately converted into a campaign demanding her res-

ignation. "I personally took the initiative for dialogue with the students and invited them to Gonobhaban, the Prime Minister's residence. Three ministers also held discussions with them. A quota reform movement was turned into a one-point demand for my resignation. False propaganda was spread in a planned way. Genuine students were emotionally manipulated while organised groups used their movement as

cover for violence and regime change," the former PM mentioned. Hasina claimed that Chief Advisor to Bangladesh's interim government, Muhammad Yunus's own description of the July 2024 protests being a "meticulously designed movement led by a mastermind" revealed the organised nature of the unrest.

"Muhammad Yunus himself said this was a meticulously designed movement led by a mastermind. His own words expose the truth. It was not simply a spontaneous student protest. There was no visible or responsible leadership. Instructions were given invisibly. It was organised, directed, and used to create a path to power outside the ballot box. From July 15, the character of the movement changed. Killings, arson, attacks, and looting began. State property was destroyed," she stated.

Hasina alleged widespread political persecution over the last two years, claiming that at least 10,000 people have been killed or disappeared, and 6.5 lakh have been arrested over the last two years, and 3500 cases have been filed. She mentioned that nearly 4.5 lakh leaders, workers, and supporters of Awami League had been named as accused, while more than one million others have been listed as unnamed accused. Hasina claimed that more than six hundred cases have been filed against her. "Women activists of Chhatra League, a student organisation, youth league, other affiliated organisations are facing abuse, humiliation, torture in custody. Many leaders and workers have also died in prison amid documented accounts of torture, denial of medical treatment, deprivation of food, negligence, and denial of basic rights," she added.



Putin announces senior military appointments

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced a series of senior military appointments and changes within the Defence Ministry, saying the reforms would improve the military's organisational structure.

Speaking at a Kremlin meeting with Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov, and commanders of the Centre and East groups of forces, Putin said the ministry is continuing efforts to optimise its command and logistics system.

Putin said the ministry had recently consolidated responsibility for weapons procurement and supply under Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Sanchik, a former Field Commander. He also announced the appointment of Valery Solodchuk as Deputy Defence Minister in charge of all rear and logistics services.

Putin also approved changes to the command of several frontline military groupings, Xinhua news agency reported. Andrei Ivanayev was appointed Commander of the Center group of forces, which Putin said is responsible for carrying out key operations

in the Donetsk region. Pyotr Bolgarev was named Acting Commander of the Eastern Military District and Commander of the East group of forces.

Putin also announced the appointment of Denis Lyamin, who previously served as Chief of Staff of the Center group of forces, to oversee the formation of Russia's newly established unmanned systems forces. Last week, Putin had signed a Presidential Decree to boost the number of servicemen in the Russian Armed Forces by 25,000, according to the information published on the official portal for legal acts.

In June, the Russian President set the authorised strength of the Russian Armed Forces at 2,399,130 personnel, including 1,510,000 servicemen. "Due to the establishment of new military construction units within the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, I hereby order amendments to Presidential Decree No. 419 dated June 12, 2026 'On Establishing the Authorized Strength of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation'. Clause 1 shall read as follows: Set the authorized strength of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation at 2,426,130 personnel.

BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group agree on network proposed by India

HYDERABAD

The second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group and the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery, which concluded here on Wednesday, reached an in-principle agreement on the proposed BRICS Network of Law-Enforcement Practitioners for Enhancing International Cooperation on Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Supporting Extradition.

During the two-day meeting, BRICS members made significant progress on the Indian Presidency's proposal for a BRICS network.

Members held constructive discussions on the objectives, scope and operational modalities of the proposed network



and reached an in-principle agreement on the initiative and decided to continue deliberations on establishing a dedicated practitioner-level platform, said an official release.

The initiative is expected to facilitate informal cooperation, support the tracing of fugitive offenders and complement existing formal mechanisms for

extradition and international cooperation.

Members also welcomed the BRICS Repository on Informal Cooperation for Tracing Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Supporting Extradition. This would serve as a practical, practitioner-oriented resource bringing together information on national practices

and existing channels of informal cooperation.

The second meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery made substantive progress on practical deliverables aimed at strengthening direct cooperation among competent authorities. Members reached consensus on the standardised formats to facilitate timely practitioner-level information exchange during the preliminary stages of investigations while complementing formal mutual legal assistance mechanisms. The Centre's Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) successfully hosted the meetings in line with the theme of India's BRICS Presidency, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

CEO of Russian key drone manufacturer injured in car explosion

MOSCOW

The CEO of a key Russian manufacturer of strike drones is in serious condition following a car explosion in the Sverdlovsk region late Tuesday night, TASS reported on Wednesday, citing emergency service representatives.

CEO of UralDronZavod Vladimir Tkachuk remains in intensive care following the explosion, according to available information.

UralDronZavod is a Russian full-cycle drone manufacturer that Tkachuk launched as a startup in 2023. The company designs and produces a full lineup of drone systems, ranging from compact models to heavy-lift multicopters and fixed-wing drones, Xinhua news agency reported.

The incident came one week after an attempted assassination on Andrey Cherezov, chief designer

and developer of the Ovod drone series, inside a residential building in the western Russian city of Tula.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and 12 others injured in a large-scale missile and drone attack on Kyiv overnight on Wednesday, Ukrainian media reported.

As of 2:10 am local time (2:30 GMT), damage had been recorded at more than seven locations across the city, according to the city's military administration.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram that one warehouse building had been destroyed near the city centre and rescue teams had pulled two people from the rubble. The attack triggered fires in warehouses and storage areas, as well as a major blaze on the city's outskirts, he said, adding that debris from a fallen missile had landed next to a residential building.

Pakistan using bullets and media blackout to hide brutalities in PoK: Report



ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's response to a bread-and-butter protest movement in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with live fire, mass arrests, a communications blackout, and the blocking of an international media outlet reporting on the unrest was not merely an attempt to quell dissent. It was an effort to ensure the rest of the world never saw how that dissent was being suppressed. The true measure of the international community's commitment to press freedom will be whether it allows Islamabad's effort to succeed, a report has stated.

According to a 'One Word Outlook' report, PoK has, for the past two months, remained under a virtual siege that has received little attention in Western headlines, with Pakistani Rangers firing on unarmed protesters and prolonged internet and mobile shutdowns in the region for weeks at a stretch.

"A grassroots rights coalition has been formally designated a terrorist organisation. And in the first days of August, Islamabad extended its campaign of information control to an audience well beyond its own borders, restricting access to Al Jazeera English after the network aired ground reporting from

Muzaffarabad. Pakistan's Information and Broadcasting Ministry did not deny the coverage was accurate; it simply accused the network of 'selective reporting' and 'yellow journalism,' and the site went dark for millions of Pakistani users," the report detailed.

"This is not a story about a distant territorial dispute. It is a story about what happens when a state facing a genuine, home-grown uprising over bread-and-butter grievances chooses bullets, blackouts and blacklists over dialogue — and about how easily that playbook extends to silencing the outside world's view of it," it added.

