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BELGIAN PM'S INDIA VISIT GIVES FRESH PUSH TO BILATERAL, INDIA-EU TIES

BEYOND BORDERS 08

US OPEN: NAOMI OSAKA GETS BETTER OF SINIAKOVA

STADIUM 11



by BP ACHARYA

Revanth drops Konda Surekha from Cabinet; Chinna Reddy sacked from Planning Board



HYDERABAD

In a major political development, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy dropped Forest Minister Konda Surekha from the Cabinet with immediate effect and rescinded the appointment of State Planning Board Vice Chairman G. Chinna Reddy. The move follows recent controversial remarks made by both leaders and their associates. Konda Surekha's daughter, Konda Sushmitha, had alleged that the Chief Minister offered prime land to a shell company linked to his brother at a throwaway price. Meanwhile, G. Chinna Reddy alleged that Wanaparthy MLA T. Megha Reddy

secured his assembly election ticket through monetary inducements.

Their comments sparked sharp criticism within party ranks, with several Congress MLAs demanding immediate action. Though Surekha argued she could not be held accountable for her daughter's statements, party leaders insisted on accountability.

On August 20, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Disciplinary Committee submitted a report to TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, recommending strict disciplinary action against both leaders.

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Revanth blackmailed Congress high command over my Cabinet exit: Surekha

HYDERABAD

Minister Konda Surekha on Thursday alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had "blackmailed" the Congress high command into recommending her removal from the State Cabinet. Speaking to the media at her residence after the Chief Minister's decision to drop her from the Cabinet, Konda Surekha alleged that she was dismissed without even seeking her explanation.

"Even a person sentenced to death is asked about his last wish. I strongly condemn my dismissal without being told what mistake I had committed or why action was being taken against me," she said. Konda Surekha claimed that the Congress high command had no intention of removing her from the Cabinet, but alleged that Revanth Reddy had pressured it to act against her. "The Congress high command had no intention of removing me from the Cabinet. I know this 100 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Cabinet expansion likely soon; Konda Surekha's exit fuels speculation

HYDERABAD

Speculation over a possible expansion of the Telangana Cabinet has intensified following the removal of Minister Konda Surekha from the post, with Congress circles keenly watching the next move of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

With three ministerial berths currently vacant, discussions are underway over filling the existing vacancies along with a possible expansion. Though the government has not taken any formal decision, reports of consultations between the Chief Minister and the Congress high command have added to the buzz.

The race for ministerial berths is also heating up, with the aspirations of several Congress leaders gaining momentum. Social and regional equations, party loyalty, political representation and the contribution of leaders to the party are expected to influence the eventual choices.

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Shock for One BC and One Reddy Leader... Key Posts Given to Three BC Women

HYDERABAD

The latest developments in the Telangana Congress have generated considerable interest in political circles. Following action against Minister Konda Surekha and Planning Board Vice Chairman Chinna Reddy, there is political discussion that key leaders belonging to the BC and Reddy communities have suffered a setback. At the same time, the appointment of three women from the BC community to key positions has assumed significance.

Congress circles are discussing that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy took a cautious approach while deciding to remove Konda Surekha from the ministerial post and Chinna Reddy from the position of Planning Board Vice Chairman. It is reportedly believed that Surekha had argued that

removing her from the Cabinet could increase opposition to the party among the BC community. Against this backdrop, it appears that an attempt was made to maintain social and political balance by assigning important responsibilities to women from the BC community, thereby preventing discontent among BCs. As part of this effort, three BC women have reportedly been given key positions. Gadwal Vijayalakshmi has reportedly been appointed as Planning Board Vice Chairman, Nerella Sharada as Chairperson of the Telangana Women's Commission, and Gundu Sudharani as KUDA Chairperson. The fact that three BC women have received key positions at the same time is being viewed as a possible indication of new political equations within the Congress.

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SHORT

TAKES

BJP leaders arrested near Secretariat over fee reimbursement dues

HYDERABAD: Tension prevailed near the Secretariat here on Thursday as Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao and several party leaders were arrested while attempting to submit representations signed by over eight lakh students seeking immediate clearance of the State's pending fee reimbursement dues of Rs 15,000 crore. Rao, who had written to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy three days ago seeking an appointment to personally submit the representations, alleged that there had been no response from the government. With the government failing to respond to the students' concerns,

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"My focus is on genuine Cong workers", says Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy

HYDERABAD

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy on Thursday said his primary focus was to ensure that genuine Congress workers who had stood by the party during difficult times were not subjected to injustice.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for road development works worth Rs.76.20 crore at Sarvel village in Narayan-



apur mandal of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district, he said several major road projects were being taken up in the Munugode constituency. Rajgopal Reddy said village roads, earlier limited to around 3.75 metres, were being widened to 5.5 metres to meet growing traffic and improve connectivity, as cars, two-wheelers and buses were now reaching even remote villages.

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Delhi High Court Imposes Restrictions on Kavitha and 15 Others

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday imposed interim restrictions against publishing, republishing, broadcasting, or disseminating defamatory allegations and statements against The Pioneer newspaper through social media and digital platforms. Justice Sachin Dutta passed the order in a defamation suit filed by CMYK Printech, the company that publishes the newspaper. The court restrained a total of 15 defendants, including BRS leader K. Kavitha, several YouTube channels, online publishing organizations, and journalists.

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Polytechnic students' issues will be raised in Assembly, says KTR

HYDERABAD

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) assured the protesting polytechnic students that their concerns would be raised with top priority in the Assembly session beginning September 7.

A group of polytechnic students met KTR near Mahatma

Gandhi University while he was on his way to a meeting in Miryalaguda and submitted a representation highlighting their grievances over polytechnic college lands, the future of the institutions and the state of technical education.

KTR assured the students that he would strongly take up the issue in the Assembly and

would not relent until the government gave a clear response and clarity on their demands. Expressing concern over the government's alleged interest in valuable lands occupied by polytechnic colleges, KTR said the future of students and the strengthening of technical education must be given priority.

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BRS and BJP are creating hurdles to Musi Rejuvenation project

■ Musi project will create a night economy in Hyderabad

■ CM Revanth Reddy announces the completion of Metro Rail between Gowliguda and Chandrayangutta before the assembly elections

■ Will seek votes by visiting the Old city on metro rail

■ Envisaged plans for the Metro rail connectivity between Nagole and Shamshabad

■ The CM praises Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi for demonstrating patriotism during 'Operation Sindhoor'

■ 'CM Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Steel Flyover at Nalgonda cross road in Hyderabad today



HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy castigated the opposition BRS and BJP for creating hurdles to the prestigious Musi Rejuvena-

tion project in Hyderabad. Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating Steel Flyover in the city today, the Chief Minister said that the State government has taken up the Musi project

aiming to create a night-time economy in the city. The project also ensured job opportunities to the local poor muslim community. The CM criticized the previous BRS government for not allocating funds to the infrastructure development projects in the city and confined it to only laying foundation stones during the 10 year rule.

"The previous government merely performed the groundbreaking ceremony and washed its hands. The KCR government did not spend a single penny on the bridge's construction.

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CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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Finding Fearless Within: Meridian School Hosts ‘ABHAYA’

An inspiring interaction empowers students to face adolescence and examinations with confidence



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Meridian School, Kukatpally, hosted “ABHAYA – Awaken the Strength Within,” an inspiring interaction for students of Grades IX and X with Revered Swami Bodhamayananda, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad.

The session, themed “Balancing Adolescence, Values and Examination Readiness,” focused on helping young minds recognise their inner energy and transform it into confidence, clarity and purposeful action. Swamiji guided students on overcoming fear and examination anxiety, managing the challenges of adolescence, and remaining rooted



in strong values. Drawing from the timeless teachings of Swami Vivekananda, he encouraged the students to cultivate self-belief, discipline, concentration and strength of character. He reminded them that true success emerges from within and that awareness of one’s inner potential can

help overcome both academic and personal challenges.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and Vedic chanting. Following Swamiji’s address, students engaged in an interactive question-and-answer session, raising thoughtful concerns related to examinations,

emotional well-being, self-confidence, decision-making, values and the pressures faced by today’s youth. Swamiji responded with patience and offered practical, meaningful guidance.

Addressing the gathering, Aakrushi L. Bellaney, Principal, Meridian School, Kukatpally, emphasised that education must prepare students not only for examinations but also for life. She urged them to develop courage, emotional balance, strong values and confidence while navigating challenges.

