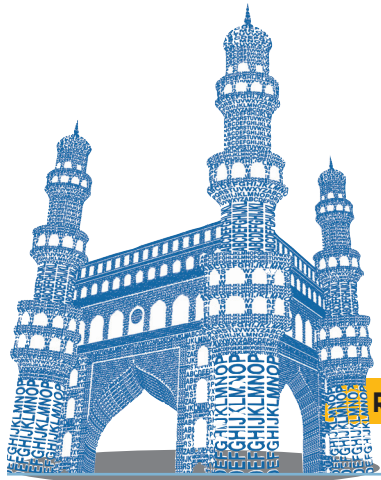




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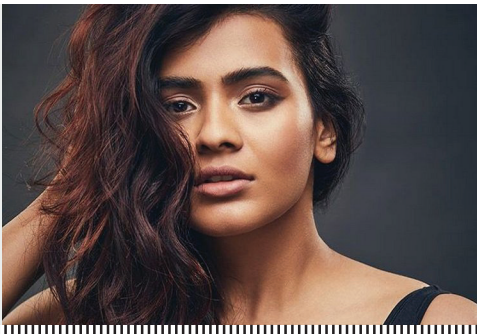


In the Age of AI, Should Schools Teach Knowledge – or How to Think?

OPINION

06

HEBAH TURNS UP THE HEAT



BOX OFFICE

12

SHORT

TAKES

Don't abuse our nation, will cost you dearly: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, Aug 30

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday took serious exception to protesters allegedly desecrating the Indian flag outside the New York venue where RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addressed an event.

Posting a purported video of the protest on X, Rijiju said, "We always said, you have freedom to criticise RSS, BJP or government. But don't abuse our nation." "Listen carefully... Do not insult our flag and my country. It will cost you dearly," the Union minister said.

FIR Against Rahul Gandhi Over Haldwani Remarks

HALDWANI, Aug 30:

An FIR has been registered against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over alleged casteist remarks concerning a religious ritual at the venue of an AICC programme in Haldwani. Police said the case invokes provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act following a complaint by a Valmiki community member. The complainant alleged that Gandhi's remarks at a press conference in Delhi on August 29 hurt the sentiments of the Valmiki community.

THOUSANDS MISSING?

Nearly 800 people are dead across Nepal and China, with fears the toll could rise as searches continue
More than 3,000 people remain missing as rescuers struggle through unstable terrain, rising rivers and fresh rainfall across the Himalayas

Kathmandu/Beijing, August 30: Rescue teams in Nepal and China on Sunday intensified efforts to locate thousands of people missing after a devastating glacier collapse triggered massive floods and mudslides across the Himalayas, even as heavy rain, rising river levels and unstable terrain hampered operations.

Authorities said the death toll on both sides of the Nepal-China border had climbed to nearly 800, while more than 3,000 people remained missing after torrents of ice, rocks, mud and debris swept through mountain valleys and river systems on Wednesday.

Nepal's disaster management authorities reported 781 deaths and 2,502 people missing. In China's Gyirong County, 16 people were confirmed dead and another 546 remained unaccounted for.

The International Red Cross estimated that more than 90,000 people had been affected by the disaster. Chinese authorities linked the catastrophe to the long-term effects of climate change and glacier instability. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the disaster as one of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Telangana Traveller Missing Count Rises to 23

Two Telangana-linked travellers confirmed safe, while families continue to seek information about those still untraced

02

PEOPLE OF TELANGANA READY FOR A CHANGE: NRR

Hyderabad,Aug 30 : BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today emphasized that a party office is not merely a building, it is like a temple which has a special place in the hearts of our karyakartas.

He was addressing a gathering after inauguration of Medchal-Malkajgiri new BJP Office. He said the party office, just as a temple sacred to devotees, it has a special place in the hearts of our karyakartas where we plan our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Another Major Land Scam by the Congress Government

Revanth has his eye on Oilfed land worth 500 crore at RTC Cross Roads, Azamabad

Former minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao lashes out at alleged conspiracies to hand over government property to private parties

Warning that the decision must be withdrawn, or a major agitation will follow

Harish Rao writes an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, August 30: Strongly condemning the Congress government's alleged move to hand over government-owned Telangana Oilfed land in Azamabad at RTC Cross Roads, reportedly worth around ₹500 crore, to private individuals, former minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao has written an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He strongly criticized the alleged privatization of assets that have been under government control for decades for the sake of commissions.

Key points from former minister Harish Rao's open letter:

The Congress government is handing over yet another highly valuable piece of government land in the heart of the city to private individuals.



The Revanth Reddy government, which has allegedly abandoned public welfare, has turned into a real estate agency. The government is handing over Oilfed land in Azamabad at RTC Cross Roads, reportedly worth ₹500 crore, to private parties. There is a major conspiracy to hand over land worth ₹500 crore in the open market to a private individual for just ₹87 crore. Even though Oilfed, a government-owned

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Velugonda Jala Sirulu – Abhivruddhiki Rekkalu



AMARAVATI AUGUST 30

Fulfilling three decades old dream of people of drought-prone areas of Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the first phase of Velugonda irrigation project and release water on Monday.

A historic moment will unfold as Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who laid the foundation stone for the Velugonda project on March 5, 1996, as the Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, will personally inaugurate its

CM Chandrababu Naidu to inaugurate Velugonda project Phase-I and release water on today

Three decades old dream of drought-prone areas of Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts come true with Velugonda

Historic moment: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation for Velugonda project and now inaugurating

first phase three decades later. The State Government is organising the inauguration ceremony on a grand scale under the theme 'Velugonda Jala Sirulu – Abhivruddhiki Rekkalu' (Velugonda Waters – Wings for Development).

For a region that has suffered for decades from inadequate rainfall, depleted groundwater, fluoride contamination and shortage of irrigation water, Velugonda is not merely an irrigation project, but a lifeline that can transform its future. The project has been designed to divert Krishna waters

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Modi Receives 'Order of Highest Friendship'

New Delhi, aug 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received another rare international honor. During his visit to Uzbekistan, Modi was conferred the country's highest state award, the 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Medal. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev presented the prestigious award to Prime Minister Modi.

Uzbekistan said the award was presented in recognition of Modi's efforts to strengthen friendship, mutual trust, and cooperation between India and Uzbekistan. Notably, this is the 36th international honor received by Modi. Dedicated to the enduring bond

between the two countries

After receiving the award, Prime Minister Modi thanked the Uzbek government and President Mirziyoyev. Modi said he was dedicating this highest honor not as a personal award, but to the enduring friendship between India and Uzbekistan.

Modi said the two countries have shared historical and cultural ties for centuries and emphasized the need to further strengthen them through a modern partnership.

'Do'stlik' means friendship

Modi also made a special reference

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CJP founders may have political ambitions: Sonam



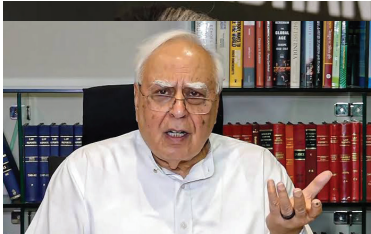
New Delhi: Prominent activist Sonam Wangchuk said that he believes the founders of the Chakroach Janata Party (CJP) have political ambitions. He made it clear that there is nothing wrong with young leaders entering politics or forming their own political parties.

Wangchuk said he closely observed the CJP founders during a protest held at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Although they did not tell him directly, he said he came to the conclusion that they have political aspirations.

Speaking on a podcast with Prakhar Gupta, Wangchuk remarked that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

'Why Not Say It in India?' Sibal Targets Bhagwat



New Delhi, aug 30: Rajya Sabha MP and former Union minister Kapil Sibal has strongly reacted to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks during his visit to the United States. Sibal sarcastically said that instead of merely speaking positively about India's diversity and equality abroad, Bhagwat should demonstrate the same message through action in India as well.

Speaking at an event in the United States, Mohan Bhagwat said, "Diversity is the decoration of our unity, and we must preserve it." He said that diversity is part of the DNA of both India and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER

Telangana Traveller Missing Count Rises to 23

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 30

The number of travellers from Telangana reported missing in the Nepal-Tibet disaster rose to 23 on Friday, even as two Telangana-linked travellers, Ravinder Reddy Kumbham and Alli Ilesha, were confirmed safe, officials said.

The latest person added to the missing list was 37-year-old Dhanpal Reddy of Manikonda, whose family contacted the Telangana Bhavan helpline after being unable to reach him for two days.

Officials said the list includes people who travelled from Telangana as well as NRIs with roots in the state. The number is being revised as authorities receive information from families and local contacts.

Two Travellers Confirmed Safe

Ravinder Reddy Kumbham, who works in the US, had completed the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and was travelling through Tibet when the floods struck. His family said he contacted them and confirmed that he was safe and travelling with his group by bus towards Nepal.

The group is now looking for ways to reach Kathmandu air-

port as several roads have been badly damaged.

Alli Ilesha, an LLB graduate from Mahabubnagar, was also confirmed safe. His family said he briefly contacted them through WhatsApp and told them he had walked nearly 40 km after losing contact with them. However, they have been unable to reach him since.

Officials Continue Tracking

Telangana Bhavan officials said rescue and tracking efforts were continuing in coordination with the Telangana Secretariat control room and authorities on the ground.

“The number of those untraced from the state could still rise,” an official said, noting that damaged roads and disrupted communication were making it difficult to establish whether travellers were missing, stranded or safe.

Officials said tracing Telangana-origin NRIs was particularly challenging because some hold foreign passports but had actually travelled from Hyderabad. Helplines: Telangana Bhavan — 9871999044, 9949351270, 9618597969. Secretariat Control Room — 9885371189, 7997959754, 9440854433.

HYDERABAD, AUG 30

Minister for Forests, Environment and Endowments Konda Surekha has directed officials to make elaborate arrangements for the Godavari Pushkaralu in a manner that showcases Telangana's distinct identity, culture and traditions.

She said the facilities being created for devotees should provide not only a spiritual experience but also reflect the grandeur of Telangana's hospitality and cultural heritage.

Konda Surekha inaugurated the office of the Special Officer, established on the first floor of Praja Bhavan in Hy-

derabad on Sunday, to ensure effective coordination of arrangements for the Godavari Pushkaralu, scheduled to be held in Telangana from June 26 to July 7, 2027.

The Minister inspected various sections of the office along with officials of the Endowments Department and later conducted a review meeting in the newly established conference hall on the premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Konda Surekha said Rajamahendravaram had traditionally been the place most prominently associated with the Godavari Pushkaralu. She directed officials to organise

the upcoming festival in Telangana on a grand scale and in a manner that highlights the State's unique identity, making Telangana a distinctive destination for the Pushkaralu.

She said the Special Officer's office would function as the central coordination point among various government departments, district administrations, local bodies and the Endowments department for the conduct of the festival.

In view of the large number of devotees expected to attend, the office would play a crucial role in coordinating infrastructure development, construction and improve-

ment of bathing ghats, sanitation, drinking water supply, transportation, traffic regulation, security, medical services and uninterrupted power supply, she said.

The office would also facilitate regular reviews of the progress of various works to ensure their timely completion and the successful conduct of the Pushkaralu, the Minister said.

Konda Surekha welcomed the sanction of ₹1,000 crore by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for conducting the Godavari Pushkaralu on a grand scale. Endowments Director Hanumantha Rao, RJC Ramakrishna Rao, DC Krishna

“A Birth Anniversary Tribute That Keeps Paritala Ravindra’s Spirit Alive”



Medchal-Malkajgiri, August 30: On Sunday, leaders of TDP came together with deep respect and emotion to mark the Birth Anniversary of late former minister Paritala Ravindra. The tribute program was held under the leadership of Atluri Deepak at JNTUH, NTR Circle, where party leaders and supporters garlanded and honored his portrait, remembering the legacy he left behind.

The event brought together several prominent figures, including Cherukuri Ravi, Madan Mohan, Ravi, Sataar, Pawan Marne, Ramakrishna, Rajes, Kolleru Seenu, Murali Krishna, Konda Lavu, Koteswara Rao, Sai, Devineni Subbu, and others. Everyone present shared a common sentiment—Paritala Ravindra is not just remembered, but truly felt through the values he stood for.

Speaking on the occasion, Atluri Deepak expressed heartfelt words about the late leader. He said that Paritala Ravindra's commitment, leadership, and service to people remain an inspiration, and that his memories continue to guide the party's path forward. Deepak added that remembering his contributions with reverence is not only a tribute, but a promise to uphold his ideals. As garlands adorned the portrait and tributes echoed through the gathering, the atmosphere reflected a powerful message: though time moves on, the spirit of Paritala Ravindra lives in the hearts of those who believe in his work and ideals.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Modi Receives ‘Order of Highest Friendship’

➤FROM PAGE 1

to the word ‘Do'stlik’ in the name of the award. He explained that just as the familiar Indian word ‘dost’ means ‘friend’, ‘Do'stlik’ in the Uzbek language means ‘friendship’.

Modi said the award symbolizes the friendship between India and Uzbekistan. He added that the honor would inspire both countries to further strengthen the people-to-people ties between them.

A series of international honors for Modi

Prime Minister Modi has been receiving the highest civilian and state honors from various countries. These awards have been presented in recognition of his role in strengthening bilateral relations with those nations. The ‘Oliy Darajali Do'stlik’ award conferred by Uzbekistan is the latest significant honor in this list.

On the occasion of Modi receiving the award, the leadership of both countries focused on further expanding strategic, economic, and cultural ties between India and Uzbekistan.

CJP FOUNDERS MAY HAVE POLITICAL AMBITIONS: SONAM

➤FROM PAGE 1

the CJP founders are “not monks.” He said it is natural for them to have political ambitions. However, he stressed that their political aspirations should not undermine the neutrality of the student movement they are leading.

Wangchuk worked alongside CJP founders Abhijeet Deepke, Saurav Das, and Ashutosh Ramka during protests that continued for nearly two months, demanding the removal of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Wangchuk said that if they want to enter politics in the future, they are free to do so, but he has repeatedly advised them not to use the student movement to promote the agenda of any political party.

He said he believes the platform should continue as a politically neutral pressure group, independent of the BJP, Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), or any other political organization.

Wangchuk said he is happy that the CJP founders are still carrying forward the spirit of the movement. He said it is a positive development when young and emerging leaders fight for public issues and eventually enter politics.

Wangchuk also dismissed criticism over Abhijeet Deepke's previous association with the Aam Aadmi Party. He said there is nothing wrong with working with or being associated with a political party. However, he stressed that the student movement itself needs to remain politically neutral.

Another Major Land Scam by the Congress Government

➤FROM PAGE 1

organization, is ready to pay the ₹87 crore, what is the scam behind ignoring the government-owned organization and handing the land over to a private individual?

The government is allegedly trying to take away 3 acres and 23 guntas (15,984 square yards) of land that has been under Oilfed's possession for three decades.

Although the Supreme Court ruled in 1987 that the government had rights over the land after rejecting the claim of a private company, Congress leaders have allegedly disregarded even court judgments for the sake of commissions.

During the ten-year BRS rule, we sincerely protected government assets worth hundreds of crores without ever yielding to private interests.

Now that the Congress government has come to power, it is allegedly distributing thousands of crores worth of land to the rich at throwaway prices

while depriving the poor.

On one hand, ordinary people's houses are being placed on the 22A list, causing them hardship; on the other, expensive government lands are allegedly being handed over cheaply to private parties for commissions.

This is not just the story of the Azamabad land. The Congress is allegedly running a real estate racket in Kokapet, Raidurg and Gachibowli as well. If the government continues to sell off public assets arbitrarily for vested interests, there will eventually be no land left in the state even for temples, schools and, ultimately, cremation grounds. The Chief Minister must immediately cancel this alleged illegal allocation and ensure that the land remains with Oilfed by granting it freehold rights.

If public property is handed over to private individuals, the BRS will not remain a silent spectator. We will launch a major struggle until this decision is withdrawn.

‘Why Not Say It in India?’

➤FROM PAGE 1

United States, and that all human beings are equal. He expressed the view that respecting differences and treating everyone equally are essential for society.

Referring to these remarks, Kapil Sibal responded sarcastically on social media. He criticized Bhagwat, saying, “They speak good words abroad, but remain silent in India.” He said that merely giving speeches about diversity and unity is not enough and that these principles need to be demonstrated through action. “There is no need for

words; it should be shown through actions,” Sibal said. He appeared to suggest that Bhagwat should adopt an equally clear position on issues such as diversity, social equality, and mutual respect within the country.

Bhagwat's remarks in the United States and Sibal's response have now become a topic of discussion in political circles. The central point of Sibal's criticism appears to be that there is a difference between the RSS chief's statements on foreign platforms and the position of his organization in domestic Indian politics.

➤FROM PAGE 1

porogramme, organise activities and work for strengthening the party for the service of the people.“Our activities must expand, our organisation must grow stronger and we must reach every section of society as the people, fed up with anti-people policies of the state Congress government, are increasingly looking towards the Bharatiya Janata Party with hopes”, Rao said.

Launching a scathing attack on Revnanth Reddy-led Congress government, BJP state chief said all sections of people including farmers, students, government employees, retired employees were not happy with the functioning of this government and we must prepared every party karyakarta to take the BJP's message to every house hold exposing misdeeds of Congress government.

Taking a dig on BRS and Congress, Rao said earlier under the BRS government, KCR and his family were happy while the people suffered and today under the Congress government, Revanth Reddy and his brothers may be happy, but the people of Telangana are not happy.

The government has now changed the GHMC Act and brought in the CURE Act, bringing Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Malkajgiri under its ambit. But the new act CURE will ultimately become a “CURSE” for the people of Hy-

derabad as it is planning to put additional burden on common man by imposing different taxes like separate sewage tax and increase of water charges. Under the new act even elected corporators will be rendered powerless. The Mayor too will have little authority because a higher Apex Council will exercise control. Ultimately, all powers will be concentrated in the hands of the Chief Minister, Rao accused.

Criticising anti-people policies of Congress government, Rao alleged that ever since Congress party came to power Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has brought policies that have created fear and hardship among the people. First came HYDRAA, under which the homes of ordinary citizens were demolished.

Then came the HILT policy. The government says industries will be shifted away from the city. While there may be arguments in favour of relocating industries, what about the thousands of workers who depend on them for their livelihoods, he said adding that their workplaces would move farther away, making their daily lives more difficult and at the same time, the government wants to use these lands for real estate.

BJP chief demanded a while paper on the entire controversial 22-A issue and order a judicial inquiry so that the truth comes before the people who

suffered severely with this act. He said the government has effectively acknowledged that mistakes have been committed following complaints from affected people.

