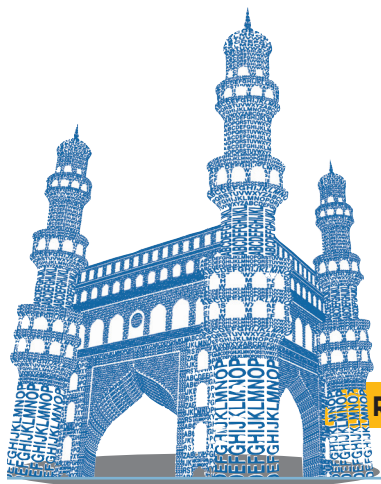




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO.17 ISSUE NO.:103 RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



Screens That Blind, Minds That Bind

OPINION 06

Major IAS Reshuffle in Andhra Pradesh

SPECIAL 02



BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

A single remark by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and a sharp response from Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have opened a much larger political debate. At almost the same time, the Tamil Nadu Government has tightened restrictions on political activity inside schools. Three developments. One central question. Who should shape

the thinking of India's young citizens, and where should the line be drawn? As every political force rushes to win the confidence of Gen Z, India is witnessing the opening chapter of a political contest that could shape the next decade.

The political season has changed. Not very long ago, elections revolved around caste equations, community calculations and coalition arithmetic. Those factors continue to matter, but

another force has now emerged as the centre of political attention. That force is India's young voter.

Every political party wants to be seen listening to students. Every ideological organisation wants to present itself as the natural guide for the next generation. Every statement directed at Gen Z now carries political weight because this generation will increasingly influence India's electoral future.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

AI to Strengthen the GST System and PREVENT LEAKAGES

Greater coordination among government departments to curb revenue leakages
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy meets noted economist Arvind Subramanian



Hyderabad: As Telangana's economy continues to expand rapidly, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held extensive discussions on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve GST revenue collection and develop a robust strategy to strengthen the state's finances.

The Chief Minister met renowned economist Arvind Subramanian at the MCR HRD Bodhi Pavilion. The meeting focused on adopting a planned approach to improve the state's financial position.

The two discussed re-

forms needed in the GST and Excise departments. The Chief Minister said the government plans to introduce an AI-powered system that will provide GST officials with specialized information, making tax administration more efficient. He emphasized that the new system should not create obstacles or inconvenience for businesses. Arvind Subramanian explained that the use of technology would help increase state revenue while also improving the Ease of Doing Business.

He particularly recom-

mended using AI to improve coordination among the Municipal Administration, RERA, Panchayat Raj, Electricity, Finance, and Commercial Taxes departments to prevent revenue leakages, especially in the building and construction materials sector. He suggested that, at the stage of approving applications for large buildings and contract works, authorities should record the estimated requirement of construction materials along with the corresponding tax estimates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



US Pressure Behind India's UPI MDR Law Changes?

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

The Indian government has amended laws to enable the possible introduction of a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in the future. According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the move appears to have been influenced by pressure from the United States. GTRI said the changes came after the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) raised concerns about India's UPI and RuPay payment systems in its recent report.

The think tank warned that India should not alter its digital payment policies under external pressure. The organization argued that introducing MDR pri-

marily to benefit global payment giants such as Visa and Mastercard would not serve India's long-term interests. It urged the government to prioritize national interests and protect India's digital payment ecosystem. GTRI emphasized that India's UPI platform has become a global model for digital payments and cautioned against policy changes that could weaken its competitiveness or compromise the country's strategic interests.



Bhatti highlights Telangana's investment POTENTIAL IN SAN FRANCISCO

HYDERABAD, AUG.7

Consul General of India K. Srikar Reddy hosted a dinner in honour of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu in San Francisco, bringing together prominent members of the Indian diaspora and distinguished leaders from industry, technology, medicine, professional services, human resources and other sectors in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Welcoming the gathering, the Consul General underscored the importance of strengthening engagement between the Indian diaspora and governments in India. He urged the business and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"Our goal is to bring the BJP to power in Telangana"

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

The national BJP leadership held discussions with Telangana leaders. Speaking to the media afterward, BJP MP Eatala Rajender made several significant remarks. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to bring the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to power in Telangana. According to him, after the West Bengal election results, the Prime Minister visited Telangana. He further stated that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who has long been working toward bringing the BJP to power in Telangana, and BJP National President Nitin Nabhi spent three days touring the state, motivating and preparing party workers and leaders.

Rajender said that, with the aim of replicating the success achieved in West Bengal in Telangana, the party leadership had given several directions and instructions. He added that the BJP high command is continuously assessing the political situation in Telangana and guiding the state leadership accordingly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Harish urges Centre to protect Telangana's water interests

HYDERABAD, AUG.7

Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao has written to Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil, seeking urgent intervention under Section 85 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, to protect Telangana's legitimate water interests.

In a detailed representation on Friday, Harish Rao requested the Union Minister to direct the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) to withdraw Agenda Item Nos. 18.3.1, 18.3.6 and 18.3.11 from the agenda of its proposed 18th meeting, stating that these items seek to reopen and review

statutory approvals already granted to several major irrigation projects in Telangana.

Harish Rao stated that the issue is not merely an inter-State dispute, but one concerning the institutional authority, credibility and legal sanctity of the Government of India's own decision-making process.

He pointed out that the irrigation projects in question had received Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) clearance from the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Ministry of Jal Shakti only after comprehensive technical, hydrological, engineering,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Dr NIRMALA NAMED NASI MEMBER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Hyderabad, Aug.7: Dr. B. Nirmala, Principal Scientist at ICAR-NAARM, has been selected as a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), in recognition of her significant contributions to agricultural and plant sciences. A member of the 2007 Agricultural Research Service (ARS) batch, Dr. Nirmala previously served at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice

Research, Hyderabad. She has led 15 research projects and conducted extensive field research across major rice-growing regions of the country.

Her academic and research contributions include 88 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 23 technical articles, 14 books, 33 book chapters, seven technical bulletins and 22 training manuals. As Principal

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GOVT COMMITTED TO WELFARE OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS: TUMMALA

HYDERABAD, AUG.7

Telangana Minister for agriculture, handlooms and textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao on Friday reaffirmed the state government's commitment to the welfare of handloom weavers, stating that the government stood firmly with both farmers and weavers.

Speaking at National Handloom Day celebrations held here at People's Plaza, the Minister felicitated artisans selected for the prestigious Konda Laxman Bapuji Handloom awards and praised their contribution to preserving Telangana's rich weaving traditions.



Rao later inaugurated a handloom textile exhibition featuring more than 100 stalls showcasing traditional crafts and contemporary designs by

artisans from across Telangana. The exhibition will be open from August 7 to 16, and the Minister urged the public to visit the stalls and purchase

handloom products to support weavers.

Further, the minister said handloom weaving was not merely a livelihood but an integral part of India's culture, tradition and heritage. The government, he added, was working to restore the glory of traditional crafts that are facing the threat of decline. Highlighting Telangana's handloom heritage, Rao said Gadval sarees, Pochampally Ikat, Narayanpet textiles, Siddipet Gollabhama sarees, Warangal durries and Karimnagar bedsheets had earned recognition across

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CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER

VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

The Andhra Pradesh government on Friday effected a major reshuffle of senior IAS officers, transferring and appointing several officials to key departments in a move aimed at strengthening governance and improving administrative coordination. The General Administration Department (GAD) issued the transfer and posting orders with immediate effect, assigning Full Additional Charge (FAC) to several officers.

As part of the reshuffle, Shamsher Singh Rawat has been posted as Special Chief Secretary, Tourism

and Culture Department. He will also hold additional charge of the Youth Services & Sports, Services & Human Resource Management (HRM), and General Administration (GPM & AR) departments.

J. Shyamala Rao has been appointed Principal Secretary, School Education Department. She has also been entrusted with additional charge of the Higher Education, Skill Development & Training, and Political departments.

Kona Sashidhar has been transferred as Secretary, Transport, Roads and Buildings Department and will additionally oversee the Infrastructure & Investment De-

MAJOR IAS RESHUFFLE IN AP

partment.

In another significant change, Amrapali Kata has been relieved as Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) and directed to report to the General Administration Department for further posting. Pattan Shetty Ravi Subash has been appointed as the new Managing Director of APTDC while continuing as Chief Executive Officer of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority (APTA) and Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC).

The government also appointed S. Suresh Kumar as Special Officer for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu, with Dr. Narayana Bharat Gupta designated as Joint Special Officer for the religious event.

Among other appointments, Muthyala Raju Revu has been posted as Commissioner of Archaeology and Museums. KVN Chakradhar Babu has been given additional charge as Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare and Managing Director of the National Health Mission (NHM), Hephzibah Rani Korlapati has been appointed Special Secretary, Housing Department, along with additional responsibility for the State Housing Corporation.

P. Arun Babu has been posted as Director General of the Drug Control Administration, while Prakhhar Jain has been appointed Metropolitan Commissioner of the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan

Region Development Authority (VMRDA).

The reshuffle also assigned Geetanjali Sharma additional charge as Chief Executive Officer of RTGS and Chetan T.S. as Director of Disaster Management.

In the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), retired officer Dr. A. Sharath has been appointed Joint Executive Officer, while Prabhala Gopinath has been posted as Joint Executive Officer (Health & Education).

Further, A.A.L. Padmavathi has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the NTR Vaidya Seva Trust, M. Jayakrishna as Commissioner of the Tirupati Municipal Corporation, and B. Sunil Kumar Reddy (IFS) has been entrusted with additional charge as Managing Director of the Swachh Andhra Corporation.

Meanwhile, B. Anil Kumar Reddy and N. Tej Bharath have been directed to report to the General Administration Department for their next assignments.

The government said the large-scale administrative reshuffle is intended to strengthen governance, improve inter-departmental coordination, and expedite the implementation of key government programmes across the state.

DGP CV Anand Congratulates TGCSB Team for Securing No. 1 Rank in Cybercrime Control

Hyderabad, August 07: Telangana has emerged as the top-performing State in the country in cybercrime control in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)-led PRAGATI review meeting held on Thursday, prompting Director General of Police C.V. Anand to congratulate Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) Director Shikha Goel, CPs, SPs and the bureau's officers and staff for its outstanding performance.

DGP C.V. Anand sir expressed that, Telangana State emerged as the best performer among all States and Union Territories after being assessed on nine

DGP Commends CSB Director Shikha Goel, CPs, SPs & CSB team for outstanding & exemplary performance.

Telangana Tops National PMOs PRAGATI Review Across Nine Key Performance Parameters

Telangana Sets National Benchmark in Cybercrime Control: DGP

key performance parameters relating to cybercrime prevention, investigation, victim assistance, inter-State coordination, capacity building and public awareness. According to the assessment, Telangana became the first State in the country to establish a dedicated Telangana

Cyber Security Bureau under the State Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (S4C). The State also registered 49 e-Zero FIRs in cyber fraud cases involving ₹5 lakh and above.

In grievance redressal, Telangana recorded 88% performance, while 81% performance

was achieved in facilitating the restoration of defrauded money to victims. The State also reported 88% utilisation of the SAHYOG portal for the removal of unlawful online content.

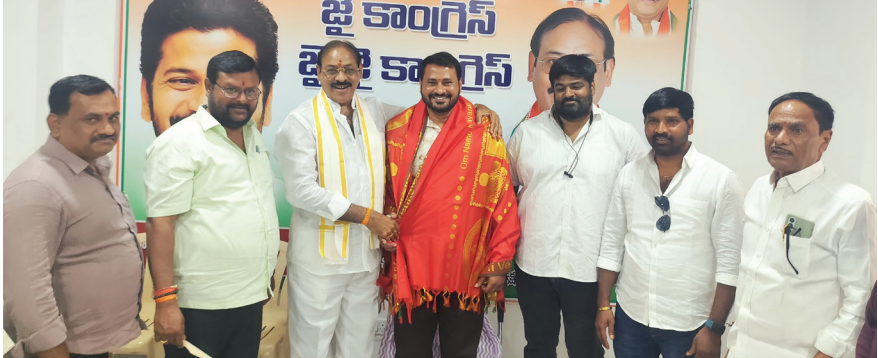
Under the SAMANVAY initiative, Telangana completed 97% of CIAR requests and 79% of inter-State requests, uploaded 5,500 criminal profiles, and identified 15,000 inter-State criminal linkages. As part of capacity-building initiatives, 524 police personnel were provided access to the CyTrain platform.

The State was also not among the 15 major cybercrime hotspot States identified at the national

level. Cyber safety awareness programmes reached more than 8.5 lakh people, while an additional 2 lakh citizens were sensitised specifically about digital arrest frauds.

Congratulating the TGCSB team, DGP said the achievement reflected the professionalism, dedication and coordinated efforts of entire bureau. He expressed confidence that Telangana Police would continue to set national benchmarks in technology-driven policing and sustain its leadership in combating cybercrime through innovation, effective enforcement and public outreach.

Bandi Ramesh Celebrates 10TV Journalist Hari's Birthday Commends Media's Public Role



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, AUGUST 07

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Vice President and Kukatpally Assembly Congress in-charge, Telangana Kamma Corporation Chairperson Bandi Ramesh, celebrated the birthday of 10 TV representative Sri Hari on Friday. On the occasion, Bandi Ramesh honored Sri Hari with a shawl and cut a birthday cake, wishing him good health and happiness. Speaking on the event, Ban-

di Ramesh said that media is very important for society. It acts as a bridge between the public and political leaders, and helps people's issues reach the right authorities. He praised media services for their positive role in community development.

He also assured that in Kukatpally, if any public problem is brought to his attention by media representatives, he will immediately speak to the concerned officials and take necessary steps to resolve it. "Solving

public issues is my priority," he said. The program was attended by former municipal vice chairman Laxmaiah, Laxman Goud, Pidikiti Gopal Chowdhary, BC leader Tella Harikrishna, and media persons Rakesh, Satya, Bhanu, Anil, Ranjith, and Shankar. Kukatpally division Congress president Naga Raju and other Congress leaders including Raman, Mahesh, Vasu, Krishna Veni, Jyothi, and several others also participated and extended birthday wishes to Sri Hari.

WHO WANTS TO OWN INDIA'S YOUNG MIND?

FROM PAGE 1

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

This is not merely a disagreement between the RSS and the Congress. It is the beginning of a larger political contest to win the confidence of India's youngest citizens.

ONE SPEECH. ONE SHARP REPLY. MANY QUESTIONS

Speaking before nearly two thousand students at an event organised by the International Movement to Unite Nations in Mumbai, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat delivered a message that surprised many observers. He accepted that young people have genuine concerns over education and examination-related issues. He said protesting students should not automatically be labelled as anti-national. He described peaceful protest as a legitimate democratic process and said he had complete faith in Gen Z. Within hours, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra responded: "They do not need a certificate from Mohan Bhagwat ji." The remark instantly became the political headline of the day.

Her response challenged the idea that students required validation from the ideological head of the RSS before their protests could be regarded as legitimate democratic expression.

TAMIL NADU CHANGES THE FRAME OF THE DEBATE

Almost at the same time, another development from Tamil Nadu quietly altered the conversation. The State Government reaffirmed that government schools should remain free from political activity. Political leaders, party workers and private individuals were prohibited from using school premises for political programmes, except where officially permitted. Schools, the Government em-

phasised, exist for education and not for political promotion. The order followed controversies involving political activities inside educational institutions.

THE DISTINCTION THAT CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED

There is, however, an important distinction that deserves equal attention. The Mumbai interaction involving Mohan Bhagwat was not held inside a government school or college. It took place at a public venue during a youth conference organised by an independent organisation where participation was voluntary. That distinction is significant. One issue concerns regulation of educational institutions under government policy. The other concerns the constitutional freedom of citizens to exchange ideas at a public gathering outside educational campuses. Treating both situations as identical would overlook this important legal and institutional difference.

THE REAL EXAMINATION FOR POLITICS

There is another reality that India's political class cannot afford to ignore. Today's young Indians are not dependent on one political platform or one ideological narrative. They compare information. They verify facts. They question authority. They challenge governments, opposition parties and institutions with equal confidence.

Political symbolism alone is unlikely to satisfy them.

They want fair examinations. They want paper leaks to stop. They want affordable higher education. They want quality universities. They want employment that rewards talent. They want governments that solve problems instead of merely explaining them. No political party can permanently claim ownership over

India's youth. No ideological organisation can assume automatic acceptance. Trust has to be earned through performance.

THE REAL REPORT CARD

Young India is unlikely to judge political parties by speeches alone. It will judge them by jobs, education, examination integrity and governance.

THE NEXT ELECTION MAY BE DECIDED LONG BEFORE POLLING DAY

The battle for India's future may not begin in Parliament. It may begin in examination halls, university campuses and homes where families worry about jobs, rising educational costs and repeated examination controversies. Every major political party has recognised that the country's demographic advantage is also its biggest political challenge. The organisation that offers credible answers on education, employment and opportunity will gain something far more valuable than temporary publicity. It will earn the confidence of a generation that has learned to question every political claim before accepting it.

MY SHOT

The exchange between Mohan Bhagwat and Priyanka Gandhi is larger than a political headline. It has reopened an important national debate about the relationship between politics, ideology and India's young citizens. If educational institutions are to remain politically neutral, that principle must be applied consistently and without exception. If engagement takes place outside educational campuses within the framework of law, every organisation has an equal democratic right to present its ideas. Ultimately, India's young citizens will decide whose words deserve their trust. And that verdict cannot be claimed. It has to be earned.

Harish urges Centre to protect Telangana's ..

FROM PAGE 1

environmental and legal scrutiny involving all concerned stakeholders, including the River Management Board and the basin States. The letter emphasises that once such statutory approvals have been granted by the competent authorities of the Union government, no subordinate body such as the GRMB can assume appellate powers to review, reconsider or seek cancellation of those approvals.

Harish Rao argued that allowing the GRMB to revisit decisions already taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti would create an unprecedented institutional anomaly and undermine the authority of the Central government's own technical institutions. The representation highlights that the agenda seeks reconsideration of approvals granted to key Telangana irrigation projects, including Kaleshwaram, Choutupally Hanumantha Reddy, Mukteshwar-am, Chanaka-Korata (Rudha), Modikuntavagu, Kadem-Gudem and the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Scheme, all of which underwent the prescribed statutory appraisal process before receiving approval. The letter also draws attention to previous GRMB proceedings and decisions of the Ministry of Jal Shakti recognising the water entitlements of Telangana following the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh. It notes that these issues had already been examined in detail by the Central Water Commission while granting approvals and therefore cannot be reopened through indirect means.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

GOVT COMMITTED TO WELFARE..

FROM PAGE 1

India and abroad. The government was working to combine traditional skills with modern designs and market requirements, he said.

The Minister also said Telangana was also leading in the geo-tagging of handloom weavers and was preparing a new generation of artisans through modern skill training at the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT). He cited

the national first prize won by IIHT alumnus Vaggu Sriram for his ergonomic back-support system as an example of the institute's achievements.

Rao outlined several welfare measures, including the "Nethanna Podu" savings scheme and "Nethannaku Bhadraratha", which provides Rs.5 lakh insurance assistance to the families of deceased weavers. He said Rs.49.27 crore had

been released towards handloom loan waivers and Rs.15 crore allocated under the Nethanna Bhariosa scheme, providing annual assistance of Rs.18,000 to weavers and Rs.6,000 to allied workers.

Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), Textiles Principal Secretary Sabyasachi Ghosh, Handlooms and Textiles Corporation Chairman Dudam Venkat Ramana and TESCO officials attended the programme.

Dr NIRMALA NAMED NASI MEMBER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

FROM PAGE 1

Investigator of technology dissemination programmes, she coordinated 12,468 frontline demonstrations across India, helping farmers adopt improved technologies and reduce cultivation costs.

Dr. Nirmala had also organised 65 training programmes and guided 14 postgraduate and three doctoral students. Her honours include the

Dr. R.T. Doshi Award for Best Research Paper, the Young Scientist Award from the Society of Extension Education, and Fellow/Associate Fellow recognition from the Telangana Academy of Sciences. She is also a Fellow of the Mobilization Society. Founded in 1930, NASI is India's oldest science academy and works to promote scientific research, exchange and dissemination of knowledge.

AI to Strengthen..

FROM PAGE 1

This would help improve tax compliance and reduce leakages. The Chief Minister also suggested integrating data from MeeSeva, Aarogya, and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) into the system, stating that such integration would enhance governance and administrative efficiency. The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister's Advisor K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Commercial Taxes & Excise Secretary Raghunandan Rao, Excise Commissioner Hari Kiran, and other senior officials.

Bhatti highlights Telangana's investment..