The school expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Swami Bodhamayananda for sharing his wisdom and inspiring students to discover the strength within themselves. The programme reflected Meridian School’s commitment to nurturing confident, compassionate and value-driven individuals by truly “Connecting the Mind and Heart.”



Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner Inspects IDL Lake Ganesh Immersion Arrangements to Ensure Safe, Orderly Festival

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Ahead of the forthcoming Ganesh Immersion, Mayank Singh, I.A.S., Zonal Commissioner, Kukatpally Zone, conducted an on-site inspection of the arrangements being made at the IDL Lake Ganesh Immersion Point to ensure that immersion activities are carried out smoothly, safely, and in an orderly manner. During the visit, the Zonal Commissioner reviewed facilities and operational plans related to devotee movement, immersion arrangements, sanitation, solid waste management, lighting, and traffic management. He also assessed safety measures and other civic amenities to ensure adequate preparedness at the immersion point. Officials were instructed to complete all essential arrangements well in advance and to conduct the immersion process in a safe and systematic way.

Emphasising cleanliness throughout the festival period, the Commissioner called for continuous sanitation and hygienic maintenance of the immersion location. He

directed for proper deployment of sanitation personnel, timely removal of waste, and sustained efforts to keep the surrounding areas clean for devotees and the public.

The inspection was attended by G. Anjaneyulu, Deputy Commissioner, Kukatpally Circle-52; C. Srikanthi, Superintending Engineer, Kukatpally Zone; T. Rajeswari, Executive Engineer, Kukatpally Circle-52; along with Deputy Executive Engineer (SWM), Assistant Engineer (Maintenance), Assistant Engineer (SWM) and other officials and staff of Kukatpally Circle.

The officials were further instructed to maintain close coordination among all concerned departments and ensure that sufficient manpower, equipment, and civic infrastructure are available at the IDL Lake immersion point for the convenience and safety of devotees.

Kukatpally Circle-52 reiterated its commitment to delivering a well-managed Ganesh Immersion programme, supported by coordinated civic arrangements and uninterrupted public services.

Small Traders’ Livelihood at Stake as Road Widening Begins

■ **Bandi Ramesh pledges to take the issue to officials and secure alternative support**
MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI



Local small vendors and street traders near the Chitharamma Temple area under the Moosapet division are facing serious difficulties as two road widening works are underway nearby. For many years, people have been running their livelihoods from pushcarts and small roadside setups, and the ongoing works are now threatening their daily income. On this occasion, the

pushcart workers and small traders met TPCC Vice President and Kukatpally Congress Party In-charge Bandi Ramesh to explain their problems in detail. They expressed deep anguish that road widening may force them out of their place of work, leaving their families in a

difficult situation. According to them, their livelihood is being put at risk, and their children’s and household needs may soon become a challenge. They urged Bandi Ramesh to take up their issue with concerned officials and the government, and to ensure that justice is done to them.

They also requested alternative arrangements so they can continue earning for their families. Bandi Ramesh listened to the workers and traders patiently and assured them that he would bring their concerns to the attention of the relevant authorities and make efforts to ensure fair relief. The meeting was attended by local Congress party leaders including Block Presidents Nagireddy and B-Block President Thumu Venu, senior leader Gotimukkala Venkateswara Rao, AMC Vice Chairman Prakash Mudiraj, Balaraju, Chunu Pasha, Govind Goud, Raman, and other local representatives.

KTR announces padayatra if Sagar Left Canal water not released by Sept 14

HYDERABAD: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Thursday announced a padayatra from Kodad to Haliya along with thousands of farmers if the Congress government fails to release water into the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal by September 14. Addressing a farmers’ protest in Miryalaguda, KTR accused the Congress government of deliberately neglecting farmers despite the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir having around 180 TMC of water. He demanded that the government immediately announce a clear schedule for releasing water through the Left Canal. KTR said he would draw inspiration from the padayatra undertaken by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) from Kodad to Haliya in 2003 to highlight the grievances of farmers dependent on the canal. “With the same spirit, I will once again undertake a padayatra to protest the Congress government’s anti-farmer policies”, KTR said, warning that thousands of farmers would join the march if the government failed to act by the September 14 deadline.

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Revanth blackmailed Congress high command over my Cabinet exit: Surekha

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She also alleged that conspiracies were being hatched against her and her former OSD Sumanth, naming Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, MP Vem Narendar Reddy and the Chief Minister’s brothers, Kondal Reddy and Tirupathi Reddy.

“My OSD Sumanth was removed without my knowledge. They are putting pressure on the police and troubling his family,” she alleged.

Referring to the Congress Disciplinary Committee, Surekha said its chairman Mallu Ravi, who had recommended action against her, had himself criticised the Congress in the past. She

also cited instances of senior Congress leaders such as Rosiah, M. Chenna Reddy and others criticising the party leadership in the past.

Konda Surekha said she was not upset over her removal from the Cabinet as she believed she had committed no mistake. “I do not consider the dismissal an insult. We are leaders with people’s support and the people will stand by us,” she said. Claiming that several Ministers and MLAs were unhappy with the performance of the Congress government, Surekha urged them to speak openly about their grievances.

“Ministers and MLAs should put their hands on their hearts and answer. They should come out and speak about

their grievances. A situation has arisen where even elected representatives are unable to get their work done,” she said.

Konda Surekha said she would not seek reconsideration of her dismissal, but called for a change in the party’s approach.

“I will not ask the party to reconsider my dismissal. Instead, there is a need for the party to change its approach. The Congress must make many changes if it wants to win again,” she said.

“If one finger is pointed at me, four fingers point towards Revanth Reddy. I have not thought about any Plan B yet. I will continue as an MLA. I have no intention of resigning from the Congress,” Surekha added.

Revanth drops Konda Surekha from Cabinet; Chinna Reddy sacked from Planning Board

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But Chief Minister Revanth Reddy blackmailed the high command. He threatened them, asking whether they would remove me from the Cabinet or ask me to resign,” she alleged. Following clearance from the Congress high command, the Chief Minister executed the decision and formal notification was sent to Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla’s office.

In related developments, the Chief Minister’s Office announced the appointment of Nerella Sharada as the new Chairperson of the State Women’s Commission. Additionally, former MP G. Sudha Rani has been appointed Chairperson of the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA).

Polytechnic students’ issues will be raised in Assembly, says KTR

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He suggested adopting technical education models followed in countries such as Germany, including dual education programmes, apprenticeships and practice-oriented learning, to provide students with better technical skills and practical experience. “There is no need for students to worry. The BRS will strongly raise your issues in the Assembly”, KTR assured the students. (NSS)

BRS and BJP are creating hurdles to Musi Rejuvenation project



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However, the people’s government provided the funds and completed the bridge”, the Chief Minister remarked.

CM Revanth Reddy remembered his close association with the old city which he called the ‘Original City’. The Chief Minister announced that the Metro Rail project between Gowliguda and Chandrayanagutta would be completed by the next Assembly elections. “I will visit the old city on Metro rail and seek votes in the next elections.” Further, the Chief Minister said that the Metro rail network would be expanded from Nagole to LB Nagar, Bandlaguda, Rajendranagar, and Shamshabad. Listing out the development works in the old city during the Congress government, the CM said that a 3-km-long cable bridge at Miralam tank was already under construction and it will be a replica of the cable bridge at Durgam Cheruvu which is the centre of attraction for visitors in the city these days. CM Revanth Reddy instructed the offi-

cials to sanction every development work requisitioned by Asaduddin. Rs 25 crore was also sanctioned on the request of Malakpet MLA Balala. The CM appealed to the MLA to complete the works in 18 months as the government is ready to spend required funds to strengthen the education sector.

CM Revanth Reddy praised Asaduddin Owaisi for demonstrating patriotism during ‘Operation Sindhoor’. Political ideologies may differ, but we are united when it comes to patriotism, the CM asserted that Telangana will develop only when the Hindus and Muslims are united and move together.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the construction of one lakh ‘Indiramma’ houses in Hyderabad for the poor, 4 per cent reservation to Muslims by the Congress government, 200 units of free electricity to every poor family and cooking gas cylinders for just ₹500. The CM reiterated that he would give priority to development and speak politics only during the elections.

Shock for One BC and One Reddy Leader... Key Posts Given to Three BC Women

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The Konda Surekha issue has recently led to intense debate within the Congress. Congress leaders have said that action was taken against her in the wake of her remarks concerning party discipline and the Chief Minister’s leadership, as well as discussions held with the party high command. Meanwhile, in the case of Chinna Reddy too, it appears that issues related to party discipline were taken into consideration. However, Congress circles are analyzing these developments not merely as changes in positions, but as decisions taken with social and political equations in mind. In particular, there is discussion that by giving three key positions to BC women simultaneously, the party is attempting to send a strong message that it is giving importance to the BC community.