The report noted that while the shootings and disappearances in PoK were the most brutal tools in Islamabad's toolkit, the blocking of Al Jazeera on August 2 was the clearest indication of its intent. "The network had spent the preceding days airing detailed reports on the election-related unrest and the security crackdown in Muzaffarabad. Within roughly 24 hours, users across Pakistan began reporting that the site had gone dark. Pakistan's government has, notably, never formally confirmed ordering the block — a pattern of official deniability that has become its own signature of this crackdown.

Bangladesh measles outbreak claims five more lives, death toll climbs to 854

DHAKA

As many as five more children have died from the measles outbreak in Bangladesh, raising the total number of confirmed and suspected deaths to 854, amid an escalating health crisis in the country, local media reported.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the deaths were reported in the 24 hours leading up to Wednesday morning.

The latest fatalities from the disease were identified as suspected, Bangladeshi media outlet UNB reported.

Reports suggest that while the number of confirmed deaths remained at 96, the total number of suspected deaths climbed to 758.

The DGHS recorded a total of 959 suspected measles cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the overall tally of suspected cases to 132,905.



Additionally, 124 new confirmed cases were reported, increasing the total to 16,655 during the same period.

As Bangladesh continues to grapple with a measles outbreak, at least nine out of every 10 families impacted by the disease have been forced to take out loans to cover treatment costs, while six in 10 have exhausted their savings, local media reported on Tuesday, citing a joint report

by two humanitarian organisations. In their latest joint assessment, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) examined data from 2,746 families with measles patients undergoing treatment at 12 government medical colleges and district hospitals nationwide.

The report found that each family spent an average of

around Bangladeshi taka (Tk) 16,000 on measles treatment, the country's leading daily Prothom Alo reported.

Many parents said that they had to stay away from work to care for their sick children in hospital, leaving some without incomes and others unemployed after losing their jobs.

Public health expert Mush-tuq Husain told Prothom Alo that the financial burden borne by low-income families across Bangladesh due to measles reflects what health economists describe as "medical impoverishment". "It is an extremely painful experience for any family. The incumbent government pledged in its election manifesto to ensure free primary healthcare. Yet, during this measles crisis, we have seen no reflection of that commitment. It is precisely during times like these that such support is needed most," he stated.

PoJK illegally administered by force under Munir's 'hard state' doctrine: Report

ISLAMABAD

The international community is witnessing the "real growth" in Jammu and Kashmir against a brutal illegal occupation of the Pakistani regime in the occupied territory, making it clear that the comparison is no longer a contest of narratives.

In a report titled 'PoJK faces Pakistani bullets as J&K records broad-based development', the European Times reflected not only on the ongoing bloodshed in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) but also stated clearly that all what matters now are measurable outcomes as the gap has become "indefensible" for Pakistan.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, an elected assembly is functioning, the economy is projected to touch INR 2.86 lakh crore, terrorism has fallen to its low-

est level in more than three decades, and trains now cross the world's highest railway arch bridge into the Valley. In PoJK, Pakistani security forces have shot dead scores of unarmed protesters since June, the occupied territory's largest civic movement has been proscribed under anti-terrorism law, all types of communications have been cut for close to 60 days, a two-phase election has been boycotted, and all outcomes will be rigged by Islamabad. Jammu and Kashmir is developing on every measurable front. PoJK is being illegally administered by force under Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's 'hard state' doctrine," the report highlighted.

In June, the so-called 'home department' of the PoJK had proscribed the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) under the Azad



Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Terrorism Act 2014, within days of the election schedule being announced for July 27.

"Mobile and internet services were suspended and stayed down across the region for close to 60 days, restored only partially on the eve of polling. Islamabad has even restricted the telecast of Al Jazeera across the country for a report revealing ground reports of the poll boycott. According to JAAC, 45 people were killed before July

lawyers and students demanding cheaper electricity, subsidised wheat, an end to elite privileges, and the abolition of 12 assembly seats reserved for refugees who live in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Sialkot rather than in the territory itself.

"Those 12 constituencies carry roughly 439,000 registered voters located outside PoJK, and they let Islamabad's parties decide who governs the occupied territory. Furthermore, the electricity grievance is equally concrete. The Mangla Dam operates at 1,310 MW and supplies close to five billion units a year to the national grid, about 15 per cent of Pakistan's installed hydropower capacity. Local production costs run between PKR 3 and PKR 4 per unit while consumers in PoJK have been billed at many times that rate, and the federal government pays the territory no

royalty," the report mentions. The recent "fake polls," it said further, were held under a total communications blackout, with JAAC banned as a "terrorist" outfit and coalition partners accusing each other of fraud, further confirming Pakistan's illegal occupation.

On the other hand, the contrast across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir is documented in the same currency of hard numbers.

"The region continues to witness all-round development, with a far-improved security situation and a reliable counter-terrorism apparatus to counter Pakistan-run cross-border terrorist activities. The first six months of 2026 saw only 12 casualties, of which 10 were militants killed largely while attempting to infiltrate J&K. Local recruitment into militancy has collapsed.





CMD, BHEL
addresses
shareholders at
the company's
62nd Annual
General Meeting
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 05

Sh. K. Sadashiv Murthy, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL, addressed shareholders through video conferencing at the company's 62nd Annual General Meeting, in the presence of the Board of Directors of the company, in New Delhi today.

Periodic tariff
adjustments
must to sustain
investment:
Kumar
Mangalam Birla
NEW DELHI: (AUG 5)

Debt-ridden telecom firm Vodafone Idea sees the need for a tariff hike to sustain investments in the network, even as the company continues to discuss with lenders to fund its Rs 45,000 crore capex plan, its Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said on Wednesday. In a letter to shareholders, Birla said broadband subscriptions crossed the one billion mark in March 2026, driven by mobile connectivity, which has become the country's primary gateway to the digital economy. "Yet India's Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) remains among the lowest in the world. Periodic tariff adjustments are therefore essential if operators are to sustain investment and finance the rollout of next-generation networks," Birla said.

Sensex, Nifty end marginally higher after
RBI pauses rates; auto, metal stocks shine

Sensex and Nifty closed marginally higher after the RBI kept rates unchanged. Rising crude prices and the new closing auction mechanism kept sentiment cautious and trade volatile.

Benchmark equity indices ended with modest gains on Wednesday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept interest rates unchanged as widely expected, although rising crude oil prices amid renewed geopolitical tensions capped the market's upside.

The BSE Sensex settled 152.05 points, or 0.19%, higher at 78,581.00, while the NSE Nifty50 edged up 9.75 points, or 0.04%, to close at 24,624.65. The session was marked by heightened volatility. Markets opened on a strong note, tracking positive global cues and optimism ahead of the RBI's monetary policy decision. However, gains gradually fizzled out through the day after Gover-



nor Sanjay Malhotra flagged inflation risks arising from higher fuel prices while reiterating the central bank's commitment to keeping inflation under control. Another factor that kept investors cautious was the rebound in crude oil prices. Brent crude climbed to around \$80.7 a barrel after fresh Houthi attacks on a Saudi tanker clouded hopes of easing tensions in West Asia, reviving concerns over inflation and India's import bill. Adding to the day's unusual trading pattern, the benchmark indices continued to reflect the impact of the newly in-

troduced closing auction mechanism for futures and options (F&O) stocks. Before the closing session began at 3:15 pm, the Nifty was down about 0.18% while the Sensex was up 0.09%, before both benchmarks eventually settled in positive territory. Reuters reported, citing a source, that Sebi currently sees no structural or design flaws in the new auction system and has not set any timeline for a review. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said the RBI policy broadly met market expectations but investors turned cautious