FROM PAGE 1

professional community to adopt a forward-looking approach and explore deeper partnerships that could create mutual benefits for the diaspora while contributing to inclusive economic and social development in India. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted Hyderabad's emergence as one of India's leading centres of technology, innovation, life sciences and global services.

He said the Telangana gov-

ernment was committed to sustaining this momentum while creating new avenues for growth and employment across emerging sectors. He outlined several key initiatives being undertaken by the State government, including the rejuvenation of the Musi River, comprehensive urban development programmes, expansion of infrastructure, and the establishment of Young India Skills University and skill-development centres to equip Telangana's youth with skills for future

employment opportunities.

The Deputy Chief Minister invited entrepreneurs, investors, technology leaders, medical professionals and other members of the Bay Area business community to consider Telangana as a preferred destination for investment and expansion. He also urged them to work closely with the State government to translate innovative ideas into enterprises, create quality employment and contribute to Telangana's vision of broad-based and inclusive economic growth.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay Divorce Case Closed

Chennai, August 7: The divorce case involving Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and TVK chief Joseph Vijay has come to an end after his wife, Sangeetha, withdrew her petition before the Chengalpattu District Court.

Sangeetha attended the hearing through video conferencing and informed the court of her decision to withdraw the petition. With the withdrawal, the legal proceedings have been officially

closed.

Sangeetha had filed for divorce in February this year, alleging that Vijay was involved in a relationship with another actress. According to the petition, she claimed she became aware of the alleged relationship in 2021 and that Vijay had assured her he would end it but allegedly failed to do so.

She further alleged that she had been distanced from Vijay's personal and profession-

al circle, claiming he attended public events and overseas trips with the actress. Sangeetha stated that these developments caused emotional distress to her and their two children, Jason Sanjay and Divya Saasha.

The petition also claimed that Vijay's conduct and controversies on social media during 2024 caused her severe mental trauma, adding that their marriage had become only a legal formality.

Our goal is to bring the BJP to power..

FROM PAGE 1

He said that as Members of Parliament, MLAs, and party leaders, they have a responsibility to consistently fight for public issues. Rajender alleged that the Revanth Reddy government has not fully implemented the promises it made during the elections and has also failed to continue some of the welfare schemes that were in place earlier, thereby disappointing the people of Telangana. He claimed that, for this reason, people have decided not to vote for the Revanth Reddy government this time.

At the same time, he said that the governance, arrogance, and hardships experienced by the people during the ten-year rule of the K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) government are still fresh in the public's memory. Therefore, he asserted that the people of Telangana now want the Bharatiya Janata Party to come to power and are eager to ensure the BJP's victory.

Rajender said that if Telangana is to be rescued from

mounting debt, the BJP must come to power. He also claimed that people are discussing the need to strengthen the BJP to curb corruption, exploitation, and anti-people policies. He added that discussions about Telangana's political situation are taking place everywhere—at pan shops, hotels, road junctions, and wherever people gather.

He stated that the BJP will continue to fight on issues such as fee reimbursement, farmers' problems, assigned land issues, and the demolition of poor people's houses under the HYDRAA initiative. He emphasized that it is the BJP's responsibility to provide leadership to the people and instill confidence in them.

Earlier today, the BJP's top leadership held an important review meeting in Delhi with party leaders from Telangana. Senior party leaders advised everyone to remain united, fight for public issues, provide leadership to the people, and work collectively to bring the Bharatiya Janata Party to power in Telangana in the coming days.



Bonalu Celebrations Held with Great Devotion at Lotus Lap Public School

■ It is Our Collective Responsibility to Preserve and Pass on Telangana's Culture and Traditions to Future Generations: Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy

HYDERABAD

The vibrant festival of Bonalu, a symbol of Telangana's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, was celebrated with great devotion, traditional fervour, and grandeur at Lotus Lap Public School, Badangpet Branch. Students, parents, teachers, and the school management enthusiastically participated in the celebrations, making the event a memorable tribute to Telangana's glorious traditions.

The programme was graced by Vidya Ratna Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Chairman of Lotus Lap Public Schools; Young Entrepreneur Awardee Shri Komatireddy



Abhishek Reddy, Director; and Mrs. Bobbili Swathi Reddy, Administrative Officer, as the chief guests.

Students, dressed in colourful traditional Telugu attire, captivated the audience with Bonalu processions, Pothuraju performances, traditional drum beats (Dappu), Telangana folk dances, and cultural songs, transforming the school campus into a vibrant reflection of Telangana's cultural heritage.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said that Bonalu is not

merely a festival but a symbol of the faith, devotion, and cultural identity of the people of Telangana. He emphasized that in this era of globalization, it is the responsibility of every educational institution and every parent to preserve and pass on the state's rich traditions, festivals, and cultural values to future generations.

He further stated that through the Level Based Education system implemented at Lotus Lap Public Schools, every child is provided with joyful, activity-based, and personalized learning accord-

ing to his or her individual learning level. He emphasized that education is not limited to academic excellence alone but should also focus on character building, moral values, leadership qualities, cultural awareness, and social responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Shri Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all parents for beautifully dressing their children in traditional attire and making the celebration a grand success. He said that educational institutions have a vital role in nurturing awareness of Telangana's culture, promoting Indian values, and instilling respect for the nation's rich traditions. He encouraged students to embrace modern education while remaining deeply connected to their cultural roots.

On the occasion, the mother of student Akshiti shared her experience, stating that she had witnessed remarkable positive changes in her

daughter after joining Lotus Lap Public School. Comparing her previous educational experience, she appreciated the school's quality education, individual attention, value-based learning, and the dedicated efforts of the management and teachers in shaping children's overall personality.

Following the school celebrations, students, parents, teachers, and the management visited the Badangpet Pochamma Temple, where they offered Bonam to the Goddess and performed special prayers. The colourful procession featuring traditional drum performances, folk dances, and students dressed as Pothuraju became the highlight of the celebrations, beautifully showcasing the rich folk traditions of Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Mrs. Maddula Shruthilaya Reddy expressed her sincere gratitude to Chairman Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Director Shri

Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy, Administrative Officer Mrs. Bobbili Swathi Reddy, the parents, teachers, and students for their wholehearted support in making the event a grand success. She appreciated the management's continuous encouragement in promoting not only academic excellence but also cultural awareness and the holistic development of every student.

The Bonalu celebrations at Lotus Lap Public School once again reflected the institution's commitment to preserving Telangana's cultural heritage while providing quality, value-based education. The event successfully instilled pride in students about their traditions and reinforced the school's vision of nurturing academically strong, culturally rooted, and socially responsible future citizens. Teachers, parents, and students participated in large numbers, celebrating the festival with devotion, enthusiasm, and joy.

Bonalu: Wine shops, bars to remain closed on Aug 9

HYDERABAD

Wine and toddy shops, along with bars attached to restaurants, will remain closed in six areas of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate on August 9 in view of Bonalu festival celebrations. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh issued the closure order un-

der Section 20 of the Telangana State Excise Act, 1968, citing the need to maintain public peace and tranquillity. According to the order, wine and toddy shops and bars attached to restaurants, excluding bars in star hotels and registered clubs, will remain closed from 10 am to 10 pm on August 9.

E-AUCTION FOR AI-DRIVEN SMART-IN SYSTEM AT TINSUKIA DIVISION

E-auction for AI-Driven Smart-In system over Tinsukia division. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Trips/Days: 1826.

Auction Catalogue No. Smartin-TSK-26		
Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA/1	MSS-TSK-NTSK-AIMsgPit-35-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services-AI-Driven Messaging Platform)	AI-Driven Smart-In system for PAS, TADDB, PDB integrated with NTES-IPIS modernization and AI enabled enquiry system at 9 number of stations i.e. Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia, Mariani Jn., Tinsukia, Jorhat Town, Dhemaji, Simaluguri Jn., Furkating Jn. & North Lakhimpur over Tinsukia division

Auction Start Date & Time: At 11.00 hrs. & **Closing at:** 11.30 hrs. of 21-08-2026. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia
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TENDER NOTICE NO. SR-TRACK-02-2026 Dt: 06.08.2026

e-tenders are invited for the following work by Principal Chief Engineer, Southern Railway.

Sl. no	Name of Work	App. Value: ₹ in Crores	EMD ₹	Date of closing of tender	Period of completion
1	USFD Testing of Rails using RDSO approved equipment for a length of 10,878 Tkm in Chennai, Salem, Thiruvananthapuram, and Tiruchchirappalli divisions of Southern Railway for a period of One year.	8.25	16,51,800.00	07.09.2026 at 15.00 hrs	12 Months

(Item 01 only)

Further details are available in detail on website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. The tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Southern Railway, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Note: (i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check if any Corrigendum is issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while submitting the Tender.

(ii) Exemption from remitting Bid Security Amount (EMD): The following categories of tenderers are only exempted from remitting Bid Security:

- (a) Any firm recognized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as "Startups" shall be exempted from payment of bid Security.
 - (b) Labour Co-operative Societies shall submit only 50% of Bid Security.
- Tenderer should submit relevant documents along with his/her offer from remitting Bid Security. Non-submission of relevant documents, shall lead to summarily rejection of offer.

Dy.CE/Track/HQ
(For and on behalf of President of India)

GITAM Students Gain First-hand Exposure to India's Advanced Missile Technology at BDL

HYDERABAD

Students of the Department of Computer Science & Systems Engineering and Artificial Intelligence, Data Science (AIDS), GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, gained valuable industry exposure during an educational visit to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Bhanur, one of India's premier defence manufacturing organizations.

During the visit, students attended an informative session on modern missile technologies and were introduced to anti-tank guided missile systems such as Milan, Konkurs,

Invar, and Konkurs-M. They also had the opportunity to learn about the Astra air-to-air missile and its integration with Su-30 and Mirage fighter aircraft.

The delegation toured BDL's precision manufacturing facility, where they witnessed high-precision CNC machining and the production of critical missile components. A live demonstration of the Konkurs missile launcher system and a visit to the missile assembly section offered students first-hand insight into the final assembly and deployment mechanisms of advanced missile systems. The visit significantly



enhanced students' understanding of defence engineering, precision manufacturing, automation, and indigenous technological innovation while reinforcing the importance of

integrating classroom learning with industrial experience.

The industrial visit, coordinated by Prof. Pritee Ambarish Parwekar from the Department of Computer Science &

Systems Engineering, GITAM School of Computer Science and Engineering (GSCSE), provided 30 students and five faculty members with an opportunity to understand India's indigenous missile manufacturing technologies and advanced defence production systems.

The programme commenced with a welcome by Gangaiha, Head (HR-L&D), followed by an orientation session conducted by Nandini, Training Officer (HR-L&D), and senior BDL officials. Addressing the participants, Nageshwar Rao, Deputy General Manager (Human Re-

sources), highlighted the importance of discipline, teamwork, and technological excellence in strengthening the nation's defence capabilities.

The Department expressed its gratitude to the management and technical experts of Bharat Dynamics Limited for their warm hospitality and for providing students with an enriching learning experience. Special appreciation was extended to Prof. Pritee Ambarish Parwekar for successfully organizing the industrial visit and creating a valuable platform for experiential learning in India's defence technology sector.

BJYM's "Fee Dues – BJP Fight" Campaign Gets Overwhelming Student Response

■ 1,40,985 signatures collected across Telangana in a single day

HYDERABAD

The statewide "Fee Dues – BJP Fight" campaign, launched by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement and scholarship dues in Telangana, received an overwhelming response from students. As part of the

"One Day One Lakh Signature Campaign," signature collection drives were organised at colleges and universities across all districts of the state. Students participated voluntarily in large numbers. Surpassing the target of one lakh signatures, a total of 1,40,985 students signed the petition in a single day, registering their protest against what BJYM described as the failures of the Congress government.

Speaking on the occasion, BJYM Telangana State Pres-

ident Ganesh Kunde said:

"The signatures of 1,40,985 students collected in a single day reflect the growing public dissatisfaction with the Congress government and the anguish of the student community. This government is neglecting students' future and playing with their lives."

He expressed concern that thousands of students are facing difficulties in colleges due to the non-release of fee reimbursement and scholarship dues. He warned that

students would never forgive a government that compromises their future.

He demanded that the Congress government immediately release the pending dues, accusing it of betraying the youth by failing to fulfil the promises made during the elections. He further warned that if the pending fee reimbursement and scholarship amounts are not released immediately, BJYM will intensify student protests across the state.

"Moosi Tarangalu – Simhavahini Satakam" Unveiled



■ Information Department Special Commissioner Mukunda Reddy attends book launch

HYDERABAD

"Moosi Tarangalu – Simhavahini Satakam," a collection of Telugu verses that blends the historical significance of the Musi River with the grandeur of the Ashada Bonalu festival, was unveiled by Special Commissioner of the State Information and Public Relations Department Mukunda Reddy and Managing Director of the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation E. Venkata Narasimha Reddy.

The event was held on Friday at the Musi Riverfront

Development Corporation office in Masab Tank, under the chairmanship of GHMC Zonal Commissioner Solipeta Srinivas Reddy.

The book, authored by senior journalist and poet Varakala Yadagiri, explores Hyderabad's cultural heritage, traditions, customs, and the unique significance of the Bonalu festival.

Speaking on the occasion, E. Venkata Narasimha Reddy said the book beautifully captures the month-long Bonalu celebrations, beginning at the historic Sri Jagadambika Temple inside Golconda Fort during the month of Ashada. It also highlights major festivities such as the Balkampet Renuka Yellamma Kalyanam,

the Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu celebrations in Secunderabad, and the historic Bonalu festival at the Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Mahankali Temple.

He noted that the work also vividly portrays the flow of the Muchukunda (Musi) River, once considered the lifeline of Hyderabad, alongside the Bonalu celebrations held at various Mahankali temples across the city.

He further said that the poet has effectively presented, in verse, the importance of the Telangana Government's flagship Musi River rejuvenation project, undertaken in line with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He praised the publication of a traditional Telugu poetic work

in the modern era, describing it as a commendable literary achievement.

Special Commissioner Mukunda Reddy congratulated senior journalist Varakala Yadagiri, noting that his contributions extend beyond news reports and articles to include valuable poetic literature. He said the book not only explains the significance of the Telangana Government's Musi River development initiative but also vividly depicts the grandeur of Hyderabad's historic Bonalu celebrations.

GHMC Zonal Commissioner Srinivas Reddy said that Yadagiri's experience as a senior journalist has enabled him to document Hyderabad's heritage and culture in a way that will educate future generations. He expressed confidence that "Moosi Tarangalu – Simhavahini Satakam" would appeal to readers who appreciate traditional Telugu literature.

Author Varakala Yadagiri said he wrote the book drawing on over four decades of observing the Musi River and his long-standing interest in the region's history, culture, and traditions. The event was also attended by Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Director Vishnuvardhan Rao, Bhaskara Rao, and others, who congratulated the author and appreciated his literary contribution.



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SHORT
TAKES

Telangana plans Digital Assembly, Digital Council, says Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government plans to introduce a Digital Assembly and a Digital Council as part of its efforts to modernise governance through technology. Information Technology and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Friday. Inaugurating the AI Transformation Conclave (Telangana), jointly organised by GOVconnect and Electronic Service Delivery (MeeSeva) at ITC Kakatiya in Hyderabad, the Minister said the State was leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, data analytics and quantum computing to improve governance and public service delivery. Mr. Sridhar Babu said the government was also planning to roll out blockchain-based certificates to enhance the security and authenticity of citizens' data. He said efforts were under way to extend high-speed digital connectivity to rural areas through T-Fiber while ensuring doorstep delivery of government services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The Minister said the government was implementing paperless administration across departments under the Digital Office Project, adding that governance must evolve with technological advancements to become more efficient, transparent and citizen-centric. Referring to Telangana's digital governance initiatives, Mr. Sridhar Babu said the State had introduced a Digital Cabinet.

District Irrigation Advisory Panels to be revived immediately: Uttam

- Collectors asked to help guide farmers in facing El Nino conditions
- Project levels still not so encouraging
- CM to launch statewide distribution of new ration smart cards on August 15

HYDERABAD

In a major administrative move, the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, N Uttam Kumar Reddy today ordered immediate revival of District Irrigation Advisory panels. Addressing Collectors through a video conference, along with Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Jupally Krishna Rao, Chief Secretary and Sanjay Jaju and other senior officials, he said the panels—comprising the District Collectors, officials from the Irrigation and Agriculture Departments, elected representatives and other stakeholders—must meet before and during every crop season to assess reservoir and canal supplies and clearly advise farmers on crops that can be safely cultivated in each command area. He asked Collectors to hold Irrigation Advisory Board meetings from the very next day wherever possible in view of the prevailing El Nino Conditions that are expected to impact rainfall across the state. “The Irrigation advisory boards should review reservoir storage, expected inflows, local rainfall, drinking-water requirements and command-area needs and then issue clear guidance to farmers”, he stressed. The purpose, he said, was not merely to regulate irrigation



releases but to ensure that every farmer received credible information before deciding what to sow or transplant. He sounded a caution to the farmers against going in water-intensive crops including paddy during the current Kharif season under projects that received inadequate inflows so far. He directed district administrations to clearly communicate the water situation to farmers before they commit themselves to water-intensive crops. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the present reservoir levels coupled with the rainfall outlook for the latter part of the monsoon, required extremely cautious crop planning. He said the rainfall received during the first part of August had brought some relief and could help support crops in certain command areas. The Minister said farmers should not opt for paddy crops merely on the strength of the present spell of rains. “You may perhaps be able to support one wetting by taking advantage of the rains received during the first week of August. “But the second wetting itself may become uncertain. Farmers should not be put to hardship two or three months later after being encouraged to take up a crop now,” he cautioned.

He asked Collectors, irrigation engineers and agriculture officials to give farmers a clear and authoritative assessment of what irrigation support was possible and what was not possible in each command area.

Water levels in Nagarjuna Sagar and SRSP

Uttam Kumar Reddy asked district Collectors administrations to widely publicise the present storage position in the State's major reservoirs. He said the water levels in Nagarjuna Sagar Sri Ram Sagar Project are yet to improve to the desired levels. Farmers in vulnerable command areas should instead be encouraged to take up alternative and less water-intensive crops, depending on soil conditions and local agricultural advice.

Protect Drinking Water for Summer

Uttam Kumar Reddy also directed Rural Water Supply officials to work closely with the Irrigation Department to ensure that sufficient water was reserved for drinking-water needs. He specifically cautioned against releasing water under local or political pressure in a manner that could

create a drinking-water crisis during the coming summer. The Engineer-in-Chief of Rural Water Supply was asked to coordinate with the Engineer-in-Chief (General) O. V. Ramesh Babu and determine the minimum storage that must be protected for future drinking-water requirements.

1.06 Crore Ration Smart Cards to Be Distributed

During the same video conference, Uttam Kumar Reddy also reviewed Civil Supplies issues and announced a major statewide programme for distribution of ration smart cards. He said that after the Congress Government came to power, it had taken up the process of adding eligible beneficiaries and issuing fresh ration cards after a long gap. The Government had added around 61 lakh beneficiaries and issued approximately 16 lakh new ration cards, he said.

Telangana now has around 1.06 crore ration cards covering about 3.42 crore beneficiaries.

The State distributes approximately 2.16 lakh metric tonnes of rice every month under the public distribution system. The Government had also upgraded the foodgrain supplied through the PDS from coarse rice to fine rice, with each eligible individual receiving six kilograms of fine rice free of cost every month.

CM to Launch Ration Card Distribution at Sangareddy

Uttam Kumar Reddy said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would formally launch the statewide distribution of the ration smart cards at Sangareddy district headquarters on August 15.

Let us support the handloom sector with the spirit of Swadeshi: NRR

HYDERABAD

“Vocal for Local-Local to Global” call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also aimed to protect our ancient arts like handloom products, emphasized BJP state president N Ramchander Rao here today.

Extending his heartfelt greeting to the handloom weavers, artisans and their family members in Telangana state on the occasion of National Handloom Day, Rao said the day is a deeply significant day that revives the spirit of the swadeshi movement in our nation's history. He praised the millions of handloom weavers in India who, through their matchless craftsmanship, produce extraordinary textiles and handloom products, showcasing our country's culture and traditions to the world. He recalled that the land of Telangana

is the abode of handloom art, with regions like Narayanpet, Kothakota, Gadwal, Pochampally, and Sir-cilla gaining world renown for their handlooms. He expressed pride that the fabrics produced in these areas enjoy immense popularity and recognition not just nationally, but internationally.

Rao urged everyone to carry forward the spirit of “Vocal for Local – Local to Global,” as called upon by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by promoting indigenous products and doing their part to take Indian handloom fabrics to the global stage.