Overall, while taking crucial decisions in the cases of Konda Surekha and Chinna Reddy, the Congress has simultaneously given prominence to BC women, leading to the view that new political equations are emerging within the Telangana Congress. However, the actual political strategy behind these appointments is likely to become clearer in the coming days.

BJP leaders arrested near Secretariat ...

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Rao led BJP workers in a march towards the Secretariat to hand over the representations. Police stopped the BJP leaders near the Secretariat gates, leading to a protest. The police subsequently took Rao into custody and shifted him to Chiklapally Police Station. Among those arrested were BJP state general secretary Goutham Rao, BJLP leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, MP D K Aruna, MLC Malka Komarai-ah and state secretary Bhandaru

Vijaya Laxmi. Condemning the arrests, Rao accused the Congress government of adopting an “arrogant and anti-student” attitude. He said he had undertaken a hunger strike, written to the Chief Minister and collected over eight lakh representations from students, but the government had failed to act. Rao asserted that the Congress government could not silence nearly 40 lakh students and warned that the BJP would continue its agitation until the pending fee reimbursement dues were cleared. (NSS)

Delhi High Court Imposes Restrictions on Kavitha and 15 Others

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The suit was filed following allegations that Kavitha had stated that BRS leader KTR had taken over and was controlling The Pioneer, and that the newspaper could no longer be trusted. Counsel for the petitioner told the court that these allegations were false and that their circulation on social media was damaging the newspaper’s reputation. After hearing the arguments, the

court directed Kavitha and the other defendants not to publish, republish, broadcast, share, or otherwise disseminate, on any platform, the allegedly defamatory statements mentioned in the suit or any other related content.

The court also issued summons in the suit and directed the defendants to file their written statements. Notices were also issued on the application for interim relief filed by the management of The Pioneer.

Cabinet expansion likely soon; Konda Surekha’s exit fuels speculation

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Meanwhile, attention is focused on the portfolios held by Konda Surekha – Endowments, Forests and Environment. The Chief Minister could retain the portfolios temporarily or allocate them as additional responsibilities to existing ministers. Such an arrangement, however, may not necessarily indicate an immediate Cabinet reshuffle. If the expansion goes ahead, the inclusion of new faces is likely to trigger intense political interest within the ruling Congress.

“My focus is on genuine Cong workers”, says Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy

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He thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and his brother and Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for their cooperation in taking up the works. He appealed to villagers, officials and the media to extend cooperation for their smooth execution.

On the proposed cabinet expansion and allocation of ministerial portfolios, Rajgopal Reddy said the decision rested

entirely with the Congress high command and that he would abide by whatever decision was taken by party leader Rahul Gandhi. Referring to the issue concerning Minister Konda Surekha, he said that too was for the high command to decide. “Whenever I speak on these issues, my concern is that genuine party workers who worked hard for the Congress during the last decade should not face injustice. I will continue to speak for those hard working activists”, he noted.

GITAM Celebrates Onam with Colour, Culture and Camaraderie

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, celebrated Onam with great enthusiasm, bringing together students and faculty in a vibrant celebration of Kerala's rich cultural heritage.

Onam, the traditional harvest festival of Kerala, is celebrated during the Malayali month of Chingam, which falls in August–September. The 10-day festival commemorates the legendary King Mahabali and celebrates the spirit of gratitude, prosperity, unity and brotherhood. The festival also reflects Kerala's deep connection with nature and its rich traditions of music, dance, sports and community celebrations.

The GITAM Hyderabad campus came alive with colourful Pookams, traditional music, and vibrant cultural performances.

Students showcased the richness of Kerala's traditions through traditional dances and a variety of festive activities. The celebrations culminated in a grand Onam Sadiya, featuring an array of authentic Kerala delicacies and highlighting the state's distinctive culinary heritage. Adding to the festive spirit, the event concluded on a vibrant note with



Kerala's traditional Chenda Melam, filling the campus with rhythm and grandeur.

The celebration brought students and faculty together in a spirit of joy, togetherness and cultural exchange. The festivities reflected GITAM's commitment to celebrating India's diverse cultural traditions while fostering unity and a strong sense of community. The vibrant Onam celebrations at GITAM Hyderabad served as a beautiful reminder that cultural diversity, when celebrated together, strengthens the bonds of unity and belonging.



Old City witnessing unprecedented development under Congress: Azharuddin

HYDERABAD

Minority Welfare & Public Enterprises Minister Mohamad Azharuddin said the Old City of Hyderabad was witnessing unprecedented development under the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

He said the government was giving priority to improving infrastructure, connectivity and basic amenities in the Old City. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the newly completed Chanchalguda–Santosh Nagar Steel Flyover at the Chanchalguda Government Degree College grounds on Thursday, Azharuddin said the project would significantly ease traffic and make the lives of people in the area more convenient. The Minister said the completion of the flyover was a particularly happy moment for him as his family had a personal connection with the locality and the graves of his son and maternal grandfather were located nearby.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of everyone who contributed to the completion of the project and congratulated all those associated with the development work.

Azharuddin said he had not witnessed development on such a large scale in the Old City in the past. He said that ever since the Congress government came to power under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the



development of the Old City had received special attention.

"Whenever the Old City is discussed, the Chief Minister's first priority is development," Azharuddin said, adding that several major infrastructure projects were being taken up in the area. He pointed out that the Metro project was also being extended to the Old City, which would significantly improve connectivity and mobility for residents.

The Minister said the flyover project had been inaugurated earlier in 2020, but the work could not be completed for several years. After the Congress government assumed office, the project received renewed attention and the required financial support. 620 crore had been allocated for infrastructure development in the area, he said.

Azharuddin said the flyover was only one among several infrastructure projects planned for the Old City. More bridges and other development works were being taken

up to improve connectivity and provide better infrastructure to the people, he said.

The Minister said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy personally reviewed development projects, visited different areas, obtained feedback and ensured that decisions were implemented without unnecessary delay. The Minister appreciated the Chief Minister for taking quick decisions and providing the necessary support for development works.

He said Revanth Reddy had a long-term vision for Telangana and cited Bharat Future City as an example of the Chief Minister's approach towards creating infrastructure for future generations.

The Chanchalguda–Santosh Nagar Steel Flyover inauguration programme was attended by Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, MPs Asaduddin Owaisi, Vem Narendar Reddy, M. Anil Kumar Yadav and Raghuveer Reddy, along with several MLAs, MLCs, Corporation Chairpersons and other officials.

Cyberabad gears up for Ganesh Utsavam; 54 immersion points identified

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad authorities have stepped up preparations for Ganesh Utsavam 2026, with a high-level coordination meeting held to finalise arrangements at 54 immersion points across the commissionerate.

Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner G. Srijana and Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sunpreet Singh along with

Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee members, civic officials and representatives of various departments, reviewed the action plan and preparedness.

The meeting focused on traffic regulation, deployment of cranes, sanitation, lighting, barricading, pothole repairs, safety and emergency arrangements, control rooms and co-ordination with line depart-

ments.

Heads of departments, zonal commissioners, deputy commissioners, engineers, traffic police officials and other personnel participated in the meeting. Officials stressed timely completion of all works and close inter-departmental coordination to ensure safe, smooth and hassle-free conduct of Ganesh Utsavam across Cyberabad. (NSS)

BJP targets Congress over internal infighting

HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP chief spokesperson and media in-charge N.V. Subhash on Thursday accused the ruling Congress of allowing internal disputes to overshadow governance and public issues.

Reacting to the reported disciplinary action against Minister Konda Surekha, Subhash said the development reflected growing divisions within the ruling party. He alleged that dissent within Congress had expanded to include questions over alleged financial irregularities and the functioning of the government.

Subhash also alleged that the delay in conducting GHMC elections reflected the Congress government's apprehension about facing voters. He said internal turmoil should not come at the cost of governance and urged the ruling party to focus on the promises made to the people.

Laptop theft gang busted in Hyd; 19 laptops recovered



HYDERABAD

Narayanguda Police of Khairatabad Zone on Thursday arrested a laptop theft offender and an alleged receiver and recovered 19 stolen laptops worth around Rs.7.6 lakh, linking them to 16 theft cases reported in Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajigiri Commissionerates.