On one hand, they demolish properties. On the other hand, they make money by selling government lands. And after doing all this, they bring new laws that further burden poor and middle-class families, he accused and further alleged that this government seems interested only in commissions from builders and real estate, rather than the welfare of ordinary people.

BJP state chief said during the BRS regime, Telangana witnessed a 15 per cent commission culture. Under the Congress government, that has now gone up to 30 per cent.

“Now time has come to teach a lesson to Congress government” he said adding that the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to remain strong in Telangana even recent surveys like C-Voter of India today showed growing support for the BJP.

Recalling his two days hunger strike recently, Rao said thousands of young people and students came to the BJP State Office to express their support and that itself demonstrates the anger and frustration among Telangana's youth who are increasingly standing with the BJP.

THOUSANDS MISSING?

➤FROM PAGE 1

most severe cross-border emergencies in recent years and said rescue operations had reached an unprecedented level of difficulty and complexity.

Rescue Operations Hampered by Fresh Rains

The scale of destruction and difficult Himalayan terrain have severely complicated rescue efforts. In Nepal, rescue workers and residents were forced to move to higher ground after the Trishuli River rose following fresh rainfall, raising fears of further flooding.

Rescue operations have been repeatedly suspended since Friday because of bad weather and concerns over a temporary lake formed near the Nepal-China border. The lake began overflowing into the Lhende Khola and Trishuli rivers, creating fears of

additional flooding downstream.

Although Chinese authorities said the lake had largely drained by Saturday evening, drones later detected a landslide about 2.8 km downstream. The landslide created a new natural dam and a fresh pool of water, adding to concerns among rescue teams.

Hundreds Feared Trapped in Hydropower Tunnels

In Nepal, rescue operations have increasingly focused on five hydropower projects inundated by the floods. Authorities fear that around 350 people could still be trapped inside tunnels at the Upper Trishuli hydropower complex. Nepal has deployed around 10,000 troops, supported by specialist rescue teams from India and China. Military aircraft airlifted heavy machinery to the remote site on Sunday, while rescuers reached the entrance of one tunnel and began clearing tonnes

of debris.

Teams equipped with oxygen supplies and cameras are expected to enter the tunnel once access is secured.

“It's very tough because there's a lot of debris,” said Dharam Raj Uprety, chief of Nepal's national disaster management authority, adding that blasting could not be used because of the risks involved.

Nepal has appealed for international assistance in specialised areas, including tunnel rescue operations, DNA testing, refrigerated storage of bodies and forensic identification.

Mass Burials Begin as Bodies Decompose

As rescue teams continued recovering victims, Nepalese authorities began mass burials of unidentified bodies that had started to decompose.

In Chitwan district, authorities prepared hundreds of graves at Devghat

for victims swept downstream from the flood-hit Rasuwa region. Ninety-six unidentified bodies were buried on Saturday, with more than 100 others scheduled for burial on Sunday.

Officials said DNA samples were collected and burial sites carefully documented so that relatives could potentially identify the victims later.

More than half of the recovered bodies were reportedly beyond recognition. Police said some victims could be identified only from partial remains.

Authorities said the decision to conduct mass burials was driven by concerns over the rapid decomposition of bodies and the resulting public-health risks.

261 Foreign Nationals Missing in Tibet

China said 261 foreign nationals from 23 countries remained unac-

counted for in Tibet near a key border crossing with Nepal. Nationals of Nepal, India and Latvia were among those reported missing.

China has mobilised more than 2,100 rescue workers and allocated at least 220 million yuan for relief operations. Rescue teams have been using drones, life-detection equipment and other specialised technology to search for survivors and locate people trapped under debris.

Chinese state media reported that scientists had linked the disaster to glacier instability associated with long-term global warming, describing the event as an emerging form of cryosphere-related disaster on the Tibetan Plateau. The mudslide from the Nepalese side reportedly reached the Gyirong border crossing within six to seven minutes, leaving little time for people in its path to escape.

Velugonda Jala Sirulu – Abhivruddhiki Rekkalu

➤FROM PAGE 1

from the Srisaillam reservoir through gravity, store them in Nallamala Sagar and utilise them through the main canals for irrigation and drinking water requirements. Once the Velugonda project becomes fully operational, it will provide irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres and benefit people in 30 mandals across Prakasam, Markapuram, Nellore and Kadapa districts. Around 23 lakh people, including those living in flood-affected areas, will benefit from the drinking water component.

With the inauguration of Phase-I, 10.70 TMC of Krishna water will be released into Nallamala Sagar. In the first phase, the government aims to provide irrigation to approximately 1.19 lakh

acres and drinking water to 4 lakh people. The availability of Velugonda waters is expected to create new opportunities in agriculture. Improved irrigation security will reduce uncertainty for farmers and facilitate crop diversification. Reduced dependence on groundwater will also create greater scope for the development of horticulture, agro-processing and food-processing sectors. This, in turn, is expected to improve employment opportunities in rural areas and help curb migration.

As per schedule the Chief Minister will reach the helipad at Gantavanipalli in Dornala mandal of Markapuram district at 10.15 AM tomorrow and proceed to the Velugonda project inauguration venue.



Artificial Intelligence to Create a Personalized Learning Path for Every Student

Student potential must be at the centre of future education policy: Dr. Gopal Reddy

HYDERABAD

The future of education will increasingly focus on personalized learning, with every student receiving an educational pathway suited to their individual talent, interests and pace of learning, said eminent educationist and environmentalist Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Chairman of Lotus Lap Group of Schools, Hyderabad.

He was speaking during a panel discussion on the future of education at the Business Ascent 2026 World Conclave, held at The Park, Hyderabad, where educationists, industry leaders and representatives from educational institutions discussed the emerging trends and challenges in the education sector.

One syllabus and one pace cannot work for everyone

Dr. Gopal Reddy said every student learns differently. Their pace of learning, interests, talents, thinking patterns, strengths, weaknesses and future aspirations vary significantly.

“Education cannot continue with the assumption that every child learns in the same way and at the same pace. The time has come to move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach and design learning experiences according to the needs of individual students,” he said.

At the same time, he stressed that every child must receive a strong educational foundation. Core areas such as language, mathematics, science, social awareness, information technology, communication skills, critical thinking,

values and responsible citizenship must be accessible to every student.

“A strong common foundation is essential, but on that foundation, every student should be allowed to follow a learning path suited to his or her individual potential,” he observed.

AI can identify the learning level of every student

Explaining the potential of Artificial Intelligence in education, Dr. Gopal Reddy said that even in a classroom of 40 students, learning levels can be vastly different.

While some students may understand a concept quickly, others may require additional explanation, more time or greater practice. AI-powered learning systems can analyse student performance and identify who is falling behind, who has mastered a particular concept and who is ready to take on more advanced challenges.

“This is where Artificial Intelligence can become a powerful tool for education. It can help teachers understand the learning needs of every child and provide timely academic support,” he said.

AI is not a replacement for teachers

Dr. Gopal Reddy emphasised that Artificial Intelligence should empower teachers rather than replace them.

Technology may be able to identify where a student is struggling academically, but it cannot replace the human ability to build confidence, remove fear, inspire curiosity, provide emotional support and motivate a child.



“The teacher of the future should not merely be a person who delivers lessons. The teacher must become a mentor, facilitator, motivator, coach and role model,” he said.

Coordination between teacher, student, parents and technology is essential

According to Dr. Gopal Reddy, the future education system will depend on close coordination between teachers, students, parents and technology.

Along with technological skills, students must develop values, discipline, empathy, creativity, critical thinking, social responsibility and respect for others.

He also stressed that AI-enabled education should not remain limited to urban centres or affluent sections of society.

“The benefits of Artificial Intelligence in education must reach rural communities, government schools and children from economically disadvantaged families. Technology should become a tool for educational equality, not another source of inequality,” he said.

Every child's hidden potential must be identified

Dr. Gopal Reddy said the ultimate objective of future

education should not be to make all children identical, but to identify and nurture the unique potential within every child. “Opportunities should be equal for everyone, but the journey towards success can be different for every student,” he said.

He called for the integration of Artificial Intelligence, digital learning and global educational practices to prepare Indian students for opportunities in an increasingly interconnected world.

Eminent personalities participate in education panel

The panel discussion was attended by Professor Etikala Prakash, Vice-Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education; Nithin Kumar Reddy, representative of Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK); Jangam Sunil Kumar, Regional Officer, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Hyderabad Region; Aamir Khan, President, Hyderabad Sahodaya Schools Complex; Madhusudhan Sadula, State President, Telangana Recognised Schools Association; and Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy, Director, Lotus Lap Group of Schools, among others. Educationists, representatives of educational institutions, entrepreneurs

and prominent personalities from various sectors across the country participated in the conclave.

*** Prestigious awards for Lotus Lap Group of Schools**

On the occasion, several institutions under the Lotus Lap Group of Schools received prestigious recognitions for their contribution to education.

Lotus Lap Public School, Boduppal, received the Most Innovative School of the Year 2026 award. The Badangpet and Dilsukhnagar branches were also recognised for their contribution towards educational transformation.

Oakwood International School received the Best International CBSE School recognition, while Samaritan International Public School was honoured with the Best Indian School – CBSE Curriculum School award.

The awards were received by Dr. Gopal Reddy, Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy, principals of the respective schools and administrative officials. Dr. Gopal Reddy said the recognitions had further increased the responsibility of the Lotus Lap Group of Schools to deliver high-quality education.

“These recognitions strengthen our resolve to provide technology-enabled, high-quality education while nurturing values, humanity, leadership qualities and social responsibility among students. Our objective is to prepare children not only for examinations, but also for life and for the opportunities of a rapidly changing global world,” he said.



Telangana to witness moderate to heavy Rains

HYDERABAD

The Meteorological Department has forecast moderate to heavy rains in several districts of Telangana on Sunday and Monday . The Officials have advised the public to remain alert, as gusty winds are expected to accompany the rainfall due to a low-pressure area formed over the northwest Bay of Bengal. The department has issued a rainfall forecast for the eastern and northern regions of Telangana. Moderate rains are likely in the districts of Adilabad, Asifabad, Jagtial, Mancherial, Peddapalli and Karimnagar. A

'Yellow Alert' has been issued for the Bhupalpally, Mulugu, and Mahabubabad districts. Heavy rains are also expected in Warangal, Nizamabad, and Bhadradri Kothagudem districts.

The Meteorological officials have also indicated that moderate to heavy rains were likely in various parts of Hyderabad. The city has remained overcast since Sunday morning. The Officials have advised the residents to stay alert, as moderate to heavy rainfall is anticipated in several areas of the city during the afternoon and night hours. The Officials

have warned that the gusty winds with speeds ranging from 40 to 50 kmph are likely to accompany the rains and have urged the public to exercise caution.

They advised people to avoid taking shelter under trees or near electric poles and hoardings during the rains and gusty winds and asked them to move to safer locations. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has stated that the heavy rains accompanied by thunder and lightning were likely in several districts of Andhra Pradesh including the Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions.

Bhatti meets farm labourers, reviews welfare schemes in Khammam

HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday interacted with agricultural labourers on the outskirts of Rayannapeta village in Bonakal mandal of Khammam district and enquired about the welfare schemes being implemented by the State government.

During his whirlwind tour of the constituency, Bhatti Vikramarka set aside official protocol and personally walked into the agricultural

fields to meet women labourers engaged in farm work.

The women expressed delight at the Deputy Chief Minister's interaction with them and shared their experiences of the changes brought about in their lives by the welfare measures of the Congress government.

The agricultural labourers said the welfare schemes being implemented by the Indiramma People's Government were providing them much-needed support and bringing positive

changes to their lives.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka said the Finance department was regularly releasing the required funds to the concerned departments to ensure the effective implementation of welfare schemes being provided to the people.

He said identifying the needs of the people, addressing them and bringing meaningful change to their lives were the fundamental responsibilities of the People's Government.

Govt will be taught a lesson if Auto Drivers are Deceived Again: T Auto Rickshaw

HYDERABAD

Telangana Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (TARDU) General Secretary B. Venkatesham on Sunday warned that all their issues must be resolved in accordance with the assurances given by State Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar during the last week's discussions with the auto driver unions. He stated that they would not tolerate any further deception of the auto drivers through procrastination or a negligent attitude as seen in the past and threatened severe consequences if such actions recurred.

The leaders from various auto unions felicitated B. Venkatesham and other leaders at Satyanarayana Reddy Bhavan in Himayatnagar of the city in recognition of their efforts to bring the auto drivers' issues to the government's attention and seek resolutions.

Speaking on the occasion,



Venkatesham demanded the speedy implementation of Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar's promises:

increasing the auto meter fares in line with rising costs, establishing a welfare board for transport workers, providing ₹12,000 in annual financial

aid and third-party insurance to the auto drivers, launching a government-run auto app and resolving other pending issues.

He warned that failure to do so would trigger massive, unprecedented protests, including the blockade of the Assembly, the Secretariat, and the

Chief Minister's residence with thousands of the auto-rickshaws and cabs. The Union leaders Bikshapathi Yadav, Munnu Krishna, Ch. Jangayya, S. Ashok, Bhaskar, Ghani, Md. Khaja, M. Narasimha, M. Srinivas and others also participated in the event .

BRS remembering disabled welfare only after losing power, says Adluri

HYDERABAD

Questioning the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) over its record on the welfare of persons with disabilities, Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar asked whether the party had remembered the community only after being voted out of power.

“Those who ruled the State for 10 years as if they were the kings and ministers, and as if no one could question them, are now talking about the welfare of persons with disabilities,” the Minister said, strongly condemning the criticism levelled by former minister and BRS leader T Harish Rao.

Addressing a media conference at the CLP Media Centre here on Sunday, Lakshman Kumar alleged that Harish Rao had spoken blatant lies at a meeting organised with persons with disabilities. He also object-



ed to Harish Rao's alleged use of singular and disrespectful references while criticising Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The Minister further alleged that persons with disabilities were forcibly brought to the meeting and made to listen to political criticism. “If you want to speak about the problems of persons with disabilities, speak with facts and figures. Using

them for political purposes is not acceptable,” he said. The Minister alleged that the BRS had failed to fulfil even a single major promise made to persons with disabilities in its 2014, 2018 and 2023 election manifestos.

“Promises were made when you were in power. Ten years passed. Now, after losing power, you suddenly claim to be con-

cerned about persons with disabilities. This is nothing but an attempt to mislead people,” he said. Lakshman Kumar said the BRS government had failed to demonstrate a comprehensive vision for the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities during its decade-long tenure.

The Congress government, in contrast, had accorded priority to the welfare of persons with disabilities, he said. The Minister said the government had spent Rs 50 crore on vehicles, battery-operated vehicles and other assistive devices for persons with disabilities. Another Rs 50 crore will be allocated next year to provide vehicles and other equipment, he added.

The Minister also reiterated that the State government was committed to increasing the pension for persons with disabilities to Rs 6,000.

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1,000 Days of Welfare, Development: Congress Unveils Telangana Report Card

- **Uttam highlights 3.42 crore fine-rice beneficiaries, farm loan waiver for around 25 lakh farmers and nearly 70,000 government jobs**
- **Women's welfare, housing, healthcare, food security and infrastructure among major focus areas**



HYDERABAD

Completing 1,000 days in office, the Congress Government has showcased a broad expansion of welfare and development in Telangana, combining greater public access to governance with major initiatives in food security, women's empowerment, farmer welfare, healthcare, housing, employment and infrastructure.

Reddy, presenting an assessment of the Government's first 1,000 days, said welfare and development had progressed simultaneously, with food security, farmer support, women's empowerment and social justice receiving particular emphasis.

Among the Government's major initiatives is the supply of six kg of fine rice per person to approximately 3.42 crore beneficiaries. Lakhs of deserving families have also received new ration cards, followed by the statewide introduction of smart ration cards.

Women's welfare has been another major focus, with free RTC bus travel providing greater mobility, independence and household savings. Under Gruha Jyothi, eligible households receive up to 200 units of free electricity, while LPG cylinders are being provided at Rs 500. Rajiv Aarogyasri health coverage has been enhanced to Rs 10 lakh. Housing has been taken up through the Indiramma housing programme, under which assistance of Rs 5 lakh is being

provided to help poor families realise their dream of owning a dignified home. The Government has also placed farmer welfare at the centre of its programmes. Crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh have been waived, benefiting around 25 lakh farmers, while Rythu Bharosa assistance has been increased to Rs 12,000 per acre. Large-scale paddy procurement and bonus payments for fine varieties have provided additional support to farmers and strengthened the rural economy.

Uttam said development had moved forward alongside welfare. Nearly 70,000 government jobs had been filled, while the Young India Skills University, Advanced Technology Centres and Integrated Residential Schools were among the initiatives aimed at creating opportunities for the younger generation.

Investments in irrigation projects, roads, urban infrastructure and long-term development plans

for Hyderabad were simultaneously laying the foundation for the State's future growth. The caste survey and progress on SC categorisation reflected the Government's emphasis on social justice.

The Minister said these achievements had been recorded despite the fiscal burden inherited by the Government, including massive debts, off-budget liabilities, unpaid commitments and incomplete projects. Even while meeting heavy repayment obligations, the Government had protected welfare expenditure and increased productive capital investment.

Uttam said the 1,000-day period had also witnessed a significant change in the functioning of government. The administration had become more accessible, ministers were engaging directly with people, public issues were being debated in the Assembly and citizens were able to voice their concerns and criticism freely.

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■ **Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, personality development expert**

KARIMNAGAR

Youth who grow up hungry for the subject and technology of their choice will achieve their dreams and succeed in life, said renowned personality development expert and retired principal Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. Addressing the NCC cadets at the 10-day NCC joint annual training camp being held at the Ramnagar Police Training College premises in Karimnagar town, he urged everyone to identify their hidden strengths and weaknesses. He called for reducing their weaknesses and gradually increasing their strengths

to achieve better personalities. He said that good habits are formed with good friends, and if good habits are accompanied by a good lifestyle, high results will be ours. He said that the path to follow for youth with a specific goal is clear and easy to reach. He said that if we grow up achieving higher results than today, tomorrow, we will stand at the first place one day. He said that the only permanent cure for poverty is higher education.

He wished that women should take steps towards higher education and rise to a respectable level. NCC officers, army training personnel and 500 cadets participated in this program organized under the chairmanship of Camp Commandant Col Jayantha. Later, Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy was felicitated by Camp Commandant Col Jayantha.