Highlighting the need for collective efforts to strengthen the handloom sector, he appealed to everyone to voluntarily purchase and wear handloom clothes, thereby standing as a strong pillar of support for the livelihoods of our handloom families.

Varuna Yagam to Be Held on August 10

YADAGIRI GUTTA

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has decided to conduct a Varuna Yagam (a Vedic ritual invoking the Rain God) with the hope of receiving widespread rainfall across the state. Following the Chief Minister's instructions, the priests, Vedic scholars, and the temple astrologer (Siddhanti) of the Yadagirigutta Temple have fixed August 10 as the auspicious date for performing the Varuna Yagam.

The ritual will be held at the Vijaya Vihar premises on the banks of the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam.

The Endowments Department will oversee the event, while the

priests and Vedic scholars from the Yadagirigutta Temple will perform the rituals according to the prescribed auspicious timing.

Special prayers will be offered with the intention that the Krishna and Godavari rivers, along with lakes and reservoirs, are replenished with abundant water and that agricultural crops flourish.

The Varuna Yagam will be conducted under the supervision of State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will participate in the Maha Purnahuti (the concluding ceremonial offering) scheduled for the evening.

People Endorse Kavitha as the Leader of Social Justice Telangana

- TRS Chief demonstrated her commitment through the Social Justice Resolution Meeting
- Kavitha's message inspired every section of society to reflect
- The Social Justice Telangana Resolution Meeting was a grand success
- TRS leaders Roop Singh and Ismail

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena leaders Roop Singh and Ismail said that people strongly believe that social justice in Telangana can only be achieved under the leadership of Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha. Speaking to the media on Friday at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office in Banjara Hills, they said that the issues raised by Kavitha during the Social Justice Telangana Resolution Meeting held on Thursday at

Saroor Nagar Stadium made every section of society think deeply.

They criticized both the previous BRS government and the current Congress government, alleging that they have treated Backward Classes (BCs) merely as a vote bank. They stated that Kavitha's meeting gave people confidence that social justice is possible only through her leadership. They also thanked everyone who contributed to making the meeting a grand success.

"Social Justice is Possible Only Under Kavitha's Leadership" – Roop Singh

Roop Singh said that people across the state believe social justice can only be achieved through Kavitha. He criticized both the previous BRS government and the present Congress government, saying they had forgotten the very essence of social justice.

He said that not only did Kavitha organize a Social Justice Telangana meeting

on a scale unmatched by any political party in the country, but she also assured people that justice would be delivered through her leadership. According to him, the meeting clearly demonstrated Kavitha's firm commitment to ensuring justice for all sections of society.

Roop Singh added that after the meeting, people now see Kavitha as the natural leader to spearhead the Social Justice Telangana movement. He expressed gratitude to everyone who attended in large numbers and made the event successful.

"This is Only the Beginning" – Ismail

Ismail said that Kavitha took the first step toward achieving Social Justice Telangana through Thursday's meeting. He described it as only the beginning and said more such initiatives would follow in the future.

He alleged that some people tried to prevent the meeting from succeeding by portraying Kavitha as belonging

to an upper caste, but said that her speech served as a strong and fitting response to such criticism. He added that the resolutions adopted in support of social justice have received an overwhelming positive response from the public.

Ismail also criticized both the previous BRS government and the current Congress government, accusing them of neglecting the aspirations of Telangana activists and martyrs. He said people now believe that Kavitha will carry forward the ideals of Maroju Veeranna and Professor Jayashankar.

He recalled that no political party had previously given serious thought to achieving social justice in Telangana. According to him, the meeting demonstrated Kavitha's sincere commitment to building a socially just Telangana.

He concluded by thanking everyone who played a role in making the meeting a grand success. Senior TRS leader Ravichandra also attended the press conference.

JNTUH Hosts NQM-FQCI IGNITE-Q 2026 to Promote Quantum Technology Awareness and Research Grant Readiness

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH) hosted an awareness-cum-interaction session titled “NQM–FQCI IGNITE-Q 2026” at the Golden Jubilee Seminar Hall, bringing together academic leaders, faculty members, researchers, scholars, students, startups and key stakeholders from the emerging quantum technology ecosystem.

The programme was jointly organized by the Directorate of Research & Development Cell (DRDC) and the Directorate of Alumni Affairs (DALA), JNTUH. The session aimed to create awareness about the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, and the National Quantum Mission (NQM), while encouraging institutions and researchers to develop high-quality research grant proposals in quantum technologies and allied strategic areas.

The inaugural session was attended by Honourable Vice-Chancellor of JNTUH



Dr. T. Kishen Kumar Reddy; Mission Director, National Quantum Mission, DST, and Head, Quantum Technology Cell, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, Dr. J. B. V. Reddy; CEO, Foundation for QC Innovation (FQCI), the Quantum Computing T-Hub under the National Quantum Mission, Shri Vijay Anand Ramanujan; former JNTUH alumnus and Mission Director, A.P. State Quantum Mission, Amaravati Quantum Valley, Shri C. V. Sridhar; Rector, JNTUH, Dr. A. Damodaram; Director, R&D Cell, Dr. T. Satya Savithri; Director, DALA, Dr. P. Bhramara; and Principal, UCETH, Dr. G. V. Narasimha Reddy.

Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor Dr. T. Kish-

en Kumar Reddy highlighted the global scenario in higher education and the growing importance of strategic technologies. He emphasized the multidisciplinary nature of quantum technologies and noted that universities and institutions must actively leverage the opportunities emerging in this rapidly evolving field. He also underscored the need for academic institutions to align teaching, research and innovation with national priorities in frontier technologies.

Dr. J. B. V. Reddy, who is leading India's National Quantum Mission, presented an overview of the mission and its major components. He explained the establishment of Thematic Hubs and the research and startup ecosystem

being promoted by DST. He also spoke about DST's initiatives in academic curriculum design in collaboration with AICTE, as well as Faculty Development Programmes aimed at strengthening capacity in quantum technologies.

During his session, Dr. Reddy discussed emerging challenges associated with quantum computing and guided participants on key aspects of managing research projects. His presentation covered proposal writing for relevant research calls, project formulation, evaluation parameters and effective presentation of research proposals before evaluation teams.

Shri Vijay Anand Ramanujan spoke about the role of Thematic Hubs in fostering collaboration among academia, startups and industry within the quantum ecosystem. He stressed the importance of rapid dissemination of knowledge and awareness in quantum computing and encouraged researchers to focus on proposals that demonstrate novelty, relevance and value.

Effective Policing is the Foundation of a Peaceful and Secure India

- National Police Seminar to Provide a New Direction for National Security
- Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, RLD Telangana State Vice President, Eminent Educationist and Environmentalist

HYDERABAD

Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, RLD Telangana State Vice President, eminent educationist, and environmentalist, has lauded the National Police Seminar being organized by Lakshyam Charitable Society at the state-of-the-art Police Command & Control Centre, Hyderabad, stating that it will serve as an important platform for deliberations on critical issues such as modern policing, cyber security, law and order, traffic management, the safety of women and children, and community-oriented policing.

Dr. Gopal Reddy observed that the nature of crime has undergone a significant transformation in the digital era. While conventional crimes continue to exist, emerging

threats such as cybercrime, online financial frauds, drug trafficking, misuse of social media, identity theft, and crimes against women and children have become major challenges for law enforcement agencies. He emphasized that addressing these evolving threats requires the effective integration of advanced technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics, digital forensics, and active public participation.

He noted that the participation of serving and retired Directors General of Police (DGPs), IPS officers, legal experts, administrators, and security professionals from across the country will make the seminar a valuable knowledge-sharing platform. Such interactions, he said, would help formulate practical strategies, strengthen policing systems, and improve public safety across the nation.

Dr. Gopal Reddy remarked that the role of the police extends far beyond enforcing laws. They are the guardians of public safety and play a crucial role in maintaining peace, protecting citizens' rights, and preserving social harmony. He stressed that strengthening public



trust in the police, creating legal awareness among citizens, and promoting community policing are essential for building a safer and more responsible society.

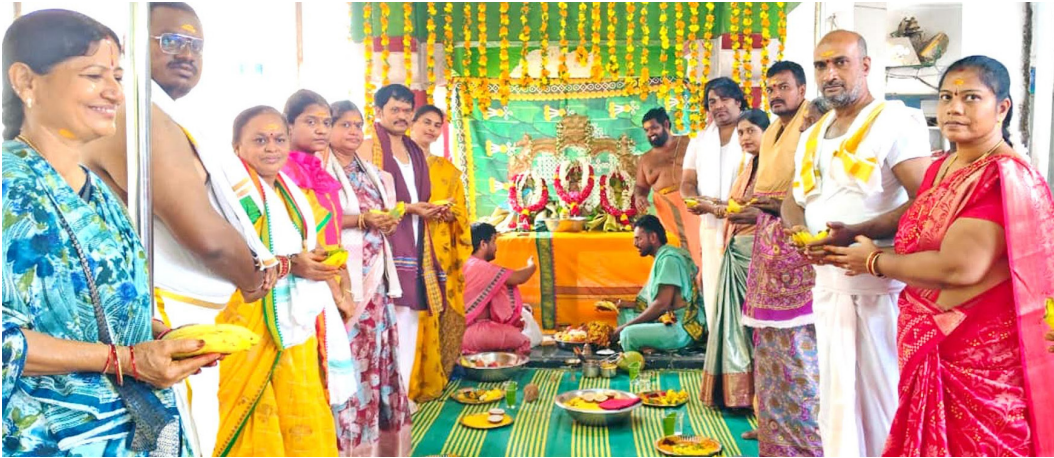
Expressing concern over the growing influence of drugs, cybercrime, ragging, bullying, online frauds, and violations of traffic regulations among youth, he called upon educational institutions, parents, police departments, and voluntary organizations to work together in guiding young people toward responsible citizenship. He emphasized that awareness, education, and preventive measures are the most effective tools in combating these social challenges.

Dr. Gopal Reddy appreciated the leadership of Former Governor of Haryana, H.E. Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, who is chairing the semi-

nar, and commended Shri Kapilavai Dileep Kumar, Chairman of Lakshyam Charitable Society, Former MLC, and RLD Telangana State President, for taking the initiative to organize a national-level seminar dedicated to strengthening India's policing system and promoting public awareness on security-related issues.

He expressed confidence that the seminar would generate valuable recommendations and actionable policy measures that would contribute to improving policing standards, enhancing public confidence in law enforcement, and ensuring a safer and more secure India.

Conveying his best wishes, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy congratulated Former Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Shri Kapilavai Dileep Kumar, distinguished police officers, legal experts, delegates, and the organizers for conducting this prestigious event. He expressed hope that the National Police Seminar would become a milestone in strengthening modern policing, promoting national security, and fostering a culture of peace, safety, and responsible citizenship across the country.



Grand Celebration of Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Kalyanam with Valli and Devasena

SURYAPET

On the auspicious occasion of Adi Krithika, the celestial wedding ceremony (Kalyana Mahotsavam) of Sri Subrahmanya Swamy with His divine consorts Sri Valli and Devasena was celebrated with great religious fervour and devotion on Friday at the Sri Ramalingeswara Sahitha Trishakti Ayyappa Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Suryapet.

The celebrations began in the morning with special Abhishekams and Archana rituals performed to the deity on the occasion of Krithika Nakshatra. The temple's chief priest, Rentala Satish Sharma, solemnised the divine wedding amidst the chanting of sacred Vedic hymns.

A large number of devotees attended the ceremony and sought the blessings of the Lord. Following the rituals, the temple man-

agement distributed Kalyana Akshintalu (sacred rice), Theertha Prasadam, and Annadanam (free community meal) to the devotees.

Among those present were Temple President Ananthula Ganesh Ramalingaiah, committee members Ananthula Suryanarayana, Ananthula Sandeep Kumar, Ananthula Durgaprasad, and Ananthula Srinivas, Assistant Priest Durgaprasad Sharma, along with several devotees.



NEXT DOOR05

Telangana Government Committed to Strengthening Polymer Industry

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 7:

Telangana IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu today assured the plastics and polymer industry that the State Government would extend all possible support to accelerate the sector's growth and competitiveness, stating that industries and government are equal partners in Telangana's development journey. Inaugurating HIPLEX 2026, one of India's premier exhibitions for plastics, polymers, processing technologies and machinery, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, the Minister urged entrepreneurs to view the current global economic and geopolitical uncertainties not as obstacles, but as opportunities to innovate, diversify and emerge stronger.

Addressing industrialists, polymer manufacturers, machinery manufacturers, exporters, recyclers, traders and representatives of AIPMA, TAAPMA and IPI, Shri Sridhar Babu said the confidence displayed by the industry despite a difficult global environment was both encouraging and inspiring.

"When I walk through an industrial exhibition, I do not merely see machines. I see dreams taking shape, courageous investments, thousands

of families whose livelihoods depend on industry, and young innovators preparing India for the future. Above all, I see entrepreneurs who refuse to stop believing in tomorrow. That confidence is India's greatest strength," he said.

The Minister described the plastics and polymer sector as one of the most important pillars of India's manufacturing economy, supplying critical raw materials to sectors such as housing, drinking water, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, electronics, food processing and infrastructure.

Highlighting the sector's contribution, he said the plastics ecosystem provides direct employment to nearly 50 lakh people and indirect employment to over one crore people across the country. In Telangana alone, the sector supports the livelihoods of nearly two lakh people, making it an important contributor to the State's industrial economy.

"When the polymer industry grows, manufacturing expands. When manufacturing expands, employment grows. And when employment grows,

manufacturing and processing hubs. We have the talent, the infrastructure, the entrepreneurial spirit and a Government committed to supporting industry."

Concluding his address, the Minister called upon entrepreneurs to continue investing with confidence.

"Storms never last forever. Global uncertainties will pass. Markets will stabilise and fresh opportunities will emerge. Let Telangana's industries be ready to lead that next phase of growth. Continue believing. Continue innovating. Continue investing. Continue creating employment. The Telangana Government will stand with you at every step of this journey."

The Minister expressed confidence that HIPLEX 2026 would promote technology adoption, facilitate business collaborations, attract new investments and further strengthen Telangana's position as one of India's fastest-growing manufacturing destinations. Narendra Baldwa, President, TAAPMA; Meela Jayadev, Convener, HIPLEX 2026; Anil Reddy Vennam, Senior Vice President, AIPMA; and N. Bhaskar Reddy, Senior Vice President, TAAPMA participated in the inaugural program.

seriousness. Our Government believes in continuous dialogue with industry, and our doors will always remain open." The Minister said Telangana has established itself as one of India's most attractive investment destinations through progressive industrial policies, quality infrastructure, reliable power supply, skilled human resources and transparent governance.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Telangana has achieved remarkable progress in Information Technology, Electronics, Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals, Global Capability Centres, Defence and Aerospace. He said the State is now determined to replicate the same success in polymer processing, plastics engineering, recycling technologies, sustainable materials and plastic machinery manufacturing. Shri Sridhar Babu said Telangana offers tremendous opportunities in plastic processing, engineering plastics, medical plastics, packaging technologies, polymer compounding, recycling, circular economy solutions, EV components, electronics

change. Markets will recover. Demand will return. But those who continue investing in technology, quality and innovation during difficult times will become tomorrow's market leaders. I congratulate every entrepreneur here for demonstrating that resilience." Reaffirming the Government's commitment to industrial growth, Shri Sridhar Babu invited industry associations to work closely with the State Government.

"If AIPMA, TAAPMA and IPI submit a comprehensive representation identifying policy issues, infrastructure requirements and sector-specific challenges, my department will examine every recommendation with utmost

automotive applications witnessing a slowdown.

However, the Minister said the industry's response to these challenges had been remarkable. "What impresses me most is not the slowdown. It is the optimism of our entrepreneurs. Despite uncertainty, you have not stopped investing. You have not stopped innovating. You have not stopped expanding your businesses. The overwhelming response to HIPLEX itself is proof that the industry continues to believe in India's future." He said history has repeatedly shown that great industries are built during difficult times and not during periods of comfort.

"Economic cycles will

Withdrawal of Disha Bill a black day for women: Jagan

AMARAVATI:

YSR Congress Party president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday termed the State Cabinet's decision to withdraw the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019, as a "black day" for women and children. He alleged that the coalition government had dismantled a comprehensive safety framework created to protect women out of political considerations. The State government said the Bill, pending Presidential assent, was withdrawn following the Union Home Ministry's advice to submit a revised version in line with its recommendations. Jagan claimed the Disha initiative introduced women police stations, an SOS mobile app, dedicated patrol vehicles, forensic upgrades, special courts and a sexual offenders' database, resulting in faster investigations and a decline in crimes against women. Questioning the government's reliance on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), he demanded that the Cabinet reconsider its decision and strengthen the Disha framework instead.

Netanna Sevalo to Support 71,536 Weaving Families

12th National Handloom Day Celebrations:
Chief Minister launch 'Netanna Sevalo' Scheme at Chirala to benefit 71,536 handloom families at Rs.25,000 per family
*Government to enact a law soon to ensure protection of Backward Classes:CM
Tourism corridor from Suryalanka to Chirala to be developed with Rs.97 crore under Swadesh Darshan scheme:APCM

CHIRALA:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that the Coalition Government will soon enact a law to ensure the protection of Backward Classes. Participating in the 12th National Handloom Day celebrations at Kothapeta village in Chirala constituency of Bapatla district on Friday, the Chief Minister launched 'Netanna Sevalo' welfare scheme and released Rs.179 crore as financial assistance to 71,536 eligible handloom families, providing Rs.25,000 to each family. Later addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that despite the State's financial situation, there will be no compromise on welfare or development. He cautioned people against conspiracies aimed at obstructing Andhra Pradesh's progress and warned that the government would deal firmly with those attempting to derail development. The Chief Minister said National Handloom Day commemorates the spirit of the Swadeshi movement and that the launch of the Netanna Sevalo scheme would make the oc-



casian memorable. He said handloom is not merely an occupation; it is a symbol of India's cultural heritage. Andhra Pradesh is home to several world-renowned handloom traditions including Chirala, Venkatagiri, Dharmavaram, Uppada, Mangalagiri, Ponduru, Pedana, Srikalahasti and Narasapuram. Around 1.27 lakh people depend on the handloom sector for their livelihood," he said. He highlighted the government's support measures for the sector including free electricity up to 200 units per month for handloom families and 500 units for powerloom units, benefiting 62,541 handloom families and 10,032 powerloom units. NTR Pension Bharosa for handloom workers from the age of 50. Monthly pensions of Rs.4,000 to 85,000 weavers, costing Rs.35 crore per month and Rs.420 crore annually. Rs.79 crore in cash credit support to 109 Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies. Approval of 10 handloom clusters under the Small Cluster Development Programme at a cost of Rs.10 crore. Enhanced market access through the Handloom Marketing Assistance programme. Development of special infrastructure in Uppada, a Handloom Park at Mangalagiri, a Handloom and Handicrafts Museum at Shakhmuru in Amaravati and a sustainable textile recycling

unit in Visakhapatnam with an investment of Rs.4,200 crore. The Chief Minister reiterated that the Coalition government stands firmly with Backward Classes. The government committed not only to the welfare of BCs but also to ensuring their protection through legislation. The draft law is already prepared. Besides the government has been implementing several initiatives for various BC communities. During the fishing ban period, we provided Rs.505 crore over two years to 1.34 lakh fishing families at Rs.20,000 each. Mining leases have been allotted to Vaddera communities, excise shops to toddy tappers, and an additional Rs.20,000 subsidy is being provided for 3 KW rooftop solar installations for BC beneficiaries." He also announced that the government is introducing Universal Health Insurance of Rs.2.5 lakh for every citizen, the Chief Minister added.

Criticising the previous government, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh had been left without a capital city, damaging the State's reputation. "We are building

Amaravati as a world-class capital. The previous rulers played politics with the capital and divided the State's future. Every State proudly showcases its capital city. We have restarted Amaravati works after assuming office. The Seed Access Road, the capital's main arterial road, will be inaugurated on August 13." The Chief Minister said the Coalition Government has restored Andhra Pradesh's image by attracting investments and industries. He cautioned public to remain vigilant against conspiracies and isolate those who seek to derail the State's progress.

The Chief Minister said Chirala's handloom products enjoy nationwide recognition and that the town was once known as "Mini Mumbai" because of its thriving textile industry. "We will restore Chirala to its former glory. The Suryalanka-Bapatla-Chirala coastal belt is being developed into a major tourism destination. A tourism corridor from Suryalanka to Chirala is being developed with Rs.97 crore under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

Railways Announces 112 Special Train Services for Onam Rush

CHENNAI, AUGUST 7

Indian Railways has announced 112 special train services for the 2026 Onam festival season to handle the heavy passenger rush, with Southern Railway operating 54 services and other Zonal Railways running 58 services. The special trains will operate between August 14 and September 6, catering to thousands of passengers travelling to Kerala for the harvest festival.