as the session progressed due to rising oil prices. "The RBI's MPC has maintained the status quo while marginally upgrading FY27 GDP growth projection, citing a resilient domestic economy. Additionally, annual inflation estimates were lowered, indicating the governor's open-minded approach, which suggested an optimistic view though further policy action would depend on data. Consequently, a rise in crude prices following renewed concerns over escalating tensions in West Asia led Indian markets, which had opened strongly, to gradually move lower during the course of the session," he said. Nair added that select sectors continued to outperform despite the broader market remaining range-bound. "Defying the broader market trend, realty and auto stocks outperformed on strong demand expectations ahead of the festive season and supportive financing conditions, while metal stocks gained on

the back of an improved GDP growth outlook and robust domestic demand." Among sectoral indices, Nifty Auto rose 1.27% to emerge as the top gainer, followed by Nifty Metal, which climbed 1.72%. Realty stocks also ended in the green, while financial services remained largely flat. On the other hand, media, IT, FMCG and pharma stocks ended lower. Nifty IT slipped 0.16%, while Nifty Media fell 1.58%. Among Sensex constituents, NTPC, SBI, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Trent and LT were among the top gainers. TCS, HCLTech, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank and ITC ended among the key losers. Broader markets remained resilient. The Nifty Midcap 100 edged up 0.18%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.76%, indicating continued buying interest beyond frontline stocks. India VIX declined 0.79%, signalling easing volatility.



SCCL Reviews Coal
Transportation from
Odisha's Naini Mine

Singareni Meets Coal Consumers, Transport Agencies
12,000 Tonnes Daily Coal Transport Target Angul District Collector, District SP Assures Support for Coal Movement

HYDERABAD (SINGARENI BHAVAN), 05 AUGUST 2026:

Senior officials of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) held a special review meeting at the Naini Coal Mine in Odisha to ensure the daily transportation of coal produced from the mine to the nearby railway siding and to local consumers as per the prescribed targets.

The meeting was chaired by SCCL Director (Personnel & Finance) Sri Gowtham Potru and Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri B. Venkanna. Representatives of major coal consumers, including Jindal Steel, Jindal India Power Limited, Meenakshi Energy Limited, and Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL) along with coal transportation agencies, participated in the meeting.

Addressing the participants, Sri Gowtham Potru said the Naini Coal Mine is expected to produce 6 million tonnes of coal annually. The coal is to be supplied to nearby power plants, Singareni Thermal Power Plant in Telangana, and Tamil Nadu's thermal power stations. He urged transport agencies to ensure that coal is delivered to consumers every day in line with the prescribed targets and requested consumers to extend their full cooperation. Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri B. Venkanna emphasized the need for transport agencies to fully support the movement of coal to the nearby Hindol Railway Siding and

Kamakhyia Nagar Siding to facilitate rail transportation. Representatives of the consumer companies assured the management that they were prepared to lift coal according to their daily allocations and would coordinate closely with transport agencies to ensure smooth movement of coal. Representatives of the transport agencies stated that they were fully prepared to transport coal as per the required targets. The meeting also discussed certain bottlenecks being faced along the transportation routes. Subsequently, the senior Singareni officials met Angul District Collector Sri M. Abdul Akhtar, IAS and Angul District SP Sri. Rahul Jain, IPS sought the cooperation of the district administration in facilitating uninterrupted road transportation of coal. The Collector and District SP responded positively and assured the administration's support. SCCL is making arrangements to transport a minimum of 12,000 tonnes of coal per day from the Naini Mine. Senior officials instructed Naini Area officers to work in close coordination with coal consumers and transportation agencies to achieve the transportation targets. Earlier, Director (Personnel & Finance) Sri Gowtham Potru and Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri B. Venkanna visited the Naini Coal Mine and reviewed the coal production process. The meeting was attended by Naini Area General Manager Sri D. Baidya and other senior officials of Singareni Collieries.

SKIMS Launches in India via Reliance

MUMBAI / LOS ANGELES, 5TH AUGUST 2026

Reliance Brands Limited (RBL) and SKIMS today announced an exclusive partnership to bring SKIMS to India. Under the agreement, RBL will operate the brand in the country across physical and digital channels, opening its first SKIMS stores in India, beginning with Delhi and Mumbai. The announcement marks SKIMS' entry into one of the world's fastest-growing luxury and premium consumer markets and continues the brand's global retail expansion following recent openings in London and Dubai, with Hong Kong and Seoul to follow. Co-founded in 2019 by Kim Kardashian and Jens Grede, SKIMS is redefining the women's underwear, shapewear, and loungewear categories by creating solutions for everybody. SKIMS continues to set new standards across its categories with a growing portfolio, including Mens and NikeSKIMS. Built



on a deep understanding of fit, comfort, and the body, the brand combines technical innovation with elevated design to reimagine the foundations of everyday dressing. The partnership marks SKIMS' entry into one of the world's most dynamic consumer markets. With rising demand for premium global brands and a new generation of consumers seeking comfort, functionality and contemporary design, India represents a natural next step in the brand's continued global expansion. "SKIMS has changed

"The excitement we've seen from our community in India has been truly incredible, and we can't wait to welcome them in our stores for the very first time." "Reliance Brands has an exceptional track record of building some of the world's leading fashion and lifestyle brands in India. We're excited to partner with their team as we introduce SKIMS to this important market and continue expanding our global retail footprint," said Jens Grede, Co-Founder & CEO, SKIMS. SKIMS will be introduced in India through a phased rollout led by RBL, beginning with its first stores in Delhi and Mumbai and expanding across cities and channels over time. Reliance Brands Limited (RBL), a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), was established in 2007 with a mandate to launch, scale, and nurture global fashion and lifestyle brands in India across the luxury to premium spectrum. Its portfolio today includes some of the world's most

iconic names such as Armani Exchange, Balenciaga, Bally, Bottega Veneta, Brooks Brothers, Burberry, Canali, Coach, Diesel, EA7, Elan Cafe, Emporio Armani, Ferragamo, Gas, Giorgio Armani, Hamleys, Hugo Boss, Hunkemoller, Iconix, Jimmy Choo, Kate Spade, La Martina, Lescrafters, Maje, Max&Co., Michael Kors, Mothercare, Muji, Paul & Shark, Paul Smith, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, Pret A Manger, Sandro, Stella McCartney, Steve Madden, Superdry, Tiffany & Co., Tod's, Tory Burch, Tumi, Valentino, Versace, Villeroy & Boch, West Elm, Zegna, and more. RBL currently operates over 1,855 doors across India, including standalone stores and shop-in-shops. In addition to building international brand partnerships, the company has invested in leading Indian designer labels and made key global acquisitions, including Hamleys, the world's oldest toy retailer, now operating across 12 countries with over 175 stores globally.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at
5.25%, GDP for FY27 projected at 6.7%

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to keep the key policy rate unchanged. The panel also retained its monetary policy stance as "neutral", signalling that future policy decisions will remain data-dependent.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday announced that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, saying the central bank needs "greater clarity" on the inflation outlook before taking any policy action.