Special measures will be taken for the comprehensive development of Gollapalli village: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar



Dr Srinivas Vooradi HANUMAKONDA

"All the steps will be taken to develop Gollapalli village in Bhimadavarapalli mandal of Husnabad constituency in all sectors," said Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar. The Minister visited Gollapalli village on Sunday as part of the "Pelle Pallo Ponnanna Anna - Pelle Pallo Praja Palana" program. He inaugurated a free veterinary camp set up in the village. Later, he held a review with officials in the presence of the public on the implementation of welfare schemes and development programs. The Minister received petitions from the villagers regarding personal, social and infrastructure issues and instructed them to speak to the officials concerned to resolve the issues and take immediate action. The Minister said that after the formation of the government, 3 Indiramma houses were sanctioned in Gollapalli village, three houses have been completed, and more Indiramma houses will be sanctioned soon in the second phase. Rs. 1.57 lakhs are being released for 55 pensions in the village and 11 applications have been received so far for new pensions and 108 families have benefited from 200 units of free electricity supply through the Gruha Jyoti scheme, amounting to Rs. 97,200 and an amount of Rs. 51,174 has been released to 74 families through the Mahalakshmi gas subsidy, he added.

Further an amount of Rs. 5.75 lakhs was provided to 13 SHGs under interest-free loans to women's groups and Rs. 3.15 crores were provided to 13 SHGs under bank linkage, said the Minister and added that to reduce the use of plastic, 300 steel bank kits were provided by women's groups in the village, each kit containing 13 types of items. He said that Rs.51.18 lakhs have been released to 47 farmers under farmer loan waiver and Rs.1.12 crores have been released to 255 farmers under Rythu Bharosa and a cheque of Rs.5 lakhs has been given to a farmer family under Rythu Bima and Rs.60 thousand has been released to four farmers under Sanna Vadla Bonus.

The Minister said that Kalyana Lakshmi cheques and 200 new ration cards have been distributed to 16 beneficiaries, and the distribution of fine rice to ration card holders is ongoing and the work on internal CC roads in the village was completed with a cost of Rs. 25 lakh, Indiramma saarees were provided to 145 women, and development works were undertaken with a cost of Rs. 3.5 lakh for Mission Bhagiratha drinking water supply. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has made it clear that he is responsible for completing the Gouravelli project and filling the project with water soon.

The government will provide compensation for the land acquisition for the Gauravelli canals. The case pending in the Supreme Court has also been dismissed. We will fill the project with water soon," the Minister said.

Responding to the issues raised by village sarpanch leader Chandramohan and the villagers, the

minister said that a proposal of Rs. 3.5 crore has been sent for the construction of a road from Gollapalli Bus Station towards Muttharam-Gatla Narsingapur and it will be sanctioned soon. The officials were instructed to send proposals for the construction of a road from Gollapalli to Veeranna Naik Thanda and a road from Gollapalli Temple to Veerbhadrannagar. Electricity officials were instructed to resolve the problem of electricity poles in the village.

It was announced that an open gym and a water plant will be sanctioned for the village. The Minister promised to sanction Rs. 20 lakhs for the Gram Panchayat building and Rs. 10 lakhs for the women's building as soon as the resolution was passed after the land acquisition and assured that the water problems in the village will be resolved and that actions will be taken to examine pipeline, borehole, motor, etc. problems where necessary and steps will be taken to develop more CC roads, drainage and other infrastructure in the village.

The Minister said that the application process for the new pensions will continue till the 31st of this month. He advised eligible persons like widows, single women, disabled, geetha workers, handloom workers, teachers, thalassemia, HIV victims, etc. to apply. ZP CEO Seshadri, District Agriculture Officer Satyanarayana Reddy, Horticulture Officer Kamalakhar Reddy, district and mandal level officials, public representatives, farmers, members of women's groups, village people and others participated.

Political reunification from the platform of Induru

NIZAMABAD

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, president of the Telangana Rakshana Sena, is laying the groundwork for political reunification from the platform of Induru. She is set to sound the battle cry from the Panchajanya Sankalpa Sabha to be held on Monday at the Nizamabad Collectorate Ground, Kavitha is making strategic moves with the upcoming Assembly and Parliament elections as her target. In the 2014 elections, Kavitha played a major role in devising the strategy that helped defeat several senior leaders across the nine Assembly constituencies and two Lok Sabha constituencies of the erstwhile Nizamabad district. While she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Nizamabad, she helped a new candidate win the Zaheerabad Lok Sabha seat. Of the nine candidates who won the nine Assembly seats, four had previously served as MLAs, while five entered the Assembly for the first time after securing their maiden victories.

Kavitha worked actively to unite senior and junior leaders, party cadres, and Telangana supporters, helping the party win all the seats. When Nizamabad MLA Endala Laxmina



rayana resigned from his Assembly seat in support of the movement for a separate Telangana state and contested the by-election again, Kavitha played a key role in mobilising support, going door-to-door and campaigning to defeat senior leader D. Srinivas. Kavitha, who popularised Bathukamma globally through the Telangana Jagruthi organisation, has been active in public life for two decades. She established the Telangana Rakshana Sena party on April 25 this year. On the occasion of Sri Rama Navami, Kavitha performed special prayers at the Khilla Ramalayam and sought the blessings of Sri Sitaramachandra for the

political party she was planning to establish. Monday will be the first time she steps onto the soil of Induru after forming the new political party.

The meeting has been organised to strongly take the Telangana Rakshana Sena party's main agenda, Panchajanyam, to the people. Along with explaining the party's principal agenda to the public, Kavitha is expected to use the same platform to call for the political reunification of leaders from the erstwhile Nizamabad district. She is working to bring together Telangana supporters and activists belonging to different political parties, as well

as leaders who have an emotional connection with this region, onto a single platform and pave the way for victory in all constituencies in the upcoming Assembly and Parliament elections.

More than 25,000 leaders and party workers from all Assembly constituencies are being mobilised for the Panchajanya Sankalpa Sabha, which will be held at the Nizamabad Collectorate Ground at 4 p.m. on Monday. From the same platform, Kalvakuntla Kavitha will blow the Panchajanya conch and address the people of Nizamabad, who she says gave her a political platform. She is expected to announce a blueprint for transforming the geographically achieved Telangana state into a Telangana based on social justice, development, and empowerment of all sections of society. As poor, economically weaker, and middle-class families spend a major portion of their earnings on education and healthcare, she is expected to announce completely free education and healthcare. She will announce plans to provide 400,000 government jobs to unemployed youth, along with 100,000 supernumerary posts for Telangana movement activists.

Nepal Flood Disaster: Special Coordination for Tracing Telangana-Linked Persons and Identification of Mortal Remains

NEW DELHI

In the wake of the flood disaster in Nepal, Telangana Bhavan officials are maintaining continuous coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Embassy of India in Kathmandu and Nepal Police for tracing Telangana-linked persons, ensuring their safe movement, and facilitating the identification and repatriation of mortal remains.

According to information shared by officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, 449 Indian nationals crossed from Tibet into Nepal on 29 August. Arrangements are underway to facilitate the movement of another 397 Indian nationals through the same route on 30 August.

In the list received, the name and passport details of Shri Ali Ilesha matched the records available with Telangana Bhavan. His family has confirmed that he is in contact with them and that he is expected to reach Hyderabad at around 10.00 p.m. tonight. The Government of Nepal has made available photographs and basic particulars of the deceased on the Nepal Police Disaster Portal. The process of identifying mortal remains



kept in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahun, Nawalparasi East, Nawalparasi West and Kathmandu districts is underway. According to Nepal Police, DNA profiling is not mandatory where visual identification is possible. The mortal remains will be handed over to the next of kin upon establishing the identity of the deceased and their relationship with the deceased. Where visual identification is not possible, DNA profiles of first-degree relatives, such as parents, brothers or sisters, will be matched with the samples collected by Nepal forensic authorities.

Relatives are not required to travel to Nepal solely for DNA profil-

ing. DNA profiles prepared at their place of residence may be submitted for matching. Nepal Police is also working on a mechanism for receiving such DNA profiles in advance through email.

The detailed protocol for identification, handover and repatriation of mortal remains is still being finalised by the Nepal authorities. Families are therefore requested to obtain necessary guidance from Telangana Bhavan or the Embassy of India in Kathmandu before undertaking DNA testing or travelling to Nepal for identification. Further information in each case will be shared with the concerned families and the public only after official confirmation.

NTPC Ramagundam EMG Department hosts initiatives on 'Waste Management and Recycling'

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

PEDDAPALLI

The Environmental Management Group (EMG) of NTPC Ramagundam on Sunday held a Waste Segregation Awareness Programme aimed at the waste collection workers in the Township.

This session focused on the significance of properly sorting waste, safe handling techniques, and the scientific methods for disposal. The workers were educated on the critical need for maintaining segregation throughout the collection and transportation processes, ensuring that recyclable materials are appropriately channelled.

Additionally, the EMG Department, in collaboration with DRCC, Gowthami Nagar, facilitated a program titled "Waste to Value - Earn from Waste" for the residents of the Township.

Community members were invited to bring their sorted recyclable materials, such as paper, cardboard, plastic, metals, and glass, for collection and recycling. The initiative sought to foster awareness about source segregation, promote recycling practices, and highlight the economic benefits of recyclable waste.

Furthermore, the EMG Department conducted a training session for the waste collection workers to underscore the necessity of proper segregation, handling, collection, and disposal methods in a manner that is both scientifically sound and environmentally responsible.

All party workers should strengthen BJP, says Union Minister Kishan Reddy

HYDERABAD

Union Minister Kishan Reddy on Sunday urged everyone to strengthen the party through better coordination. He made these remarks while addressing a gathering at Tandur party meeting held on the occasion of the appointment of the party leader Ramesh as the Vikarabad District party President.

Speaking on the occasion, He recalled the significant electoral support the party garnered in this region during the tenures of the party leaders like Tiger Narendra, Baddam

Bal Reddy and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy. He expressed confidence that the BJP would emerge victorious in all three assembly constituencies of the district in the upcoming assembly elections. He reminisced about hoisting the first BJP flag alongside Sarveshwar Reddy and Bal Reddy during the party's inception in July 1980. He noted that the BJP shares a deep bond with the people of Tandur and has a history of successfully challenging the Majlis party. He emphasised that a massive victory was achievable if everyone works collectively. He criticized the "dynas-



tic plunder" witnessed by the public during the ten years of BRS party's rule in Telangana and alleged that the newly elected Congress government had also turned the administration into a "commission-based

regime. He accused state ministers and MLAs of looting public wealth by fixing a 30% commission rate on real estate deals, contracts and construction projects. He expressed concern that Telangana, which was formed

with a budget surplus, was now reeling under a debt burden of ₹13 lakh crore, with the situation becoming so dire that even retired employees are not receiving their due benefits. He lashed out at the BRS and Congress parties, holding them responsible for the state's current plight.

Kishan Reddy questioned the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking him if PM Modi should resign for achievements such as a corruption-free tenure, curbing terrorism, the peaceful construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, protecting the rights of Muslim women and provid-

ing free rice to the poor and subsidies to farmers? He remarked that the fact that a leader from a Backward Class (BC) background has become the Prime Minister for the first time and is delivering corruption-free governance had become a thorn in the side of the Congress party. He urged the people, who have witnessed the regimes of both Congress and BRS, to give the BJP a chance to provide good governance. He called upon all the party workers to approach the people with confidence and unity, fight for public issues and strive to hoist the BJP flag in Telangana.

Chennai–
Howrah Mail to
Be Rescheduled
on Select Days



Chennai, August 30: Train services on the Chennai–Howrah route will undergo changes due to the replacement of the existing steel girder with a concrete girder at Bridge No. 237 between Pedapariya and Nayudupeta stations in the Chennai Division.

As part of the work, Train No. 12840 Dr MGR Chennai Central–Howrah Superfast Mail, scheduled to depart Chennai Central at 7 pm on August 31, September 3 and September 10, 2026, will be rescheduled to depart at 8 pm, with a delay of one hour.

The same train scheduled for September 5 and 12 will leave Chennai Central at 9 pm instead of the scheduled 7 pm departure, resulting in a delay of two hours. Passengers have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly.

Jagan Accuses Naidu of
Taking Credit for Veligonda

Vijayawada, Aug 30: YSR Congress Party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday expressed satisfaction over the Veligonda Project becoming a reality, calling it the fulfilment of his father YS Rajasekhara Reddy's dream, while sharply criticising Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for allegedly attempting to "rewrite" the project's history and "steal" credit.

In a detailed post on X, Jagan said the project serves as a lifeline for lakhs of families suffering from fluorosis due to lack of safe drinking water and for farmers' long-awaited irrigation. He said his government had completed the most challenging twin tunnels and dedicated them to the nation, enabling Krishna waters to flow through them.



Jagan accused Naidu and "yellow media" of running a publicity campaign to steal credit for work done by others. He claimed the foundation stone alone was laid by Naidu, while the vision and comprehensive development belonged to YSR. The crucial twin tunnels, he said, were completed during the YSRCP government's tenure.

According to Jagan,

Naidu hurriedly laid the foundation stone in 1996 just before elections and then abandoned the project. Despite remaining in power for eight years until 2004, Naidu's government spent only Rs 10 lakh, mostly on the foundation stone ceremony, he alleged. After becoming Chief Minister, YSR gave the project a comprehensive shape under Jalayagnam, initiating

construction of the twin tunnels, Nallamala Sagar reservoir, three dams, feeder channel and main canals. Of the total 37,587-km twin tunnel length, 20,333 km was completed under YSR's initiatives.

During Naidu's 2014-2019 term, only 6,686 km was completed without a breakthrough in either tunnel. The remaining and most difficult 10,568 km was finished by the YSRCP government despite the COVID-19 pandemic and financial constraints—Tunnel-1 in January 2021 and Tunnel-2 in January 2024. The tunnels were dedicated on March 6, 2024, along with head regulators and canal-linking works, he said.

Jagan questioned how Naidu could claim to have built the entire project. He further accused the present

government of neglecting the region by failing to complete the 131-bed super speciality hospital at Peddador-nala and the government medical college at Markapuram, both initiated by the previous regime, and of allegedly attempting to privatise the medical college. He also criticised delays in rehabilitating displaced families, incomplete payment of resettlement and rehabilitation packages, and failure to convey water to Nallamala Sagar for over two years.

Jagan urged Naidu to set aside publicity, fill the reservoir, supply irrigation and drinking water, and complete the hospital and medical college in the government sector, stating that the people of the backward region needed these benefits rather than credit-stealing politics.

Assam to Get
Proton Beam
Cancer Therapy
GMCH to House 600-Crore Facility



Guwahati, August 30: Assam is set to take a major step forward in cancer care with the State Cabinet approving the installation of a Proton Beam Therapy machine at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). The facility is expected to make Assam the third centre in India to offer Proton Beam Therapy, after the Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai and Apollo Proton Cancer Centre in Chennai. It will also be the first government hospital in the country to introduce the advanced technology.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the Cabinet decision and said the proposed facility would strengthen Assam's cancer-care infrastructure and improve access to specialised treatment for patients from the Northeast. Proton Beam Therapy is an advanced form of radiation treatment used to treat certain cancers and non-cancerous tumours. Unlike conventional radiation therapy, which generally uses X-rays, proton therapy uses high-energy, positively charged particles called protons to target tumours with greater precision. The technology is designed to deliver radiation directly to the tumour while potentially reducing exposure to surrounding healthy tissues and organs. This can help minimise certain side

effects associated with radiation treatment. However, medical studies have not conclusively established that proton therapy is more effective than conventional radiation therapy in improving long-term survival for all cancers.

The proposed facility at GMCH is expected to benefit patients from Assam as well as other northeastern states by reducing the need to travel to Mumbai, Chennai or other cities for highly specialised radiation treatment. It could also strengthen GMCH's role as a major referral centre for cancer care in the region.

600-crore project

The Proton Beam Therapy machine is estimated to cost around ₹600 crore, according to the Chief Minister. Sarma said the tendering process for the project has been completed. The facility will be funded through a combination of World Bank assistance and the State government's contribution.

The World Bank is expected to provide a ₹315-crore loan, while the Assam government will contribute ₹285 crore towards the project. The proposed installation is being seen as a significant investment in advanced oncology infrastructure and could expand access to precision-based cancer treatment in the Northeast.

Kumaraswamy slams Rahul's
SILENCE OVER KPSC SCAM

Bengaluru, Aug 30 : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over the alleged irregularities in Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitments, questioning Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's silence on the issue. The statements have assumed significance in the backdrop of arrest of IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar in connection with the KPSC recruitment scam. "Rahul Gandhi ji, where are you? Your KPSC is rotting. You travel across the country engaging with students and youngsters. When will you come to Bengaluru and hold talks with the victims of the KPSC irregularities? Let us see," Kumaraswamy said. Addressing the media at the Janata Dal-Secular Headquarters, J.P. Bhavan, in Bengaluru, Union Minister Kumaraswamy questioned the Karnataka government's commitment to cleaning up the recruitment system. "Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge speaks about the RSS every morning, but apparently cannot spot the mess in his own department. Candidates who did not deserve to be selected have allegedly been given



appointments through compromised examinations. Is your (Congress) government really capable of cleaning up KPSC?" he asked. Kumaraswamy alleged that the state government had previously brought in a person with a controversial record in the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and appointed him as KPSC Chairman in the name of reform. "You once claimed that you would clean up the system and then brought a person who had already faced allegations of wrongdoing in BDA and made him the KPSC Chairman. Under his tenure, posts were allegedly put up for sale for crores of rupees. Today you boast that you will fill 75,000 government vacancies. Will those appointments be made through such irregularities?" he asked. "Where

is Rahul Gandhi? Bring him to Bengaluru once. Let him sit with the youngsters and engage with them on KPSC. Then the truth will come out," Kumaraswamy said. The Union Minister again challenged Rahul Gandhi to come to Bengaluru and interact directly with young people affected by the recruitment controversies. "It is painful to even speak about the irregularities that have taken place during your (Karnataka) government. You are afraid to even open your mouth about the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Assistant Executive Engineers-Grade I in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department," he said. Kumaraswamy alleged that question papers were taken to resorts and provided to candidates who had allegedly paid money. "Question papers were allegedly taken to resorts and given to candidates who paid money. They were even trained on how to write the answers. And Rahul Gandhi, your leader, travels across the country giving speeches and engaging with students. Bring him to Bengaluru once. Let him sit face-to-face with youngsters and discuss the KPSC irregularities," the Union Minister said.