The special services have been planned in coordination with South Central Railway (SCR), South Western Railway (SWR) and South Eastern Railway (SER) to provide additional connectivity from major cities across the country. The initiative aims to reduce waiting lists, ease congestion and ensure comfortable travel for festival-bound passengers. According to Southern Railway, the notified services include 38 intra-railway specials operating entirely within its network and 16 inter-railway specials connecting Southern Railway with neighbouring railway zones. Other Zonal Railways have announced 58 additional services, taking the total number of notified Onam special trips to 112.

The railway administration said the operational effort has expanded significantly compared to last year. During the 2025 Onam season, only 55 special train trips were operated, whereas the number has nearly doubled this year, reflecting a 103 per cent increase in services. The special trains will connect major cities including Chennai, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hyderabad, Cheralapalli, Hubballi and Santragachi with important destinations in Kerala such as Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Kannur, Ernakulam and Mangaluru. The trains will pass through several key junctions including Arakkonam, Jolarpettai, Erode, Palakkad, Shoranur, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Vijayawada, Gudur, Renigunta and Visakhapatnam, benefiting passengers from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Railway officials said the additional services have been introduced after assessing passenger demand on major routes during the festive season. Indian Railways will continue to monitor reservation trends and waitlisted passengers and is prepared to introduce more special trains if required to meet the growing travel demand during Onam.

Railways Emerges as World's Second-Largest Freight Carrier with Record 1,670 MT Loading

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

Indian Railways has strengthened its freight ecosystem through major investments in dedicated freight corridors, cargo terminals, wagon schemes and improved logistics, helping freight loading rise from 1,098 million tonnes (MT) in 2014-15 to a record 1,670 MT in 2025-26, making it the second-largest freight carrying railway network in the world. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Railways has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to improve freight efficiency, regional connectivity and first-and-last-mile logistics.

To modernise freight handling,

Indian Railways launched the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) policy to encourage private investment in rail cargo infrastructure. So far, 142 GCTs have been commissioned with a combined handling capacity of 224 million tonnes per annum, attracting nearly ₹10,000 crore in private investment. These terminals handled 146 MT of freight during 2025-26.

The Railways has also expanded private participation through wagon investment schemes. Around 275 special-purpose wagon rakes, 397 general-purpose wagon rakes and 54 automobile carrier rakes owned by industries are now operational, supporting transportation of commodities such as cement,

steel, coal, fly ash and automobiles. To strengthen parcel logistics, Indian Railways has introduced the Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS), enabling customised door-to-door parcel services with online booking through aggregators and India Post. Rail PSU CONCOR is also operating door-to-door parcel services on key freight corridors.

The government has significantly expanded railway infrastructure over the past 12 years. Between 2014 and 2026, Railways commissioned 36,429 km of new tracks, compared to 7,599 km during 2009-14. The average pace of track commissioning has nearly doubled from 4.2 km per day to 8.32 km per day. As of April 1, 2026, Indian Railways

has 514 sanctioned infrastructure projects covering 40,000 km, including new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects, with an estimated investment of ₹8.31 lakh crore.

A major contributor to freight growth has been the commissioning of both the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (1,337 km) and the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (1,506 km). Around 443 freight trains operate daily on these corridors, improving train speeds, reducing turnaround time and creating additional capacity on the conventional railway network for passenger and freight services. The Dedicated Freight Corridors have enabled faster movement of double-stack container trains, higher axle-load freight trains

and improved connectivity between western ports and northern India. The Union Budget 2026 has also announced a new Dedicated Freight Corridor from Dankuni to Surat, with preparation of the Detailed Project Report currently underway. Railways' freight loading has shown steady growth over the past decade, increasing from 1,098 MT in 2014-15 to 1,670 MT in 2025-26, reflecting sustained improvements in infrastructure, logistics and operational efficiency. The minister said these initiatives have strengthened the Railways' freight business, enhanced regional connectivity and improved the overall logistics ecosystem, contributing significantly to India's economic growth.

Andhra Pradesh Rail Tracks Get Stronger Drainage System

VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7:

Indian Railways has stepped up drainage and safety infrastructure along railway tracks covering Andhra Pradesh to minimise risks from flooding, waterlogging and landslides, particularly during the monsoon season. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, replying to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha on Friday, said about 558 km of drains have been constructed along railway tracks in zones covering Andhra Pradesh. This includes 16 km at critical and vulnerable locations. During the last five years, nearly ₹40 crore has been spent on drainage and allied infrastructure works. Additional waterways have been provided at 107 loca-

tions between 2021 and 2026, while works at another 79 locations have been sanctioned to improve flood resilience and track safety. The Railways has also undertaken extensive bridge rehabilitation. Between 2021 and 2026, 11,224 railway bridges were rehabilitated across the country, including 2,132 bridges in railway zones covering Andhra Pradesh. The state falls under the jurisdiction of East Coast, Southern, South Central, South Coast and South Western Railway zones. Several vulnerable railway sections are being closely monitored for flooding, landslides, unstable cuttings and embankments. These include Shrunagavarapukota-Boddavara, Chimidipalli-Borrughallu, Nayudupeta-Pedapariya, Na-

gari-Vepagunta, Rayadurg-Avuladatla and Bengaluru City-Dharmavaram sections.

As part of monsoon preparedness, Railways conducts pre- and post-monsoon inspections, cleans and desilts drains and culverts, deploys watchmen at vulnerable locations and undertakes mobile patrolling. Railway officials also coordinate with State authorities and regional meteorological centres for rainfall warnings and monitoring of water releases from reservoirs and dams. At road underbridges and underpasses vulnerable to waterlogging, measures such as additional drains, pumping systems, water diversion and protective structures are being implemented depending on local requirements.



EDITORIAL

Promoting Scientific Temper in the Age of Social Media

Scientific temper is the habit of thinking logically, questioning claims, and accepting conclusions based on evidence rather than rumours or blind belief. In today's digital world, where millions of people use social media every day, promoting scientific temper has become more important than ever. Social media is a powerful tool for sharing information, but it can also spread misinformation at great speed. Developing a scientific outlook helps people distinguish facts from falsehoods and make informed decisions.

Social media has transformed the way people receive news and knowledge. Information now reaches people instantly through videos, posts, and messages. While this has made learning more accessible, it has also created challenges. Unverified health advice, manipulated images, fake news, and misleading claims often spread rapidly because they attract attention. Many users forward content without checking its authenticity, allowing misinformation to reach thousands within minutes.

Scientific temper encourages individuals to pause, verify, and think critically before accepting or sharing any information. It promotes asking simple but important questions: Who is the source? Is there evidence? Has the information been verified by reliable experts? Such habits reduce the spread of false information and strengthen responsible digital behaviour.

Education plays a vital role in nurturing scientific temper. Schools and colleges should encourage curiosity, experimentation, and problem-solving instead of rote learning. Students should be taught digital literacy, including how to identify trustworthy sources, understand data, and recognise misleading online content. Science communication in simple language can also help people understand complex issues related to health, environment, and technology.

Families and communities also have an important role. Parents can guide children to use social media responsibly and discuss the importance of verifying information before believing or sharing it. Public awareness campaigns, science exhibitions, and community discussions can make scientific thinking a part of everyday life.

Technology companies and social media platforms can contribute by improving fact-checking systems, reducing the visibility of misleading content, and promoting reliable information from credible institutions. However, technology alone cannot solve the problem. Individual responsibility remains the strongest defence against misinformation.

India has long valued scientific thinking, and the Constitution, under Article 51A(h), encourages every citizen to develop a scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform. This constitutional vision remains highly relevant in the digital age. Scientific temper does not discourage cultural traditions or personal beliefs; rather, it encourages decisions based on reason, evidence, and openness to new knowledge.

The age of social media offers immense opportunities for learning, innovation, and public engagement. To benefit fully from these opportunities, society must cultivate critical thinking and evidence-based reasoning. Promoting scientific temper empowers citizens to make informed choices, strengthens democracy, supports innovation, and builds a more responsible and informed society. In an era where information travels faster than ever, scientific temper is not merely a scientific value—it is an essential life skill for every citizen.

MANONETHRAM – A LITERARY VISION THAT AWAKENS THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Poetry is not merely an expression of emotions; it is a vision that observes society, awakens the human conscience and inspires self-reflection. In that sense, Manonethram, the fifth poetry collection by Domala Janardhan (Dojashree), is a meaningful contribution to contemporary Telugu literature. Rooted in human values and social consciousness, this collection speaks directly to the heart while gently guiding the mind towards ethical living.

Published by Dojashree Publications, Manonethram comprises 50 poems across 68 pages. Though concise in volume, it is remarkably rich in thought, moral insight and literary purpose. Each poem presents a slice of life, a moral reflection, or a social concern, inviting readers to pause, contemplate, and rediscover the essence of humanity.

Born in Thorlikonda village of Nizamabad District, Telangana, and now residing in Navi Mumbai, Dojashree has remained a devoted servant of Telugu literature despite living away from his native land. A retired teacher, he has transformed his lifelong experience of educating young minds into poetry that enlightens society. His literary contributions span multiple genres, earning him numerous honours and awards from literary and cultural organizations.

The thematic canvas of Manonethram is broad and relevant. Human relationships, family values, education, environmental conservation, social responsibility, ethical conduct, technology, aspirations, self-discipline and compassion are woven together with remarkable simplicity. Poems such as Stop Quarrels Through Humility, Protect Your Dignity, What Happens When We Question?, Your Family is Your Army, Let Us Paint the Earth Green, The Selfless One, The Benefactor, The Weeping Tree, How Much Further Apart?, Humility Through Education, The Value of Words and Waves of Desires reflect the poet's keen observation of life and his unwavering concern for the well-being of society.

The greatest strength of this collection lies in its humanistic vision. Dojashree writes not merely to entertain but to enlighten. He reminds readers of the importance of protecting nature, respecting parents, preserving family values, cherishing education and nurturing compassion. His poems on environmental conservation, especially those centred on trees and greenery, are emotionally appealing and socially significant.

Equally noteworthy is his treatment of

modern technology. While acknowledging its usefulness, the poet laments how digital connectivity has widened emotional distances among people. His reflections are thoughtful, balanced and profoundly relevant in today's world.

Several poems advocate the courage to question injustice, the wisdom to control excessive desires, the dignity of meaningful speech and the transformative power of education. These are not abstract philosophical ideas but practical truths drawn from everyday life and presented with sincerity.

One of Dojashree's greatest literary strengths is his clarity of expression. His language is simple, graceful, and accessible without sacrificing artistic dignity. He avoids unnecessary ornamentation and complex symbolism, preferring direct communication that reaches readers from every walk of life. This simplicity enhances rather than diminishes the literary value of his poetry.

While a few poems lean more towards ethical reflection than lyrical imagination, their sincerity, emotional honesty, and social commitment elevate the collection. The poet's experience as an educator and his deep concern for humanity are evident throughout the work, making every poem both a literary creation and a lesson in life.

True to its title, Manonethram ("The Mind's Eye") invites readers to look beyond the visible world and explore the deeper realities of human existence. It is a collection that nurtures introspection, moral awareness and social responsibility, thereby securing a deserving place in contemporary Telugu poetry.

Beautifully printed by Karshaka Printers, Hyderabad, with DTP by Hareesh V, this 68-page volume is modestly priced at ₹ 80/-, making it accessible to every lover of literature. Copies may be obtained directly from the author at 97025 88946.

In conclusion, Manonethram is far more than a collection of poems; it is a literary mirror that reflects the conscience of humanity. Through lucid language, meaningful themes, and unwavering faith in human values, Dojashree demonstrates that poetry remains a powerful instrument for social awakening and moral renewal. This collection deserves a warm place among lovers of meaningful literature. I sincerely hope that Dojashree's creative journey will continue to enrich contemporary Telugu literature and contemporary society with many more beautiful, profound and enduring literary works.

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

OPINION

DHAKA'S POLITICAL CROSSROADS AND A NEW TEST FOR INDIA–BANGLADESH RELATIONS

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's announcement that she intends to return to her homeland in December 2026 is far more than a political declaration. It has emerged as a significant development that could shape South Asia's evolving geopolitical landscape, the future of democratic values, and the trajectory of India–Bangladesh relations. At a time when Bangladesh is grappling with political transition, deep ideological polarization, and institutional uncertainty, Hasina's statement has shifted the national political discourse onto a new axis. Her assertion that "neither arrest, imprisonment, nor even the threat of death can prevent me from returning to my country" serves as an emotional rallying call for her supporters while presenting a formidable political challenge to her opponents.

Since the change of government last year, Bangladesh has witnessed growing concerns over the impartiality of democratic institutions and the shrinking space for political tolerance. The verdict delivered by the International Crimes Tribunal against Sheikh Hasina, followed by intensified action against her supporters, has reinforced the perception that political competition is increasingly giving way to political retribution. The recent attack on the residence of former national cricket captain Shakib Al Hasan, who attended Hasina's press conference, further indicates that political disagreement is gradually spilling over into social unrest. At the same time, a close associate of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman publicly challenging Sheikh Hasina to "return immediately and face the consequences" reflects the fact that Bangladesh's political climate remains far from normal.

In any democracy, disagreement with a political leader or party is natural. However, such differences must be resolved through fair political competition and independent democratic institutions. When restrictions, intimidation, or fear are used to counter a leader's popularity, the very spirit of democracy is weakened. Sheikh Hasina's proposed return should therefore be

viewed not merely as the comeback of an individual politician, but as a critical test of Bangladesh's democratic maturity. Any attempt to exclude the Awami League from the political process would inevitably raise serious questions about the credibility of Bangladesh's democratic system.

Bangladesh's political contest today extends well beyond the traditional rivalry between the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). It has evolved into a struggle over the nation's historical identity, the legacy of the 1971 Liberation War, and the ideological direction of its future. While the Awami League continues to present itself as the authentic guardian of the Liberation War's ideals, the BNP has increasingly sought to stake its own claim to that legacy. This competing interpretation of history has further deepened political polarization. In this context, Sheikh Hasina's return has the potential not only to alter political equations but also to reshape the national narrative itself.

Against this backdrop, India's role assumes exceptional importance. India and Bangladesh share far more than geographical proximity; their relationship is rooted in common history, culture, language, economic cooperation, and strategic interests. Over the past decade and a half, bilateral ties reached unprecedented levels of trust and cooperation, largely facilitated by the strong understanding between Sheikh Hasina's government and New Delhi. Landmark achievements included the resolution of longstanding boundary disputes, enhanced energy cooperation, improved connectivity, joint counterterrorism efforts, and expanded links with India's north-eastern states. The recent political transition, however, has placed this hard-earned trust under fresh strain. While India has extended security and refuge to Sheikh Hasina, it has simultaneously maintained constructive engagement with Bangladesh's new government—a reflection of diplomatic maturity. India's challenge is not to appear aligned with any particular political party but to preserve a stable, balanced, and enduring

relationship with Bangladesh as a nation.

In this context, the Twelfth BRICS Summit, to be hosted in New Delhi, could provide an important diplomatic opportunity. If Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman participates and holds meaningful discussions with India's leadership, it could pave the way for easing recent tensions and rebuilding mutual confidence. The summit should not remain confined to economic cooperation alone; it should also serve as a platform for dialogue on regional stability, democratic values, and strategic security cooperation. India also faces several complex bilateral challenges. Issues such as the renewal of the Ganges Water Treaty, the long-pending Teesta water-sharing agreement, cross-border trade, illegal migration, border security, and the question of Sheikh Hasina's extradition will significantly influence the future direction of bilateral relations. These sensitive matters demand legal prudence, diplomatic restraint, and practical wisdom rather than emotional or politically driven responses. In particular, the extradition issue is not merely a legal matter; it is intertwined with international law, bilateral agreements, and broader strategic considerations. India will have to strike a careful balance between its treaty obligations, judicial processes, and long-term national interests.

Another significant concern for New Delhi is China's expanding influence in Bangladesh. The new government's growing engagement with Beijing and its willingness to pursue strategically important infrastructure and investment projects suggest that Dhaka is attempting to diversify and balance its foreign policy. Rather than viewing this solely through the lens of strategic rivalry, India would be better served by strengthening a partnership based on trust, development, and mutual benefit. Greater cooperation in infrastructure, investment, education, healthcare, technology, and people-to-people exchanges would reinforce the long-term resilience of India–Bangladesh relations. Ultimately, Sheikh Hasina's proposed return is a test of Bangladesh's democrat-

ic character. If she is afforded a fair opportunity to participate in the political process, the people of Bangladesh will decide who should lead their nation. However, if political vengeance, repression, and violence continue to dominate the landscape, Bangladesh's democratic credibility will suffer, with wider implications for peace and stability across South Asia.

India, for its part, must continue to approach these developments with restraint, strategic balance, and long-term vision. It should neither become a participant in Bangladesh's internal political contest nor compromise its commitment to democratic principles. The central objective of India's foreign policy should remain the creation of a stable, peaceful, democratic, and prosperous neighbourhood. Such an environment is indispensable for India's own security, economic growth, and regional leadership. Today, what the region requires is not political triumph but political maturity. Bangladesh must demonstrate that democracy is not merely about conducting elections; it is equally about respecting the opposition, safeguarding judicial independence, protecting freedom of expression, and fostering political tolerance. Likewise, India must demonstrate that its engagement with neighbouring countries rests not on individuals but on institutional trust, mutual respect, and shared strategic interests.

If Sheikh Hasina indeed returns to Bangladesh in December 2026, it will represent far more than the return of a former prime minister. It will simultaneously test Bangladesh's democratic resilience, India's diplomatic statesmanship, and the political stability of South Asia. If this challenge is managed through dialogue, democratic restraint, and prudent diplomacy, the present crisis could ultimately become the foundation for renewed trust and a new chapter in India–Bangladesh relations.

A crucial question, however, remains unanswered: Will Sheikh Hasina's return to her homeland inject fresh vitality into Bangladesh's democratic political competition, or will it deepen the nation's existing political divisions even further?

SCREENS THAT BLIND, MINDS THAT BIND

From a harmless source of entertainment to a powerful force shaping human behaviour, the culture of social media reels has transformed the way people think, learn and interact. While short videos offer instant amusement and creativity, their addictive design, psychological impact and influence on attention, relationships and mental well-being have raised serious concerns. As society becomes increasingly dependent on endless scrolling, understanding the hidden costs of reels culture has become more important than ever.

accustomed to this continuous dopamine surge—fails to enjoy slow, creative tasks in regular life. It gets bored and cannot focus on reading a book or sitting down to do long-term thinking. Consequently, the human brain gets trapped in an ephemeral labyrinth of emotions.

The impact this reels culture is casting on today's youth, especially children and adolescents, is extremely alarming. This short-video addiction is becoming the primary reason students fail to focus on their studies and experience a decline in memory power. Lessons taught by teachers in a classroom require a systematic approach and patient listening. But a brain accustomed to watching reels constantly craves speed. If a visual shock or music beat does not hit every ten seconds, the brain loses interest. As a result, classrooms feel boring and concentration on studies diminishes. This is not limited to education alone; it is severely damaging human relationships as well. Laughing at trending reels on the internet and sharing them with others has turned into social conversation. Even though family members sit in the same room, scenes of everyone holding their phones in their own worlds and browsing reels have become common in every household today. As a result, affection and the sharing of emotions decrease, and the emotional distance among people increases immensely. Instead of having the time to look into each other's eyes and talk, lives are turning mechanical, sharing artificial smiles generated through digital screens.

From another angle, reels culture is promoting unrealistic ideals and an artificial lifestyle in society. Behind every viral reel on social media lies a massive marketing strategy. Seeing beautiful locations, expensive cars, perfect body shapes, and lives spent in constant happiness, ordinary people compare them with their real lives and plunge into severe depression and anxiety. Losing the awareness that everything seen on social media is not real, they fall into the feeling that their lives are worthless. Teenagers, in particular, suffer from an inferiority complex by comparing their appearance and social status with the reels of others. Even if they fail to get a few views or likes, they undergo intense mental agony. Temporary praise in the form of likes and comments becomes the yardstick for their self-respect. This leads to brand-new social disorders. Fear of speaking among four walls, loneliness, and insomnia problems are increasing rampantly. Scrolling reels for hours before sleeping at night not only ruins eyesight but also causes insomnia disorders because the brain cannot rest. This gradually wears down physical health as well.