The arrested persons were identified as Sangishetty Vineeth (29), a resident of New Ashok Nagar, Secunderabad, and Vemunuri Srinivas (29), a computer sales worker and alleged receiver, police said.

According to police, Vineeth targeted unattended laptops at study halls, particularly during lunch and dinner breaks. He allegedly committed thefts near KMIT College and the Telugu Academy area within two days and subsequently sold the stolen laptops to Srinivas. Police recovered seven Dell, six HP, three Lenovo, two Acer and one Asus laptop, with a total estimated value of Rs.7.6 lakh. Investigation revealed

that the accused were allegedly involved in 16 laptop theft cases registered at police stations across Hyderabad City, Malkajigiri and Cyberabad Commissionerates, including Saifabad, Malakpet, Narayanguda, Abids, SR Nagar, Nallakunta, Chaitanyapuri, Kushaiguda, Uppal, LB Nagar, Alwal and Kukatpally.

The arrests followed an investigation into the case at Narayanguda police station, registered on a complaint from a student who reported that his HP laptop went missing from a cabin at Bright Minds Study Hall on August 16. Police teams examined CCTV footage and used technical evidence to identify and apprehend the accused.

The operation was carried out under the guidance of K Shilpavalli, DCP, Khairatabad zone, and supervision of Narayanguda SHO M Saideshwar, along with police officials and the crime team. The DCP appreciated the efforts of the police personnel involved in cracking the cases and recovering the stolen property.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

Tender Notice No. OHE-CN-DYCEE-26-27-2RT-244 Dated 29-08-2026
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE,Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of Work : Provision of Power Supply Arrangements for SSP at Walajah and Tindivanam.

Tender Value : Rs. 3,99,14,735.64

Bid Security : Rs. 7,98,300.00

Tender closing date and time : 21.09.2026 at 15.00 hrs.

The tender document/specification for the above tender can be obtained from the office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE/Electrical Construction/Chennai-8. Any communication regarding the tender may be made through email at dyceeohecnms@gmail.com.
For more details visit www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE Electrical Construction/Chennai-8
For and on behalf of President of India.

Sportsmanship and Service Unite at Government Degree College for Women, Hussainialam

■ **Sports Day and NSS Orientation Programme inspires students through competitions, community engagement, leadership, and teamwork**

HYDERABAD

The Sports Day and National Service Scheme (NSS) Orientation Programme was held successfully today at the Khurshed Jah Seminar Hall under the auspices of Government Degree College for Women, Hussainialam, Hyderabad. With strong student participation, the event brought together sports excitement and social responsibility under one inspiring platform.

Organized jointly by NSS Units I, II & III and the Sports Committee, the programme aimed to promote sportsman-



ship, discipline, leadership, and community values. Alongside encouraging students to take active part in sports, the orientation also focused on creating awareness about the objectives and activities of NSS.

The Principal, Professor K. Praveen Kumar, attended as the Chief Guest and motivated students to engage regularly in both sports and NSS activities. He emphasized that such involvement helps in holistic personality development—building

confidence, teamwork, and civic awareness.

Dr. D. Nagaraju, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, who served as the Resource Person, explained the importance of NSS to the students. He highlighted the NSS motto, objectives, activities, My Bharat Portal, and the registration process, while also stressing the role of youth in community service and nation-building.

Certificates and prizes were

awarded to winners across a range of events, including elocution, drawing, and poster presentation, as well as sports competitions. Talented students received recognition in games such as Kabaddi, Chess, Running, and Carroms, demonstrating enthusiasm, discipline, and teamwork throughout the day.

The programme was attended by NSS Programme Officers Dr. P. Latha, Dr. Anita Monga, and Dr. B. Geetha Rani, Sports Committee Convenor Dr. Geetha Rani, committee members K. Aruna, K. Shailaja, Farzana Begum, and Asma Begum, IQAC Coordinator Dr. K. Sridevi, Academic Coordinator Dr. M. Pranitha, along with faculty members and students.

The event concluded with the National Anthem, reflecting the spirit of pride, participation, and service.

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SHORT
TAKES

CM Revanth Reddy
Greets People on Sri
Krishna Janmashtami

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami. The Chief Minister said that the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita serve as a guiding force in human life. He stated that by understanding the philosophy of Lord Sri Krishna and putting His teachings into practice, one can achieve success in every endeavour. The Chief Minister prayed that the grace and blessings of Lord Sri Krishna would always be upon the people of Telangana.

Telugu Univ literary
award conferred
on Governor's
Joint Secretary

HYDERABAD: Srimadram ayanam, a poetic epic authored by Shashikiran Komandur, Joint Secretary to the Governor of Telangana and senior Group-I officer, has been selected for the prestigious 2024 Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University Literary award. The award was presented to Shashikiran Komandur by Dr. Nandini Sidhareddy, Kendriya Sahitya Akademi awardee and former Chairman of the Telangana State Sahitya Akademi, at a ceremony held at Dr. N.T.R. Kalabhavan of Telugu University here on Thursday. Nine other distinguished authors were also honoured with Telugu University Literary Awards. Srimadramayanam, which presents the Ramayana epic in poetic form, was recognised for its contribution to Telugu literature. (NSS)

Ganesh Utsavam 2026
All Teams on The Same Page

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

A coordination and convergence meeting was held in Cyberabad to review the action plan and assess preparedness for Ganesh Utsavam 2026 across the city. The meeting was attended by Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner Dr. G. Srijana, IAS, and Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Cyberabad Sunpreet Singh, IPS, along with members of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee, CMC officials, and representatives from various departments and agencies.

With 54 immersion points across Cyberabad, the discussions centered on ensuring comprehensive arrangements at every location while also taking up and addressing concerns raised by the concerned departments and partnering agencies.

The deliberations covered critical operational areas to support smooth festival execution, including traffic management and effective



crowd movement planning. Adequate arrangements for crane operations were discussed to ensure safe and controlled handling at immersion locations.

The meeting also reviewed sanitation and waste-management preparedness, along with lighting arrangements to enhance visibility and facilitate orderly movement for devotees. Detailed plans for barricading and on-ground control measures were considered to maintain safe boundaries and manage flow effectively. Road readiness measures such as pothole patching were also reviewed

to reduce inconvenience and ensure safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Emphasis was placed on safety and emergency preparedness, including readiness for rapid response and coordination during any unforeseen situation. The meeting further discussed the establishment and functioning of control rooms to enable real-time monitoring and coordination across teams. Coordination with line departments was highlighted as a key requirement to ensure timely completion of all arrangements and uninterrupted execution at

every immersion point. In attendance were Heads of Departments, Zonal Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, engineers, Traffic Police officials, and other concerned personnel, all of whom contributed to finalizing the preparedness approach. The meeting underscored the need for close inter-departmental coordination, timely completion of arrangements, and effective traffic and crowd management so that Ganesh Utsavam 2026 across Cyberabad is conducted safely, smoothly, and without hassle for all devotees.

Konda Surekha set to become
third Telangana minister dismissed

HYDERABAD

The political controversy surrounding Telangana Minister Konda Surekha has culminated in Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy seeking her removal from the State Cabinet.

The Chief Minister's proposal for her immediate dismissal has reportedly been sent to the Governor, with the formal decision now awaited from Raj Bhavan. If approved, Surekha will become the third minister to be dis-

missed from the Telangana cabinet since the State's formation in 2014, and the first minister to face such action under the present Congress government. She will also be the first woman minister in Telangana to be dismissed.

Former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had earlier removed Dr T. Rajaiah from the Cabinet in 2015 during the first term of the BRS government. Rajaiah, who was Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister,

was dropped amid allegations of corruption. In May 2021, KCR dismissed then Health Minister Eatala Rajender from the Cabinet following allegations relating to assigned lands. With Surekha's proposed removal, three ministers would have faced dismissal from the Telangana Cabinet since statehood, with two of them having held the Health portfolio. Surekha's removal would mark the first such action involving a minister handling the Endowments portfolio.

I Will Live Up to CM
Revanth Reddy's Trust

- Grateful to the Congress High Command
- Smt. Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, Newly Appointed Vice Chairperson of the State Planning Board

HYDERABAD

Smt. Gadwal Vijayalakshmi said that she would remain grateful to the Congress High Command and the state leadership for entrusting her with the responsibility of serving as Vice Chairperson of the Telangana Planning Board with the rank of a Cabinet Minister. She also said that she would live up to the trust placed in her by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Gadwal Vijayalakshmi expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Congress High Command, the state leadership, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy,



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, and the Council of Ministers.