The decision, which was widely expected by economists, was unanimous, with all six MPC members voting to maintain the policy rate. The committee also retained its policy stance at "neutral", indicating that future rate decisions will remain data-dependent. Explaining the decision, Malhotra said the economy continues to remain resilient, but uncertainties surrounding inflation, global developments and weather conditions warrant a cautious approach. "There is a need for greater clarity to emerge, especially regarding inflation, its path and composition, before taking any policy action,"

the RBI Governor said. EL NINO, GEOPOLITICS EMERGE AS KEY RISKS

One of the biggest concerns flagged by the Governor was the impact of El Nio on India's agricultural outlook. "Looking ahead, the prospects for agriculture are clouded by deficient and uneven monsoons amidst El Nio conditions," Malhotra said. He, however, noted that healthy reservoir levels and proactive government measures, including crop diversification, climate-resilient agriculture and water conservation initiatives, are expected to provide some support. Beyond weather-related risks, the Governor also pointed to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, volatile crude oil prices, disruptions to global supply chains and uncertainty surrounding global trade policies as factors that could weigh on both inflation and growth.

INFLATION HAS RISEN, BUT HAS NOT BECOME BROAD-BASED

The RBI acknowledged that inflationary pressures have increased in recent months, but maintained that the rise has largely been driven by food and fuel prices rather than widespread price increases across the economy. "The higher inflation is mostly on account of food and fuel, with little signs of generalisation of price pressures so



far. Core inflation, excluding precious metals, continues to be benign," Malhotra said. He added that headline inflation is expected to increase further in the near term before easing later in the financial year. "As projected earlier, headline inflation is expected to rise further in the near term. It is expected to peak in Q3 of this year, primarily due to food and fuel, and thereafter moderate," he said. The Governor also cautioned that the outlook remains uncertain because of weather conditions and global commodity prices. "The El Nio impact on temporal and spatial rainfall distribution continues to remain a major risk," he said, adding that proactive supply management and adequate foodgrain stocks should help contain some of the pressure. At the same time, he warned that "the risks of second-round impact of higher food, fuel and

economic growth. However, Malhotra cautioned that the outlook remains "hazy" due to uncertainties surrounding the southwest monsoon, El Nio conditions, geopolitical developments and global trade policies.

RBI LOWERS INFLATION FORECAST

While highlighting near-term risks, the RBI lowered its consumer inflation forecast for the current financial year to 5%, compared with its earlier projection. Malhotra noted that consumer price inflation stood at 4.4% in June, which was lower than the RBI's earlier estimates. "Core inflation, excluding food and fuel, remained unchanged at 3.9% in May and June. Core inflation, excluding precious metals, was even lower, at 2.3% to 2.5% during this period," he said.

MPC RETAINS NEUTRAL STANCE

The Monetary Policy Committee also decided to retain its "neutral" policy stance, giving the central bank flexibility to respond to evolving domestic and global conditions. "The MPC underscored that it will maintain a close vigil and remain resolute in its commitment to align inflation with the target," Malhotra said. With the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, borrowers with floating-rate home, vehicle and other loans linked

to the benchmark are unlikely to see any immediate change in their EMIs. However, the Governor's remarks made it clear that the RBI will be closely watching the evolution of inflation, the impact of El Nio on agriculture, crude oil prices and geopolitical developments before deciding its next policy move.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BORROWERS?

With the repo rate remaining unchanged at 5.25%, borrowers with repo rate-linked home loans, vehicle loans and other floating-rate loans are unlikely to see any immediate change in their EMIs. Banks are also expected to keep lending and deposit rates broadly stable unless there is a significant change in liquidity or funding costs. Yashank Wason, Managing Director, Royal Green Realty, said, "RBI MPC's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% is a significant positive note for the real estate industry. The unchanged repo rate will significantly benefit both buyers and developers. For homebuyers, unchanged interest rates mean manageable EMIs which will improve the rate of potential purchasers. For developers this unchanged stance will accelerate the project launches and completion timeline."



Chakravarthi AVPS
Named Asia Business
Leader of the Year

Hyderabad: In recognition of outstanding leadership in championing Indian pharmaceutical capabilities on global platforms, enabling patient-centric healthcare solutions, and fostering international collaboration The CMO Asia leadership and excellence awards program took place on August 3rd, 2026, at the Pan Pacific Singapore hotel, honoring top corporate and business leaders from around the Asian region Dr Anne Phey – Founder and CEO of The School of

Leadership, Ildiko Kissimonova – Business Director at Nas.com Munas van Boonstra – APAC Managing Director at TLC Worldwide. Charu Sethi – Go-To-Market and Partnerships APAC leader at OpenRouter. Y J Wang – Regional Director at TRM Labs. Dr. Tarita Shankar Chairperson and President of Indira University Rohit Gandhi Group CEO APAR technologies, Singapore among others





The Next Wave of Scientific Innovation

Artificial Intelligence Leads a New Era of Innovation

The twenty-first century is witnessing one of the greatest scientific and technological revolutions in human history. Every generation has experienced a breakthrough that changed the way people lived and worked. The Industrial Revolution transformed manufacturing, electricity illuminated cities and powered industries, and the internet connected billions of people across the globe. Today, the world stands at the beginning of another extraordinary transformation led by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and supported by

advances in quantum computing, biotechnology, robotics, semiconductor technology, and space exploration. Unlike earlier technological revolutions that changed only specific industries, today's innovations are influencing nearly every aspect of human life. From hospitals and schools to factories, farms, financial institutions and scientific laboratories, modern technologies are making processes faster, smarter and more efficient. They are solving problems that once appeared impossible and creating opportunities that were unimaginable

only a decade ago. Artificial Intelligence has emerged as the driving force behind this transformation. Governments, universities, technology companies and research institutions across the world are investing billions of dollars in AI research and infrastructure. The race to develop smarter AI systems is shaping economic policies, industrial strategies and scientific priorities. Experts compare the impact of AI to the invention of electricity and the internet because of its ability to transform every sector of society.

Artificial Intelligence: The Engine of the Modern Revolution

Artificial Intelligence refers to computer systems capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence. These include understanding language, recognizing images, making decisions, learning from experience and solving complex problems. While AI has existed as an academic field for decades, recent advances in computing power, data availability and machine learning have accelerated its development at an unprecedented pace. Today, AI powers virtual assistants, recommendation systems, search engines, autonomous vehicles and advanced industrial robots. Large language models can generate text, summarize documents, translate languages and assist with research within seconds. Image-generation systems create realistic artwork, while AI-powered software helps businesses automate routine tasks and improve

productivity.

The influence of AI extends far beyond consumer applications. Industries are using AI to predict market trends, optimize supply chains, improve customer service and strengthen cybersecurity. Governments are deploying AI for traffic management, public administration and disaster response. Educational institutions are using intelligent learning platforms to personalize teaching according to the needs of individual students. Because of its ability to learn and improve continuously, AI is becoming an essential partner in decision-making rather than simply acting as a software tool. This shift marks the beginning of a new era in which humans and intelligent machines increasingly work together.