From the perspective of creativity and arts, reels culture is causing severe damage. Once upon a time, creating a work of art, writing a good song, or shooting a fine picture required immense penance and deep thought. But today, youth fall into the illusion of becoming overnight stars merely by lip-syncing to a fifteen-second trending song or per-

forming senseless antics. Because of this, the respect due to talent in society diminishes, and priority is given to paths that gain rare and easy publicity. Deep analyses, philosophical contemplation, and serious literary discussions vanish, leaving only surface-level glamour and hustle as primary. News is also turning into the form of reels, causing information to lose its credibility. Reducing complex social and political issues to a mere ten-second joke or emotional bit reduces maturity in society. People form opinions merely based on headlines or trending videos rather than having the patience to investigate the truth behind them.

To protect society and future generations from this disastrous situation, urgent introspection is required. Technology must not become a master that drives man; man must use it merely as a tool molded to his own pace. Every person today must incorporate the concept of "digital detox" into their lives. Habits such as spending a specific amount of time away from social media every day, reading books, immersing oneself in nature, and talking directly to fellow humans must be re-cultivated. Parents must be more alert regarding their children, pulling them away from the trap of gadgets and encouraging them toward outdoor games and creative tasks. Governments and educational institutions should also impart digital literacy to students alongside creating awareness about its ill effects. Finally, life is not a reel running on a mobile screen, but a collection of truths unfolding before our eyes. Enjoying those moments is the true beauty of human living.



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER
7798891795



Karad VIP
Treatment Row
Puts Jail Under
Scanner
BEED: (AUG 7)

Vigilance teams from the Maharashtra prison department have launched separate inquiries into allegations that Walmik Karad, a key accused in sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh's murder, received preferential treatment inside the Beed District Jail, said officials on Friday.

The teams from Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar units of the department inspected CCTV cameras installed near Karad's barrack and seized their Digital Video Recorder (DVR). The teams also examined CCTV footage from areas used for video and audio calls by prisoners and took into custody data covering the past three months, they said.

The allegations surfaced after Dhananjay Deshmukh, brother of the slain sarpanch, claimed Karad was being extended special privileges inside the prison, where he is lodged under judicial custody for the 2024 murder.

Aravali Conservation a Shared
Responsibility: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 7:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini called upon every family in the state to plant at least one tree and ensure its survival, describing environmental conservation as a shared moral responsibility rather than just a government programme. Addressing the inaugural session of the second phase of the 77th State-Level Van Mahotsav at Manesar in Gurugram, the Chief Minister said that protecting the environment requires active participation from every citizen. The event was attended by Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav as the Chief Guest and was presided over by Haryana Environment, Forest and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh. During the programme, Saini participated in a plantation drive, administered the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' pledge, released the Forest Department's publication of the same name along with the latest edition of Haryana Forest News, and honoured winners of competitions organised under the theme 'Harit Haryana'.

Highlighting the ecological



importance of the Aravali mountain range, the Chief Minister said the hills have protected biodiversity, conserved water and provided clean air for centuries. He described Van Mahotsav as more than a plantation campaign, calling it a movement to repay nature and strengthen public participation in environmental conservation.

Saini announced that after the first phase of Van Mahotsav was launched in Karnal on July 30 and the second phase began in Manesar, similar programmes would now be organised in all 90 Assembly constituencies of Haryana to encourage widespread public participation. The Chief Minister highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the state to improve green cover. Haryana

has already developed 75 Namo Parks, while Oxy Vans are being established in every district with facilities such as walking and cycling tracks. The Karnal Oxy Van has been completed, and work is progressing in Panchkula. Nagar Vans have also been developed at Murthal and Sadhaura. In addition, Panchvati plantation campaigns are being implemented across villages, and Panchvati Vatikas are being created at 134 pilgrimage sites in the 48-Kos Kurukshetra region.

Calling the Prime Minister's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign an emotional and cultural movement, Saini said Haryana has set a target of planting 1.40 crore saplings during 2026-27. However, he stressed that success would

not be measured by the number of saplings planted but by how many survive and grow into mature trees. He urged people to plant a tree in the name of their mother and nurture it like a member of their own family. Government departments, educational institutions, panchayats, urban local bodies, industries and voluntary organisations will be actively involved in making the campaign a mass movement. The Chief Minister also appealed to farmers to plant indigenous tree species along field boundaries and emphasised that development is meaningful only when it goes hand in hand with environmental protection. On biodiversity conservation, Saini said the state has established 58 Herbal Parks to promote medicinal plants and highlighted that 610 Van Mitras are actively helping expand Haryana's green cover. He also noted that Sultanpur National Park and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary being recognised as Ramsar Sites reflects Haryana's rich ecological heritage. To preserve old trees, the government has strengthened the Pran Vayu Devta Scheme, under which 5,360 heritage trees receive annual financial assis-

tance of Rs. 3,000 per tree for their conservation. The Chief Minister stressed that plantation drives should not become ceremonial events. He directed the Forest Department, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies to focus equally on sapling maintenance, proper species selection and long-term survival. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav praised Haryana for turning environmental conservation into a people's movement, particularly in the NCR, and said the state's efforts in restoring the Aravalis, expanding forest cover and promoting biodiversity have made it a model for green development. He added that Gurugram is increasingly becoming known not only for industrial growth but also for its environmental initiatives.

Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh urged citizens to treat every sapling as part of their family and appealed for the use of digital invitations instead of printed cards to reduce paper consumption, save trees and minimise pollution. He said small behavioural changes by citizens can collectively make Haryana greener, cleaner and more environmentally sustainable.

Sensitivity in public service
is the identity of good
governance: CM Dr. Yadav

DR.BHUPENDRA "VIKAL"

Bhopal ,August 7 : While inaugurating the "Mukhyamantri Jan Vishwas Abhiyan", Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav listened to the problems of the common people in the Collectorate of Chhindwara district. He reviewed the complaints pending on the CM Helpline portal one by one in the presence of the applicants. The Chief Minister said that it is the top priority of the government to deliver the benefits of government's public welfare schemes to the eligible beneficiaries on time. Negligence, indifference or unnecessary delay will not be accepted at any level. During the review, he directed to take immediate strict action on those cases in which negligence of officers and employees came to light. Besides, emphasis was also laid on ensuring the benefits of the schemes by providing prompt relief to the eligible beneficiaries.

Chief Minister DrYadav had an intimate conversation with the inspiring talents of the district in a program at Chhindwara Collectorate on Friday. The participants, who have made remarkable achievements in the fields of agriculture, innovation, sports, women empowerment, rural tour-

ism, industry and education, shared their success stories with the Chief Minister. Praising their achievements, the Chief Minister said that such talents are the real power of development of Madhya Pradesh and are also a source of inspiration for the society. Chief Minister DrWhile reviewing department wise in the meeting, Yadav obtained information about the progress of various public welfare schemes and the status of resolution of CM helpline complaints. He directed officials of all departments including revenue, tap water, energy, police etc. that common citizens should not have to resort to complaints for resolution of their problems. It should be ensured that each case is resolved in a transparent, sensitive and accountable manner within the prescribed time limit. Chief Minister DrYadav directed to re-admit drop-out children to schools, ensure 100% e-attendance of all teachers and take effective action to prevent cyber crimes and provide quick relief to the affected. He said that timely and quality resolution of public complaints is the biggest identity of good governance and every officer will have to adopt a sensitive and accountable working style towards public service.

N.F. Railway Restores
Services Amid Challenges

Partial Train Operation in Simaluguri Within Record 17 Days

MALIGAON, 07 AUGUST, 2026

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully restored the railway tracks damaged by recent floods at Simaluguri and adjoining areas in Sibsagar district under the Tinsukia Division, enabling the resumption of rail connectivity in the affected region. The restoration was completed through sustained efforts by NFR's engineering teams despite adverse weather conditions and the challenging flood situation. Train operations have now resumed in a phased manner with appropriate safety measures in place. Although the railway track has been restored, many local residents, including families with children, along with their belongings and livestock, continue to take shelter on or near the railway tracks due to the prevailing water logging conditions. Keeping humanitarian concerns in view and giving utmost priority to public safety, NFR has decided to initially operate only diesel locomotive-hauled trains over the restored section. This temporary measure has been adopted to eliminate the risk of electrocution from overhead electric equipment and to ensure the safety of flood-affected people until the situation normalises.



As part of the revised operational plan, local train services including Train No. 15669 Guwahati-Dibrugarh Nagaland Express, Train No. 15603/15604 Guwahati-Ledo-Guwahati Intercity Express, Train No. 15967/15968 Rangiya-Ledo-Rangiya Intercity Express, Train No. 75601/75602 Lumding-Tinsukia-LumdingDEMU and Train No. 55914 Tinsukia-Jorhat Town Passenger, among others, will operate via Moranhat. Long-distance trains will, for the time being, continue to run on the diverted route via North Lakhimpur-Rangapara North-Rangiya until normal operations are fully restored.

To ensure uninterrupted connectivity for passengers travelling to and from Upper Assam during the disruption period, NFR has also been operating special trains at regular intervals. These special services have provided an effective alternative for passengers while

restoration work was underway and will continue to supplement rail connectivity until the normal route is fully operational.

The restoration work was carried out through a well-coordinated effort by the dedicated workforce of Northeast Frontier Railway. More than 700 personnel worked round the clock at different damaged sections with the support of heavy machinery, engineering equipment, relief materials and other essential resources under the close supervision of senior officials from NFR Headquarters and Tinsukia Division. The large-scale deployment of manpower, machinery and materials enabled the restoration teams to safely, swiftly and efficiently reinstate the railway track. NFR remains committed to restoring normal train operations at the earliest while continuing to place the highest priority on passenger safety and the well-being of the local community.

Centre Urged to Extend Greater
Support for Tribal Welfare

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7

Telangana Minister for Tribal Welfare Adhuri Laxman Kumar, accompanied by Telangana Government Special Representative A.P. Jitender Reddy, met Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram in New Delhi on Saturday and submitted a comprehensive memorandum highlighting several pending issues related to the welfare, education, and infrastructure development of tribal communities in Telangana. Acting on the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the minister urged the Centre to immediately release pending funds due to Telangana and extend full support to tribal welfare programmes. During the meeting, Union Minister Jual Oram assured the delegation that all pending funds related to the department would be sanctioned. He also said the Centre is prepared to provide financial assistance for roads and other basic infrastructure in remote tribal areas and requested the Telangana Government to submit proposals for road construction in tribal regions. The Union Minister further stated that he would convene a meeting with senior officials of the Telangana Tribal Welfare Department in Hyderabad at the earliest, and Minister Adhuri confirmed



that he would attend the meeting. Key demands in the memorandum submitted by Minister Adhuri

Additional ₹70 crore under Article 275(1)

The minister pointed out that Telangana received ₹98.37 crore under Article 275(1) during the 2024-25 financial year. However, allocations declined to ₹35.26 crore in 2025-26 and ₹32.10 crore in 2026-27. In view of the significant reduction and the state's growing needs, he requested an additional ₹70 crore.

Release of PMAAGY funds

The minister sought the immediate release of the remaining ₹11.77 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) for the integrated development of 428 tribal-majority villages. He said the funds are essential to complete ongoing development works.

Release of ₹452.05 crore for post-matric scholarships

To ensure that tribal students do not face obstacles in pursuing higher education, the minister requested the urgent release of the Centre's share of ₹452.05 crore (Second Mother Sanction) covering pending dues for 2024-25 and 2025-26, along with proposals for 2026-27. He informed the Union Minister that delays in releasing these funds have caused hardship to thousands of tribal students. On the occasion, Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar said the Telangana Government accords the highest priority to tribal welfare and, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has undertaken extensive measures to expand education, infrastructure, and welfare programmes in tribal areas. He urged Union Minister Jual Oram to consider Telangana's requests positively and ensure the early release of all pending Central funds required for the state's development.

AAP to hold
nationwide town
hall meetings
against E20 fuel
from Aug 8

NEW DELHI:

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday announced that it will hold nationwide town hall meetings from August 8 to campaign against E20 fuel, with the first event scheduled in West Bengal. Addressing a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said party chief Arvind Kejriwal has entrusted him and Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj with organising the town halls across different states. The campaign will begin in West Bengal on August 8, followed by meetings in Gujarat and Haryana on August 9, Telangana on August 11, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh on August 14, Kerala on August 15, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Odisha on August 16, and Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on August 17, Singh said.

Handloom and Textile Industry Is Vital to India's
Economy: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy

Warm greetings on National Handloom Day to all our dear weavers, and to all the brothers and sisters working in the handloom sector

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 7

The handloom and textile industry is a vital part of India's economy. Besides providing direct and indirect employment to millions of people, this sector also contributes significantly to the country's foreign exchange earnings. To further strengthen the handloom and textile sector, the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is implementing the "Make in India" initiative along with the 5F Vision—Farm to Fiber, Fiber to Fabric, Fabric to Fashion, and Fashion to Foreign Markets.

The textile industry is one of the largest employment-generating sectors in India after agriculture.



Across the country, it provides direct and indirect employment to nearly 50 million (5 crore) people. Therefore, the Central Government is committed to promoting this sector further with the goal of making India a global textile hub. As part of this effort, the government is providing sever-

al incentives to achieve the target of increasing textile exports to ₹9 lakh crore by 2030. Through initiatives such as the PLI Scheme, PM MITRA Parks, the National Handloom Development Programme, the Raw Material Supply Scheme, and the Weavers Mudra Scheme, the Central Government is pro-

viding weavers with modern looms, raw materials, work sheds, design development support, marketing assistance, credit facilities, and social security benefits. As part of these efforts, besides extending incentives to promote the handloom and textile industry in Telangana, we have established the PM MITRA Mega Textile Park in Warangal district. The park will house not only traditional production methods but also state-of-the-art machinery and advanced technology. Cotton farmers from Telangana play a crucial role in the growth of India's textile industry. Therefore, the Central Government has spent more than ₹69,860 crore under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme to procure cotton from farm-

ers in our region. By integrating technology with the handloom and textile sector, the government is enhancing productivity, quality, and market opportunities through the use of modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation, and advanced analytics.

On the occasion of National Handloom Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all the weavers across the country. The Central Government will continue to stand by them in every possible way to preserve our rich handloom tradition, improve the livelihoods of weavers, and elevate Indian handloom products to greater heights in global markets. I also appeal to the public to support and promote handloom products.

Badal-PM meet ignites
speculation of SAD-BJP alliance
ahead of 2027 Punjab polls

CHANDIGARH: Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday has ignited speculation on the erstwhile allies joining hands again for the assembly elections due early

next year. Akali Dal had left the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) six years ago citing differences over the three farm laws, which now stand repealed. Badal met Modi at his office in the Parliament House complex on Friday.



India-Russia partnership poised for deeper strategic cooperation amid geopolitical uncertainties: Report

MOSCOW/NEW DELHI

India and Russia are expected to forge a more durable and sustainable partnership to navigate the fast-changing geopolitical, geo-economic and geostrategic shifts and uncertainties in global politics. The partnership assumes greater significance as the Eurasian region emerges as the epicentre of tectonic shifts in the international system, reshaping power configurations with wider implications across Central Asia and its outer periphery, including South Asia.

India and the Russian Federation's strategic partnership, along with eight decades of diplomatic ties (1947–2026), has stood as a historic milestone and a time-tested pillar of global peace and security, a report in the 'International Centre for Peace Studies' detailed.

"India and Russia, as strategic and special partners, have reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate bilaterally



and also at various international forums. In the spirit of India's foreign policy of Panch Sheel ('Five Principles') that has been the hallmark since the 1950s, this bilateral relationship is geared towards the establishment of a stable and predictable multi-polar and just world order based on sovereign equality of all States, territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs and for a win-win proposition on both sides," the report detailed. According to the report, the annual summit-level meeting

between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin in 2025 was the highest institutionalised dialogue mechanism established under the Strategic Partnership Dialogue between India and Russia.

It highlighted that the 2025 Annual Summit witnessed the signing of major agreements worth billions of dollars across a wide range of sectors, including defence, climate change, polar research, legal arbitration, investment promotion, energy, trade and innovation, agricul-

ture, space, and smart cities.

"Important deals included various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation: Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) for five S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile systems, four Admiral Grigovich-class (Project 11356) guided missile stealth frigates and a shareholders' agreement for a joint venture (JV) to manufacture 200 'Kamov'-226 helicopters in India. Both sides also signed an important agreement for the joint study of a gas pipeline to India from Russia," the report

mentioned. Emphasising the growing defence cooperation between India and Russia, the report cited the BrahMos Missile System, Joint design and development of the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft, and the licensed production in India of SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks, as flagship examples of the cooperation.

The commissioning of the Russian-built aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya into the Indian Navy off the coast of Goa was another significant milestone reflecting the strong defence cooperation between the two countries.

Highlighting the positive trajectory of India-Russia ties, the report said, "Future summit and bilateral meetings between India and Russia and between Prime Minister Modi and President Putin are likely to dawn a new beginning to the nearly eight-decade-old tried and tested friendship and cooperation between the two countries and by emphasising on areas of convergence."

NLCIL Records Growth in Revenue and Profit in the First Quarter

NEYVELI

Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) recorded significant growth in production, power generation, revenue, and profits during the first quarter (April–June 2026) of the financial year 2026–27. According to the financial results released by the company, coal production, thermal power generation, revenue, Profit Before Tax (PBT), and net worth all recorded improved performance compared with the same period last year. In terms of stand-alone performance, coal production reached 4.085 million tonnes, registering a growth of 7.84%. Thermal power generation rose by 8.27% to 4,318.85 million units. Revenue from operations increased by 15.07% to ₹2,871.73 crore. EBITDA stood at ₹1,013.13 crore, while Profit Before Tax (PBT) reached ₹548.67 crore. The company's net worth increased to ₹19,701.70 crore, while its power dues collection efficiency stood at 100%. At the group level, gross power generation reached 8,262.06 million units, registering a 25% growth. Revenue from operations increased by 23.29% to ₹4,716.75 crore. EBITDA stood at ₹1,699.59 crore, while Profit Before Tax reached ₹651.55 crore. The company stated that the group's net worth increased to ₹22,069.07 crore, registering a growth of 13.11%.

Bangladesh: Budget discrimination, patriarchy hinders indigenous women's political participation



DHAKA

While the participation of plainland indigenous women in Bangladesh's local governance - particularly in union parishads - has increased, structural budgetary discrimination, political marginalisation, and deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes continue to hinder their ability to exercise meaningful leadership, local media reported citing experts.

The remarks were made at a roundtable conference titled 'Meaningful Participation and Political Leadership of Plainland Indigenous Women in Local Governance' which was jointly organised by International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Bangladesh and People's Union of the Marginalised Development Organisation (PUMDO) with support from the Embassy of Sweden at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

During the discussion, the speakers urged the government to provide women elected to reserved seats with equitable funding and allowances for the three wards they represent, ensure their effective participation in standing committees and Gram Adalats, and reinforce safeguards for their land rights, Bangladesh's leading newspaper 'The Daily Star' reported.

The speakers also stressed the need for structured administrative capacity-building of women leaders at grassroots level, while urging indigenous communities to tackle internal divisions, social stigma and substance abuse as well as demand accountability from the authorities. Delivering the welcome address, Rumana Amin Archi, Deputy Country Director

of IFES Bangladesh, said an inclusive democracy can be achieved by addressing the distinct socio-political and structural challenges faced by marginalised communities.

She underscored the importance of bringing the struggles and leadership potential of plainland indigenous women into mainstream governance discussions.

In his keynote presentation, researcher and activist Pavel Partha drew attention to the absence of disaggregated data on plainland indigenous communities in national statistics. He said that the national voter registration form does not include a field for ethnic identity, making it impossible to determine the exact number of indigenous voters and elected women representatives.

Partha further said that despite Gram Adalats dealing with land disputes, domestic conflicts and violence against women at the union parishad level in Bangladesh, the participation of indigenous women in village courts and the 13 standing committees remains largely symbolic, excluding them from meaningful decision-making roles.

According to Haimanti Sarkar, Chief Executive Officer of PUMDO, indigenous women "who seek economic independence, enter politics or take on leadership roles routinely face patriarchal resistance, with character assassination often used to silence them," The Daily Star reported. She said that women in leadership positions are often subjected to social stigma, defamation, baseless allegations and hostility merely for exercising their rights and working for their communities.