Sealdah Station Gets Major Infrastructure Upgrade

Kolkata, August 30: Infrastructure at Sealdah railway station, one of the busiest railway stations in the country, received a major upgrade following a seven-hour engineering exercise conducted by Eastern Railway (ER) during the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

The work was carried out between midnight and 7 a.m. within the Sealdah station limits, with multiple departments working simultaneously to improve the safety and reliability of railway operations. The main engineering work involved upgrading Diamond Switch Point No. 208B/219A from 52 kg to 60 kg rails, along with complete fittings. A total of 34.71 metres of 60 kg rail and seven prefabricated glued joints were installed.

Old point machines and associated ground fittings were also replaced despite space constraints at the site.

The Signal and Telecommunication (S&T) department converted point No. 208B from a Siemens machine to an Indian Railway Standard (IRS) point machine. It also replaced two ageing point machines, laid a new cable, renewed nine glued joints, 20 track and cross jumpers and 44 bond wires before testing and commissioning the system. The Traction Distribution (TRD) department simultaneously carried out long-pending maintenance work in the Dum Dum yard. The work included annual overhaul of four cantilevers, cleaning of eight insulators and restoration of two displaced cantilevers. Two unused bird nests were also removed from

a portal upright.

Eastern Railway officials said the simultaneous execution of engineering, signalling and traction works helped make maximum use of the traffic block without requiring additional interruptions.

The traffic block was cancelled on schedule at 7 a.m., reflecting effective coordination among the departments, officials said. Sealdah station handles nearly 1.6 to 1.8 million passengers every day, besides hundreds of suburban services and several important long-distance trains. The upgraded infrastructure is expected to improve safety and operational efficiency in the Sealdah yard and adjoining sections. The work was completed ahead of the Durga Puja season, when passenger footfall at the sta-

Baudelaire: The
Poet Who Gave a
Language to Pain

Some poets capture the beautiful sights of life in words. Some turn the sweetness of nature into poetry. But only a rare few can transform the darkness hidden within the human heart into literature. They do not turn away from pain; instead, they listen to the silent voice that lives within suffering. One such rare and remarkable poet in the history of world literature was Charles Baudelaire. Remembering him on August 31, his death anniversary, is not merely about paying tribute to a French poet. It is also about remembering a literary revolution that showed the world that even human pain has a language of its own.

Born in Paris, France, in 1821, Baudelaire did not have a life filled with uninterrupted comfort and happiness. He lost his father at a young age, and the changes that followed in his family life deeply influenced his personality and inner world. The loneliness that gradually grew within him shaped much of his thinking. Instead of following an ordinary path in life, he moved towards the world of literature, art and ideas. But his journey was far from easy. Financial difficulties, personal conflicts, misunderstandings with society and health problems repeatedly tested him. Yet, he did not run away from those struggles. He turned many of them into the very strength of his literary expression.

Baudelaire was not merely a poet. He was also an essayist, an art critic and a translator. His translations of the works of the American writer Edgar Allan Poe earned him special recognition in the literary world. He looked at art not simply as a form of entertainment but as a means of understanding the deeper layers of human life. That is why his writings bring together poetry, philosophy, city life, loneliness, love, despair and death. All these different experiences find a place in his literary universe.

His famous collection of poems, *Les Fleurs du mal*, published in 1857, opened a new chapter in the history of world poetry. Until then, poetry was largely associated with beauty, nature, love and idealism. Baudelaire, however, brought another face of human life into poetry. The loneliness found on city streets, the boredom that gathers in the human mind, guilt, inner conflict and the fear of death—he showed that these too could become subjects of poetry.

His writings faced severe criticism during his own time. Yet, with the passage of time, his influence on modern poetry became immense. He proved that poetry need not always speak only about pleasant things. It could also enter the darker corners of human experience and return with truth.

The greatness of Baudelaire lies in the fact that he did not glorify suffering. Instead, he searched for the true human being within suffering. His poetry suggests that pain is not something outside life; it is also a part of life itself. A person has a story not only when he smiles, but also when he sits silently, hiding his tears. Listening to that silent story and giving words to that silence is, in many ways, the true responsibility of poetry.

Beauty does not always live only in flowers. Sometimes, there is a strange beauty even in a broken heart. There is an experience in defeat. There is a thought hidden in loneliness. There is a truth within tears. Baudelaire made the world understand these realities through his poetry. When we read him, we do not simply enter the world of a poet; we also find ourselves standing before many questions that we may have hidden within our own hearts.

The city too appears almost like a living character in Baudelaire's poetry. Paris was not merely the place where he lived; it became a symbol of a rapidly changing modern world. He saw the lonely individual standing in the middle of large crowds. He noticed the darkness hidden behind brightly lit streets. He reflected upon the emptiness growing within the human mind even as civilisation and modern life continued to advance. In this sense, Baudelaire also gave poetic expression to the experience of modern urban life.

Should literature speak only the words that society likes to hear? Or should it also speak the truths that society may not be willing to accept? Baudelaire answered this question through his own life and writings. His works became controversial. His ideas were not immediately accepted by everyone. But a genuine writer does not write merely to please his own times. A true writer also asks questions that his age may not be ready to ask. He shows what others may fail to see. Baudelaire did exactly that. This is why he became not merely a poet of his own period, but a literary voice that continues to speak across generations.

There was also a deeply tragic side to Baudelaire's final years. The poet who had built entire worlds through words suffered greatly because of serious illness. During the last phase of his life, he even lost much of his ability to communicate. There is a profound tragedy in the thought of a poet who lived through words eventually being unable to express himself freely. Baudelaire passed away on August 31, 1867. Yet, while his physical life came to an end, the journey of his words continued and gradually reached far beyond the boundaries of France.

Baudelaire needs to be remembered even more in today's world. We are living in an age that is changing at great speed. There are more people around us, yet often fewer people with whom we can truly share our hearts. The means of communication have increased, but those who genuinely listen to the human mind seem to have become fewer. Behind many smiling faces, there are hidden sorrows. In such a world, Baudelaire's poetry reminds us of one important truth: human pain too wants to be heard, and when pain finds the right words, it can become poetry.

Poetry is not merely an arrangement of beautiful words. It is also the courage to see life as it truly is. Writing about flowers may be poetry, but understanding the pain caused by thorns and giving that pain a voice can be an equally powerful form of poetry. Baudelaire chose this difficult path. He did not allow suffering to remain merely as tears. He taught pain how to speak through poetry.

Therefore, remembering Charles Baudelaire on August 31 is not simply about remembering the date of a great poet's death. It is also about recognising that darkness does not always mean the end. Even within darkness, a poem can be born. His life and literature remind us that instead of merely hiding pain, we must learn to understand it; instead of treating suffering only as a curse, literature can discover the humanity hidden within it.

That is why Charles Baudelaire will always remain in the history of world literature not merely as a great poet, but as a powerful voice who gave words to human pain and taught suffering the language of poetry.



**CHITIKENA
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NAINAR URGES CM VIJAY TO END 'DRUG CULTURE' IN TN

Chennai, Aug 30 : Tamil Nadu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Nainar Nagenthiran has urged Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to take immediate steps to curb alcohol and drug abuse, alleging that the growing menace is endangering young people and threatening public safety across the state. His remarks followed the murder of Thanigasalam, a Hindu Munnani functionary, near the old bus stand in Rajapalayam. According

to Nagenthiran, Thanigasalam was waiting for a bus when a group of allegedly intoxicated youths chased him and brutally stabbed him outside a police station. In a post on social media platform X, the BJP leader described the incident as heartbreaking and conveyed his condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family. He said the killing had once again exposed the serious deterioration of law and order and the growing boldness of criminals in Ta-

mil Nadu.

Nagenthiran alleged that Chief Minister Vijay, who projected himself as a "pure force" before coming to power, had failed to prevent the state from falling under the grip of what he termed a "drug force". He said the TVK government had repeatedly highlighted its decision to close 717 TASMAL liquor outlets after assuming office. However, the measure had neither significantly reduced alcohol consumption among

young people nor brought down crimes linked to alcohol and narcotic substances, he claimed. The BJP leader also alleged that criminals no longer feared the police or the law-enforcement machinery. Videos circulating on social media over the past three months reportedly showed alcohol bottles and drugs being used openly by men, women and even school students, the State BJP Chief said. Nagenthiran accused the Chief Minister and his Ministers of paying

greater attention to producing social media reels than to addressing the real problems faced by the people. The state government's publicity campaigns had not translated into effective action on the ground, he alleged. He also criticised the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government for spending time making what he called irrelevant allegations against opposition parties instead of concentrating on governance and public safety. Nagenthiran

called upon the Chief Minister Vijay to strengthen policing, intensify action against drug networks and introduce measures to prevent alcohol and narcotic substances from reaching young people.

The state government must treat the issue as an urgent social and law-and-order challenge, he said, adding that decisive intervention was necessary to safeguard the future of Tamil Nadu's youth and restore public confidence.



EDITORIAL

Rough Skies Ahead: The Science and Reality of Mid-Air Turbulence

For millions of air travelers worldwide, the chime of the seatbelt sign carries a universally recognized sting of anxiety. A sudden shudder, a drop in altitude, and the clattering of inflight service carts signal the onset of mid-air turbulence—one of aviation's most routine yet deeply unnerving phenomena. While commercial aircraft are modern marvels of engineering designed to withstand forces far beyond what atmospheric instability can dish out, recent high-profile incidents have thrust the issue back into the public spotlight. Understanding why the skies grow rough is no longer just a curiosity for meteorologists; it is an essential context for an era of changing atmospheric dynamics. At its core, turbulence is simply chaotic, irregular air movement caused by swirling currents known as eddies. The sky, much like an ocean, is not a static fluid; it experiences waves, currents, and sudden shifts in density. The primary catalyst for everyday turbulence is thermal convection. As the sun bakes the Earth's surface, warm air rises into the cooler atmosphere. Aircraft passing through these rising thermal plumes experience sudden upward nudges, followed by drops as they hit descending cooler air. This convection is particularly potent during afternoon flights over sun-baked landmasses or around the tropics. A second major trigger involves physical barriers—what meteorologists refer to as mountain wave turbulence. When strong winds slam into mountain ranges like the Rockies, Alps, or Himalayas, the air mass is forced upwards, creating invisible, wave-like oscillations that roll far downwind into high-cruising altitudes. Pilots flying over mountainous terrain often anticipate these standing waves, adjusting their altitude or speed to cushion the ride for passengers inside the cabin. Perhaps the most violent atmospheric disruptions stem from severe convective weather, namely thunderstorms. Inside towering cumulonimbus clouds, violent updrafts and downdrafts operate at immense speeds. While weather radars easily detect these storm systems—allowing pilots to navigate around their core—the air surrounding a storm can remain fiercely unstable for miles. Passing too close to a thunderhead guarantees a severe beating, which is why flight paths frequently detour around aggressive weather fronts. Yet, the most insidious form of atmospheric instability is Clear Air Turbulence (CAT). Unlike storm-driven turbulence, CAT arrives without visual cues—no clouds, no radar warnings, and no ominous shadows on the horizon. CAT typically manifests near high-altitude jet streams, the fast-moving narrow atmospheric rivers where warm air meets cold air. In these regions, sharp differences in wind speed and direction over short distances—known as wind shear—create violent friction between air layers. Planes entering these zones can drop suddenly without a moment's notice to the crew or passengers. Disturbingly, evidence shows that clear air turbulence is worsening. Climatologists point to global atmospheric warming as a primary driver, which is altering the temperature gradient between the poles and the equator. This shift intensifies jet stream instability and accelerates wind shear in the upper troposphere, causing severe CAT occurrences over busy corridors like the North Atlantic to surge significantly over recent decades. Despite the sensational headlines that accompany turbulent flights, the safety record of modern aviation remains exceptionally strong. Structural failure due to turbulence is virtually unheard of in contemporary commercial airliners. The real danger lies within the cabin: unsecured passengers, unfastened seatbelts, and heavy luggage turning into projectiles during a sharp vertical drop. As our atmosphere grows increasingly volatile, the remedy for travelers remains remarkably simple—keep your seatbelt fastened, even when the light is off, and respect the formidable, invisible currents of the sky.



LET ME DISCOVER MYSELF...

As for when I was born means
Mine is a world where my parents are no longer present.

With Mother Earth and Father Sky,
I am a tiny living being;
In this visible world,
My signature is my address;
I am a green tree sprouted
In the shade of nature.

The soil embracing the roots
is my very life force;
the song of the wind through outstretched,
swaying leaves,
mine is the rhythmic heartbeat that respire
life into every breath.

Now I realize
that mine is a life rooted in the tree's shade;
that this body is no mere soap bubble,
but a verdant heart woven into every atom;
and that I am but a single syllable in the stream
of humanity...

I am not a sound confined to the realm of
self-interest;
I am the explosive silence that lies beyond the
bounds of patience and the inner sanctum of
love.

I am a multitude
The ocean where society converges,
The rustling voice of leaves in the dense forest,
The restless, surging rhythm of waves that
never sleep...



...: Dr. T. Radhakrishnamacharyulu ...
9848305871



OPINION

IN THE AGE OF AI, SHOULD SCHOOLS TEACH KNOWLEDGE — OR HOW TO THINK?

For centuries, education was built around a simple premise: knowledge is power. Schools taught children facts, concepts, and methods, and students were expected to remember enough of them to solve problems and make decisions. But artificial intelligence is quietly challenging that model. Today, a child can ask an AI system to explain a scientific concept, write an essay, solve a mathematical problem, or summarise a book within seconds. The question facing education is no longer simply how much a student knows; it is whether the student knows what to do with what a machine produces.

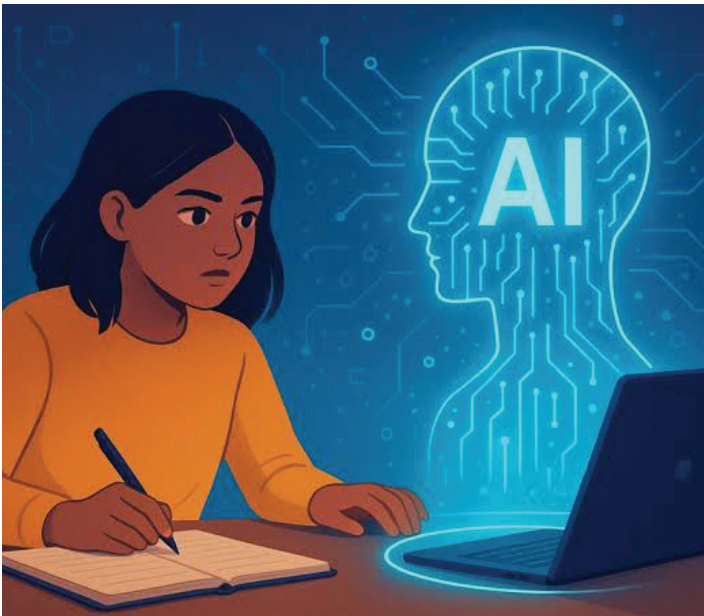
This does not make knowledge irrelevant. Rather, it makes knowl-

is not that children will know less because machines know more, but that they may stop developing the intellectual habits needed to distinguish authentic knowledge from plausible-looking prose.

The Illusion of Fluency and Assessment:

That distinction is becoming critical as generative AI integrates into classrooms. The OECD's 2026 Digital Education Outlook notes that AI can support learning when deployed with clear pedagogical purpose, but cautions that merely outsourcing tasks improves student output without generating genuine understanding. A better-looking essay does not necessarily mean a better-educated student.

AI is forcing education to move beyond the old idea that knowledge alone is power. As machines become capable of writing, solving, summarising and explaining in seconds, the real measure of learning is shifting from what students can produce to how intelligently they can question, verify and apply information. The challenge for schools is not to keep AI out, but to ensure that students use it without surrendering their judgment, curiosity and intellectual independence.



edge indispensable in a different way. A student cannot meaningfully question an answer without knowing enough to recognise when it is flawed. AI can produce fluent explanations, but fluency is not evidence of truth. It can construct convincing arguments that rest on inaccurate information, weak assumptions, or outright hallucinations. The danger

This fundamentally alters the meaning of assessment. If a student can prompt a machine to write an essay overnight, evaluating standard submissions tests little beyond compliance. Schools must design assignments that demand students explain their reasoning, defend conclusions, compare competing arguments, verify source material, and

rigorously critique AI outputs. The objective must shift from testing whether a student can produce an answer to measuring whether they can interrogate one.

Beyond Better Prompting:

Banning AI is a short-sighted retreat. While prohibitions may protect traditional homework temporarily, they leave students unprepared for a future where machine intelligence is embedded across workplaces, public governance, research, and civic life. The more productive question is how children learn to use technology without becoming cognitively dependent on it.

The answer begins with critical AI literacy. Students must understand that an AI system is neither infallible nor an oracle. As UNESCO's Competency Frameworks emphasise, learners and educators alike must grasp how models generate responses, why bias enters training pipelines, and why machine outputs demand human verification. Crucially, AI literacy cannot be reduced to prompt engineering; the deeper capability remains intellectual autonomy.

A student who uncritically accepts the first answer given by a machine gains mere convenience. Conversely, a student who instinctively asks—"How do we know this is true?", "What evidence supports it?", "What has been omitted?", "What contradicts this claim?"—develops durable cognitive skills that withstand technological change.

Pedagogy, Equity, and Citizenship:

This reality also transforms the teacher's mission. If information delivery becomes automated, classroom value cannot be measured by content transmission. Teachers must become learning designers, mentors of inquiry, and custodians of intellectual rigor. The classroom should not become a battleground between teachers and machines, but an environment where machines automate routine tasks while educators nurture judgment, curiosity, empathy, and ethical reasoning. "The greatest risk artificial intelli-

gence poses to education is not that students will use machines to cheat, but that they will mistake machine fluency for their own intelligence."

Crucially, education systems must guard against widening inequities. Access to sophisticated tools, high-speed connectivity, and parental guidance remains uneven. Expecting students to "use AI responsibly" without equitable access, curriculum support, and comprehensive teacher training will deepen existing divides rather than bridge them.

Underneath these practical shifts lies a profound democratic imperative. Education has never been merely about workforce readiness; it is about preparing citizens to deliberate and participate in society. Democracies rely on citizens who can scrutinise claims, spot manipulation, evaluate evidence, and disagree without abandoning reason. When generating persuasive text becomes frictionless, the ability to exercise critical judgment becomes foundational to civic life.

A Dual Mandate:

The central dilemma is not whether schools should teach knowledge or teach thinking. They must do both. Knowledge provides the foundation upon which critical thought operates; thinking determines how knowledge is evaluated, synthesized, and applied. Memorisation can no longer be the terminal goal of education.

The child who merely knows what a machine knows will hold no advantage over the machine. The child who knows when to trust it, when to question it, and when to think beyond it will lead the future.