AI is Transforming Healthcare

One of the most significant impacts of Artificial Intelligence can be seen in healthcare. Medical professionals now use AI to detect

diseases at an early stage, analyze medical images, predict patient outcomes and recommend treatment options. AI systems can examine thousands of X-rays, MRI scans and CT images in minutes, helping doctors identify abnormalities with remarkable accuracy. Drug discovery has also been revolutionized by AI. Developing a new medicine traditionally takes many years and requires enormous financial investment. AI accelerates this process by analyzing millions of chemical compounds and predicting which ones are most likely to become effective medicines. This significantly reduces research time and development costs. Hospitals are adopting AI-powered systems to manage patient records, monitor intensive care units and support clinical decision-making. Wearable devices equipped with AI continuously monitor heart rate, blood pressure and other vital signs, allowing doctors to detect health prob-

lems before they become serious. Researchers are also combining AI with genomics to develop personalized medicine. Instead of providing the same treatment to every patient, doctors can tailor therapies based on an individual's genetic profile, increasing the chances of successful treatment while minimizing side effects.

Revolutionizing Education Through Intelligent Learning

Education is undergoing a major transformation because of Artificial Intelligence. Traditional classrooms are gradually evolving into personalized learning environments where AI adapts educational content according to each student's strengths and weaknesses. AI-powered tutoring systems provide instant explanations, evaluate assignments and recommend additional learning materials. Students can learn at their own pace while teachers receive valuable insights into student performance, allowing

them to provide targeted support where it is most needed. Language translation tools powered by AI are making educational resources accessible to millions of people across different countries. Virtual classrooms, intelligent assessment systems and adaptive learning platforms are reducing educational barriers and expanding opportunities for lifelong learning. Teachers are also benefiting from automation. Administrative tasks such as grading examinations, preparing lesson plans and analyzing student progress can now be completed more efficiently, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and mentoring.

Agriculture Enters the Age of

enable farmers to prepare for droughts, floods and changing weather conditions. As global food demand continues to increase, smart agriculture will play a crucial role in ensuring food security.

Advanced Semiconductors and AI Chips

The rapid expansion of Artificial Intelligence has created unprecedented demand for powerful computer processors. Traditional semiconductor technologies are being enhanced through innovations that improve speed, efficiency and energy consumption. Next-generation AI chips are specifically designed to perform billions of mathematical calculations simultaneously. These pro-

Biotechnology and Genetic Innovation

Advances in biotechnology are transforming medicine, agriculture and environmental protection. Gene-editing technologies allow scientists to modify DNA with unprecedented precision, opening possibilities for treating inherited diseases and developing disease-resistant crops. Researchers are using biotechnology to produce vaccines more rapidly, engineer sustainable biofuels and develop environmentally friendly manufacturing processes. Artificial Intelligence further accelerates these discoveries by analyzing genetic information and predicting biological outcomes. Synthetic biology, which combines engineering principles with biological systems, is enabling scientists to design microorganisms capable of producing medicines, biodegradable materials and renewable chemicals. These innovations promise significant improvements in healthcare and environmental sustainability over the coming decades.

Green Technology and Climate Solutions

Science and technology are playing a critical role in addressing climate change. AI-powered systems optimize renewable energy production, improve electricity distribution and reduce industrial emissions. Researchers are developing advanced batteries that store renewable energy more efficiently, supporting the wider adoption of solar and wind power. Carbon capture technologies use innovative materials to remove carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere. Smart grids powered by AI balance electricity demand and supply in real time, improving energy efficiency while reducing waste. Electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel technologies and sustainable manufacturing processes are helping industries transition toward a low-carbon future. Technology alone cannot

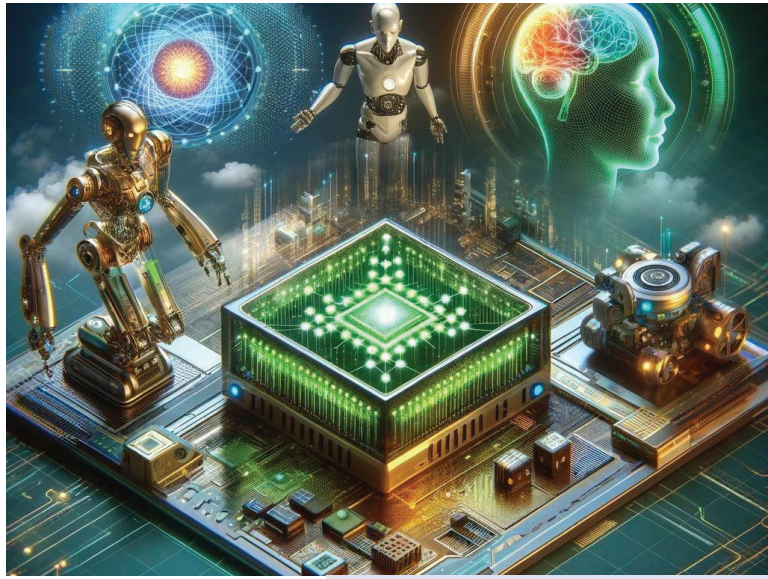
solve climate change, but it provides powerful tools that support global sustainability efforts.

Challenges and Ethical Responsibilities

Despite its enormous potential, rapid technological progress also presents significant challenges. Artificial Intelligence raises important questions about privacy, data security, misinformation, employment and ethical decision-making. Automation may replace certain routine jobs while creating demand for new skills. Governments and educational institutions must invest in workforce training to prepare people for future employment opportunities. Responsible AI development requires transparency, fairness and accountability. International cooperation will be essential to establish regulations that encourage innovation while protecting human rights and public safety. Similarly, advances in biotechnology, brain-computer interfaces and quantum computing require careful ethical oversight to ensure these powerful technologies benefit humanity responsibly.

The Future Belongs to Converging Technologies

The most remarkable aspect of today's scientific revolution is not a single invention but the convergence of multiple breakthrough technologies. Artificial Intelligence is increasingly integrated with robotics, biotechnology, quantum computing, advanced semiconductors and space science. Together, these technologies are creating entirely new industries and transforming existing ones. Smart factories, intelligent healthcare systems, autonomous transportation, precision agriculture and personalized education are becoming realities rather than distant possibilities. This convergence is expected to increase productivity, improve living standards and accelerate scientific discovery on a scale never before experienced in human history.



Smart Farming

Agriculture, one of humanity's oldest occupations, is also experiencing a technological revolution. Farmers are increasingly relying on AI, drones, satellites and sensors to improve productivity while conserving natural resources. AI systems analyze weather patterns, soil conditions and crop health to provide recommendations on irrigation, fertilizer application and pest control. Precision agriculture helps farmers use water and fertilizers more efficiently, reducing production costs while increasing yields. Drones equipped with advanced cameras monitor crop growth and identify diseases before they spread. Autonomous tractors and robotic harvesters reduce labor requirements and improve operational efficiency.

Climate change has made farming more unpredictable, but AI-driven forecasting systems

Artificial Intelligence Accelerates Scientific Discovery

Perhaps the greatest contribution of AI lies in scientific research. Modern scientific investigations generate enormous amounts of data that would take humans years to analyze. AI processes these datasets within hours, identifying hidden patterns and generating valuable insights. Researchers use AI to predict protein structures, simulate chemical reactions and discover new materials with extraordinary properties. These capabilities are accelerating innovation in medicine, renewable energy, electronics and environmental science. AI is also helping scientists develop advanced batteries, stronger construction materials and highly efficient solar cells. In climate science, AI models predict weather patterns, monitor

glaciers, analyze ocean temperatures and estimate the effects of global warming. By reducing the time needed for analysis and experimentation, AI enables researchers to focus more on creativity and innovation, leading to faster scientific breakthroughs.