Speaking on the occasion, Gadwal Vijayalakshmi conveyed her special thanks to Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi, party National President Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leader Rahul Gandhi, AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, and AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan

for reposing their confidence in her and entrusting her with such an important responsibility.

"I will discharge the responsibility entrusted to me effectively and work with greater dedication for the welfare of the people and the development of Telangana. With the blessings of the people of Telangana, I will move forward with greater responsibility and ensure that I live up to the trust placed in me by Hon'ble Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy," Gadwal Vijayalakshmi said.

She said that she would utilize the opportunity to serve as Vice Chairperson of the State Planning Board to provide better services to the people. Gadwal Vijayalakshmi affirmed that she would make every effort to contribute to the comprehensive and sustainable development of Telangana.

AP revokes suspension of IPS officers
Vishal Gunni, Kanthi Rana Tata

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh Government on Thursday revoked the suspension of senior IPS officers Vishal Gunni and Kanthi Rana Tata, reinstating them in service with immediate effect.

Separate orders issued by the General Administration (SC.D) department said the suspensions of both officers had been reviewed and extended periodically under Rule 3(1) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. Their latest suspension extensions were due to expire on September 4, 2026.

The two IPS officers were first suspended on September 15, 2024, and their suspension was



subsequently extended multiple times for their alleged involvement in "harassing" a Mumbai-based actor-cum-model, Kadambari Narendra Kumar Jethwani.

In the case of Vishal Gunni, the decision was taken based on circumstances reported by the Director General of Police (HoPF), Andhra Pradesh. In

the case of Kanthi Rana Tata, the government considered his representation dated August 24, 2026, along with the report submitted by the DGP.

After examining the matter, the government decided to revoke their suspension, with Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad issuing the orders under Rule 3(7)(c) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. The reinstatement, however, is without prejudice to the disciplinary and criminal proceedings pending against both the officers, the orders said.

The DGP (HoPF), Andhra Pradesh, has been directed to serve the orders on the two officers and obtain their acknowledgements.

Cyberabad traffic police get specialised
lung, vascular health screening

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police, in association with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) and Yashoda Hospitals, organised a specialised Pulmo & Vascular Screening Camp for traffic police personnel to promote preventive healthcare and early detection of health issues.

The camp offered Pulmonary Function Test (PFT), Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) Test, Six-Minute Walk Test (6MWT) and vascular screening to assess lung function, respiratory health, exercise capacity and blood circulation.

The programme was inaugurated by Cyberabad Commissioner of Police and SCSC Chairperson M. Ramesh. ACP Chandrashekar Reddy, RI Welfare Nagaraju Reddy, SCSC CEO Naved Alam Khan and Associate Director Y. Bhanu Murthy were present.

Representatives of Yasho-



da Hospitals, including Unit Head Megha Chitkara, DMS Dr. Venkat Raman Kolla, Marketing officials Pradeep and Soma Shekar, pulmonologist Dr. Gopi Yedlapatti and vascular surgeon Dr. Srikanth Raju, participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering, police commissioner Ramesh stressed the need to prioritise the health of traffic police personnel, who work for long hours in demanding outdoor conditions and are regularly exposed to dust, air pollution

and traffic-related hazards.

He urged personnel to undergo regular health check-ups and adopt healthy practices such as physical activity, yoga and breathing exercises. Early identification of health concerns would help the personnel seek timely medical advice and treatment, he added. The initiative underlines the joint efforts of Cyberabad Police, SCSC and Yashoda Hospitals to promote preventive healthcare and improve the overall well-being of police personnel.

- Assets worth Rs. 3.54 crore identified
- Documents related to houses, plots and lands, along with cash and gold, seized
- Simultaneous ACB searches at seven locations, including houses and offices in Suryapet and Hyderabad
- Asset identification and investigation underway

SURYAPET

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials conducted searches on Thursday against V. Somaiah, who is working as the Town Planning Officer (TPO) in charge at the Suryapet Municipality as well as the Kodad Municipality, following allegations that he had accumulated assets disproportionate to his known sources



of income. ACB officials of the Nalgonda Range conducted simultaneous searches at seven locations, including Somaiah's residence in Suryapet, his house and office in Hyderabad, and the residences of his relatives and associates.

According to details released by the ACB, officials identified several important documents related to properties during the



searches. These include 3 acres and 3 guntas of agricultural land in Suryapet district and five residential properties in Suryapet and the Hayathnagar area. The residential properties include a G+1 building, a G+2 building, a G+4 building, a penthouse and two ground-floor houses.

Officials also identified eight open plots in the Suryapet area.

The ACB stated that their market value could be considerably higher than the official value.

The searches also resulted in the identification of 709 grams of gold and 1,750 grams of silver, collectively valued at approximately Rs. 20 lakh. Officials also found Rs. 4,63,990 in cash and bank deposits of around Rs. 13 lakh.

In addition, two four-wheel-

ers and three two-wheelers were identified, with their total value estimated at around Rs. 25.20 lakh. Household articles and electronic equipment were estimated to be worth approximately Rs. 11 lakh.

The ACB also found that Somaiah had obtained a gold loan of approximately Rs. 49 lakh from a bank by pledging gold ornaments.

Officials said that the identification and verification of additional assets are still underway. So far, the total value of the assets identified has been estimated at approximately Rs. 3.54 crore.

The ACB is conducting further investigation by comparing the value of the identified assets with Somaiah's known sources of income. Officials said that Somaiah would subsequently be produced before the Special ACB Court in Hyderabad and remanded. The investigation is continuing.

Ponnam asks Telangana BJP leaders to
question Centre on State's pending dues

HYDERABAD

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday accused BJP leaders in Telangana of competing with one another in criticising the Congress government in an attempt to retain their political relevance amid internal differences within the party.

"If BJP leaders are genuinely committed to protecting Telangana's interests, they should go to Delhi and question Prime Minister Narendra Modi instead of criticising the State government," he said in a statement. The Minister questioned why Telangana BJP leaders were not raising issues concerning funds due to the State from the Centre, pending projects and approvals required for Telangana.

He said it was their respon-



sibility to exert pressure on the Union government to secure the funds, projects and clearances due to the State.

Ponnam Prabhakar also asked BJP leaders to explain why funds and projects being sanctioned to BJP-ruled States were not being similarly extended to Telangana.

He said it was misplaced for BJP leaders to believe that they could retain their political relevance or attract the attention of the party's central leadership merely by targeting the Congress government.

As an Opposition party, the BJP should play a constructive role by raising Telangana's rights and pressing the Centre on pending issues, rather than limiting itself to political criticism, he said.

The Minister also questioned why BJP leaders had remained silent when the erstwhile TRS government, which was in power in Telangana for 10 years, left behind several pending dues. He said the present Congress government was making payments regularly while also working to clear the arrears left by the previous administration.

Ponnam Prabhakar further said that despite the BJP-led government being in power at the Centre for nearly 13 years, several promises made to Telangana, besides funds and projects due to the State, were still pending.

Welfare Schemes Will Reach All Eligible
Beneficiaries Only Under Congress Government

- Indiramma houses will be sanctioned to every eligible person
- AICC Member Ramireddy Sarvottam Reddy

SURYAPET

AICC member Ramireddy Sarvottam Reddy said that welfare schemes have been reaching all eligible beneficiaries under Congress governments, both in the past and at present.

On Thursday, he attended and inaugurated the housewarming ceremonies of Indiramma houses constructed for beneficiaries in various villages. He participated in the housewarming ceremony of Veerla Mounika and Ramachandra Reddy and Bhupati Upendra and Saidulu at Ramachandrapuram village under Suryapet



Rural Mandal; Bhukya Devi and Venkanna at Rajanaik Thanda; and Keetha Lavanya and Veerayya at Tuljara-vupet in Chivvemla Mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarvottam Reddy said that the Congress people's government was fulfilling the dream of owning a house for poor and middle-class families through the Indiramma Housing Scheme. He said efforts would be made, with the support of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and

District Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, to ensure that every eligible family receives an Indiramma house under the scheme.