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WHY DELHI CELEBRATES MODI'S MANN KI BAAT ORDINARY CHANGE MAKERS



Mann Ki Baat

30th August 2026



The mood was upbeat on the last Sunday of August, as families gathered around radios, phones and television sets, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the country once again through Mann Ki Baat. And in Delhi's Saini Enclave Park, a very large number of local people, including a lot of youngsters gathered to listen to the 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat, broadcast on 30 August 2026. Well, it was not a lecture from a distant podium. It was a warm, story-filled conversation that celebrated ordinary Indians who are quietly changing their communities and invited millions more to join them.

The programme opened with a delightful surprise: a Mumbai engineer-turned-marketer, Krishna Seshadri, who built bharatrajya.com so that anyone can pick a year and see which rulers governed which parts of India. Modi spoke to him live. Seshadri explained that school textbooks often focus on a few empires and leave out the Cholas, Pallavas, Ahoms and warrior queens such as Tribhuvan Mahadevi of Odisha.

From the past, the conversation turned to the future of India's youth. Modi highlighted the growing "Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat" campaign. Addiction, he reminded listeners, does not destroy only one person; it wounds entire families. He challenged young musicians to write songs of hope, theatre groups to stage short plays about recovery, and content creators to produce messages in every language.

August's patriotic calendar received special mention. National Handloom Day, the Quit India anniversary, Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, Independence Day, National Space Day and the 150th

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat on Sunday brought stories of history, enterprise, social responsibility and youth aspirations to the centre of a nationwide conversation. From young people fighting addiction and women building livelihoods to community-led cleanliness drives, conservation efforts and girls learning space technology, the programme highlighted ordinary citizens turning local initiatives into examples of national progress. Modi also urged people to strengthen the spirit of Vocal for Local as the festive season approaches.

year of Vande Mataram. More than eight crore Tiranga selfies were uploaded this year. Through the Suryapath Tiranga initiative, the national flag travelled with the sun from Fiji at dawn to San Francisco at dusk, linking Indians across continents in a single, moving gesture of pride.

Women's economic strength formed another heart of the address. Nearly 35 lakh women, 46 per cent of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries, have used small loans to grow street-vending businesses. Noted social worker and Income Tax consultant S.K. Gambhir was listening to the Mann Ki Baat with Union Minister Harsh Malhotra and others in Saini Enclave said that PM Modi told the stories of Babita Sharma of Ghaziabad, who turned a modest worship-items stall into a proper shop, and T.S. Ningamma of Bengaluru, whose idli-dosa cart now supports her three children's education.

Cleanliness, too, was presented as a people's movement. In Patwai village of Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, two friends named Akash and Rohan started picking up litter; soon a youth team called Clean-up Patwai had cleared four Ganga ghats and more than a tonne of plastic. During the Amarnath Yatra, sanitation workers and pilgrims together collected over 400 metric tonnes of waste; 16,000 yatis took a cleanliness pledge and horse dung was

converted into biogas to light a "Swachh Jyot." Faith and civic duty, Modi suggested, can walk the same mountain path.

The Prime Minister then introduced listeners to Vesalu Puro of Phek, Nagaland, who turned a love of flowers into a commercial gladiolus farm that now sends blooms to Delhi and Mumbai, and to Maithili Bhue and more than 60 women of Dhodrokusum village in Odisha's Debrigarh forests, who shifted from collecting firewood to protecting wildlife and running eco-tourism. Passion plus training, he said, can turn a hobby or a hardship into a livelihood that also heals the land.

He spoke with pride of Mission Shakti-SAT, which is teaching satellite technology to 12,000 girls from 108 countries, with the dream of sending a student-built satellite into lunar orbit. He celebrated Indian farmers who have discovered avocado as a profitable crop from Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's coffee estates. The episode closed with an appeal for Vocal for Local as Janmashtami, Vishwakarma Puja and Diwali approach: look at every purchase and ask whether it was made in India.

Listeners responded with the same warmth the programme offered. Harsh Malhotra, who heard the broadcast in East Delhi, said the Prime Minister had

given youth a clear resolve: "Nasha-mukt youth are the strong foundation of a developed India. His call will give new energy to healthy, positive and nation-building young power."

In Lucknow, college student Ananya Sharma told a local reporter, "When Modi ji asked us to write slogans and songs against drugs, I felt he was speaking directly to my generation. We are already planning a street play." Vegetable vendor Meena Devi in Ghaziabad said, "Hearing about sisters like Babita ji gave me courage. If they can grow their shops with a small loan, so can I." Former bureaucrat Anil Shandilya, who was also listening Mann Ki Baat at East Delhi, said "The history website and the tribute to Uttam Kumar reminded me that culture and science can sit at the same table. That is the India I want my grandchildren to inherit."

Mann Ki Baat on 30 August 2026 did what it has done for more than a decade: it turned the nation's living rooms into a shared space of pride, possibility and gentle challenge. In stories of a website, a flower farm, a forest cooperative and a drug-free generation, Prime Minister Modi offered not only praise but an invitation come, add your own chapter.



VIVEK SHUKLA



263 weapons surrendered in Ahmedabad drive

Ahmedabad, August 30: Ahmedabad City Police have collected 263 sharp and lethal weapons from 22 police station areas as part of an awareness campaign aimed at curbing crimes involving knives, swords, daggers and other prohibited weapons.

The initiative, titled 'Samarpan Se Suraksha' (Security Through Surrender), was launched under the supervision of Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut. Police used public-address systems mounted on patrol vehicles to urge residents in identified areas to voluntarily give up such weapons.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Sector-2) Jaipal Singh Rathore said the campaign focused on areas where weapon-related offences had been reported in the past or where police assessed a possibility of such crimes.

"Across the 22 police stations of Ahmedabad City's Sector-2 area, the police have collected around 263 sharp weapons," Rathore said, adding that most of the recovered items were swords, knives and daggers.

According to police, residents generally left the weapons at public places, including outside neighbourhoods and near dustbins, instead of handing them over directly at police stations. The recoveries include 11 weapons from Ramol, 27 from Bapunagar, 18 from Narol, 17 each from Gontipur and Amraiwadi, 19 from Danilimda, 15 from Maninagar, 14 from Khokhra and 13 from Nikol. Other recoveries were reported from several police stations across the sector.

Police said a notification under Section 135 of the Gujarat Police Act is currently in force in Ahmedabad City, under which possession or carrying of prohibited weapons can attract legal action.

Rathore said police would intensify combing operations in the identified pockets and urged anyone still possessing prohibited weapons to surrender them before the operations begin. He said the campaign was aimed at preventing violent offences and strengthening law and order.

Girl rescued from shopping mall terrace in Delhi

New Delhi, Aug 30: A 20-year-old woman was safely rescued from the terrace of Unity One Mall in Delhi's Rohini after she allegedly threatened to jump from the building, prompting a swift response from the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), Delhi Police and mall security personnel.

According to the Delhi Fire Services, information about the incident was received at around 8:55 p.m. on Sunday.

Handsfield Handsfield The incident took place at Unity One Mall near Ambedkar Hospital Metro Station and which falls under Rohini division.

Following the alert, a DFS team and police personnel reached the mall within a short time and began efforts to bring the woman to safety.

Mall guards also joined the rescue operation and helped the emergency responders secure the terrace area.

At around 9:15 p.m. on Sunday, DFS officials reported that the woman had been

successfully rescued from the terrace without sustaining injuries. She was subsequently handed over to the Delhi Police.

The police are investigating the matter to find out more details related to the case.

The fire department had deployed one water tender for the emergency response.

Personnel from the fire department played a crucial role in rescue operation.

Officials said the coordinated intervention by the fire service personnel, police officers and mall security staff helped prevent the woman from taking the potentially fatal step.

The incident comes as a reminder of the importance of a rapid emergency response when individuals are found in situations involving a possible fall from height, officials said.

In such cases, trained emergency personnel work to secure the area, communicate with the person in distress and safely remove them from danger, according to officials.

Over 400 evacuated as flood-like situation affects 16 villages in UP's Chitrakoot



Chitrakoot, August 30: More than 400 people have been evacuated and around 16 villages affected after the Mandakini River in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot district rose to a record 135.2 metres, triggering a flood-like situation, officials said on Sunday.

District Magistrate Pulkit Garg said the water level surpassed the previous record of 134.5 metres recorded in 2003, marking the highest level since records began for the Mandakini River.

With the help of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), over 400

people were evacuated from vulnerable areas, particularly around Ramghat and nearby localities. The administration distributed more than 3,000 food packets, while dry ration kits and hot meals are also being arranged for affected residents.

"Approximately 16 villages have been affected. Arrangements for rations and hot meals are being fully made there," Garg said, adding that rescue and relief teams remained on alert.

The district administration has also deployed sanitation workers and machinery to clean affected areas and restore

normalcy. A survey of damage to shops and other properties is underway, with officials assuring necessary relief measures.

Authorities have advised residents to remain vigilant and avoid going near rivers and other water bodies.

Meanwhile, the Varanasi district administration has stepped up preparations amid the possibility of rising water levels in the Ganga and Varuna rivers. A total of 61 flood relief camps have been identified across the district, with arrangements for shelter, food, drinking water, lighting, sanitation and other essential facilities.

‘LAW OF THE COUNTRY IS EQUAL FOR ALL’

Suvendu Adhikari backs FIR against Mamata Banerjee

Kharagpur, August 30: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday backed the filing of an FIR against former chief minister Mamata Banerjee and organisers of a Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP) event for allegedly violating a Calcutta High Court order, saying the law applies equally to everyone.

Speaking to reporters, Adhikari said strict action would be taken against anyone found violating the law or taking it into their own hands. "The law of the country is equal for all. Whoever breaks the law or takes the law into their own hands, action will be taken against them under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," he said.

The FIR was registered by Hastings Police following a written complaint by Sub-Inspector Apu Baidya in connection with a TMCP foundation day programme held on Cathedral Road in Kolkata on August 28.

According to the police complaint, Banerjee and the event organisers allegedly entered into a criminal con-

spiracy and violated directions issued by the Calcutta High Court in connection with WPA No. 21728 of 2026. The programme was scheduled to be held from noon to 3 pm under the permission and conditions referred to in the court order. Police alleged that Banerjee and the organisers provoked supporters during the event, following which the crowd pushed aside barricades erected by the police.

The complaint further alleged that the resulting situation led to jostling between the crowd and police personnel deployed for maintaining law and order. The case has been registered under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including those relating to criminal conspiracy, disobedience of an order promulgated by a public servant, negligent conduct affecting public ways.

Adhikari said the law should be enforced without discrimination, stressing that legal action could apply to anyone found guilty of violating it.

‘Why does this happen repeatedly?’

Abhijit Dipke questions exam failures as Maharashtra students welcome HC order

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, August 30: Maharashtra students gathered at the residence of Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijit Dipke to celebrate the Bombay High Court's decision to cancel and re-conduct the Clerk Examination, even as Dipke questioned the repeated technical and administrative failures affecting recruitment tests.

Students honoured Dipke with a bouquet for supporting their movement against alleged technical glitches and administrative lapses during the examination. Welcoming the court's decision, Dipke said students should be concentrating on their studies rather than being forced to take to the streets over examination-related problems.

"Why does this happen repeatedly? Do students have to protest every time just to sit for an exam?" Dipke asked, asserting that repeated examination failures reflected shortcomings on the government's part. Dipke urged the authorities to address the underlying problems before conducting the re-examination and called for unfit examination centres to be blacklisted. Student representatives Vinod Raut and Bhagyashree Karnar also



raised concerns over the examination process and welcomed the court's intervention.

Raut said the court's decision had acknowledged irregularities in the typing test and sought clearer communication from the administration. He urged authorities to issue examination notifications at least 10 to 15 days in advance and clearly specify whether future tests would be conducted online or offline.

Karnar said candidates had faced considerable difficulties during the examinations and questioned whether students should spend

their time preparing for tests or protesting against administrative problems. She also called for corrective measures concerning examination centres and systems.

Meanwhile, Dipke announced a 2.5-km peaceful protest march in Delhi on September 5, Teachers' Day, from India Gate to the Delhi Police Headquarters. He said youth organisations and families of NEET aspirants were expected to participate, alleging that assurances made by the Union Government to young people during earlier agitations had not been fulfilled.

Massive explosives cache seized in Sukma joint operation

Sukma, August 31: Security forces seized a large cache of explosives from a suspected Naxal dump during a joint operation in the dense Belpocha-Gompad forest area of Sukma district, police said on Sunday.

The operation was conducted by personnel of the Sukma District Force, District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters based on specific intelligence provided by recently surrendered Naxal cadres.

During the search, the security forces recovered around 8 kg of material used in improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including two tiffin bombs, 10 detonators, 17 gelatin sticks and several metres of Cordex detonation wire.

Sukma Superintendent of Police Mayank Gurjar said the recovered explosives were allegedly part of a larger Naxal plan to target security personnel and disrupt peace in the Bastar region.

The explosives were subsequently neutralised safely at the site by bomb disposal teams, preventing a potentially serious security threat, police said.

Following the recovery, search and combing operations have been intensified across the surrounding forest areas to locate any additional explosive dumps or Naxal activity, officials said.

NFR Extends 03 Pairs of Special Trains to Facilitate Smooth Passenger Movement

Maligoan , 30August, 2026: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has extended the services of three pairs of Festival Special trains to provide additional travel options and facilitate the smooth movement of passengers during the upcoming festive season. The extended services cover train nos. 05736/05735 (Katihar - Amritsar - Katihar), train nos. 05932/05931 (Dibrugarh- Kolkata- Dibrugarh) and train nos. 03407/03408 (Bhagalpur - Katihar- Bhagalpur) Festival Specials. These services have been extended to meet the expected passenger rush during the extra rush and festive seasons. The trains will operate as per their existing service schedule, timings, composition and stoppages.

Train no. 05736 (Katihar-Amritsar) Festival Special will run for 12 additional trips from 09th

September to 25th November 2026. In the return direction, train no. 05735 (Amritsar-Katihar) Festival Special will run for 12 additional trips from 11th September to 27th November 2026.

Train no. 05932 (Dibrugarh- Kolkata) Festival Special will runfor 13 additional trips from 05th September to 28th November 2026. In the return direction, train no. 05931 (Kolkata - Dibrugarh) Festival Special will run for 13 additional trips from 07th September to 30th November 2026. These trains will operate with a 22 nos of coach composition for the convenience of passengers.

Train nos. 03407/03408 (Bhagalpur - Katihar-Bhagalpur) Festival Special will continue to operate daily. Their services have been extended for 94 trips each in both directions from 29th August to 30th November 2026.

CM Saini Joins Citizens for 137th Edition of ‘Mann Ki Baat’



Chandigarh, August 30: Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini today watched the live broadcast of Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi's 137th edition of 'Mann Ki Baat' in Panchkula. Special arrangements were made for the programme at the Convention Hall of Red Bishop, Sector 1, where the Chief Minister watched the broadcast along with public representatives, party workers and members of the general public.

Through Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi interacts with citizens across the country and shares inspiring stories, innovative ideas and people-led initiatives that are contributing to positive change.

The monthly programme highlights the efforts of individuals and organisations working in diverse fields and undertaking exemplary initiatives across the country. It also encourages citizens to

actively participate in nation-building and contribute to the country's development.

Organised to encourage meaningful engagement with the issues raised in Mann Ki Baat and various public welfare initiatives, the programme witnessed the participation of a large number of people. Those present listened attentively to the Prime Minister's views and inspiring messages.

Panchkula Mayor Sh

Shyam Lal Bansal, Chairperson of the Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes Smt Banto Kataria, former Speaker of the Haryana Legislative Assembly Sh Gian Chand Gupta, District BJP President Sh Ajay Mittal, Media Secretary to the Chief Minister Sh Praveen Atre, BJP leader Sh Krishan Dhull, councilors, party workers and a large number of members of the public were present on the occasion.

Kashmir Jokes Put ‘India’s Got Latent’ Back in the Spotlight

NEW DELHI, AUG 30

Popular comedy show 'India's Got Latent' has landed in controversy once again. The Jammu Kashmir Peace Forum has objected to a light-hearted conversation between host and comedian Samay Raina and Sharon Verma on topics related to Kashmir, Kashmiri Pandits, and Bihar.

In the latest episode of 'India's Got Latent Season 2', Kashmiri Pandit Samay Raina and Bihar-born Sharon Verma reportedly poked fun at each other over their regional backgrounds. The forum criticized the remarks, saying they appeared to trivialize the displacement and suffering of Kashmiri Pandits.

Jammu Kashmir Peace Forum chairman Satish Mahaldar made it clear that the forum is not opposed to comedy or freedom of expression. However, he said freedom must be accompanied by responsibility.

"Bihar is not a symbol of in-



sult. Kashmir is not an object of comedy. The displacement and suffering of Kashmiri Pandits should not be turned into a joke or a social media clip," Mahaldar said.

He recalled that Kashmiri Pandits have been living away from their ancestral homes for more than three decades and that displacement has had a profound impact on their lives. He also noted that Samay Raina has spoken publicly in the past about his family's experience of displacement from

Kashmir and the emotional trauma it caused.

However, the forum urged people to respond to the controversy with sensitivity rather than censorship. "We are not asking for censorship; we are asking for sensitivity," Mahaldar said.

At the same time, he cautioned against viewing the issue as something that could create divisions between Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri

Muslims, or between Kashmiris and Biharis. He said it would be inappropriate to blame an entire community based on remarks made by one individual.

What is the controversy about?

Sharon Verma reportedly made remarks related to Kashmir while joking with Samay Raina. In response, Raina appears to have referred to Verma's Bihar background and certain stereotypes surrounding migration from Bihar to other parts of the country.

In this exchange, remarks made by Verma that indirectly referred to the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits became the focus of the controversy. The latest comments have also brought back memories of another controversy involving 'India's Got Latent' in 2025.

Mahaldar said Kashmir's history is complex and emphasized the need to build the future on the foundations of truth, reconciliation, justice, and mutual respect.

PM Modi, Uzbekistan President Mirziyoyev agree to expand cooperation in critical minerals

TASHKENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Sunday agreed to expand cooperation in critical minerals through the implementation of joint projects in geological exploration, mining, mineral processing, and the development of integrated value chains. The two leaders welcomed the discussions on advancing cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in the fields of renewable energy, modernisation of energy infrastructure, and the implementation of prospective investment projects.

Both leaders agreed to explore cooperation between the two nations in the fields of geology, mining, nuclear energy, industrial cooperation, and critical and strategic minerals, including projects

for the processing of mineral resources and production of value-added products and recycling initiatives, according to the India-Uzbekistan Joint Statement.