Quantum Computing: The Next Computing Revolution

While Artificial Intelligence dominates current technological discussions, quantum computing promises to redefine the future of computation itself. Traditional computers process information using binary bits represented by zeros and ones. Quantum computers use quantum bits, or qubits, which can exist in multiple states simultaneously through the principles of quantum mechanics. This unique capability allows quantum computers to solve problems

that would require conventional supercomputers thousands of years to complete. Scientists believe quantum computing will transform industries such as pharmaceuticals, financial modelling, logistics, materials science and artificial intelligence itself. Researchers are making significant progress in reducing computational errors and improving the stability of quantum systems. Although practical quantum computers remain under development, experts believe they will eventually solve some of humanity's most challenging scientific and engineering problems. The combination of AI and quantum computing could dramatically accelerate innovation by enabling faster simulations, improved optimization and more accurate predictions across countless fields.





Korea Masters 2026

Srikanth crashes out early as Tanvi, Pruthvi-Krishna keep India's hopes alive



ASAN (SOUTH KOREA): Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth suffered a disappointing first-round exit at the BWF Korea Masters 2026 after going down 20-22, 21-14, 21-12 to Israel's Daniil Dubovenko in the men's singles opening round on Tuesday. Srikanth, having entered the BWF Super 300 tournament with the aim of building on his second-place finish at the US Open earlier in the season, was unable to secure consistency against Dubovenko. After having just lost the first game 22-20, he was unable to recover as the Israeli won the following two games 21-14 and 21-12, thus ending Srikanth's campaign at the very first obstacle. The loss was a blow to India's bid in the men's singles event in Asan, since the 33-year-old was not able to build on the promising form he had displayed in the United States. In the women's singles event, there was some better news for India since the Taipei Open champion Tanvi Sharma maintained her impressive form by beating China's Yuan An Qi and thus setting up a second-round match between her and Shriyanshi Valisheyy, another Indian player.

Multi-sport centre in Visakhapatnam to become a hub for world-class training; AP govt pledges full support to athletes

VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh on Wednesday said the upcoming PV Sindhu Sports Academy in Visakhapatnam would become one of the country's premier institutions for nurturing future champions, while reaffirming the State government's commitment to creating a world-class sports ecosystem.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the academy, Lokesh said the project was much more than the construction of a sports complex. It represented the beginning of a long-term vision to provide talented youngsters with international-standard infrastructure, expert coaching and opportunities to excel in multiple sporting disciplines.

Academy to shape thousands of champions

Describing Olympic medallist and world champion P. V. Sindhu as one of India's greatest sporting icons, Lokesh recalled her remarkable journey from a young badminton player practising before dawn in Hyderabad to becoming an Olympic medallist and world champion.

He said Sindhu's success was built not on instant recognition but on years of discipline, sacrifice and relentless hard work.

"There were no cameras, no media attention and no medals in those early years. There was only determination to become better every day," he said.

The Minister added that the



academy would inspire thousands of young athletes to follow a similar path and fulfil their sporting ambitions.

Tribute to parents and coaches

Lokesh paid glowing tributes to Sindhu's parents, P.V. Ramana and P. Vijaya, saying their sacrifices and unwavering encouragement made India's Olympic champion possible. He noted that behind every successful athlete stood a family that believed in their dreams and coaches who patiently guided them through years of rigorous training.

"People celebrate medals, but very few witness the years of sacrifice behind every championship," he remarked. Expressing gratitude to coaches across the country, Lokesh said champions were never created overnight but through patience, discipline and constant encouragement.

Vision beyond medals

Sharing an interaction with Sindhu during a dinner hosted for Andhra Pradesh athletes preparing for international competitions, Lokesh recalled that the badminton star had remarked that she was no longer the 19-year-old

athlete she once was. According to him, the statement reflected a significant transformation in Sindhu's outlook—from pursuing personal medals to building a lasting sporting legacy by creating opportunities for future generations.

The Minister said the academy represented that vision and would help transform Visakhapatnam into one of India's major sporting destinations.

"We are not merely laying the foundation for a building today. We are writing the opening chapter in the lives of thousands of future champions," he said.

Chandrababu expanded Sindhu's dream

Lokesh revealed that the project initially began as Sindhu's dream of establishing a badminton academy. However, when she discussed the proposal with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, he suggested that instead of limiting it to badminton, it should evolve into a comprehensive multi-sport training institution capable of producing champions across several disciplines. "That one question transformed a personal dream into everyone's dream," Lokesh observed.



He described the Chief Minister's intervention as an example of visionary leadership that significantly expanded the scope of the project.

Andhra Pradesh as a sports destination

Lokesh said Indian athletes had traditionally travelled abroad in search of better sports infrastructure and coaching.

He hoped the situation would eventually reverse, with athletes from across India aspiring to train at the PV Sindhu Centre of Sports Excellence in Visakhapatnam.

"When that happens, Andhra Pradesh will not only produce champions but will become the destination where future champions come to fulfil their dreams," he said.

Equal importance to academics and sports

Highlighting the government's education reforms, Lokesh said equal priority was now being given to sports alongside academics.

He stressed that while classrooms developed knowledge, playgrounds built character, resilience and leadership.

"The classroom teaches us how to think, while the playground

teaches us how to fight and persevere," he said.

Referring to the State government's 'No Bag Day' initiative, the Minister said many of life's most valuable lessons were learned outside classrooms through sports and practical activities.

Sports build responsible citizens

Lokesh said sports produced not only champions but also responsible citizens capable of handling success and failure with maturity.

According to him, sports teach:

Discipline before success. Respect before victory. Humility after winning. Courage after defeat. He urged every student to participate in at least one sport, saying even those who never won medals would gain confidence, discipline and leadership qualities.

Focus on women in sports

The Minister said Sindhu's experience and guidance would play a crucial role in implementing Andhra Pradesh's sports policy, particularly in encouraging

greater participation of girls and women. He acknowledged that not every girl enjoyed the kind of family support Sindhu had received and emphasised the need to create an environment where girls felt safe, confident and encouraged to pursue sports professionally.

Lokesh expressed his willingness to work closely with Sindhu in developing a comprehensive sports ecosystem for the State.

Government assures complete support

Reiterating the government's commitment to sports development, Lokesh assured athletes that financial constraints would never be allowed to stand in the way of talent. "No talented child should lose an opportunity because of lack of resources. The Andhra Pradesh government will stand firmly behind every aspiring athlete," he declared. He encouraged young sportspersons to compete at the highest levels and bring glory to both Andhra Pradesh and the nation.

Appeal to parents and schools

Addressing parents, Lokesh said they were often the first to recognise talent in their children long before the rest of the world celebrated their achievements. He appealed to schools to celebrate sporting excellence with the same enthusiasm shown towards academic achievements. Urging parents to encourage children to pursue sports alongside education, he said Andhra Pradesh should become known not only for producing excellent students and industries but also world-class athletes. "If Sindhu could achieve greatness, every child should believe that they too can achieve their dreams," he said.