He presented traditional clothes to the families who entered their newly constructed homes and extended his congratulations. He wished the families a life filled with happiness, prosperity, good health and longevity. District Congress Party President Gudipati Narsaiah, Mandal Congress

presidents Kothi Gopal Reddy and Dharavath Veeranna Naik, Sarpanch Godadati Kavaya Satish, Lunavath Shantabai Pandu Naik, Deputy Sarpanch Lingayya, Bhukya Nagamani Lok Naik, leaders Abdul Rahim, Mali Kavitha Anantha Reddy, Pattipaka Venu, Mandal Reddy Venugopal Reddy, Boddu Mallaiah, Chintala Anjaiah, Bandi Prabhakar Reddy, Nallaganti Narsaiah, Koppula Lakshma Reddy, Municipal Councillor Chilumula Sunil Reddy, Sri Dandu Maisamma Devasthanam Chairman Tangella Karunakar Reddy, and Congress leaders Gugulothu Nagu Naik, Pandu Naik, Padidala Ravi, Radhakrishna, Guntur Chittibabu, Shankar Naik, Dubbaka Prabhakar Reddy, Pattipaka Venkateshwarlu, Ranganayakulu, Saidulu Naik, Motilal, Linga, Balu Naik, among others, participated in the programme.

PDS rice black-
marketing offender
detained under PD Act

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police have executed a Preventive Detention (PD) order against Mohd Nahid (30 years) for his alleged repeated involvement in the illegal procurement, diversion and black-marketing of subsidised PDS (Public Distribution System) rice and wheat.

Police said Nahid and his associates allegedly procured PDS commodities from beneficiaries at low prices, stored them in clandestine godowns and transported them to other States for sale at higher prices. The racket allegedly caused financial losses to the government and disrupted supplies meant for eligible beneficiaries. Two cases were registered against him at Padishareef Police Station under relevant provisions of the BNS and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Hyderabad Commissioner of Police issued the detention order on August 13, 2026 under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

EDITORIAL

An Ode To Tim Cook
Who Made Apple Boring

Tim Cook inherited a company built on the cult of Steve Jobs and made it less theatrical, less unpredictable and, yes, boring. But he also made it vastly bigger, richer and harder to dislodge. Perhaps, boring was Apple's greatest innovation after Jobs.

In August 2011, an ill Steve Jobs summoned Tim Cook to his home and told him he was the next Apple CEO. Cook protested. He still believed Jobs would be around for years. Jobs, however, had been thinking about succession rather more deeply. Jobs told Cook a story about Disney. After Walt Disney died, the company had fallen into a peculiar kind of paralysis. Executives would sit around asking themselves: What would Walt have done?

Jobs wanted no such thing at Apple; he told Cook: "Just do what's right." This may have been the most consequential piece of advice Steve Jobs ever gave Tim Cook. Because over the next 15 years, Cook did something that is extraordinarily rare in business: he succeeded an icon without becoming his weak imitation. He did not try to manufacture Jobs's charisma. He did not recreate his mercurial management style. He did not attempt to turn every product launch into another iPhone moment. Slowly, almost deliberately, Cook made Apple less dependent on drama, personality and the occasional bolt of technological lightning.

He made Apple boring

And in doing so, he built something even Steve Jobs could not: an institution capable of becoming vastly bigger than its founder. The scale of this transformation is measurable. Apple's annual net sales rose from \$108.2 billion in fiscal 2011 to \$416.2 billion in fiscal 2025; services revenue reached \$109.2 billion in 2025; full-time employees increased from about 60,400 in 2011 to about 166,000 in 2025; and the installed base surpassed 2.5 billion active devices by January 2026.

The Inheritance Problem

Cook inherited perhaps the greatest handover in corporate history. The iPhone was already four years old. The iPad had been launched. The App Store existed. Apple had its retail network. The ecosystem was taking shape. Jobs had already made the gigantic strategic bets.

And the contemporary reaction to Cook's appointment captures the problem beautifully. In 2011, the debate wasn't really whether Cook was competent. It was whether Apple could remain Apple without Jobs. Harvard Business Review described the prevailing sentiment at the time as essentially: Cook may be good, but he is no Steve Jobs.

It is a criticism worth taking seriously, because there has been no product of the Cook era that has rearranged our lives quite like the iPhone did. Apple Watch became a formidable business. AirPods became ubiquitous. Apple silicon was a remarkable technological achievement. But nobody stood outside an Apple Store overnight because Tim Cook had reinvented the mobile phone.

But that is the wrong way to measure him.

While Jobs's genius was to repeatedly imagine the next great Apple product, Cook's was to understand that Apple itself could become the product.

The iPhone would no longer simply be a device that Apple sold you every few years. It would become the front door to an expanding universe of watches, headphones, payments, music, television, cloud storage, apps and services. Each addition was relatively unexciting compared with the arrival of the iPhone. Together, however, they changed the economics of Apple.

The revolutionary product became an ecosystem. The ecosystem became an annuity. And somewhere along the way, Apple stopped needing to astonish us every few years to become vastly more valuable.

The first gave Apple the luxury of patience. Smartwatches existed before the Apple Watch, wireless earbuds before AirPods and streaming services long before Apple TV+. Cook was perfectly comfortable arriving at a party after everyone else, provided Apple could eventually own the room.

MIND - BODY - INTIMACY:
SEXUAL HEALTH



World Sexual Health Day, observed on September 4, reminds us that psychological health is an important part of sexual health . The 2026 theme, "Every Body," emphasizes that sexual health, dignity, rights, safety and well-being belong to everyone.

The World Health Organization defines sexual health much more broadly than simply being free from disease. It includes physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality, together with safe, respectful and consensual relationships.

Sexual well-being
begins in the mind

Stress, anxiety, depression, poor self-image, relationship conflicts and unrealistic expectations can influence intimacy. Many people silently worry about whether their body, sexual response or relationship is "normal." Such worries can themselves create further anxiety. A healthy approach begins with self-confidence, correct information and open communication.

Body: Respect,

prevention and care

Our body also needs attention. Good sexual health includes personal hygiene, understanding reproductive health, preventing sexually transmitted infections, using appropriate protection, and seeking medical advice when persistent problems occur.

Sexual difficulties should not automatically be seen as a matter of weakness or shame. They may have physical, psychological, relationship or medication-related causes. Consulting a qualified healthcare professional is often the best first step.

Sexual health also changes throughout life. Puberty, pregnancy, childbirth, menopause, ageing and various health conditions can influence sexual well-being.

Intimacy: More
than physical contact

Intimacy is not simply about sexual activity. It is about trust, affection, communication, respect and emotional connection.

A healthy intimate relationship requires one important principle: consent. Both partners should be free to

say yes or no, without pressure, fear or force. Respecting boundaries is not a barrier to intimacy—it is the foundation of it.

Good communication can make relationships stronger. Sometimes a simple conversation—"Are you comfortable?", "What do you need?", or "Can we talk about this?"—can be more valuable than any advice found online.

Breaking the silence

Today, young people and adults receive enormous amounts of information about sexuality through the internet and social media. Unfortunately, not all of that information is accurate.

Families, schools, healthcare professionals and society have a responsibility to provide scientifically accurate, age-appropriate and respectful information. WHO also emphasizes access to quality information and sexual-health services as important components of sexual well-being.

World Sexual Health Day therefore should not be viewed merely as a day to discuss sexual problems. It is an opportunity to encourage healthier minds, healthier bodies and healthier

relationships.

Mind needs understanding

Body needs care. Intimacy needs trust. When these three come together, sexual health becomes not merely the absence of disease, but a part of a healthy, dignified and fulfilling life. Let us talk about sexual health—not with embarrassment, but with knowledge, responsibility and respect.



written by
DR. BALAJI DEEKSHITULU P.V
8885391722

("Mind • Body • Intimacy: Sexual Health" written in connection with World Sexual Health Day on September 4, for your kind consideration and publication.)

Special on Janmashtami (September 4)

Krishna's Magnificent Personality and
Philosophy of Life Remain Alive Through the Ages

Krishna, the Symbol of
Victory of Righteousness
over Unrighteousness

BY YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

The auspicious festival of the eighth day of the dark fortnight of Bhadrapaksha is celebrated throughout India with immense devotion, enthusiasm and religious fervour as the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, the beloved hero of the Indian masses and the Yogeshwar. Janmashtami is not merely a religious celebration but a festival commemorating the magnificent tradition of Indian culture, spirituality and philosophy of life, in which an extraordinary synthesis of righteousness and action, love and compassion, ethics and diplomacy, courage and wisdom, as well as public welfare and spiritual consciousness, can be seen. According to the Shrimad Bhagavata Purana, Lord Krishna manifested himself from the womb of Devaki, wife of Vasudeva, at midnight on the eighth day of the dark fortnight of Bhadrapaksha, under the Rohini constellation and in the Taurus zodiac sign, in the prison of Mathura. Krishna's birth in Mathura, which was terrorised by the tyrant Kansa, became a symbol of hope for the victory of righteousness, truth and justice over injustice and unrighteousness. According to mythological belief, Lord Krishna is regarded as the complete incarnation of Lord Vishnu, and his personality reflects an extraordinary synthesis of childlike playfulness, immense compassion, unparalleled love, exceptional valour, far-sighted diplomacy and profound spiritual consciousness. Through the Bhagavad Gita, he delivered an eternal message of action, righteousness and duty that continues to guide humanity even today. This year, the 5,253rd Janmashtami of Lord Krishna is being celebrated with devotion and reverence on September 4. On this occasion, temples will be specially decorated, tableaux will be displayed, de-



votional songs and kirtans will be organised, and at midnight, the birth of Lord Krishna will be announced in all directions through the sound of conches and bells, filling the atmosphere with spiritual fervour and giving renewed energy to India's cultural consciousness.