"They also expressed interest in encouraging Indian companies to participate in the development of prospective mineral deposits in Uzbekistan and Uzbek enterprises for joint collaboration in India. The Leaders expressed interest in extended cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy," it added.

PM Modi and President Mirziyoyev agreed to establish a Foreign Ministers-led mechanism to provide high-level coordination and oversight of the implementation of the agreements and arrangements reached between the two nations, as well as to facilitate the timely realisation of priority bilateral initiatives and projects.



tives and projects.

The two leaders recognised the growing role of parliamentary diplomacy and welcomed the increasing contacts between the parliaments of the two nations, including cooperation between parliamentary friendship groups and interaction within international inter-parliamentary organisations.

They unequivocally con-

demned terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and rejected justification of terrorism on any ground whatsoever.

"Leaders called for concerted actions against terrorist entities and for disrupting terrorism financing networks, safe havens and infrastruc-

ture. Leaders stressed that those responsible for terrorism should be held accountable and their perpetrators, their backers, facilitators and affiliates should be brought to justice," the joint statement said.

PM Modi and President Mirziyoyev stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in law enforcement, intelligence-sharing, combating violent extremism, and illicit drug trafficking, organised crime, and cyber threats. They reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation under the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, according to the joint statement.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi and President Mirziyoyev held delegation-level talks at the Presidential Palace in Tashkent, with discussions held on expanding cooperation between the two nations in various sectors, including trade, investment and industries.

lar exchanges, capacity-building and joint activities, and expressed their commitment to further strengthen such cooperation in addressing shared security challenges.

The two leaders expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in regional cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen engagement within the Central Asia – India format at the level of Heads of State and other levels. Both leaders emphasised the importance of continuing regular consultations on regional issues, according to the joint statement.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi and President Mirziyoyev held delegation-level talks at the Presidential Palace in Tashkent, with discussions held on expanding cooperation between the two nations in various sectors, including trade, investment and industries.



FM Sitharaman arrives for crucial G20 talks

ASHEVILLE

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in South Carolina on Sunday (US local time) to attend a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors that will examine global growth, economic imbalances, sovereign debt and the consequences of the Iran conflict.

Sitharaman was welcomed at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport by India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra. She will lead the Indian delegation at the two-day meeting beginning Monday in Asheville, North Carolina.

19 countries, the European Union and African Union. Representatives of international financial institutions and invited organisations are also expected to participate.

The United States has placed stronger economic growth at the centre of its G20 Finance Track presidency. "Just as President Trump is reviving American economic growth and making it the centerpiece of this Administration's agenda, we are taking the same approach and prioritizing growth as the host of this year's G20 Finance Track," Bessent said in a post on X after arriving in Asheville.

"We look forward to convening policymakers and private sector leaders from around the globe to emphasize that stronger growth is not only possible, but necessary," he said. The meeting is expected to discuss measures to boost growth, correct persistent global economic imbalances, address sovereign debt challenges and develop more resilient supply chains.

The economic effects of the Iran conflict, including higher energy prices and disruptions to trade through the Strait of Hormuz, are also expected to figure prominently.

Washington is likely to use the meeting and bilateral discussions to seek support for its campaign to restrict Iran's economic links. Differences over sanctions, trade tariffs and China's industrial policies could make a comprehensive consensus document difficult.

149 Indian Nationals rescued in Nepal after floods

NEW DELHI

A total of 149 Indian nationals have been rescued so far in Nepal after the devastating floods, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Sunday. The MEA shared the list of all 149 Indian nationals who were rescued, as of 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, in a post on X.

Meanwhile, the 4th flight carrying 11 tonnes of relief assistance landed in Nepal, and relief material has been handed over.



X. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said that 16 trucks carrying equipment for a 230 feet Single Lane Modular Steel Bridge have reached Nepal.

"Equipment for installation of seven more Bailey bridges will be supplied soon. Technical teams for their installation are expected to reach shortly. So far, a total of 68.5 tonnes of relief material comprising essential medicines,

portable generator sets, food packets, water purification tablets and technical equipment have been airlifted to Kathmandu," he said on X.

Meanwhile, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava on Sunday met members of the Indian Forensic Team deployed in Nepal to assist in identifying the mortal remains of victims of the devastating flash floods and reit-

erated that India will continue to strongly support Nepal's ongoing rescue and relief operations.

"Ambassador Naveen Srivastava met members of the Indian Forensic Team deployed to Nepal. The team will work alongside their Nepali counterparts in analysing DNA samples to assist in identifying the mortal remains of the victims of the recent flash floods," the MEA stated on X.

PM Modi visits Mahatma Gandhi Centre at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies

TASHKENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. PM Modi interacted with Indologists and students at the centre, and also signed the visitors' book.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi paid tribute to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Shastri Memorial here.

Lal Bahadur Shastri served as India's Prime Minister from June 9, 1964 to January 11, 1966. He coined the popular national slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Paid homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji in Tashkent. We remember a towering statesman whose unwavering commitment

to the nation continues to inspire generations." PM Modi held delegation-level talks with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Presidential Palace in Tashkent and reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties.

The talks focused on expanding cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, infrastructure, critical minerals, mining, defence and security, innovation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, health, information technology, digital public infrastructure including UPI and education, among others, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

PM Modi was conferred with Uzbekistan's highest honour, "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order by President Mirziyoyev for his contribution to strengthening friendship between the two countries.

India, Uzbekistan agree to bolster trade, investment ties

TASHKENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Sunday agreed to deepen trade and investment relations between their countries, according to a joint statement issued after their meeting here.

The leaders agreed on the importance of enhancing and diversifying bilateral trade by identifying and harnessing new opportunities. Both sides acknowledged the great potential of bilateral trade in electrical items, engineering products, automobiles, and the pharma sectors and agreed to closer business-to-business tie-ups in these sectors, the statement said.

Both sides agreed to undertake joint measures to broaden the range of goods traded between the two countries, remove non-tariff barriers, and promote industrial coop-

eration with a view to further increasing bilateral trade turnover. The leaders also agreed to explore cooperation in the fields of geology, mining, nuclear energy, industrial cooperation, and critical & strategic minerals, including projects for the processing of mineral resources, production of value-added products and recycling initiatives. They also expressed interest in encouraging Indian companies to participate in the development of prospective mineral deposits in Uzbekistan and Uzbek enterprises for joint collaboration in India. The leaders expressed interest in extended cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

They agreed to expand cooperation in the field of critical minerals through the implementation of joint projects in geological exploration, mining, mineral processing, and the development of integrated value chains.

Indian diaspora excited at PM Modi's visit to Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK

The Indian diaspora in Kyrgyzstan on Sunday expressed their excitement for the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Central Asian nation.

"I am very happy that he is coming here for the first time. I am very, very happy because I have never seen him before, and now he is coming to Bishkek for the first time, and I will meet him face-to-face. I am very excited..." an Indian said to IANS, expressing his excitement for meeting PM Modi.

Sabina Abylgazieva, a Kyrgyz entrepreneur and business/investment specialist, expressed confidence in the potential for cooperation between India and Kyrgyzstan.

"I believe that cooperation between India and Kyrgyzstan has great potential, as our two countries are already working together and sharing valuable experiences. I think there are significant op-



portunities, particularly in the business sector, where we can learn from our Indian partners and exchange expertise, ideas, and opportunities..." Abylgazieva told IANS. Youth Movement of Kyrgyzstan Chairman, Jakshylyk Beknazarov, called India "one of the most developed countries in the world", and said Kyrgyzstan values India's experience and achievements. "India is one of the

most developed countries in the world, and Kyrgyzstan greatly values its experience and achievements. India has a wealth of experience in tourism, IT, science, cinema and many other fields. That is why we, as Kyrgyzstanis, want to share our own experiences with India and learn from each other," Beknazarov told IANS.

Askar Shaikidinov, another member from the Kyrgyzstan

Youth Movement, called PM Modi's visit to Kyrgyzstan highly significant and hoped that the visit will further strengthen the close and strategic partnership.

"First of all, Your Excellency, let me extend a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kyrgyzstan. His visit to Kyrgyzstan is highly significant, as India and Kyrgyzstan have witnessed very active and dynamic cooperation over the past decade. This visit is expected to further strengthen the close and strategic partnership between the two countries," said Shaikidinov.

PM Modi is travelling to Bishkek to participate in the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit after concluding his bilateral visit to Uzbekistan on Sunday. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the SCO, and this year's theme is '25 Years of the SCO: Together Towards Sustainable Peace, Development, and Prosperity'.

China beefing up military muscle under green energy cover in Tibet

NEW DELHI

China portrays the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) as a world-class clean-energy frontier, but the rapid build-out of hydropower, solar, wind, and ultra-high-voltage (UHV) transmission across the plateau is also creating a solid web of dual-use infrastructure that can buttress long-term military presence near the Indian border, according to an article.

Reliable power, roads and communications now knit together border villages, logistics hubs, and outposts in ways that serve both civilian development and the PRC's military structure, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), turning Tibet into what one geospatial study calls China's "high-altitude power base", states the article by Italian journalist

Marco Respinti in Bitter Winter. Independent geospatial work has started to map how civilian energy projects intersect with military footprints. The Indian independent think tank Takshashila Institution's "Geospatial Bulletin" shows that between 2013 and 2025, Tibet added several gigawatts of renewable capacity, with sharp jumps of 700 megawatts (MW) in 2023, 860 MW in 2024, and an estimated 2,600 MW in 2025, driven by just two large projects. Its analysis highlights solar farms near Shigatse, including in proximity to airport infrastructure and urban edges, and installations in Gar County whose location and grid links suggest a growing "energy-security nexus" between solar plants and nearby military facilities.

In a related seminar spon-



sored by Delhi's Institute of Chinese Studies, the same program notes Tibet as a "high-altitude power base" where dense solar arrays, new hydropower and UHV lines sit close to key corridors and bases, providing dependable energy for sensors, logistics and sustained PLA operations in harsh conditions. A broader report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), based in Washington, D.C., describes Beijing's approach as a "gray-zone

infrastructure strategy" on the Tibetan Plateau, using dams, roads, rail and digital systems to gain coercive leverage over neighbours like India and Nepal short of open conflict.

From an Indian perspective, this conjunction is troubling. As Bitter Winter has illustrated before, hydropower on transboundary rivers like the Yarlung Tsangpo raises familiar concerns about downstream water flows and the potential use of dams as "water bombs",

while the transformation of the plateau into a vast energy-industrial zone risks altering regional climate patterns and accelerating glacial melt. At the same time, the electrification of border villages, microgrids, and garrisons enables permanent settlements, all-weather surveillance, and rapid mobilisation across sectors facing India's Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Ladakh, even if the infrastructure is outwardly labelled "green development" by China.

Beijing's renewable push in TAR is not a simple story of environmental shift; it is a coated strategy that fuses energy security, frontier consolidation and military logistics on one of the world's most sensitive plateaus. Hydropower dams, solar farms, microgrids and UHV lines can legitimately light homes, power schools and lift incomes along

the border—but they also supply the electricity for radars, communications, drones and barracks that anchor Beijing's presence opposite India. The benefits that development brings thus become opportunities for further wrongdoings.

For New Delhi, Kathmandu, Thimphu, and Dhaka, the challenge is to recognise that what Beijing sells as a "clean energy miracle" in Tibet is simultaneously a long-term hard-power investment on the Himalayan crest line. Understanding the dual-use character of these projects—through sustained satellite monitoring, open-source analysis, and dialogue on transboundary river risks—will be crucial if India and South Asian countries are to craft a response that balances its own clean-energy ambitions with the imperative of border security.



Growth tops agenda as G20 meets in US

ASHEVILLE

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's largest economies are gathering in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina for two days of talks focused on reviving global growth amid trade disputes, mounting debt and the economic fallout from the Iran conflict.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will host the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Asheville on Monday and Tuesday as the United States seeks to place economic growth at the centre of its year-long presidency of the grouping.

"Just as President Trump is reviving American economic growth and making it the centerpiece of this Administration's agenda, we are taking the same approach and prioritizing growth as the host of this year's G20 Finance Track," Bessent said on Sunday.

She was received by India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

Sitharaman will lead the Indian delegation at the G20 meeting and associated discussions over the next two days, India's Ministry of Finance said.

The US presidency wants the meeting to focus on increasing global growth, reducing persistent economic and trade imbalances, addressing sovereign debt vulnerabilities and strengthening critical supply chains.

The discussions come against the backdrop of higher energy and commodity prices resulting from the Iran conflict and the disruption of commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington is also expected to urge G20 members to support tougher economic measures against Iran. Differences over sanctions and continued commercial ties with Tehran could complicate efforts to reach a consensus.

Trade is likely to be another contentious subject. The Trump administration wants global economies to compete through productivity, innovation and investment instead of relying on subsidies, excess production and export-led industrial policies.

Although US officials have not directly named China while outlining this part of the agenda, Washington has repeatedly expressed concern about Chinese industrial overcapacity and its effect on international markets.



Samsung, SK hynix pay \$8.1 bn in taxes

Seoul, August 30: South Korean chipmakers Samsung Electronics and SK hynix paid a combined 11.2 trillion won (\$8.1 billion) in corporate taxes during the first half of 2026, reflecting a sharp rise in profits amid the ongoing semiconductor boom, financial data showed.

Samsung Electronics paid 3.99 trillion won in corporate taxes, while SK hynix paid 7.22 trillion won during the January-June period, according to data from the Financial Supervisory Service's Repository of Korea's Corporate Filings.

The combined tax payment was 167 per cent higher than a year earlier and marked the second-highest first-half figure on record. The record stands at 15.63 trillion won, paid by the two companies in the first half of 2019 following a memory-chip boom the previous year.

The surge came as both companies reported a strong improvement in operating profits. Samsung posted an operating profit of 146.7 trillion won in the first half, compared with 11.4 trillion won a year earlier, while SK hynix's operating profit rose to 98.2 trillion won from 16.7 trillion won.

Digital fertiliser system covers 14 cr farmers

New Delhi, August 30: India's Integrated Fertiliser Management System (iFMS) has expanded its digital footprint to cover more than 14 crore Aadhaar-linked farmers, 2.5 lakh retailers and around seven crore fertiliser sale transactions annually, the government said on Sunday.

The system, developed and technically supported by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for the Department of Fertilisers, connects key stages of the fertiliser supply chain, including production, imports, transportation, stock availability, retail sales and subsidy processing.

The digital platform supports the administration of fertiliser subsidies worth nearly Rs 2 lakh crore annually. New dashboards and analytical tools allow officials to monitor production, imports, dispatches, stocks and retail sales at the national, state, district and retailer levels.

The government said the system is also being integrated with farmer, land and crop databases maintained by states and other government platforms. Integration with Haryana's Meri Fasal Mera Byora and work linked to AgriStack are aimed at connecting fertiliser purchases with agricultural information.

Under the Framework for Fertiliser Sale (FFS), farmers can book fertiliser through a mobile application using an AgriStack-based identity after verification of land and ownership details. A QR-based booking is then generated and verified at the retailer's Point of Sale device.

India's First "Agri Doctor Movement" Launched

24 Agricultural Experts Mentor Around 300 Agriculture Students on a Single Day and at a Single Platform

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 30

With the objective of introducing new career opportunities to agriculture students and developing experts capable of providing quality, field-level agricultural guidance to farmers, the "The Farmist Summit 2026" was organized by Navanirman Foundation at Vignana Jyothi Institute of Management in Bachupally, Hyderabad.

The organizers announced that the summit marked the beginning of the "Agri Doctor Movement", a first-of-its-kind initiative in India.

The chief guest at the event was Advocate Sunkara Naresh, founder of Vennela Foundation. Speaking on the occasion, he said that he had come to the platform as a farmer's son who under-

stands the hardships faced by farmers.

He emphasized that in the era of Artificial Intelligence, farmers should move beyond traditional methods, adopt technology, and adapt to changing agricultural practices in order to achieve better results. He said that situations from the past, such as the misuse of pesticides like Endrin, which became associated with both pest control and farmer deaths, should never be allowed to recur.

He further observed that when the word "farmer" is searched on the internet, the image that often appears is that of a weak, distressed farmer looking towards the sky. He called for such stereotypical imagery to be immediately replaced with a more positive representation of

farmers.

He also encouraged young students to pursue agriculture and allied courses and explore the wide range of career opportunities available in the sector.

As part of the summit, 24 experts, scientists, entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, representatives from the agribusiness sector, and career guidance professionals from agriculture and allied fields participated and addressed around 300 agriculture students and young agricultural professionals. The event was organized with the active involvement of Navanirman Foundation Founder and President Rambabu Ponnana, Vice-President Advocate Sai Jyothi U., and Jagadeeshwara Rao Ponnana, along with other members of the organization.



ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

'Rat Holes' Kill Himalayas



"The Himalayas need a ridge-to-valley, transboundary strategy in which early warning, ecological protection and disaster response work as one system."



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Nepal floods are a grim warning for not only India, but the entire subcontinent improperly called South Asia. Afghanistan to Tibet, the Himalayan region is one territory – continuous and contiguous geographical unit – that has to share happiness and more than that turmoil together.

Each Himalayan tragedy only signals the next one. Business as usual is no longer defensible. The woes have to be shared and stand together. The Indian Ocean tsunami to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) recreates that together you live or die. The largest and most populous country that needs to lead the subcontinent, euphemistically called SAARC. If India has to progress it has to be inclusive and care for all its eight major neighbours and even have Iran and bête noire Pakistan as a close ally.

The August 26 Nepal-Tibet flash floods were caused not by a conventional GLOF, but by a massive high-altitude glacier collapse and ice-rock avalanche. A large glacier section collapsed in Tibet, temporarily damming the river. When the debris dam breached, a huge torrent of water, mud and rock swept into Nepal, killing hundreds and destroying roads, bridges and hydropower projects.

Satellite analysis suggests about two-thirds of the glacier body collapsed, with no clear evidence of a pre-existing glacial lake bursting. Climate warming, combined with the Himalayas' steep and unstable terrain, likely contributed to the

collapse.

The warning is stark: Himalayan glaciers themselves—not just glacial lakes—are becoming potential triggers of catastrophic floods.

The deaths, some thousands or 320, or so confirmed alone in the recent GLOF does not shake the region. None counts the cattle heads, forest animals, fauna and washout of large tracts of land from Tibet to Nepal and beyond to Bihar, West Bengal and other places in a jiffy. Most of these countries do not have a disaster management system that India and Tibetan Chinese projects built over the last over past few decades. A calamity burdens India with the task to restore the neighbourhood. Its disaster force has to extend to the region.