Turkey detains 104 IS suspects in nationwide operations



ISTANBUL

Turkish gendarmerie forces detained 104 suspected Islamic State (IS) members and supporters in coordinated nationwide operations on Friday, the country's Interior Ministry said. The operations were conducted simultaneously across 30 provinces by provincial gendarmerie commands, in coordination with the Gendarmerie General Command's Counter-Terrorism Department and local prosecutors, the ministry said in a statement posted on social media.

According to the statement, the suspects are accused of providing financial support to the IS through affiliated individuals and purported aid organisations, spreading the group's propaganda on social media, and being members of the group. Prosecutors have launched investigations into the suspects, it added, Xinhua News Agency reported.

In June, a suspected member of the Islamic State (IS) was killed, and his wife wounded during a police operation in the Turkish capital Ankara. The operation was launched in the Haymana district after authorities received intelligence that the suspect

had been issuing attack directives via social media, Demirören News Agency said. Special operations police raided a residence in the Sazgasi neighbourhood, triggering a shootout after the occupants opened fire on security forces.

The suspect, identified as 25-year-old Muhammed Kavi, was killed in the clash, while his wife was wounded and taken into custody, according to the report.

Investigators found that Kavi had been in contact with IS operatives through online platforms and had participated in the group's online chat channels. On June 10, Turkish authorities detained 47 suspects in a nationwide sweep across 21 provinces targeting the Islamic State (IS). During the operation led by prosecutors of the province, police conducted simultaneous raids in provinces including Istanbul, Izmir, and Ankara, detaining 47 individuals suspected of providing financial support to IS.

An analysis of financial records by Turkey's Financial Crimes Investigation Board found that they had carried out transactions totalling 108 million Turkish liras (about 2.3 million US dollars).

China's superpower ambition faces mounting challenges: Report

BRUSSELS



China may continue its rise towards becoming a global superpower, but its trajectory is becoming increasingly contested and uncertain. For the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the challenge extends beyond building economic and military strength to navigating the contradictions of power in a world that is growing more resistant to Beijing's ambitions, a report has stated.

"China's Communist Party (CCP) has long envisioned a future where the nation stands shoulder to shoulder with — or above — the United States as a global superpower. This ambition rests on two pillars: viz economic might and military strength. Yet, the trajectory is far from smooth. The CCP's path is being tested by slowing growth, demographic decline, and intensifying confrontations abroad," Khedroob Thondup, the nephew of the Dalai Lama, wrote in European Times. Highlighting the CCP's

first pillar as economic dominance, he said that since the reforms introduced by former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, China has viewed economic prosperity as the cornerstone of national power.

"The logic is straightforward; prosperity fuels legitimacy at home and influence abroad. Through initiatives like the Belt and Road, Beijing has sought to translate economic clout into geopolitical leverage, binding countries into its orbit with infrastructure loans and trade dependency. But cracks are showing. Youth unemployment is high, property markets are unstable, and debt burdens weigh heavily on local governments. The promise of endless

growth is faltering, raising doubts about whether wealth alone can sustain the CCP's superpower dream," Thondup mentioned.

Emphasising that the CCP's second pillar is military strength, Thondup said Beijing has invested heavily in modernising the Chinese military, transforming it from a predominantly land-based force into a technologically advanced military with blue-water naval capabilities, sophisticated cyber warfare units, and advanced missile systems. The objective, he noted, is to deter US intervention in Asia, assert dominance in the South China Sea, and project power globally. "Yet military expansion invites con-

frontation. Tensions with the US over Taiwan, clashes with India along the Himalayan border, and disputes in the South China Sea all test Beijing's ability to wield its growing arsenal without triggering escalation," he added. Stressing that China's ambition is constrained by three enduring challenges, Thondup said, "First, economic slowdown. Growth is no longer guaranteed, and the CCP's legitimacy is tied to prosperity. Secondly, demographic decline. A shrinking workforce and ageing population threaten long-term productivity. The last is geopolitical pushback countries from Japan to Australia to the EU are recalibrating ties, wary of dependency and coercion."

Two dead, 14 injured in Houthi attack on Yemen's central Marib province

SANAA



Two people died and 14 others were injured after a Houthi attack in Marib on Friday, the country's Ministry of Public Health and Population said in a statement. "The Ministry of Public Health and Population condemns in the strongest terms the shelling carried out by the terrorist Houthi militia today, Friday, against residential neighbourhoods and displacement (IDP) camps in the city of Marib, which - according to a preliminary toll — left two civilians dead and 14 others wounded with injuries of varying severity," read the statement.

In the statement, the ministry said that it instructed all hospitals and health facilities to raise their state of alert and readiness, to mobilise all

available resources, and to exert every possible effort to save the lives of the injured and the wounded.

"The deliberate targeting of safe residential neighbourhoods and camps of displaced people, and the resulting casualties among unarmed civilians, constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and of all humanitarian values and covenants.

It places the international community and humanitarian and human-rights organisations before their responsibilities, and calls for a serious and urgent stance that protects civilians and puts an end to their continued targeting," the ministry noted. Missile and drone strikes hit government military sites in Yemen's central Marib province Friday, a Yemeni military source and

local residents said, a day after Houthi attacks reportedly killed "dozens" of government troops in Marib and neighbouring Hadramout. A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Houthi forces targeted several government military camps, including the headquarters of the Third Military Region in Marib city, Xinhua News Agency reported. Residents said a series of explosions shook the city during the attacks. Local media also reported missile and drone strikes on military positions in and around Marib. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said Thursday that ballistic missiles and drones had targeted military camps and troop concentrations belonging to Saudi-backed government forces in Marib and Hadramout.

BRICS Education Ministers adopt declaration, set five key priorities

BHUBANESWAR

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Friday that the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting in Odisha's state capital Bhubaneswar, unanimously adopted the BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration, marking an important milestone in strengthening cooperation among member countries in the education sector.

Speaking to media persons, Joshi added that the meeting brought together Education Ministers, delegates and senior officials from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Indonesia, Iran, The UAE and Ethiopia. The summit began in Bhubaneswar with the third BRICS Education Senior Officials' Meeting on August 5.

Briefing the media, the Union Minister said the theme of this year's summit, held under India's BRICS chairmanship for the third time, is "Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability", with a strong focus on youth participation and people-to-people exchanges.

"Delegates exchanged the perspectives and recommendations, strengthened the consciousness on the proposed outcomes and reaffirmed their shared commitment building inclusive, resilient and future ready education system through deeper infrastructure, deeper institutional cooperation, capacity building and knowledge exchange," Joshi added. He said the declaration focuses on five key priorities, which include strengthening early childhood care and education; skill development, the mutual recognition of qualifications, and enhanced cooperation under the BRICS TVET cooperation alliance.

International community must act as China's 'ethnic unity' law harms Uyghurs: Report

BEIJING

The international community must make efforts to challenge China's new Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress to protect diaspora communities, as the legislation, which came into effect on July 1, has already started harming Uyghurs, other ethnic groups and dissidents, a report has detailed.

Under the new law, schools, religious institutions, all levels of government, and families are responsible for instilling and implementing the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) definition of "ethnic unity."

It also states that parents need to educate and guide children to love the CCP, replace bilingual education with Mandarin starting in preschool, and religious institutions to continue making efforts for the "Sinicisation" of religion.

In simple words, all the children in China need to love the CCP, Mandarin language must be spoken and any faith is allowed only when it is reshaped to serve the state, a report in 'The Diplomat' mentioned.

The impact of the law is visible in China as videos posted on social media platforms in China show Uyghur-language signs being removed from city streets and replaced with Chinese. Uyghurs are not able to resist or express sadness over these developments as CCP cadres monitor their actions. Any negative comment would be considered resistance to "ethnic unity", resulting in the individual facing risk of questioning and arrest.

Just three days after the law came into effect, two Uyghur sisters and their mother in China were reportedly detained for send-



ing merchandise to another sister in Turkey. They were accused of "supporting terrorism" for helping their sister with business.

People living abroad also face danger due to the new unity law

implemented in China. Under Article 63 of the law, organisations and individuals living abroad can be pursued for activities that China believes undermine ethnic unity or cause ethnic division, ac-

cording to the report.

Uyghurs and others with ties to East Turkestan living in Kazakhstan have reported "feeling the pressure" since the law was implemented in China. Prominent Uyghur activist Dolkun Isa was recently arrested and deported from Morocco while travelling to participate in a religious freedom conference. These cases showcase how China is pressurising other nations to restrict or intimidate Uyghurs. "The damage caused by China's ethnic unity law is no longer hypothetical. Governments must respond with urgency before forced assimilation and transnational repression become even more deeply entrenched," Omer Kanat, Executive Director of the Uyghur Human Rights Project, mentioned in 'The Diplomat'.

In July, over 50 Uyghur civil society organisations strongly con-

demned China's Law on the Promotion of Ethnic Unity and Progress and urged the international community to take meaningful action to repeal the legislation.

According to a joint statement, the law is not a "technical administrative measure" but a "legislative instrument of forced assimilation". It noted that the legislation explicitly conflates the Chinese nation with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and demands that ethnic groups abandon their distinct identities in favour of loyalty to the Party, the Han-defined "motherland," and "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics."

Under this framework, the organisations said, the Uyghur, Tibetan, Mongolian, and other non-Han identities are permitted to exist only insofar as they are absorbed into a single, CCP-defined Chinese nation.

PFRDA aims to raise non-govt NPS subscriber base to 35-40 cr in 5 years

KOLKATA: (AUG 7)

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on Friday said the regulator aims to increase the number of non-government National Pension System (NPS) subscribers to 35-40 crore over the next five years from the current 90 lakh by leveraging digital platforms and expanding its distribution network.

Speaking at an outreach programme for mutual fund distributors on the StAR NPS platform in Kolkata, Ramann said PFRDA is building digital infrastructure such as StAR NPS with BSE and Tatal NPS with NPCI to simplify subscriber onboarding and improve last-mile access.

"We have set ourselves a clear goal of growing non-government NPS subscribers from 90 lakh to 35-40 crore in five years," PFRDA Chairperson S Ramann said.

India's Consul General Launches AI Construction Platform 'Preckon' in Dubai

Strategic launch and UAE market entry facilitated by Sundeep Makthala, strengthening Canada-India-UAE technology collaboration
RAKEZ and SRTIP explore partnerships as Preckon eyes regional expansion across the GCC

DUBAI, UAE:

In a significant milestone for international technology collaboration, Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, IFS, Consul General of India in Dubai, officially launched Preckon, an AI-native construction intelligence platform developed by Canadian and Indian entrepreneurs to accelerate the digital transformation of the Middle East's construction industry. Powered by artificial intelligence, Preckon is designed to automate pre-construction planning, optimize cost estimation, analyze engineering drawings and tender documents, and deliver real-time project intelligence. The platform enables contractors, consultants, developers, and infrastructure companies to improve productivity, reduce project delays, and make faster, data-driven decisions across the GCC construction ecosystem. The launch marked Preckon's official entry into the UAE market and was strategically facilitated by Mr. Sundeep Kumar Makthala, whose end-to-end



support in stakeholder engagement, ecosystem partnerships, branding, government outreach, and market-entry strategy helped establish the company's regional expansion roadmap. Preckon was co-founded by Mr. Sreedhar Gonepally (Sunny), CEO & Co-Founder of AIGCC LLC-FZ and President of the Canada Chapter of the World Telugu IT Council (WTITC), along with Mr. Uma Mahesh Mukkara, technology entrepreneur and Co-Founder of Preckon. Together, they bring decades of global expertise in enterprise software, artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, and digital transformation. Following the launch, the delegation held strategic meetings

with senior officials of the Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) to explore establishing Preckon's regional operations in Ras Al Khaimah. With the emirate witnessing rapid growth in construction, industrial development, tourism, hospitality, and large-scale infrastructure projects, RAKEZ welcomed discussions on supporting AI-driven construction technologies and highlighted Ras Al Khaimah as an attractive destination for global technology companies expanding into the Middle East. The delegation also met with the leadership of the Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park (SRTIP) to discuss collaboration in artificial intelligence,

construction technology, innovation, and research commercialization. The SRTIP leadership welcomed the initiative and explored opportunities to support AI-powered construction solutions within Sharjah's growing innovation ecosystem. Speaking at the launch, Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, IFS, appreciated the vision behind Preckon and welcomed the growing collaboration between India, Canada, and the UAE in emerging technologies. He noted that the UAE continues to offer a dynamic innovation ecosystem for global technology companies and encouraged entrepreneurs to leverage the country's business-friendly environment to

build internationally scalable solutions. Mr. Sreedhar Gonepally (Sunny), Co-Founder of Preckon, said, "Preckon was built with a vision to transform the construction industry through artificial intelligence and intelligent automation. Our objective is to help the industry make smarter, faster, and more informed decisions while improving efficiency and reducing project costs. The UAE provides an exceptional environment for innovation, and we are excited to contribute to the region's digital transformation journey through strategic partnerships and advanced AI solutions." The launch of Preckon, followed by strategic engagements with RAKEZ and SRTIP, reflects the growing momentum of Canada-India-UAE collaboration in artificial intelligence, construction technology, and digital innovation. It also reinforces the UAE's position as a preferred destination for global technology companies seeking to expand into the GCC through innovation-led partnerships.



SCCL Takes First Step Towards Gold-Copper Exploration in Karnataka's Devadurga Block

Agreement Signed with Karnataka Department of Mines & Geology to Commence Exploration
Exploration to be completed Within Five Years
Shri K. Venkateshwarlu, Director (Projects & Planning), SCCL

Hyderabad (Singareni Bhavan), August 7, 2026: The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has taken another significant step towards the exploration of gold and copper deposits in the Devadurga Block, spread across Raichur and Yadgir districts of Karnataka. Having secured the exploration licence for the block through the Government of India's mineral auction process earlier, SCCL has now signed an agreement with the Karnataka Department of Mines & Geology (DMG) to formally commence exploration activities. The agreement was signed on Thursday evening at the office of the Karnataka Department of Mines & Geology in Bengaluru by Shri Rangappa, Director, Karnataka DMG, and Shri K. Venkateshwarlu, Director (Projects & Planning), SCCL. As per the agreement, SCCL will complete the exploration of the 199.13 sq. km Devadurga Block, for which it has been granted the exploration licence, within a period of five years. Speaking on the occasion, Shri K. Venkateshwarlu, Director (Projects & Planning), SCCL, said that while SCCL had earlier secured the exploration licence for the gold and copper deposits in the Devadurga Block, the present agreement marks the formal commencement of exploration operations. He stated that key officials have already been appointed for the project, and the remaining officers and staff will be deployed shortly. SCCL

aims to successfully complete the G4 stage exploration within the next two years. He further noted that this is the first time in SCCL's history that the company is undertaking mineral exploration of this scale outside Telangana. Drawing on SCCL's over 130 years of geological and exploration expertise, he expressed confidence that the project would be completed successfully. He also expressed gratitude to the Government of Karnataka and the Department of Mines & Geology for their cooperation and support. As part of the exploration programme, remote sensing, geological mapping, and geophysical surveys will be carried out, followed by scout drilling at selected locations. The collected samples will undergo petrographic and mineralogical studies, followed by comprehensive elemental analysis at SCCL's newly established Geo Science Laboratory at Kothagudem. Based on these studies, a detailed exploration report will be submitted to the Karnataka Department of Mines & Geology. The findings will form the basis for undertaking advanced stages of mineral exploration in the block. Among those present at the programme were Shri Pankaj Kul Shreshtha, General Manager (Exploration); Shri V. Rajeshwar, Deputy General Manager (Geology); Smt. Lakshmi Priya, Deputy Financial Manager; Senior Law Officer Prabhandita; and other officials.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles introduces Nexon CAMO, a bold new expression of India's No. 1 SUV

MUMBAI, AUGUST 2026

Celebrating a decade of Nexon and the trust of over 11 lakh customers, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV), one of India's leading automotive manufacturers, today announced the launch of the Nexon CAMO, starting at ₹9.99 lakh (Ex-showroom, Delhi). Available in two exclusive premium colours, Munnar Mist and Coorg Cloud, the Nexon CAMO combines bold styling with an enhanced technology package featuring the Ultra View Twin HD Digital Cockpit 31.24 cm (12.3-inch) infotainment system by HarmanTM & 26.03 cm (10.25-inch) Digital Instrument Cluster by HarmanTM with embedded Navigation and an integrated dashcam recorder as part of the 360° Camera Surround View System. Complementing these additions is a strong package of premium comfort, safety and intelligent technology features, including ADAS, a voice-assisted panoramic sunroof, ventilated leatherette

seats and a JBL audio system. Available across Petrol, Diesel and iCNG powertrains, with multiple transmission options, the Nexon CAMO offers a distinctive ownership proposition for every kind of SUV customer. Over the years, the Tata Nexon has established itself as one of India's most successful and iconic SUV brands by continuously evolving in line with changing customer aspirations. From democratizing safety, advanced technology and turbocharged performance to offering unmatched powertrain choice, the Nexon has consistently redefined expectations in the compact SUV segment while building a strong legacy of innovation and customer trust. Timed to coincide with the upcoming festive season, the Nexon CAMO builds on that philosophy by combining exclusive styling, enhanced technology and premium new colours with Nexon's proven strengths of safety, performance and versatility. With availability across Petrol, Diesel and iCNG powertrains, as well as multiple transmission



options, there is a Nexon CAMO for every customer and every driving preference. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility said, "Since its launch a decade ago, the Nexon has provided comfortable, safe and enjoyable journeys for over 1.1 million families, becoming one of India's most iconic nameplates with a unmissable presence on the roads. This success has been built on constantly raising the bar in safety, technology and design, while keeping these innovations accessible to a wider set of customers. The

Nexon CAMO carries that spirit forward, with two striking new colours and an elevated technology package that makes it the most distinctive Nexon yet. Timed perfectly for the festive season, it gives customers an even stronger reason to make the Nexon their own."

All You Need to Know About the New Nexon CAMO

Built on the same winning foundation that has made the Nexon the benchmark of the compact SUV segment, the Nexon CAMO enhances the ownership experience with exclusive design elements, premium tech-

nology and distinctive character, creating a more aspirational, feature-rich package for customers who want their SUV to stand out.

Features to look out for:

- Ultra View Twin HD Digital Cockpit with 31.24 cm (12.3-inch) infotainment system by HarmanTM
- 26.03 cm (10.25-inch) Digital Instrument Cluster by HarmanTM with embedded Navigation
- Dash Cam Recorder is integrated with the 360° Camera Surround View System, with impact-event protection and support up to 256 GB of storage
- Exclusive CAMO identity with signature CAMO badging on both fenders and CAMO-themed perforation on the front seat headrests
- Voice-assisted Panoramic Sunroof for an open, airy cabin experience
- Ventilated front seats for superior comfort in all weather conditions
- 360° Camera with Blind Spot

View Monitor for stress-free parking and maneuvering

- 9-speaker JBL audio system with subwoofer for an immersive sound experience
- ADAS with 7 intelligent driver assistance functions calibrated for Indian driving conditions
- 6 airbags and ESP
- Choice of powertrains: 1.2L Turbocharged Revotron Petrol (120 PS/170 Nm), 1.5L Turbocharged Revotorg Diesel (114.5 PS/260 Nm), and the segment's only 1.2L Turbocharged iCNG (100 PS/170 Nm) with Twin Cylinder Technology

Two Colours. Two Distinct Expressions

Munnar Mist - A dynamic dark green shade with a unique dual-tone personality. In the shadows it appears as a sophisticated grey, while under sunlight it comes alive with rich green tones and a subtle golden tint, giving the Nexon CAMO a distinctive presence that evolves with its surroundings.

RBI officers' body seeks review of HR policies, flags concerns over promotions

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India Officers' Association (RBIOA) has written to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra seeking an immediate review of recent human resource (HR) policy decisions, saying they have adversely affected officers' career progression, morale and work-

place welfare. In a representation dated August 6, the association said a survey conducted among its members found widespread dissatisfaction with the Bank's HR policies. According to the RBIOA, more than half of its members across Grades A to E participated in the survey.

India Stays Competitive, New Export Opportunities Emerge: FIEO

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 07

Addressing at the FIEO's A2-days Program on Export Opportunities and How to start an Export Business, Mr. Amit Kumar, AGM & Branch Head, ECGC Limited stated that ECGC plays a crucial role in international trade by providing credit insurance to cover Non-Payment Risk from Overseas buyer and mitigating risks for exporters, and facilitating access to finance by providing the coverage to banks, ultimately promoting India's exports. He advised the entrepreneurs to avail the customized insurance services offered by ECGC and benefit from covering risks. Exporters can explore new buyers from different countries to increase their turnover after protecting Non-Payment Risk from overseas Buyers. Mr. Srinivas Tatikonda, Zonal Manager, ICICI Bank Limited emphasized the critical role of export finance in international trade. He highlighted the bank's suite of online services tailored for exporters and importers. He demonstrated key features such as real-time currency tracking, customized forex solutions, and effi-



cient payment tools, all aimed at simplifying trade processes and improving operational efficiency. FIEO being a premier exporter organization, ICICI Bank is continuously partnering FIEO in its activities and showcasing the financial opportunities offered by the banks and institutions.