2027 ODI World Cup Qualifier set to be held from February 22 to March 23: Report



DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reportedly finalised the window for the 2027 ODI World Cup Qualifier, with the 10-team tournament set to be held from February 22 to March 23 next year, marking the final pathway to cricket's showpiece 50-over event.

While the dates have now been locked in, the host nation for the tournament is yet to be confirmed. The Qualifier will determine the final teams advancing to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 4 to November 21.

As reported by Cricinfo, the ICC has completed the scheduling of the tournament but is still finalising the venue. The qualification pathway follows the revamped format announced by the governing body in July, introducing a new structure for the expanded 14-team World Cup.

Under the revised system, the winner of the Qualifier will progress directly to the 12-team main stage of the World Cup. The teams finishing second, third and fourth will advance to the newly introduced Super Series, the opening phase of the tournament, where they will compete for the final place in the main group stage.

The Qualifier will feature 10 teams comprising the two lowest-ranked Full Member nations in the ICC ODI rankings, excluding hosts South Africa and Zimbabwe, as of September 30, 2026. They will be joined by the top four teams from the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 and four teams emerging from the World Cup Qualifier Playoff.

The rankings race remains particularly significant for the West Indies, currently placed 10th in the ODI standings. The Caribbean side has only two ODIs remaining before the September 30 cut-off, both against India.

Jr Men National Hockey: Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand and MP storm into semis

COIMBATORE (TN)

Teams from Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh emerged victorious in four exciting quarterfinal encounters as the semi-final line-up of the 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 – Division 'A' was confirmed on Wednesday. Hockey Punjab booked their place in the semi-finals with a convincing 5–2 victory over Hockey Karnataka in the third quarterfinal. Ajaypal Singh (22'), Jarman Singh (C) (24'), Sunny (32'), Amandeep (35') and Gurwinder Singh (60') found the



net for Punjab, while Kiran Reddy scored both goals for Hockey Karnataka in the 21st and 28th minutes.

In quarterfinal 2, Hockey Associa-

tion of Odisha registered an emphatic 5-1 win over Hockey Haryana. Lelsan Minz starred with a brilliant hat-trick (15', 20', 46'), while Mandeep Ker-

ketta (3') and captain Deepak Pradhan (60') also got on the scoresheet. Prince scored the lone goal for Hockey Haryana in the 41st minute.

The closest contest of the day saw Hockey Jharkhand edge past Uttar Pradesh Hockey in a shootout after the teams were locked at 3-3 at the end of regulation time. Satyam Pandey (28') and Triloki Venvanshi (33', 50') scored for Uttar Pradesh Hockey, while Patras Hassa (26'), Bhengra Gledshan (43') and Nicolas Topno (60') struck for Hockey Jharkhand.

In the shootout, Rohit Tirkey, Jolen Topno, Patras Hassa and Ankit Ekka

converted their attempts, while goalkeeper Sahu Prince produced crucial saves to seal a 4–3 shootout victory for Jharkhand. In the first quarterfinal, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey 7–3 in a high-scoring encounter. Subhan Abid (23', 43'), Rajveer Singh (19', 23') and captain Ritendra Pratap Singh (37', 56') each scored twice, while Aashir Aadil Khan added another in the 41st minute. Sumit Rajbhar (40'), Suraj (47') and Moomahmed Jaed (52') scored for Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey.

Volleyball: China's Li to miss Continental C'ship, Asian Games after heart surgery

TIANJIN

China's Li Yingying confirmed on Wednesday that she had undergone heart surgery and will miss out on the upcoming AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship and Asian Games.

"I had to undergo surgery due to cardiac issues. The operation was a success, and I have now been discharged from the hospital to recover at home. Following a comprehensive assessment, I will not take part in the AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship or the Asian Games," Li said on her social media.

"I feel deeply disappointed, yet health will always come first. Moving forward, I will focus on the rehabilitation and



gradually get back into shape. I wish the national team every success in the competitions. I look forward to returning to the court once I make a full recovery," she added. The spiker has been dealing with injuries in recent years, which also forced her to temporarily give up the opportunity to play overseas last year, reports Xinhua. The 26-year-old had been training with the national team since early April but did not feature in any subsequent matches.

Hockey World Cup: Accidental goalkeeper Mohith HS ready to seize opportunity for India



NEW DELHI

At just 24 years of age, Karnataka's Mohith HS is set to guard the goal for the Indian national hockey team -- taking over the job performed in the past by the legendary Ranganathan Francis, Shankar Laxman, Adrian D'Souza and PR Sreejesh.

Mohith is set to realise a lifelong dream with his maiden appearance at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, which is scheduled to be played in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30. Alongside the experienced Suraj Karkera, Mohith is one of the two goalkeepers in the Indian team, marking another significant milestone in his remarkable journey.

While Mohith may not have the same level of international experience as Suraj, the young custodian has impressed con-

sistently in recent months, particularly during the final leg of the FIH Pro League season, where his performances reinforced the selectors' faith in his abilities.

Ironically, Mohith's hockey journey began by chance. He was drafted into his school's hockey team because there was no goalkeeper available, and his coach believed his height would be an advantage between the posts. What started as an unexpected opportunity soon evolved into a promising career. Since then, Mohith has represented India at the Junior World Cup before earning his senior national call-up, steadily progressing through the ranks.

Reflecting on his motivation, Mohith said, "I always had a mindset to represent India in major tournaments because

when I played in the Junior World Cup, we were not able to finish on the podium; we ended up fourth. So, from that time, it was my dream to do something big for India."

Mohith also acknowledged the learnings from legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who inspires the next generation of Indian goalkeepers.

"We have learnt a lot from him (Sreejesh). But it's not that we are under pressure to fill those shoes because he has done so well for India. We will give 100% on the ground, and then we will see what happens," said Mohith, who hails from Karnataka.

India head into the FIH World Cup with renewed confidence following an encouraging finish to its recent FIH Pro League campaign, including memorable victories over the

Netherlands and Germany.

Speaking about the team's preparations, Mohith said, "After defeating the Netherlands and Germany (in the FIH Pro League), we have gained a lot of confidence. I think we are up to the mark before the World Cup."

For Mohith, representing India on the biggest stage is both a privilege and a responsibility. His focus remains firmly of contributing in every possible way while chasing the ultimate prize. "My personal benchmark is to give my 100% for my country when I step on the field. I haven't got a bigger opportunity than this so far in my senior career. I will try to make India the world champions once again."

India's only title win in the FIH World Cup came in 1975, when the men's team lifted the trophy by beating Pakistan in the final.

New England Test coach Fleming approaches Hussey for batting coach role

LONDON

Newly-appointed England red-ball head coach Stephen Fleming has approached former Australian batter Michael Hussey to join his support staff as the team's batting coach, said a report by 7News Australia on Wednesday.

Fleming, who was handed the reins of the Test side recently after the sacking of Brendon McCullum, reached out to Hussey, 51, to gauge his interest in taking up the role. The report also said although no formal contract has been offered yet by the England and

Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Hussey remains Fleming's primary choice for the position.

Hussey is currently coaching Welsh Fire in "The Hundred" and is yet to make a decision regarding his availability for the assignment. He also serves as the batting coach of five-time IPL winners Chennai Super Kings (CSK), where Fleming had been the head coach since 2009.