The Little Ice Age is at its end. Europe is simmering, rivers and lakes drying up. Himalayas are melting. Research studies note 40 percent of the Nepal glacial ice cover is gone. Human safety is at stake since the times of Noah's ark or the Manu's giant fish driven boat. Who can have that sagacity of selecting the species to save the life? A US-led war in the Gulf or Caspian Sea only aggravates the conditions.

The region from Hindukush Silk Route to the Eastern and northern-most Himalayas are being deforested and rat-holed with giant tunnel boring machines for dams, river diversions, bridges and series of projects for rails and roads now even in the most sensitive and fragile Badarinath-Kedarnath for "strategic" toll roads.

Competitive developmental disaster has hit the mute Himalayas.

Detonations for projects in western, northern or southern Himalayas can lead to mini-tremors and other seismic activities leading to gradual devastations across the region. Is the present avalanche in Tibet connected to Tibet-Nepal Rail link or series of tunnels linked to Atal and other tunnels in Kashmir? Immediate cause may be with Tibet-Nepal rail or massive Medong and other dams being built by China.

India has constructed and is building major strategic and transportation tunnels across the Himalayan region from Jammu & Kashmir to Uttarakhand, drastically improving connectivity, defence logistics and earning massive tolls for profits.

The pride of Indian Railway tunnel at Karnaprayag caused severe water crisis towards northeastern parts across Karnaprayag. The sinking Joshimath is no less a disaster with road constructions all around.

Predicted in Yore

Mythology and traditions predicted Himalayan disaster in the Badarinath Valley millennia ago. The Narasimha murti at Joshimath, a must before a visit to Badarinath, has a legend saying the day thinning tip of the iconic idol's finger separates from its body, the Valley would vanish. The worship would begin at Bhavishya Badari, 17 km from Joshimath.

Such tales abound in folklores. Has the time for the Himalayan disaster arrived?

Competitive destruction, praised as development, seemingly etching the wiping out of the Indian subcontinent. The engine of growth may become the beginning of a deluge that may be worse than what the Biblical or Puranic tales write about Noah or Manu.

The Himalayan "wiping out" would turn the entire northern Indian plains into a massive desert. Interestingly, it would have aggravated the situation in Europe already hit by severe heat-drought cycles. The subcontinent is becoming the architect of a Euro-Asian disaster that may be altering the characteristics of the Arctic and Antarctic. Massive floating icebergs may be the tip.

Would any sane regime prevail in a Donald Trumpian-construction industry billions-of-dollar fervour for rebuilding Gaza to Kashmir? It's complex phenomenon with massive funds stuck in profits sucked from the poor.

Key with India and SAARC

Uttarakhand saw two deadly glacier-related disasters within three months in 2021. A February glacial-lake breach killed at least 61 people, left 143 missing and damaged two hydropower projects; a second glacier collapse in April killed 12. ICIMOD has identified 47 potentially dangerous glacial lakes across the Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali basins. With Himalayan glaciers reportedly melting at twice the early-2000s rate, the risks are rising, while South Asia's glacial-flood early-warning systems and

regional cooperation remain woefully limited.

Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh are rapidly expanding large tunnel networks through fragile Himalayan terrain.

Himalayan disasters demand basin-wide, cross-border governance. SAARC must move beyond a political forum and revive regional disaster mechanisms, real-time data sharing and joint rescue protocols. India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh should integrate satellite and ground monitoring of glaciers, landslides and glacial lakes with automated downstream warnings. Shared river-basin assessments, strict floodplain zoning and common climate-resilient construction standards should replace isolated project clearances. The Himalayas need a ridge-to-valley, transboundary strategy in which early warning, ecological protection and disaster response work as one system.

It needs review of 50 tunnelling projects in Uttarakhand and series of activities from Arunachal to Kashmir and on the Tibetan side turning the Himalayas into massive holes and craters. Each project drains massive public funds and leads closer to catastrophe. A joint SAARC action may turn the future of the Asia and the world.

India has the highest stake. It has to save the world with virulent dialogue in the neighbourhood to save the Himalayas and the Indian subcontinent, as a precursor to rescue the world.

India to grow 7% in FY27: Sitharaman

Chicago, August 30: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said India is expected to sustain economic growth of 7 per cent or more in the financial year 2026-27, despite global uncertainties and supply-chain disruptions. Addressing the Indian diaspora in Chicago during her visit to the US, Sitharaman said India had maintained its growth momentum in the years following the Covid-19 pandemic and was well placed to continue on that

path.

She said disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz amid the Middle East conflict had initially affected supplies of crude oil, petroleum products and fertilisers to India. However, the country managed to reroute supplies to minimise the impact.

The Finance Minister said the government had also kept fertiliser prices unchanged for farmers through subsidies despite a sharp rise in interna-

tional prices. She added that adequate fertiliser stocks were available for the upcoming season beginning in November.

Sitharaman said the government would continue with structural reforms and focus on mobilising greater capital, including overseas investment, to meet India's expanding economic requirements. She said private investment had gained momentum domestically following the government's capital ex-

penditure push, but international capital would also be required to support the country's growth ambitions.

The Finance Minister said the government was engaging with global investment funds and showcasing India's economic progress while seeking their expectations to provide greater clarity and facilitate investments.

She also said India was in discussions with several countries on bilateral investment treaties and trade agree-





The New Age of AI Hiring

On a rainy Tuesday morning, an executive candidate presses “Submit” on an application for a global corporate position. Within seconds, long before a human recruiter could open the attached resume, an artificial intelligence system may have already parsed the document, identified relevant skills, compared the candidate with historical hiring patterns and assigned a preliminary match score. This scenario,

once associated with futuristic workplaces, is increasingly becoming part of modern recruitment. Artificial intelligence has moved beyond being an experimental recruitment tool and is becoming an important part of the global talent acquisition infrastructure. Companies across North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and emerging economies are using AI to discover candidates, screen applications, assess skills, communicate with

applicants and predict potential hiring outcomes. What began with basic keyword-based resume screening has evolved into sophisticated systems using predictive analytics, machine learning, generative AI and automated assessments. The transformation promises faster and more efficient recruitment, but it also raises important questions about fairness, transparency, privacy and the continuing role of human judgment.

Accelerating the Recruitment Pipeline

Traditional recruitment has often been a lengthy and resource-intensive process. Recruiters may receive hundreds or even thousands of applications for a single position, making it difficult to examine every resume carefully. Administrative work such as scheduling interviews, answering routine questions and screening candidates can consume a significant portion of a recruiter's time. AI is changing this process by automating many of these repetitive activities. Modern recruitment platforms can scan large volumes of resumes within seconds, identify relevant qualifications and compare applicants against the requirements of a position. AI-powered sourcing tools can also search professional databases and identify potential candidates who may not have actively applied for a particular job. Generative AI has further expanded these capabilities. Recruitment systems can create personalized messages for potential candidates, answer routine questions and assist recruiters in drafting job descriptions. Con-

versational AI can manage interview scheduling and provide applicants with updates, reducing communication delays. The result is a recruitment pipeline that can move significantly faster than traditional processes. However, speed does not necessarily guarantee better hiring decisions. The real challenge is ensuring that efficiency is accompanied by accuracy, fairness and meaningful human evaluation.

The Applicant-Recruiter AI Arms Race

The rise of generative AI has affected job seekers just as significantly as employers. Candidates now have access to tools capable of rewriting resumes, creating cover letters, tailoring applications to specific job descriptions and preparing responses for interviews. This has created a new technological competition between applicants and employers. A candidate can use AI to analyze a vacancy and optimize a resume so that it closely matches the language used in the job description. Automated application tools can also allow individuals to submit applications to numerous positions in a short period. Employers, meanwhile,

are facing increasing volumes of applications that may themselves have been produced or enhanced by AI. Applicant Tracking Systems are consequently becoming more sophisticated. Instead of simply searching for specific keywords, newer systems can analyze the broader meaning of a candidate's experience and identify relationships between skills, responsibilities and job requirements. This creates an unusual situation in which machines are increasingly evaluating applications created or optimized by other machines. The recruitment process is therefore becoming an algorithmic contest in which both employers and can-

didates are learning how to work with increasingly powerful AI systems.

From Resumes to Real-World Skills

AI is also changing what employers look for in candidates. For decades, resumes have served as the primary representation of professional experience. University degrees, previous job titles, years of experience and recognizable employers have often played a major role in recruitment. But the growing capabilities of AI are challenging this model. When software can instantly generate written content, analyze information, produce computer code and perform other technical tasks, em-

Building the Future of Global Talent

The rise of AI in recruitment represents more than a technological upgrade. It is changing the relationship between employers and candidates and redefining what organizations consider valuable talent. The benefits are substantial. Recruitment can become faster, more scalable and potentially more focused on skills rather than superficial credentials. Yet the risks are equally significant. Poorly designed systems can reproduce historical bias, invade privacy, exclude qualified candidates and make hiring processes feel impersonal. The future of recruitment will therefore depend not on whether companies use AI, but on how responsibly they use it. Organizations that combine advanced technology with transparency, fairness and meaningful human oversight will be better positioned to benefit from automation without losing sight of the people behind the data. AI may become the new gatekeeper of global employment, but the final decision about who gets an opportunity should remain guided by human accountability. The smartest recruitment systems will not be those that eliminate people from the process. They will be those that use technology to help people make better, faster and fairer decisions.

ployers may place greater emphasis on capabilities that are harder to automate. Critical thinking, adaptability, communication, leadership, creativity, emotional intelligence and ethical reasoning are becoming increasingly valuable. Instead of relying entirely on resumes, organizations may use practical assessments, simulations and live problem-solving exercises to understand how candidates perform in realistic situations. This could ultimately create a more skills-focused labor market. A candidate's ability to solve a complex problem may become more important than simply possessing a particular job title or

academic credential.

The Human-in-the-Loop Imperative

Despite the rapid development of recruitment AI, complete automation is unlikely to be the ideal model. Hiring is not simply a mathematical exercise. It involves understanding personalities, motivations, organizational culture, career ambitions and circumstances that may not be visible in structured data. AI can process information at a scale that humans cannot match, but human recruiters can provide context that algorithms may miss. A career gap, an unusual career transition or a nontraditional educational background may have a perfectly reasonable explanation that cannot be understood from data alone. The most effective recruitment model is therefore likely to combine machine efficiency with human judgment. AI can identify patterns, organize applications, conduct initial assessments and reduce administrative workloads. Human professionals can then examine important decisions, challenge questionable recommendations and evaluate candidates in a broader context.



The Bias and Fairness Challenge

One of the strongest arguments for AI recruitment is its potential to reduce human bias. Recruiters, like all people, can be influenced by conscious or unconscious assumptions about candidates. Factors such as age, gender, educational background, location or previous employers can sometimes affect hiring decisions. An algorithm, in theory, can focus on measurable qualifications and skills rather than personal characteristics. But AI does not automatically become neutral simply because a machine makes the decision. Recruitment algorithms are often trained using histor-

ical data. If previous hiring decisions contained patterns of discrimination or inequality, an AI system may learn those patterns and reproduce them. A system designed to identify candidates who resemble historically successful employees could unintentionally favor particular backgrounds while disadvantaging others. This has made algorithmic fairness one of the most important issues in the development of recruitment technology. Organizations increasingly need to test automated systems for discriminatory outcomes, monitor their performance and understand how recommendations are produced. Transparency is equally important. Candidates may reasonably ask why their application was rejected or

why another applicant received a higher score. If organizations cannot provide meaningful explanations, trust in automated recruitment can quickly decline.

Regulation Enters the Recruitment Arena

As AI becomes more influential in employment decisions, governments and regulators are paying closer attention to how these systems are designed and deployed. Different regions are approaching the issue in different ways. Europe has generally adopted a stronger emphasis on privacy, transparency and risk management, while companies in North America have rapidly adopted AI for efficiency and large-scale recruitment. In

Asia-Pacific and other emerging markets, AI is being used to manage growing labor markets and connect employers with increasingly diverse pools of candidates. The regulatory environment is therefore becoming an important factor in recruitment strategy. Employers must consider how candidate information is collected, stored and analyzed, whether applicants are properly informed about automated decision-making and whether AI systems produce unfair outcomes. This means organizations can no longer treat recruitment AI simply as a software purchase. It increasingly requires cooperation between human resources departments, technology teams, legal experts and organizational leadership.



Unlocking the American Dream

How the EB-5 Investor Program Liberates International Students

For decades, international students pursuing higher education in the United States have faced a difficult reality: earning a degree from a leading American university does not necessarily guarantee a straightforward path into the U.S. workforce. Students may invest years of effort and substantial financial resources in their education, only to discover that immigration restrictions can determine whether they are able to remain and build a career after graduation.

The traditional pathway for many international students begins with an F-1 student visa, followed by Optional Practical Training (OPT). While OPT provides an important bridge between education and employment, the authorization period can be limited. For many non-STEM graduates, standard OPT generally provides up to 12 months of employment authorization, while eligible STEM graduates may qualify for an additional extension. Even with these options, students often face uncertainty about what happens when their employment authorization expires. The H-1B visa can provide a longer-term employment route, but its annual numerical limits and selection process can create another layer of uncertainty. Highly qualified graduates may find themselves depending on the H-1B selection process rather than solely on their academic qualifications and professional abilities. At the same time, some employers may hesitate to hire international graduates because of sponsorship responsibilities, administrative requirements and associated costs. Against this backdrop, the EB-5 immigrant investor program has emerged as one potential alternative for families with the financial resources and eligibility to pursue permanent residence through investment.

Understanding the EB-5 Investment Structure

The foundation of the EB-5 program is investment. Unlike employment-based immigration routes that primarily depend on a job offer or employer sponsorship, EB-5 eligibility is connected to qualifying investment activity and job creation. Under current rules, the standard minimum investment amount is generally \$800,000 for qualifying investments in a Targeted Employment Area (TEA) and \$1.05 million for investments outside a TEA, subject to statutory and regulatory requirements. The investment must be made in a qualifying New Commercial Enterprise and must result in the creation of at least 10 qualifying full-time jobs for U.S. workers. The requirement for a substantial investment means that EB-5 is not an option for every international student. It is generally more relevant to families that have sufficient lawful assets and are prepared to commit significant capital for an immigration strategy. Importantly, the student does not necessarily have to be the original earner of the investment funds. In appropriate circumstances, parents or other family members may provide the capital as a gift. However, the source and path of the funds must be properly documented and demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements. This can involve extensive financial documentation, including evidence relating to income, savings, property transactions, business earnings, investments, gifts and other lawful sources of capital.

The Game-Changing Potential of Concurrent Filing

The EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 introduced important changes to the EB-5 framework and has increased interest among international students and their families. One of the most significant advantages for eligible students already living legally in the United States is the possibility of filing an immigrant petition and an application for adjustment of status concurrently when an immigrant visa is immediately available.

This can be particularly significant for students who want to transition from temporary student status toward permanent residence without immediately depending on an employer-sponsored visa.

After filing the appropriate applications, an eligible applicant may be able to obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and Advance Parole while the adjustment-of-status case is pending, subject to USCIS processing and individual eligibility. The EAD can provide greater flexibility in employment because the applicant is no longer necessarily dependent on a particular employer for work

authorization. Advance Parole may also provide a mechanism for eligible applicants to travel internationally and seek re-entry to the United States while their adjustment-of-status application remains pending. However, immigration travel rules are highly fact-specific, and applicants should obtain professional legal advice before making international travel plans.

For international students, this potential combination of employment and travel flexibility can fundamentally change the way they approach their transition from university to professional life.

Reclaiming Independence in the U.S. Job Market

One of the most attractive aspects of obtaining employment authorization through an eligible adjustment-of-status process is the potential reduction in dependence on employer sponsorship. Under a conventional F-1-to-H-1B pathway, an international graduate may need to find an employer willing and able to sponsor them. This can influence the types of jobs they pursue and the employers willing to consider their applications. With appropriate employment authorization, an eligible applicant may have considerably greater flexibility. Instead of limiting their search primarily to companies prepared to sponsor an employment visa, they may be able to consider a broader range of employers and professional opportunities.



CRICKET

South Africa pacer Sipamla ruled out of T20I tri-series in Namibia



WINDHOEK: South Africa fast bowler Lutho Sipamla has been ruled out of the ongoing T20I tri-series featuring Namibia and Zimbabwe after sustaining a left hamstring injury. Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Sunday. Seam-bowling all-rounder Andile Simelane, who has represented South Africa in 10 T20Is, has been named as Sipamla's replacement in the Proteas squad for the remainder of the tour. Sipamla suffered the injury during South Africa's opening match against hosts Namibia, where he managed to bowl just nine deliveries before being forced off the field in visible discomfort. Sipamla, 28, subsequently missed the Proteas' second fixture against Zimbabwe as medical staff assessed the severity of the muscle strain.

Duleep Trophy

Kaverappa's four-for helps South Zone bowl out North Zone for 195



BENGALURU: Pacer Vidhwath Kaverappa picked a disciplined four-wicket haul to help South Zone bowl out North Zone for a modest 195 on the day one of their Duleep Trophy semi-final clash at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2 on Sunday. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, a strategy similar to their quarter-final victory against West Zone, North Zone failed to build substantial partnerships as South Zone's disciplined attack kept taking wickets at regular intervals. Opening batter Qamran Iqbal provided the sole resistance for North Zone by compiling a gritty 76 off 182 balls. However, he found little support from the other end. Number three batter Ayush Doseja struck five boundaries during his 23-run knock before being dismissed by Kavuri Saiteja.

NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026 marks 15th Edition with several firsts

- **Records 32,000 Registrations, Introduces Inclusive Run, brings 184 Tribal Youth to the Marathon and Earns several Global Recognitions**
- **Ethiopia's Emame Seifu and Seboka Negusse Win Elite Titles; Nirmaben Thakor and Gopi Thonakal Lead Indian Winners**
- **11,000 Participate in Half and Full Marathons; 9,000 in 10K and 6,500 in 5K and Inclusive Runs**
- **Cyberabad Police Commissioner among others graced**

HYDERABAD

The 15th edition of the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026, powered by IDFC FIRST Bank, is held on Sunday with a record 32,000 registrations across the 5K, Inclusive Run, 10K, Half Marathon and Full Marathon categories, making it one of the largest running events in the country. The main events — Full Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K Run — were conducted on Sunday, following the 5K and Inclusive Run held on Saturday. Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad; Mr. Prashant Shinde, Zonal Head, IDFC FIRST Bank; Shri Krishna Kumar Thakur, Director (Personnel), NMDC; Smt. K. Shilpavalli, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zonal Office; and Rajesh Vetcha,



Founder, Hyderabad Runners Society and Race Director, NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026, jointly flagged off the Elite Runners and Full Marathon at People's Plaza, Necklace Road. The Half Marathon was flagged off at 5:30 a.m. from People's Plaza by Mr. R. V. Karnan, Commissioner, GHMC, along with other dignitaries. The 10K Run was flagged off at 7:15 a.m. from HITEC, Madhapur, by Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS; Ms. Laura Williams, Consul General of the United States; V. Vaidyanathan, MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST Bank; and representatives of the Hyderabad Runners Society. Overall, 32,000 runners registered for the various categories. Around 11,000 runners participated in the Half and Full Marathons and Elite categories, while about 9,000 participated in the 10K Run on Sunday. On Saturday, 6,500 runners participated in the 5K and

Inclusive Runs, including around 300 differently abled participants and 15 overseas and 30 Indian elite runners. The Inclusive Run, introduced for the first time at the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon, was organised in association with the Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation (ABBF). The initiative seeks to promote inclusive participation in distance running and reinforces the belief that running has no barriers and everyone deserves an opportunity to experience the joy of sport. The 300 differently abled participants included 205 persons with disabilities, 37 wheelchair runners from the Telangana Wheelchair Cricket Team and Bengaluru Wheelchair Cricket Team and other; 14 dwarf participants from Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad, visually challenged runners and other participants with disabilities yesterday and quite a significant number participated in the Main

event. The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon is regarded as the beginning of the marathon season in India and is among the country's largest marathon events. The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026 witnessed an impressive performance by elite runners from Ethiopia, Kenya and India. In the Women's Elite category, Ethiopia's Emame Seifu emerged as the champion with a winning time of 2:46:29. Ethiopia's Tsega Desta finished second in 2:46:57, while Kenya's Teresiah Omosa secured third place in 2:47:17. Among Indian women, Nirmaben Thakor was the leading Indian finisher with a timing of 2:50:20, followed by Bhagirathi Non (2:51:41), Meenakshi Negi (3:08:43), Maripally Uma (3:18:22) and Bhagwati Dangi (3:31:28). In the Men's Elite category, Ethiopia's Seboka Negusse emerged as the champion with a winning time of 2:20:57. Kenya's Felix Kimu-

tai also clocked 2:20:57 to finish second, while compatriot Francis Cheruiyot secured third place in 2:21:29. Among Indian men, Gopi Thonakal was the leading Indian finisher, securing fourth place overall in 2:21:46, followed by Man Singh (2:23:56), Pradeep Singh Chauhan (2:26:12), Ranjit Singh (2:27:49) and Bugatha Srinu (2:29:56). The performances underlined the growing strength of Indian distance runners competing alongside an international elite field. 184 Tribal Youth from Chhattisgarh make their Marathon debut. A special highlight of this year's marathon was the participation of 184 young tribal runners from Chhattisgarh, where NMDC operates its mining projects. The runners were selected from villages and remote areas of Chhattisgarh and participated across different categories of the NMDC

Hyderabad Marathon for the first time. Their participation provided an opportunity for young runners from tribal communities to experience a major national marathon and showcase their potential. "Speaking at the flag-off, Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad,* said he had been associated with the Hyderabad Marathon in different capacities over the years — as a runner and mentor — and was happy to participate in this year's event as well. He said the weather was ideal for the marathon and praised Hyderabad's vibrant running community and the city's growing focus on fitness and healthy living. "Hyderabad has a very strong running community. Hyderabadis are health conscious and the city has also emerged as an events capital of India. Telangana is known for its hospitality. Nearly 2,000 police personnel participated in different categories of the marathon," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Krishna Kumar Thakur, Director (Personnel), NMDC, said that the initiative had helped identify promising running talent among the tribal youth. "We have found excellent running talent among the 184 tribal youth from the villages of Chhattisgarh. Some of them have already shown tremendous potential, with a few completing the Full Marathon in under 2 hours and 30 minutes. Through their participation, they have become ambassadors of good health. We hope to see many of them progress to higher levels of running from the next edition," he said.

Women's Asia Cup: Shafali, Deepti star as India thrash Thailand by 94 runs



DUBAI

India opened their Women's Asia Cup 2026 campaign in emphatic fashion, registering a thumping 94-run victory over Thailand at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday, with Shafali Verma's 19th T20I half-century setting up the win before the bowlers dismantled the Thai batting line-up. In pursuit of 160 to win the match, Thailand were all out for only 65 in 16.1 over, with wicket-keeper batter Nanna-

pat Koncharoenkai, being the only player to offer any real resistance by scoring 41 off 48 balls. India's innings began very well after they chose to bat first. Smriti Mandhana was playing well, scoring 19 runs off 10 balls, but was then run out. Pratika Rawal, making her T20I debut, was off to a promising start by scoring 22 runs off 18 balls before Shafali took over in the innings. The brilliant Shafali's overwhelmed the Thai reply by

scoring 64 runs off 36 balls, consisting of eight powerful fours and three sixes, thus marking her 19th T20I half-century and securing India a firm lead. India were at 91/1 after 8.5 overs and seemed on the verge of making a large total, but a sudden collapse altered the course of the innings. India fell from 91/1 after 8.5 overs to 137/9 by the end of 17.2 overs as a result of a number of mild dismissals, Deepti Sharma, the all-rounder, also being run out during the collapse. Suleeporn Laomi from Thailand was the most prominent bowler, taking 3 wickets for 26 runs from her four overs; she also contributed to Deepti's wicket by delivering a direct hit that got her run out. India were in real danger of falling far short of a competitive score, but it was Kranti Gaud who gave them the necessary push at the end.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya leads 88th Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle at BRICS Run & Ride 2026 in New Delhi



- **India cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir, Sangram Singh and Madhurima Tuli join 5,000 strong crowd at JLN stadium**
- **88th edition has a special significance as India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit at the Bharat Mandapam on September 12-13: Dr. Mandaviya**
- **88th Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle Kicks Off Across 25,000+ Locations; BRICS Envoys and Senior Officials Join Nationwide Movement**

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir, wrestler Sangram Singh and actor Madhurima Tuli led participants at a special National Sports Day edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle, organised in collaboration with BRICS, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium today. The event was held simultaneously at more than 25,000 locations across the country, marking another significant milestone for the weekly cycling movement. Dr. Mandaviya said the 88th edition had a special significance as India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit at the Bharat Mandapam on September 12-13. "This week's edition is dedicated to our esteemed dignitaries and members

from BRICS who will be a part of the summit on 12th and 13th. We are delighted to welcome them today," he said. Dr. Mandaviya highlighted the three-fold benefits of cycling — fitness, reduced pollution and easing traffic congestion — while urging citizens to make cycling a part of their weekly routine. "The 88th edition of 'Sundays on Cycle' has kicked off at over 25,000 locations across the country. The craze for cycling is growing nationwide, and 'Sundays on Cycle' is gradually becoming a passion among the people. Let us all step away from mobile and computer screens for an hour each day to head outdoors, cycle, play sports, and keep ourselves fit," Dr. Mandaviya added. The participation from distinguished representatives of the BRICS partner nations, included Ms. Sharifah Ezneeda Wafa Syed Zulkarnain Wafa, Chargé d'Affaires, High Commission of Malaysia; Mr. Trinh Minh Manh, Ambassador-Designate, Embassy of Vietnam; Mr. Yudho Sasongko, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Indonesia; Mr. Mikhail Kasiko, Ambassador, Embassy of Belarus; Mr. Juan Carlos Marsan Aguilera, Ambassador, Embassy of Cuba; Mr. Nebiyu Tedla Negash, Ambassador, Embassy of Ethiopia; and Mr. Roman Babushkin, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Russia. Senior government officials present at the occasion included Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary, Department of Sports; Shri Sunil Paliwal, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs; and Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs. Padma Shree Gautam Gambhir, who flagged off the cycling ride, said, "This event, organised by the government for

Fit India is an exceptional initiative. My belief is that the fitter India remains, the stronger India will be, and the more self-reliant India will become. Therefore, we should view this not merely as an event, but as a movement. It is our responsibility, especially the youth here at this event, to try and turn this into a movement, ensuring that our youth and everyone else remain fit, leading to a fitter and stronger nation." Over 5,000 participants, including youth, senior citizens and of course representatives of BRICS partner countries, danced, cycled, and took part in the activities with great enthusiasm at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, under the BRICS Run & Ride 2026 initiative. An ITBP brass band performance added to the festive atmosphere. The edition held this Sunday morning was particularly significant as it was organised just a day after National Sports Day, adding to the spirit of fitness, sports and active participation among citizens. Fit India Sundays on Cycle, an initiative envisioned by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, is organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI), Raah-giri Foundation, and MY Bharat, and is conducted across all States and Union Territories through the SAI and Khelo India network. The cycling drive is conducted simultaneously across all States and Union Territories, including at SAI Regional Centres, National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), SAI Training Centres (STCs), Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCes), and Khelo India Centres (KICs).

Telangana Fencing Team Selection for Khelo India Youth Games

- **Selection trials to be held at Moinabad on September 12 and 13**
- **Opportunity for talented fencing athletes from across the state**

HYDERABAD

The stage is set for the selection of fencing athletes who will represent Telangana at the Khelo India Youth Games—2026. The Telangana Fencing Association has announced that selection trials will be conducted on September 12 and 13 at the Gutta Jwala Excellence Centre in Moinabad. The association said the main objective of the trials is to identify and select talented fencing athletes for the Telangana Khelo India Youth Team. Fencers from various parts of the state are expected to attend the selection trials. The event will provide a crucial platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and earn a place in the Telangana team.

Selection Process to Be Transparent

The Telangana Fencing Association said it is making all necessary arrangements to ensure that the selection trials are conducted smoothly and transparently. It appealed to athletes, coaches, parents and affiliated units of the association to extend their co-operation. The selected athletes will get an



opportunity to represent Telangana at the Khelo India Youth Games—2026. Besides giving further encouragement to fencing in the state, the selections are expected to help identify talent capable of performing at the national level in the future.

Khelo India Buzz in Telangana

As Telangana is set to host the Khelo India Youth Games—2026, various sports associations in the state are focusing on identifying and training talented athletes in their respective disciplines. Following the selection of athletes, training camps will be conducted

in phases with the aim of preparing the strongest possible team, as the sports administration moves ahead with its preparations. The Centre has announced its support for conducting the Khelo India Youth Games—2026 in Telangana in December. Arrangements are being made to hold competitions in Hyderabad as well as other parts of the state. In a statement issued in the names of Telangana Fencing Association President Gutta Jwala and General Secretary Y. Srinivas Rao, the association appealed to the media to give wide publicity to the selection trials and encourage young fencing talent.

Karthi's HIT 4 Gains Pace

Sailesh Kolanu is currently busy with Emo Emo Idi, a romantic comedy starring Roshan Meka, and he will take up the HIT 4 script after wrapping up this film. While many expected the fourth part to take more time after HIT 3, things now seem to be moving much faster than expected. As per our sources, Karthi has reportedly given his green signal, with his dates expected to be available from mid 2027. The dialogue version draft is expected to be ready by December this year. The HIT franchise is now gearing up for its fourth installment with Karthi in the

lead as Veerappan and Sailesh Kolanu returning as director and Bankrolled By Nani. The shooting is likely to commence next summer, once the script work and pre production works are completed. The franchise has already delivered three successful films with Vishwak Sen, Adivi Sesh and Nani in the lead roles. Each story introduced a different police officer while remaining connected to the larger HIT universe. However, franchise followers have been discussing how the tone has changed over the films. While the first part im-

pressed with its investigative intensity and grounded treatment, some feel that the intensity gradually reduced while the violence increased. This is where HIT 4 becomes a crucial film for Sailesh. With Karthi entering the franchise, expectations will be much higher, and the director cannot afford to simply repeat the template of the previous films. The biggest challenge will be to deliver a gripping investigative thriller that connects equally well with Telugu and Tamil audiences. The combination of Karthi and Sailesh looks exciting on paper, but getting the story and screen-play right will be the real test.



Hebah Turns Up The Heat

Hebah Patel, who has quietly clocked a decade in the industry, dropped a fresh set of pictures that's got fans talking. She served understated elegance in a black georgette saree with intricate white floral embroidery sprawled across it, paired with a simple black blouse, a pearl choker, and soft curls, proof that sometimes minimal styling makes the loudest statement. Despite a decade-long innings, Hebah has largely stuck to smaller films and cameo appearances rather than bagging big-ticket roles. That said, she isn't slowing down, she has Aadya, a Tamil film that's already completed, and Rudra Kaala, a Kannada film currently in production, lined up next.

Malayalam Box Office: Beyond Everyone's Imagination!

The Malayalam industry continues to surprise everyone with its unique box-office trend. Unlike many other industries where star power guarantees a big opening, Malayalam audiences have repeatedly shown that content only matters. Movies like Patriot, Vrushabha, Barroz, King of Kotha, Turbo, Nadikar and the recent Khalifa could not fully capitalize on their star power despite strong pre-release buzz. For example, a biggie like Khalifa has been overshadowed by smaller films that released after. On the other hand, medium-and small-scale films have delivered extraordinary results. Romancham became a blockbuster despite featuring a relatively lesser-known cast. Mamitha Baiju's Premalu turned into a nationwide sensation and crossed 100 crore worldwide. Kumbalangi Nights earned critical acclaim and strong box-office success through

its storytelling and performances. Manjummel Boys went on to become one of the biggest Malayalam hits ever. Now, the latest example is Bethlehem Kudumba Unit. Starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju, the film opened to positive word of mouth and has emerged as a major Onam blockbuster. The message from Malayalam cinema is clear: stars may bring audiences to theatres to an extent, but only good content can turn a film into a blockbuster. That is why the Malayalam box office remains one of the most unpredictable and fascinating in Indian cinema today.



Rashmika Ready To Return

Actress Rashmika Mandanna is all set to get back to work after recovering from her recent hip injury. In her latest post on social media, the 'Pushpa' actress shared that she is going to miss all of the fun things she got to do during her time at home. "I am getting back to work soon and I am definitely going to miss all of this! (sic)," Rashmika wrote on the photo-sharing app. The latest post of 'The Girlfriend' actress also included glimpses from her recovery time with her loved ones. It included offering prayers, watching movies, solving puzzles, and spending time with her pets. Elated to see Rashmika getting back to her normal life, netizens commented things such as, "Seeing you all healed and getting back to work makes me so happy...I've been waiting to see you back to your usual self, smiling and doing what you love. Please take care of yourself and don't push too hard. So happy to see you back, Rashmika.", "Waiting to see u on on-screen", and "May God bless you". Previously, Rashmika admitted in another one of her posts that all this time away from work has made her realize the importance of slowing down. Sharing her new perspective, the 'Animal' actress said that earlier, when she was hustling, 'slowing down' seemed scary to her, but now she finds hustling extremely scary. Putting her thoughts into words, Rashmika wrote on the photo-sharing app, "My days always look like this if ever I am just home for this long.. It's amazing how when you are hustling your days away the other side which is 'slowing down' seems scary but when you are pushed into 'slowing down' - the hustling like a crazy person now seems scary.. maybe that's what is life..." Rashmika recently suffered a serious hip tendon injury while shooting her upcoming film 'Mysaa'.

Yash's Toxic Gets Support From Kannada Superstars

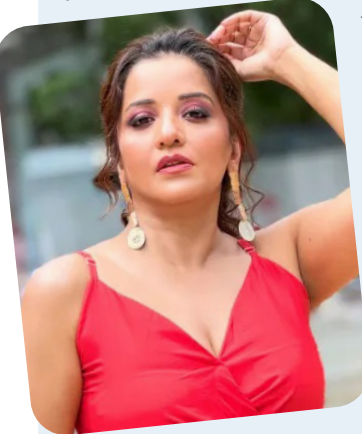
Yash's Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown Ups continues to attract attention, with several leading Kannada celebrities coming out in support of the film and its different approach. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic presents Yash in a gritty and layered role. The film explores the inner struggles and conflicts of a powerful character, moving away from the usual commercial template. The movie has also shown strong box office performance in the Hindi market, collecting over Rs.112 crore net in its first four days. Kichcha Sudeepa praised Yash for taking risks and experimenting with a different kind of cinema. Rishab Shetty also backed Yash's vision,

saying that a film following a different path does not mean that the path is wrong. He appreciated Yash's efforts to take Kannada cinema to a global audience. Upendra described Toxic as a new world and an entirely different experience. Actress Ashika Ranganath also shared her thoughts on the film's psychological layers, while Rakshita Prem, Sanvi Sudeep and singer Vijay Prakash joined others in appreciating the movie. Toxic received mixed reactions initially, but the film continues to draw audiences to theatres. With steady bookings and strong support from several Kannada stars, the movie is expected to maintain its momentum in the coming days.



Monalisa Wants Better Female Portrayals

Monalisa on objectification of women: 'Regional cinema has lacked aesthetic treatment at times' Actress Monalisa has opened up about the objectification of women in the entertainment industry. Speaking exclusively to IANS, she drew a comparison between mainstream Hindi cinema and regional films, saying that while skin show is also common in Hindi cinema, the way they are presented can make a difference. Monalisa said that Hindi cinema also features skin show, but the way such scenes are filmed can make them appear more aesthetic to the audience. "I think in Hindi cinema, even when there is a lot of skin show, the way it is shot is often very aesthetic. Because of the way it is presented, people may not feel that it looks wrong," she said. Talking about regional cinema, particularly Bhojpuri films, Monalisa acknowledged that the industry has sometimes lacked the same kind of aesthetic treatment. "I would say that perhaps regional cinema, particularly Bhojpuri cinema, has lacked that aesthetic treatment at times," the actress said.



The 'Nazar' actress further explained that the same visual can create a different impression depending on how it is filmed and presented. According to Monalisa, elements such as showing the waist or a little skin can be handled differently when they are shot in an aesthetically appealing manner. "If the same thing is shot beautifully and aesthetically, whether you want to show the waist or a little skin, it can look different," she added. Monalisa concluded by emphasizing the importance of presentation when it comes to portraying women on screen. "So, I think presentation is also very important," she said. Monalisa's comments come months after the makers of "Peddi" faced criticism over the portrayal of Janhvi Kapoor's character, Achiyamma, opposite Ram Charan. The film sparked a debate on social media over what several users described as the hypersexualisation and objectification of the female lead. Certain scenes in the film drew attention for repeatedly focusing the camera on Janhvi's cleavage and waist. Another widely discussed sequence showed Ram Charan's character kissing her without her consent and later explaining the gesture as his way of expressing love. The portrayal also drew reactions from several members of the film industry, who questioned the treatment of the female character and raised concerns about the objectification of women on screen.