Mr. Kamal Jain, lead speaker and prominent logistic service provider stated that Indian exporters see growing global opportunities and how FIEO is helping the start-ups and young entrepreneurs in showcasing the export opportunities. Free trade agreements (FTAs) are the backbone of international trade—they cut down tariffs, lower barriers, and make

transactions easier and faster and will be playing a pivotal role in helping goods and services move smoothly across borders. He highlighted that the global export landscape is undergoing structural changes and demand patterns are shifting from traditional markets, and newer opportunities are emerging across developing economies. With e-commerce, postal services and digital platforms, even small business and start-ups are exploring the possibilities to participate in international trade. He stressed the need for quality, compliance, branding, and value addition. As global buyers become more selective, exporters must focus on reliability,

sustainability, and long-term partnerships. He advised the exporters to utilize the enormous opportunities and leverage the FIEO's supporting services of policy advocacy, market intelligence, and capacity-building initiatives.

Mr. Putta Ravinder from Department of Posts, Govt. of India, detailed postal department schemes for exporters, including direct postal services and international mail product offerings that enable district-level access to global markets.

Mr. Ch. Raju, Regional Head, ICICI Bank Limited briefed on Export Finance, Forex Risk and Treasury Services.

Ms. Apeksha Gupta, Head-Skilling, VCJ Foundationspoke on Market Identification and Product-Market Fit, Finding International Buyers, B2B Portals, Trade Fairs and Digital Tools, Building Export Brand, Communication, Negotiation and Lead Conversion.

Mr. R. Kulkarni, Head-Telangana Chapter, FIEOstated that Exports from States are crucial drivers of the country's economic growth, job creation, and global compet-

itiveness. Strong State-level export growth not only boosts foreign exchange reserves but also strengthens India's position in the global economy. FIEO provides value-added services to entrepreneurs and their main workforce dealing in international trade, particularly in ensuring the procedures, compliances and completing necessary formalities related to international trade. Later, he briefed on the services of FIEO especially on Indian Business Portal and Indian Trade Portal, and requested participants to become members and explore business opportunities. The program was aimed to create awareness on International Trade, Setting up Exporting Company, Foreign Trade Policy, Export Finance, Overview of Export Incentives, Selection of Product & Market, Identification of Foreign Buyers, Terms of Delivery - Incoterms(R) 2020 Rules, Terms of Payment with focus on Letter of Credit, Understanding Export Documentation & GST Provisions, FTAs and Recent development, Credit Risk Management in International Trade and Role of EPC/FIEO's Services to Exporters.

Tanishq unveils South India inspired 'Malle' Collection

'Malle' celebrates South Indian tradition with modern sophistication, lauds actress Rukmini Vasanth (strap line below headline)

HYDERABAD, AUG.7

For generations, Malle Poo or Jasmine flowers have been an inseparable part of life in Telugu households. Whether adorning women's hair during festivals, or as flower decorations in poojas, weddings, or family celebrations, the fragrant jasmine has remained a timeless symbol of beauty, tradition and auspiciousness. Drawing inspiration from this cherished cultural icon, Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the Tata Group, has unveiled "Malle," its first exclusive Uncut Diamond jewellery collection created especially for South India. The collection was launched at a special event in the city by actress Rukmini Vasanth, best known for her role in Kantara, along with Tanishq's leadership team. Introduced ahead of the Varamahalakshmi festival, one of the busiest jewellery buying seasons in the South, the collection is designed around the traditions and aesthetic preferences of women from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Inspired by the many forms of jasmine, from delicate buds to blooming flowers and woven garlands,



the collection transforms these floral motifs into elegant jewellery. Traditional South Indian designs such as Bottu Malas, Guttapusalu haars, Jhumkis, Chokers and Necklaces have been reimagined using Uncut Diamonds set in 18 karat gold, complemented by emeralds, rubies, sapphires and pearls. Speaking at the launch, Rukmini Vasanth described Malle as a symbol that instantly reminds her of home, nostalgia and celebration. She recalled the scent of jasmine filling her grandmother's home and said the collection beautifully captures that emotional connection. She praised the intricate craftsmanship behind every ornament, saying the designs seamlessly blend heritage with contemporary elegance, making them appealing to modern women while staying rooted in

tradition. Tanishq Chief Marketing Officer Pelki Tshering said jasmine has always been an intimate part of how women in South India adorn themselves. The idea behind Malle, he said, was to transform a flower traditionally worn alongside jewellery into jewellery itself, creating designs that celebrate both cultural identity and individuality.

As part of its festive Varamahalakshmi offers, Tanishq is providing attractive discounts on gold and diamond jewellery across its Andhra Pradesh and Telangana stores until August 31. With over 500 exclusive boutiques across more than 300 cities, Tanishq continues to expand its regional collections while celebrating India's diverse cultural heritage through contemporary jewellery.





India's Real Estate Market in 2026

How Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai Compare

India's real estate sector remains one of the country's strongest economic pillars, contributing significantly to employment, investment and urban development. The industry is expected to maintain steady growth over the coming years, driven by rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, rising incomes and government support for housing.

Despite high interest rates witnessed over the past few years and increasing construction costs, residential demand has remained resilient in major metropolitan cities. Premium housing, luxury apartments and plotted developments have witnessed exceptional demand, while affordable housing has experienced relatively slower growth due to rising land and construction costs.

Among India's leading property markets, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Chennai continue to dominate both residential and commercial real estate. However, each city has developed its own unique strengths and challenges. Hyderabad: India's Fastest Growing Real Estate Destination Hyderabad has emerged as one of India's most attractive real estate markets during the last decade. The city's remarkable growth has been driven by the expansion of the IT industry, pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms and Global Capability Centres (GCCs). Compared with other metropolitan cities, Hyderabad still offers relatively affordable housing while providing world-class infrastructure. The western corridor—including Financial District, Gachibowli,HITEC City, Kokapet, Narsingi, Tellapur and Nanakramguda—continues to attract homebuyers and investors. Large IT compa-

nies have expanded operations in these locations, creating sustained demand for residential projects. Luxury housing has become a defining feature of Hyderabad's property market. High-rise apartments priced above ₹2 crore have witnessed strong demand from professionals, entrepreneurs and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). Developers are increasingly launching premium gated communities with modern amenities.

Infrastructure projects such as the Outer Ring Road (ORR), Regional Ring Road (RRR), Metro Rail expansion, elevated corridors and airport connectivity have significantly enhanced property values. Areas once considered suburban have transformed into major residential hubs.

Commercial real estate is another major strength. Hyderabad has become one of India's preferred destinations for office space leasing due to comparatively lower rentals than Bengaluru and Mumbai. Several multinational corporations continue to establish or expand campuses in the city.

However, Hyderabad is not without challenges. The rapid increase in supply has slowed price appreciation in some micro-markets, and inventory levels remain relatively high in certain locations. Nevertheless, experts believe the city's long-term fundamentals remain strong because of continued employment generation and infrastructure investment.

Bengaluru: India's Technology Capital Drives Housing Demand

Bengaluru continues to be India's largest technology hub and one of the country's strongest real estate markets. The city benefits from continuous demand generated by software companies, startups, artificial intelligence firms and multinational corporations.

Whitefield, Sarjapur Road, Electronic City, Bel-

landur, Hebbal, Devanahalli and North Bengaluru remain among the most sought-after locations. The expansion of the Metro Rail network has significantly improved accessibility, making several emerging suburbs attractive investment destinations.

Residential demand in Bengaluru is largely employment-driven. Every year, thousands of engineers, software professionals and business executives relocate to the city, creating sustained demand for both rental housing and home purchases. Luxury apartments have recorded impressive sales, while villas and plotted developments have also gained popularity among high-income buyers. Rental yields in Bengaluru remain among the best in India due to consistent demand from professionals. Commercial real estate continues to thrive. Bengaluru records some of the highest office leasing volumes in Asia, with Global Capability Centres accounting for a substantial share of new office demand.

The city nevertheless faces significant urban challenges. Traffic congestion remains one of the biggest concerns, affecting commute times and quality of life. Water scarcity has also become an important issue in certain localities, prompting developers to invest in sustainable water management systems.

Despite these issues, Ben-

Luxury Housing Leads Market Growth

One of the most significant trends across all major metropolitan cities is the growing demand for luxury housing. High-net-worth individuals, successful entrepreneurs, senior corporate executives and NRIs are increasingly investing in premium residences.

Developers have responded by launching projects featuring larger homes, smart automation, wellness amenities, landscaped open spaces and integrated communities. Premium housing has outperformed affordable housing in terms of both sales and price appreciation.

Commercial Real Estate Remains Strong

India's office market continues to perform well despite the adoption of hybrid working models. Technology companies, financial institutions, consulting firms, healthcare organisations and Global Capability Centres remain major occupiers of office space.

Hyderabad and Bengaluru continue to dominate IT office demand,

while Mumbai remains the country's financial headquarters. Delhi-NCR attracts multinational companies and corporate headquarters, whereas Chennai has strengthened its position through manufacturing and technology investments.

Industrial and warehousing real estate has also expanded rapidly due to the growth of e-commerce, organised retail and logistics.

Infrastructure Is Transforming Property Values

Large-scale infrastructure projects have become one of the biggest drivers of real estate appreciation across India. Metro rail expansion, expressways, ring roads, airports, railway modernisation and industrial corridors have improved connectivity, creating new residential and commercial growth corridors. Areas previously considered peripheral are now attracting major investments due to better accessibility. Governments at both the Central and State levels continue to prioritise infrastructure spending, providing long-term support for the property sector.

galuru's employment opportunities and vibrant technology ecosystem continue to support long-term growth in the property market.

Delhi-NCR: A Diverse Market with Renewed Momentum

Delhi-NCR represents one of India's largest and most diverse real estate markets, encompassing Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad.

After several years of slower growth, the market has witnessed renewed momentum, particularly in premium residential projects. Gurugram has emerged as the luxury housing capital of North India, with developers launching high-end apartments, penthouses and integrated townships.

Noida and Greater Noida have also experienced significant growth due to improved connectivity through expressways, Metro expansion and the upcoming Jewar International Airport. These developments have attracted investors as well as end-users.

Commercial real estate remains a major strength of the region. Gurugram and Noida continue to attract multinational corporations, IT companies, financial institutions and startups.

Infrastructure projects such as the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, Dwarka Expressway, Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) and airport

expansion are expected to further improve connectivity and stimulate real estate growth. However, Delhi-NCR has historically faced issues related to delayed project delivery, legal disputes and environmental concerns. Air pollution also influences buyer preferences, encouraging demand for integrated townships with better environmental planning.

Even so, rising incomes and continued infrastructure investment have restored confidence among homebuyers and investors.

Mumbai: India's Most Expensive Property Market

Mumbai continues to be India's most expensive and prestigious real estate market. As the country's financial capital, the city attracts bankers, corporate executives, film professionals, entrepreneurs and international investors.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region includes South Mumbai, Bandra, Andheri, Powai, Thane, Navi Mumbai and several rapidly developing suburban markets.

Luxury housing dominates the premium segment, with apartments in prime locations commanding some of the highest prices in Asia. Redevelopment projects have become a major driver of residential supply due to limited availability of vacant land. Commercial real estate remains exceptionally strong, supported by banking, financial services, media, entertainment and technology sectors. Mumbai continues to record substantial office leasing activity despite evolving workplace trends. Infrastructure improvements—including the Mumbai Coastal Road, Metro network expansion, Trans Harbour Link and multiple elevated corridors—have enhanced connectivity and opened new investment opportunities across the metropolitan region. Nevertheless, affordability remains Mumbai's biggest challenge. High land prices translate into expensive housing, making home ownership difficult for middle-income families. Developers have increasingly focused on compact apartments and redevelopment projects to address space constraints. Rental demand remains consistently strong because of continuous migration and limited housing supply.

Chennai: Stable Growth with Strong Fundamentals

Chennai has long been recognised as one of India's

most stable real estate markets. Unlike some cities that experience rapid price fluctuations, Chennai has traditionally witnessed gradual and sustainable growth.

The city's economy is supported by automobile manufacturing, information technology, electronics, healthcare, logistics and port-related industries. This diversified economic base provides stability to the property market.

Residential demand is concentrated in locations such as OMR, Sholinganallur, Perungudi, Porur, Velachery, Medavakkam and North Chennai's emerging industrial corridors.

Luxury housing has gained momentum in recent years, although affordable and mid-segment homes continue to account for a large share of sales. Chennai remains comparatively more affordable than Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. Commercial real estate has benefited from expanding IT parks and Global Capability Centres. Office leasing has remained healthy, supported by domestic companies and multinational firms.

Metro Rail expansion, improved road infrastructure and industrial corridor development are expected to support future growth. The city has also witnessed increased interest from manufacturing companies following the government's emphasis on electronics production and supply-chain diversification.

Flood management remains an area requiring continued attention, though substantial investments in drainage and urban infrastructure aim to improve resilience.

Challenges Before the Sector

Despite strong demand, the real estate industry continues to face several challenges. Rising land prices, increasing construction costs and higher labour expenses have pushed up housing prices across most metropolitan cities.

Environmental sustainability has become increasingly important, with developers investing in green buildings, energy-efficient designs, rainwater harvesting and solar energy systems. Affordability remains a concern, particularly in Mumbai and parts of Delhi-NCR, where property prices are beyond the reach of many middle-income families. Developers are therefore exploring innovative financing options and compact housing formats.

HYDERABAD
Fastest growing market driven by IT expansion, infrastructure and strong investment

BENGALURU
Technology hub powering housing demand and commercial growth across key corridors.

DELHI
Diverse market with renewed momentum, backed by infrastructure upgrades and premium housing

MUMBAI
India's most expensive market with strong luxury demand and robust commercial real estate

CHENNAI
Stable and sustainable growth supported by diversified economy and improving



Jadeja, Suthar, Kuldeep pick two wickets each as SLC XI make 363/8 against India

COLOMBO



Indian spin attack of Ravindra Jadeja, Manav Suthar and Kuldeep Yadav picked two wickets each as Sri Lanka Cricket XI reached 363/8 in 90 overs at stumps on Day 1 of their three-day warm-up fixture at the Nondescripts Cricket Club ground here on Friday.

With KL Rahul leading the charge in the absence of regular captain Shubman Gill due to him suffering a right ring finger injury, the troika of Jadeja (2-64), Suthar (2-48) and Kuldeep (2-76) extracted substantial turn from a flat surface that offered very little to the quicks earlier in the day. Tall pacer Gurnoor Brar chipped in with a wicket, even as Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna had no scalps. Opting to bat after winning the toss, the hosts enjoyed a flying start as openers Nishan Madushka and Ravindu Rasantha dominated the morning session by stitching a century stand for the opening wicket. Playing with plenty of intent, Madushka looked in sparkling touch, dispatching the Indian pacers to all parts of the ground before a tragic miscommunication led to a tame run-out for him to fall for 66.

Siraj and Krishna lacked early discipline on a benign track with a faint green tinge that provided little lateral movement. Jadeja, returning to ac-

tion for the first time after IPL 2026, finally broke the second-wicket resistance post-lunch by casting Pasindu Sooriyabandara with a delivery that skidded through rapidly to hit the stumps. Suthar then showcased his flight and turn, and drew Rasantha into a reckless charge down the track to break another dangerous partnership. Brar bowled an impressive spell with high pace and bounce, and eventually removed Pavan Rathnanayake just before the tea break.

The evening session saw India assert greater control over proceedings as the pitch began aiding the spinners. Kuldeep dismissed Ahan Wickramasinghe after the batter topped an ambitious sweep to Brar in the deep, before deceiving Anjala Bandara via lbw to break Sri Lanka's middle-order spine. Captain Sonal Dinusha waged a brave counter-attack by compiling a fluent half-century to push the home team past the 300-run mark. But Jadeja returned

to trap Ramesh Mendis lbw with a straight delivery, before Suthar ended Dinusha's knock on 52 with a sharp arm ball.

Late entrant, off-spinner Saransh Jain, bowled a long spell without reward, as the entire bowling contingent got plenty of bowling practice ahead of the opening Test against Sri Lanka starting on August 15 in Galle, though they will be concerned with conceding over 360 runs on the opening day of a practice game.



IOC publishes online abuse report, seeks better protection of athletes

GENEVA

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Friday published the Online Abuse and Sport report from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games, seeking better protection of athletes and safeguarding of the online communities.

Marking Safe Sport Day on August 8, the IOC published the findings from its Cyber-Abuse Protection Service (CAPS), identifying nearly 25,000 abusive messages from 4.3 million posts and comments across the two Games. After monitoring around 20,000 accounts and 45 languages during Paris 2024, and more than 6,000 accounts and 56 languages at Milano Cortina 2026, AI flagged approximately 242,000 posts and comments as potentially abusive for human review, and subsequently verified around 24,700 abusive posts and comments, Xinhua reports.

"Online abuse is a significant safeguarding issue across sport and, while it takes place online, it does not remain confined to digital spaces and can cause real and lasting physical, psychological, reputational and economic harm," the IOC announced.

Although the content doesn't meet thresholds for platform removal or criminal prosecution,

IOC said, these harmful online behaviors are still "lawful but awful".

"(It) can still cause real and lasting harm. This emphasizes the need for prevention strategies, education and digital literacy, and response mechanisms that recognize the broader impact of online abuse," IOC said.

Overall, AI flagged approximately 242,000 posts and comments as potentially abusive for human review, including 152,000 during Paris 2024 and around 90,000 during Milano Cortina 2026. Analysts subsequently verified around 24,700 abusive posts and comments, including 10,200 at Paris and 14,500 at Milano Cortina, and identified approximately 18,900 unique accounts responsible for abusive messages (8,900 at Paris; ~10,000 at Milano Cortina), the IOC said in a statement.

Content confirmed as abusive following human review prompted a coordinated response. The Cyber team engaged with the platform concerned, investigated the source of the abuse, and provided a report to support the affected person in determining potential next steps. In parallel, the IOC Safeguarding team activated the relevant procedures, prioritising severe abuse cases within 24 hours, and offering psychosocial support,

Sevilla face squad rebuild after departure of Juanlu, Sow

MADRID: La Liga side Sevilla have confirmed the departure of full-back Juanlu Sanchez, who joined Bournemouth, and Switzerland international midfielder Djibril Sow, who moved to Genoa. Juanlu's move was expected, and he had confirmed his switch to the Premier League a day earlier while speaking to the press at Seville airport, while Sow departed after Genoa paid his release clause of four million euros. Juanlu Sanchez had earlier described his move to Premier League club Bournemouth as 'win-win'. "At the end of the day, it's a good project to continue growing, and it's what we both needed," said Juanlu.

Four Indian Grandmasters eye Esports WC 2026 Chess glory in Paris

PARIS

Indian chess will enjoy its strongest-ever representation at the Esports World Cup (EWC), with four Grandmasters set to compete in the chess tournament at EWC 2026, scheduled to take place in Paris from August 11 to 15. Grandmasters Nihal Sarin, Aravindh Chithambaram, and Pranesh M, representing esports and gaming content powerhouse S8UL Esports,

will be joined by Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, who will compete under the banner of Gen.G Esports. Together, they will take on the world's best players for a share of the USD 1.5 million (INR 14.2 crore) prize pool.

Nihal, Pranesh and Arjun secured direct qualification to the Group Stage through their performances in the Champions Chess Tour (CCT) 2025-2026, while Aravindh earned his place through DreamHack Atlan-

ta earlier this year and will begin his campaign in the play-in stage. This marks a significant milestone for Indian chess at the EWC. Last year, Nihal and Arjun were the only Indians to compete in the tournament. Nihal, who qualified through the Last Chance Qualifier (LCQ), reached the quarterfinals, while Arjun, who qualified through the Champions Chess Tour (CCT), finished fourth. This year, the number of Indian

participants has doubled, making it the country's largest-ever contingent at the event. Returning after their debut last year, the chess competition at EWC 2026 will feature a revised two-phase format. The first phase, new to the tournament, is the play-in stage, featuring nine players who qualified through the Last Chance Qualifier (LCQ) and DreamHack Atlanta.