The potential appointment would see a remarkable Ashes reunion 14 years after Hussey last played for Australia in 2013. Fleming and Hussey share a long-standing profes-

sional relationship spanning over 15 years, having first played together for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the inaugural season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008, before working together as coach and assistant coach at the franchise.

Fleming, the former New Zealand captain, is scheduled to officially take charge of the England side during their three-match Test tour of South Africa in December.

Former England batter Marcus Trescothick will serve as interim head coach for the upcoming three-

Match Test series against Pakistan, starting August 19 at Headingley.

While Australian David Saker will continue as the bowling coach for the series against Pakistan, the report also said Fleming is expected to target South Africa's Eric Simmons, another long-time coaching colleague from his time at CSK, to eventually take over the bowling duties. As of now, Simmons is a bowling consultant at CSK and had been India's bowling coach when they won the 2011 Men's ODI World Cup and even worked in the South Africa set-up.



EPIC – First Semester coming to win your hearts on Sept 11th



once again showcase a charming on-screen chemistry that has become one of the film's biggest highlights. Their comfort and emotional connection promise another memorable romantic pairing. Directed by Aditya Haasan and produced by Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya, the film blends youthful emotions with stylish visuals and heartfelt storytelling. With excellent musical success and an impressive teaser already working in its favour, EPIC – First Semester heads towards September 11 with strong momentum.

The promotional campaign of EPIC – First Semester continues to hit the right notes as the film gears up for its theatrical release on September 11. Featuring Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya in the lead roles, the youthful romantic entertainer has managed to keep audiences engaged through consistently impressive promotional content. The teaser created a strong first impression by introducing the film's vibrant world and emotional core. The response has only grown stronger with both released songs becoming chartbusters, adding tremendous value to the film's promotions and significantly increasing expectations. Reuniting after the blockbuster Baby, Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya

Karikaala 1st Look
Sundeep Kishan's
Fierce Warrior Avatar



Sundeep Kishan's pan-India project with director Ugandhar Muni has been titled Karikaala, and the makers have accompanied the announcement with a remarkable first-look poster that showcases the film's massive ambitions. Unlike anything seen in Sundeep Kishan's career so far, the actor is introduced as a fierce warrior in an enchanting fantasy landscape. Mounted on horseback with a sword in hand and accompanied by a roaring lion, his commanding presence immediately establishes the film's epic scale and adventurous tone. Set against the backdrop of an imaginative world inspired by classic Chandamama fairy tales, Karikaala promises a magical journey filled with mythical creatures, powerful kingdoms, ancient legends, wolves, lions, and supernatural elements. For Sundeep Kishan, Karikaala represents an entirely new creative direction. His never-before-seen makeover, distinctive costume, and intense warrior persona underline the scale of preparation that has gone into bringing this unique character to life. Produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju under Shining Pictures, the film reunites director Ugandhar Muni with large-scale fantasy storytelling after the success of Shambhala. Sricharan Pakala scores the music. The movie has been designed as a two-part saga. Chapter 1 is scheduled for release on July 2, 2027, while Chapter 2 will follow just a few months later on October 28, 2027.

Mega Prince Varun Tej is all set to surprise audiences with Korean Kanakaraju, a horror-comedy directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, releasing on August 7. Known for action-packed roles, Varun is expected to showcase his funniest avatar yet, playing a character with two contrasting shades—a Rayalaseema youth who later gets possessed by the spirit of a Korean mafia don. The trailer has generated positive buzz for Varun's comic timing, energetic performance and seamless transformation. Comedian Satya is expected to add to the film's entertainment quotient, while Ritika Naik stars as the female lead. Speaking at the pre-release event, Varun said the recent successes of OG, Chiranjeevi's MSVPG and Ram Charan's Peddi have boosted the Mega family's confidence. He expressed hope that Korean Kanakaraju will continue the winning streak when it hits theatres this Friday.

Varun Tej Eyes
Big Win with
KOKA



Okka Chinni Navve From
Sahaa: Excitement Of First Love



After introducing an emotional world through The Soul of Sahaa glimpse and the touching first single Kaalane Thiragesi, the makers of Sahaa (Life of Sanju) has returned with another soulful musical offering. Titled Okka Chinni Navve, the melody is composed by Shekar Chandra and it is simple yet deeply affecting. Lyricist Suresh Banisetti pens words that beautifully captures the excitement of first love. The protagonist played by Shiva Kumar Kasaram is portrayed as completely smitten, with his expressions conveying admiration, longing, and happiness every time he looks at his girl. Swetha Lakshman complements him with graceful screen presence and subtle expressions. Their playful walks, shared smiles, teasing glances, and romantic moments create a narrative that progresses naturally throughout the song. Directed by Nishanth Doti, and produced by Tejeswar Velpucharla under the Sumaira Studios banner, the film also stars Vrajana Pandya playing a crucial role.

Grace &
Enduring
SCREEN
Presence

Known for her captivating grace and effortless charm, Pragma Jaiswal continues to leave an indelible mark across Telugu and Hindi cinema. With a striking screen presence and an elegant persona, she has carved a niche for herself as one of the industry's most stylish and versatile actresses. Pragma shot to prominence with her acclaimed performance in the period drama Kanche (2015), a role that earned widespread appreciation and established her as a promising talent. She went on to win audiences with memorable performances in films such as Gunturodu, Nakshatram and the blockbuster Akhanda (2021), where her on-screen chemistry and poised performance added to the film's mass appeal. A law graduate from Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Pragma began her career as a model before making a successful transition to films. Over the years, she has built a reputation

for balancing commercial entertainers with performance-driven roles, while maintaining an image of sophistication both on and off the screen. Whether dazzling in glamorous photoshoots or captivating audiences on the silver screen, Pragma brings a unique blend of elegance, confidence and natural charisma to every appearance. Her impeccable fashion sense, radiant personality and effortless style have made her a favourite among designers, photographers and cinema lovers alike. Expanding her horizons, Pragma recently ventured further into mainstream Hindi cinema with the ensemble comedy-drama Khel Khel Mein (2024), sharing screen space with Akshay Kumar. She followed it up with Daaku Maharaaj (2025) opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna, reaffirming her popularity among Telugu audiences while strengthening her pan-India appeal. With beauty, talent and a growing repertoire of diverse roles, Pragma Jaiswal continues to evolve as an actress. Blending timeless elegance with contemporary glamour, she remains one of Indian cinema's most radiant and enduring stars, leaving audiences eager to see what she does next.

NEEL CONTINUES
DRAGON SHOOT

NTR recently sustained a shoulder injury, following which doctors advised him to take rest for six to eight weeks. As a result, the actor has temporarily stepped away from the shooting of Dragon, directed by Prashanth Neel. However, Prashanth Neel is not letting the schedule go to waste. He has reshuffled the shoot and is currently filming portions that do not require NTR's presence. The shooting is progressing in Hyderabad. Recently, Anil Kapoor, who plays Narcotics Bureau chief Raghuveer Rathod, arrived in Hyderabad to join the latest schedule. In the film, Anil Kapoor's character is locked in a high-stakes battle with NTR, who plays a feared assassin named Luger. Ravi Basrur is composing the music for the action drama, which is jointly produced by Mythri Movie Makers and NTR Arts. Dragon is scheduled to hit theaters in June 2027.