On the day of Janmashtami, temples across the country are decorated, people observe a fast until midnight, and at exactly 12 midnight, the sound of conches and bells announcing the birth of Lord Krishna reverberates in all directions. Lord Krishna performed numerous divine pastimes during his childhood, and many of these are enacted on the occasion of Janmashtami. In the true sense, Krishna is an inseparable part of our history. His entire personality was as fascinating as it was mysterious, and equally extraordinary

were his divine pastimes. From childhood throughout his life, Krishna continued to perform these divine pastimes, in whom one sometimes sees the Divine and at other times he appears like an ordinary human being. Interestingly, Krishna attracts people just as much in his human form as in his divine form. Each of his actions leaves a deep impression on the human mind. His ideals, his wisdom, valour, diplomacy, and his radiant, pure and inspiring qualities resembling those of a yogi are all worthy of emulation. Lord Krishna is also known as an unparalleled symbol of love and friendship. The honour and respect he bestowed upon his childhood friend Sudama, who was poor, became an exemplary illustration of true friendship.

While understanding the divine pastimes of Lord Krishna was beyond the

capacity even of accomplished sages, seers and great scholars, illiterate and simple-hearted cowherds and gopis, who were often regarded as uneducated and rustic, experienced the bliss of his divinity through his companionship. Whether called Kanhaiya or Krishna, Pitambar or Vasudeva, Devakinandan or Yashodanandan, Lord Krishna truly occupies an extremely important place in Indian culture. He was a spiritual and political visionary of the Mahabharata era who destroyed the wicked in order to protect righteousness, truth and justice. He was the embodiment of peace, love and compassion. At the time of the Mahabharata war, when all efforts for peace had failed, he imparted knowledge to the confused archer Arjuna and guided him towards the path of duty. He delivered the teachings of the Gita to Arju-



na so that he could fulfil his duty and fight against his own Kaurava cousins to overthrow the rule of injustice. Throughout the war, he was seen standing firmly against those who followed unrighteousness in order to protect righteousness at every moment. That is why he is also regarded as a symbol of the victory of righteousness over unrighteousness. In the Gita, Lord Krishna said:

Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati Bharata. Abhyutthanam adharmasya tadatmanam srijamyaham.

That is, "O Bharata! Whenever there is a decline in righteousness and a rise in unrighteousness, then I manifest Myself; that is, I appear before people in a physical form."

From childhood to adulthood, many of Lord Krishna's divine pastimes are renowned. Lord Krishna had invoked Lord Hanuman to shatter the pride of his elder brother Balarama, following which Hanuman went to Balarama's garden and fought with him, thereby crushing his pride. Lord Krishna freed 16,100 captive women from the prison of the demon Narakasura. When these women were ostracised by society, they appealed to Lord Krishna for protection, and Krishna gave all of them the status of his queens, thereby restoring their dignity and honour. In one of his teachings, Yogeshwar Krishna said:

Paritranya sadhunam vinashaya chadushkritam. Dharma-samsthapanarthaya sambha-

vami yuge yuge. That is, "For the protection of the righteous, for the destruction of the wicked, and for the establishment of righteousness, I manifest Myself age after age." The divine nature of Lord Krishna can be understood from the fact that, on the one hand, when the demoness Putana came disguised as a mother to breastfeed him, with poison smeared on her breasts, Krishna drank her milk and granted her the honour of a mother, while on the other hand, he also killed her for her evil intentions. Lord Krishna ruled over Dwarka for a long period and was therefore also known as Dwarikadhish. After ruling over Dwarka for 36 years, he attained the supreme abode. Giving concrete form to the concept of the "Complete Man," beyond the conventional distinctions of sin and virtue, morality and immorality, truth and falsehood, Krishna is a symbol of the Indian tradition who represents life itself and presents a complete picture of life. His image is etched in the hearts and minds of the people in diverse forms—as an able leader, warrior, householder, charioteer, Yogiraj, deity and many more. Krishna is both bondage and liberation; on the one hand, he binds his devotees through his divine attraction, while on the other, he liberates those very devotees from the bondage of attachment and worldly illusion.



BY YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

(The author is a senior journalist actively engaged in journalism for 36 years and author of several books including 'Sagar Se Antariksh Tak: Bharat Ki Raksha Kranti')

Ferry carrying 38 people breaks down near Mumbai's Gateway of India

MUMBAI

A ferry carrying 34 passengers and four crew members broke down in the Arabian Sea near Mumbai's iconic Gateway of India on Thursday evening, prompting a swift rescue operation by the authorities and another ferry operator. The incident involved the Anwari ferry, which operates short sea rides from the Gateway of India.

According to the information available, the ferry developed a technical problem at around 8.30 p.m. while it was returning towards the Gateway of India. The vessel, which had 38 people on board, reportedly stopped functioning approximately 1.5 nautical miles from the Gateway of India. The passengers and crew were left stranded at sea following the technical failure.

After receiving information about the incident through the control room, Mumbai Police immediately assessed the situation and coordinated with nearby ferry operators to ensure the safe return of everyone on board. Another ferry was sent to the location and reached the stranded vessel. The rescue boat subsequently towed the Anwari ferry back towards the Gateway of India jetty. All 34 passengers and four crew members were safely brought back to the jetty. No injuries or other untoward incidents were reported in connection with the breakdown.

Religious and Spiritual Tourism is Developing Rapidly in the Country: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav

Dr. Bhupendra Vikal

BHOPAL

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav visited the holy Dwarkadhish Temple in Devbhoomi Dwaraka, Gujarat on Thursday, along with his wife, where he had darshan of the divine form of Lord Shri Dwarkadhish and performed worship with due rituals to seek his blessings. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav prayed to Lord Dwarkadhish for the happiness, prosperity and welfare of all the people of the state. Ahead of Janmashtami to be celebrated on Friday, the Chief Minister extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the country and the state on the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Krishna. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was accompanied by his wife Smt. Seema Yadav and other family members, including Secretary to the Chief Minister's Office, Dr. Ilaiya Raja T.

Interaction with Media Representatives

After darshan and worship of Lord Shri Dwarkadhish, while interacting with local media representatives outside the temple premises, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that today he has come to Dwarka with his family. Under the guidance of Prime Minister



Shri Narendra Modi, new milestones are continuously being set in religious tourism across the country,

including Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and the city of Dwarka in Gujarat. After the construction of Shri Mahakal Lok in Ujjain, the number of devotees has increased 20 times. At present, more than 10 crore pilgrims are visiting Ujjain.

After the inauguration of Baba Mahakal Lok in Ujjain by Prime Minister Shri Modi, the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor was also constructed in Varanasi, which has taken religious tourism in the city of Baba Vishwanath to new heights.

Blessed to have Darshan of Lord Shri Dwarkadhish before Janmashtami

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the Dwarkadhish Temple is one of the four major Dhams of Sanatan culture established by Adi Shankaracharya.

Getting the opportunity to have grand darshan of Lord Shri Dwarkadhish just before Janmashtami is a matter of great fortune for all of us. The Chief Minister said that a short while ago he had visited Somnath Dham. After that, today he performed formal darshan, worship and prayers at the famous Shri Dwarkadhish Temple in Dwarka and reviewed all the arrangements there. We are also making every effort for better management at our own religious shrines.

Convenient Arrangements Being Developed for Devotees in Madhya Pradesh

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the Madhya Pradesh government is working in a planned manner for the continuous expansion of religious and spiritual tourism.