These players will compete in a double-elimination

bracket, with each match consisting of two games. The top performers from the play-in stage will advance to the group stage, where they will join players who qualified directly through the CCT and other qualifying events. The 16-player Group Stage will be divided into two groups of eight, with each group following a double-elimination format featuring two-game matches. The top four players from each group will advance to the playoffs.

WPGT 2026: Sneha loses six-shot lead but survives play-off to beat Vani in 11th leg

HOSUR

Sneha Singh, who ran up a six-shot lead with six holes to go, squandered the entire advantage and was taken to the play-off, where she edged aside the seasoned Vani Kapoor to win the 11th leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Clover Greens.

Sneha, who had stunned the field with a 10-under round on the second day, shot 5-over 76 on the final day before winning on the first play-off hole. Sneha and Vani totalled 3-under 210 in regulation play.

Sneha ended a 18-month title drought to get back into the winning circle for the first time since February 2025. Sneha (73-61-76) played the final round with Vani Kapoor (67-71-72), who trailed her by four shots at the start of the third day, and Nayanika Sangha (72-68-71), who was six behind.

Sneha seemed to struggle in the final round as she started with a bogey and had no birdies for the next eight holes. With Vani carding a double bogey and a bogey, and Nayanika also faltering with two bogeys and unable to find birdies, Sneha's lead was stretched. When Sneha birdied the tenth hole, she



moved further ahead. After 12 holes in the final round, Sneha seemed to have sewn up the title as she opened a six-shot lead over the field. Sneha and Nayanika birdied the 10th, but Vani picked up a birdie on the 11th.

Then came a major twist. Nayanika had back-to-back birdies on the 13th and the 14th, but Sneha gave away two double bogeys on the same holes. Vani also birdied the

13th to join Nayanika at 3-under total, and Sneha was now just one shot ahead at 4-under. At that stage Sneha's lead was down to just one shot over Nayanika and Vani.

Vani was unable to find any birdies on the last five holes and finished at 3-under total, while Nayanika gave away a bogey on the 15th and parred the last three holes to fall to 2-under. When Vani and Nayanika parred the 18th,

Sneha needed just a par on the 18th to win outright. She crumbled under the pressure and dropped a shot on the last to fall into a play-off with playing partner Vani.

Meanwhile, Smriti Bhargav (70) finished at 2-under total as did amateur Ayesha Gupta, who was the first-round co-leader, in a three-way tie for third alongside Nayanika. Finishing sole sixth was Riya Jadon, who had a rocky finish over the last five holes with three birdies and two bogeys, including one on the 18th.

Jasmine Shekar (69) and Lavanya Jadon (71) were tied for seventh at an even-par total of 213, while Amandeep Drall (71) was ninth. Ridhima Dilawari (72), Ananya Datar (72) and Shagun Narain (74) rounded off the Top-10. Anvi Dahhiya was 13th, and Khushi Khanijau, Tvesha Malik and Heena Kang were tied for 14th.

Ridhima Dilawari, who has three wins this season, stays on top of the Hero Order of Merit, while Jasmine Shekar, Vani Kapoor and Amandeep Drall are second, third and fourth. These players are the only ones to cross Rs 10 lakhs in winnings this season after 11 events.

Norway FA chief urges Infantino to resign, says FIFA president has lost trust

OSLO

Pressure on FIFA president Gianni Infantino intensified on Friday after Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) president Lise Klaveness publicly called on him to resign, arguing that he no longer enjoys the confidence needed to lead world football through its current governance crisis.

Speaking after the NFF's monthly board meeting, Klaveness said the trust between FIFA and key stakeholders had been severely damaged following the controversy surrounding the governing body's now-withdrawn investment proposal.

"Gianni Infantino no longer has the institutional trust required to lead FIFA in a stable manner. The international football community is facing a difficult period, and we believe new leadership is needed. We will therefore ask the FIFA president to resign," Klaveness told reporters as quoted by The BBC.

The latest intervention comes after FIFA abandoned its proposed investment plan, which would have involved selling a minority stake in the



commercial rights linked to the FIFA World Cup. The proposal drew strong criticism from several football associations and confederations, particularly in Europe, over concerns about governance, transparency and the future control of the sport's flagship tournament. Klaveness said the Norwegian federation hopes more UEFA member associations will support its position in the coming weeks, although it is not seeking an extraordinary UEFA Executive Committee meeting. We are in

regular dialogue with UEFA and other member associations. Whether more countries formally join this position is something that will develop over time. Our intention is to communicate directly with FIFA and ask the president to step down," she said.

Klaveness, who took charge of the Norwegian federation in 2022, said the latest controversy was part of a broader pattern of concerns that Norway has repeatedly raised with FIFA over the past several years. UEFA

has already stated that it no longer has confidence in the FIFA president, accusing the organisation of failing to consult member associations adequately before unveiling the investment proposal. Although FIFA later withdrew the plan and Infantino issued an apology to all 211 member associations, UEFA has maintained that the episode exposed deeper governance issues and has continued to warn of a boycott if meaningful reforms are not implemented.

Indian Army Ice Hockey Team crowned champions of the inaugural Challengers' Cup

LEH (LADAKH)

The inaugural Challengers' Cup delivered a fitting finale as the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team survived a stirring challenge from Leh Kings, securing a 6-5 victory to lift the tournament's first-ever title at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium in Leh. Representing the best emerging talent from the Ice Hockey League, Leh Kings matched the nation's most accomplished ice hockey side stride for stride in a breathtaking contest before eventually falling to a late winner, underlining the strength of the developmental pathway created under the social mission. Padma

Namgail struck the decisive goal in the closing moments, finishing off a pass from Phuntsog Namgail to cap a pulsating final played before a packed crowd. Leh Kings made the brighter start, with Tsering Angchuk opening the scoring after converting Mush-taque Ahmad Giri's precise assist.

The Indian Army Ice Hockey Team responded almost immediately as Dorjay Angchuk restored parity from Phuntsog Namgail's pass before Jigmith Kunzang scored another for the institutional side, converting Padma Namgail's assist for a 2-1 lead, placing them ahead for the first time by the end of the opening period.

Archer Sheetal Devi backs revamped Khelo India Scheme

NEW DELHI

Paralympic medallist and world champion para-compound archer Sheetal Devi believes the revamped Khelo India Scheme (KIS) can become a game-changer for para sport by ensuring talented children with disabilities are identified early and given the support they need to succeed.

Drawing from her journey from a remote village in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, to the top of archery, Sheetal emphasised that opportunity, not talent, often poses the biggest challenge for aspiring para-athletes. "The love and recognition I receive today as a Paralympic champion took years of work. I was an undiscovered child in Kishtwar. However, over the

years, with access to good coaching and support, I became the Sheetal Devi that the world knows.

"While my story is one of success, an equally capable child in a remote village might not even know that para sports exist. The difference between us usually comes down to opportunity. I am thankful that I had that."

Sheetal highlighted the Centre's updated Khelo India Scheme, which has a budget of Rs 29,054 crore over five years. She explained that the program's focus on finding talent, developing coaches, improving infrastructure, and providing high-performance training could change the sports landscape. This change is especially possible if states actively support its implementation.

"Across India, especially in villages



and small towns, there are thousands of children with disabilities who have great potential, but many are never discovered. Some don't know where to train, and others have never met a coach who understands para sport. That's why I think India's revamped Khelo India Scheme has the power to change the game for all sports, especially para sports.

"This five-year scheme, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, invests Rs 29,054 crore for development. The nine main parts of this ambitious plan include finding talent, developing coaches and support staff, and most importantly, strengthening infrastructure and high-performance training environments. But what can really make a difference is the cooperation between the Centre and states or Union territories. States must get involved fully to turn plans into real outcomes."

Reflecting on her rise, the 18-year-old credited her support system for helping her gain the confidence to compete against the world's best.

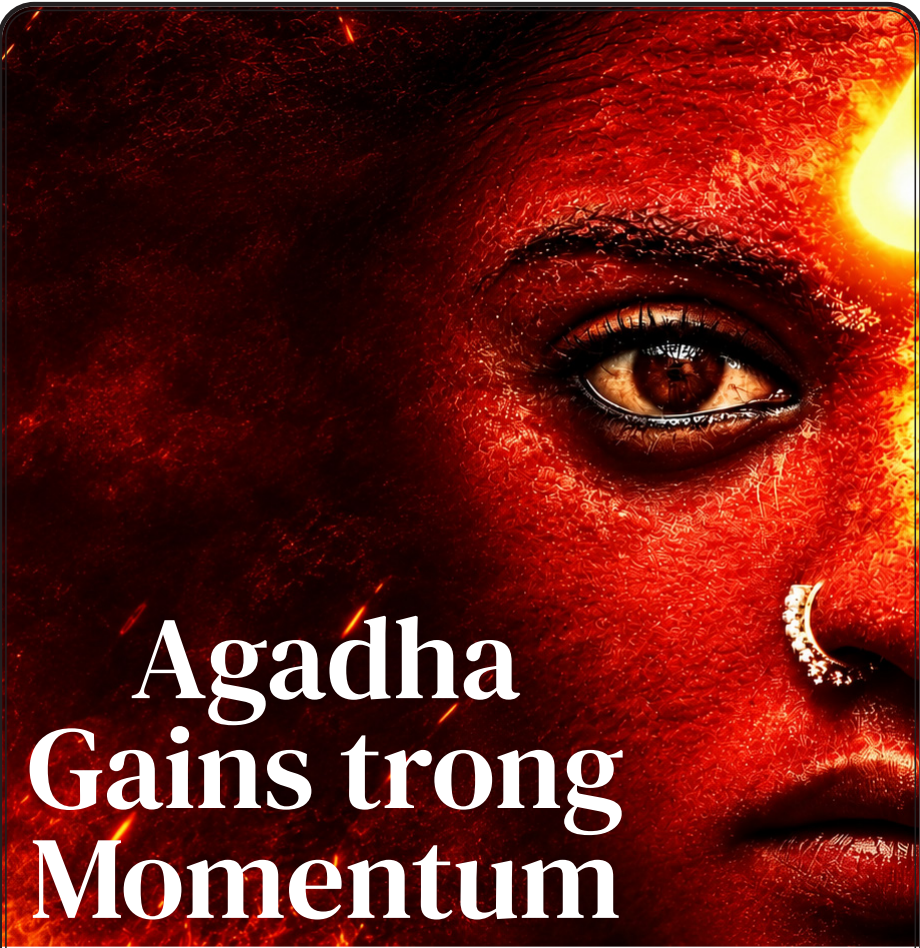
"I received help from coaches, the Sports Authority of India, the Government, and more. I never felt any-

thing important was missing from my preparation. That support gave me the confidence to dream bigger and compete with the world's best.

"But my story shouldn't be the exception."

Sheetal also praised the scheme's focus on building para-sport academies and training centres near athletes' homes, pointing out that accessibility is a major challenge for children with disabilities. "I am encouraged by the revamped Khelo India Scheme's focus on enhancing para training facilities and accredited academies. Not every child can travel hundreds of kilometres to find a coach or training centre. "Many talented kids stay in villages because the facilities simply aren't close by.





Agadha Gains trong Momentum

M. S. Raju's upcoming supernatural drama 'Agadha' is gaining significant attention ahead of its worldwide theatrical release on August 14. The film received a positive response to its trailer, leading to interest from distributors across several territories. However, director M. S. Raju has chosen to release the film independently through Geetha Arts and Annapurna Studios, reflecting his confidence in its theatrical prospects. The release strategy has now been finalized across major markets, paving the way for a wide Independence Day weekend rollout. In the United States, Moksha Movies is distributing 'Agadha'. The distributor initially planned to release the film on 14 screens but reportedly increased the count to 140 screens after watching the movie. The expansion has further strengthened expectations surrounding the film's theatrical performance. In the Telugu states, 'Agadha' will be released through the exhibition networks of Geetha Arts and Annapurna Studios. V.K. Films, the distribution company associated with Hombale Films, will handle the Karnataka

release, while a reputed distribution house, 'S' Pictures, will oversee the film's release in Tamil Nadu. The trailer presents 'Agadha' as a visually rich supernatural drama set against a divine and mystical backdrop. Its reverse-chronological storytelling, extensive CGI work and eerie background score have sparked considerable curiosity among moviegoers. Starring 'Polimera' fame Kamakshi Bhaskarla and 'Dirty Hari' actor

Shravan Reddy in the lead roles, the film has been written and directed by M. S. Raju. It is produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions banner and presented by Ajay KR. With distribution arrangements finalized in key territories and promotions entering their final phase, 'Agadha' is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on August 14.

Rakul Rules HT Style Awards

Rakul Preet Singh once again proved why she is regarded as a true glamour queen, captivating everyone with her stunning fashion statement at the HT Most Stylish Awards 2026. Having established a strong presence in both the Telugu and Hindi film industries, the actress emerged as one of the biggest attractions of the evening with her striking red-carpet appearance. For the prestigious awards ceremony, Rakul opted for a bold leopard-print gown designed by Zara Umrigar. The outfit featured intricate bead embroidery from top to bottom, a deep V-neckline, a black waist belt, and a dramatic one-sided thigh-high slit that perfectly complemented her elegant yet daring style. Her glamorous look and confident presence quickly became one of the major highlights of the event, earning widespread praise from fashion enthusiasts and fans alike. Adding another feather to her cap, Rakul was honoured with the 'Queen of Style' award at the ceremony. Sharing pictures from the

event on Instagram, the actress expressed her gratitude and happiness over receiving the recognition. "I am truly delighted to receive the Queen of Style award. It is a very special honour in my life. Style has always inspired me and has become a deeply personal part of who I am. This recognition is not just about the clothes I wear, but about how I carry myself in them. Comfort and confidence have always been my way of expressing myself. The thought behind this look reflects my constant inspiration, and I am grateful to my incredible team for making me look so beautiful," Rakul wrote.



Spider-Man Chases ₹500 Cr

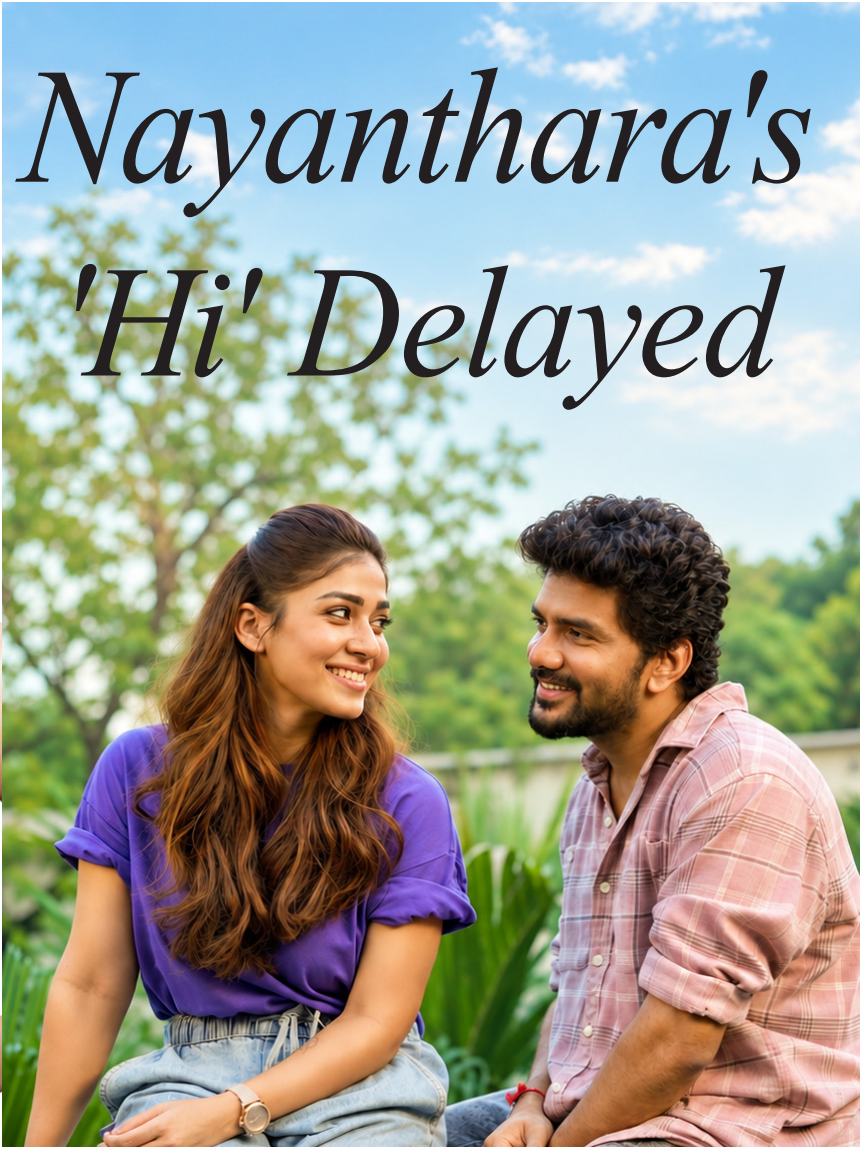
Marvel's latest superhero spectacle, Spider-Man: Brand New Day, is continuing its impressive run at the Indian box office. Despite the arrival of several regional releases, the film is expected to enjoy another strong weekend, thanks to steady audience interest. The film has already collected around Rs 400 crore at the Indian box office, putting it on course for a remarkable lifetime total. Trade circles believe this weekend will be crucial, as a solid performance could help the film build enough momentum to eventually cross the historic Rs 500 crore mark in India. One of the biggest advantages for Spider-Man: Brand New Day is its wide appeal among families and children. The film continues to attract young audiences and parents who prefer

watching superhero action on the big screen. The visual spectacle, action sequences, and emotional moments have made it a popular choice for weekend outings. Even with fresh competition from regional films, the Marvel entertainer is holding its ground at multiplexes across the country. Strong occupancy in premium formats and positive word-of-mouth are expected to support its collections over the weekend. If the film manages to post another healthy weekend total, the 500 crore club in India could become a reality during its full theatrical run, making it one of the biggest Hollywood blockbusters ever in the country.



Kriti Sanon Serves Old Hollywood Cocktail Chic

Kriti Sanon knows exactly how to make an entrance, and her latest cocktail-ready look proves it once again. Fresh off back-to-back success with Cocktail 2, the actress continues to prove she has one of the strongest box office records in the industry right now, effortlessly balancing commercial hits with her fashion game. For this shoot, Kriti opted for a striking midnight blue gown by Gaurav Gupta, featuring a structured bucket corset, shimmering all-over embroidery, and a dramatic sheer cape sleeve that added instant drama to the silhouette. She kept her hair slicked back and let statement jewellery and a smoky eye complete the moody, celestial vibe, proving once again that she can pull off sculptural couture with total ease. On the work front, Kriti hasn't announced any new projects yet. Given her track record, whatever she signs next is bound to be a big deal.



Nayanthara's 'Hi' Delayed

The makers of director Vishnu Edavan's eagerly awaited romantic entertainer 'Hi', featuring actors Nayanthara and Kavin in the lead, on Friday announced that the film would now hit screens worldwide on August 28 this year. Seven Screen Studios, one of the production houses producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, "We know you've been waiting to say HI :) and here's when you finally can! Mark your calendars for AUGUST 28 as the most heartwarming entertainer of the season arrives in theatres. Get ready for the fun-filled #HiMovie, featuring #Nayanthara and @Kavin_m_0431. A @jenmartinmusic Musical. A film directed by @VishnuEdavani." For the unaware, the film was originally scheduled to hit screens on August 14. However, now the makers have decided to release the film on August 28. It may be recalled that the Censor Board has already cleared the film for release with a U/A certificate. The film, which is being jointly produced by Zeen Studios South, The Rowdy Pictures and Seven Screen Studios, will also feature a host of actors including K

Bhagyaraj, Prabhu, Radhika, Sathyan, Adithya Kathir and Kureishi among others. Sources close to the unit of the film have told IANS that the story of the film takes place across three cities -- Chennai, Coimbatore and Pollachi. They also point out that the film will be a family entertainer and that it would not have any villains featuring in it. Vishnu Edavan, who is making his debut as a director with this film, had earlier worked as an associate director to ace director Lokesh Kanagaraj in several of his projects including 'Kaithi', 'Master' and 'Vikram'. Director Vishnu Edavan, while commenting about his film earlier, had said that it would be a wholesome family entertainer that would speak about true love. Expectations from the film are high as this will be the first time that actors Nayanthara and Kavin are acting together. The film, which boasts of a strong technical team, will have music by Jen Martin and cinematography by Rajesh Shukla. Editing for the film will be by the capable Philomin Raj and art direction will be by Shekhar B. Dances in the film are to be choreographed by Brinda while stunts are to be choreographed by Dinesh Kasi.