At all major religious places and shrines in the state, rapid development of all necessary infrastructure is being undertaken keeping in view easy and smooth movement, accommodation for devotees, their safety and the growth in the number of tourists. Our government is committed to re-establishing the glorious past of Indian culture.

N.F. Railway Wushu Academy Bags Taolu Runners-Up Trophy with 30

Medals at All Assam Inter-District Championship

MALIGAON

The Northeast Frontier Railway Sports Association (NFRSA) Wushu Academy has brought laurels to N.F. Railway by securing the Taolu Runners-Up Trophy in the Sub-Junior category at the 23 rd Sub-Junior & 23 rd Junior All Assam Inter-District Wushu Championship 2026, held at Udalguri, Assam. Competing against 26 district teams and more than 400 participants, the NFRSA contingent comprising 22 talented athletes delivered an impressive performance, winning a total of 30 medals — 6 Gold, 19 Silver and 5 Bronze.

Among the standout performers, Satyam Chakroborty clinched Gold in Nangun, while Gravilk Mohalia secured Gold medals in both Nangan and Nandao, emerging as one of the team's top performers. Nishant Kr. Mandal also won Gold in Taichi Jian, while Farhin Hazarika and Rishikesh Sardar brought further glory to the Academy by securing Gold medals in Wing Chun. Their impressive individual perfor-

mances played a significant role in the team's overall medal tally and contributed to NFRSA Wushu Academy's achievement of the Taolu Runners-Up Trophy.

The team competed under the able guidance of Coach N.C. Rao, whose dedicated efforts, along with the commitment of the athletes, contributed significantly to the team's outstanding performance.

The success also reflects N.F. Railway's continued commitment to encouraging and nurturing young sporting talent, providing aspiring athletes with opportunities to develop their skills and excel at competitive platforms.

The remarkable achievement reflects the hard work, discipline and dedication of the young athletes, showcasing the strong sporting culture of N.F. Railway. Their outstanding performance has added another significant accomplishment to the sporting record of N.F. Railway, while showcasing the strong sporting culture nurtured by the organisation. The impressive medal tally and runners-up position reflect the growing strength of Wushu within N.F. Railway and stand as an inspiration.

Historic Meeting of Nagdevta Temple Committee Idwalsyu

Representatives of 16 Villages Adopt Major Religious Resolutions

NAINBAGH (SHRIKOT)

In a landmark gathering of the Nagdevta Temple Committee, Idwalsyu Jaunpur, representatives from 16 villages unanimously adopted several important religious and community resolutions during a meeting held on September 3 at the auditorium of Shrikot Inter College. The meeting was chaired by Committee President Sunil Thapliyal and witnessed the participation of a large number of village representatives and devotees.

The committee announced that a complete prohibition on the consumption, serving, and even touching of liquor and non-vegetarian food will remain in force across the Nagdevta region from September 5 to September 23, 2026. Any family found violating this religious code during the period will be liable to pay a religious penalty of ₹51,000.

The committee made a heartfelt appeal to all devotees to observe the tradition with faith and discipline. A major decision was also taken regarding the reconstruction of the Shrikot Nagdev-



ta Temple. Contributions will be collected from all 16 villages, and villages that have not yet deposited their share were urged to do so at the earliest.

The meeting further resolved that the Dev Doli (holy palanquin) of Lord Nagdevta will undertake its scheduled village-to-village tour as per tradition. Every village will accord a grand welcome to the deity while ensuring strict adherence to religious customs.

Another significant resolution was to hold a grand congregation on September 23, the day of the community Bhandara. Representatives

and devotees from all 16 villages will participate, and the progress of temple construction along with future religious programmes will also be reviewed.

Village representatives accepted their respective responsibilities and reaffirmed their commitment to preserving the traditions, faith, and social unity associated with Lord Shri Nagdevta. Concluding the meeting, Committee President Sunil Thapliyal urged all villagers to maintain the sanctity of the religious observances and faithfully comply with the committee's decisions throughout the sacred period.

'No one should politicise Ajitdada's death', Sunetra Pawar responds to Supriya Sule

PUNE

NCP president and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar on Thursday, in her response to NCP (SP) working president and MP Supriya Sule, said that no one can understand the void and pain left by the demise of Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar better than his own family. Therefore, she added that no one should attempt to repeatedly come before the media and politicise his death.

Following the filing of an FIR against MNS youth leader Amit Thackeray in connection with the removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo in Pune college, Sule on Wednesday cited Ajit Pawar's plane accident and raised the point that the government has not yet filed an FIR in that case. Reacting to this, Sunetra Pawar indirectly targeted Sule.

Speaking to the media, Sunetra Pawar said that Ajit Pawar's passing has brought a dark cloud over the entire state of Maharashtra. Everyone expects the truth



behind this tragedy to come out and the investigation findings to be announced as soon as possible. "We are continuously striving for a thorough probe into this matter. We have met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister, and other senior leaders to present our stand. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has also given his word in the Legislative Assembly regarding this and is making efforts to fulfil it. Investigating agencies are doing their job; we have full faith in the law, the Constitution, and the agencies, and it is necessary to give them the required time," she stated.

She further added that repeatedly raising questions in front of the media does not guarantee new information or updates every time. One must also consider whether frequent discussions lead to a media trial.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Gives Directions for Improvement of Railway Safety

Technical and Maintenance-related Deficiencies

Strict Action Against Poor-quality Supplies and Deliberate Negligence

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today held a detailed safety review meeting at Rail Bhawan. The meeting was attended by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board; Members of the Railway Board, General Managers of Zonal Railways, Director Generals (DGs) and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs).

During the meeting, the Railway Minister gave directions to address technical deficiencies related to signalling in mission mode. With regard to Overhead Equipment (OHE), he asked to ensure necessary action for their maintenance and replacement at locations where the components have completed their prescribed service life.

The Railway Minister gave directions to improve the level of maintenance in workshops by paying special attention to



the maintenance of coaches, particularly the electrical circuits and wiring related to fire safety. He also asked to pay attention to the maintenance of couplers and wheels of wagons and coaches.

With regard to track maintenance, emphasis was laid on ensuring proper maintenance of point machines, turnouts and fasteners. Wherever fasteners are missing, arrangements were asked to be ensured for their installation.

The meeting directed strict action in cases of poor-quality supplies. In case of any deficiency in the quality of materials related to Signalling & Tel-

ecommunication (S&T), OHE, track, coaches or wagons, it was asked to ensure stringent action against the concerned supplier. In cases of deliberate negligence, directions were also given to permanently blacklist the concerned supplier.

The Railway Minister asked all officers to establish coordination with the district and state administrations and make advance preparations at locations where there is a possibility of a sudden increase in passenger crowds due to festivals or fairs, so that necessary facilities can be made available.

Celebrate the real celebration of Janmashtami within your hearts and souls

SACHCHIDANANDA VERMA

Janmashtami is a very sacred and famous festival celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, which is celebrated every year on the eighth day of the Krishna Paksha of the month of Bhadrapada. Lord Krishna was the eighth son of Devaki and Vasudeva. He was born in a jail in Mathura. He was born to liberate the people of Mathura from the atrocities of his maternal uncle Kansa. Janmashtami is not only a festival, but also a call for awakening of the soul. It reminds us that just as Krishna attained divinity by his efforts, we too can attain our true form by following the path of knowledge and yoga. When we try to be in harmony with Lord Krishna as much as possible, the celebration of Janmashtami is celebrated within our hearts and souls. Paramahansa Yogananda, the author of the world-famous spiritual pride book Yogi Kathamrit, has given a detailed explanation of the true meaning of the immortal message given by Sri Krishna to Arjuna in his interpretation of the Gita, "Ishwar-Arjuna dialogue."

Yogananda explains that the real importance of the battle of Kurukshetra, known as Mahabharata, lies in the internal conflicts that every human being has to face continuously in his mind.

In each section of human life, our good attitudes and bad tendencies have to fight each other, and ultimately the victory of good and the defeat of evil, but for this it is necessary for us to make a determined effort to get closer to God and consequently abandon all attachments to the material world. On this day of Janmashtami, we should all try to awaken Lord Krishna, who is present in our inner self.

Yogananda has said that where our energy is, there is our consciousness. Our energy present in the body flows through our five senses of knowledge and makes the consciousness extrore. If its flow is made introverted, then through the same introverted, disinvolved mind we can reach the infinite source of love that can make us experience Krishna Chaitanya, where Krishna takes birth in our consciousness. To make this stream of love for God flow, Yoganandaji planted the tree of Yogda Satsang

Society of India and Self-Realisation Fellowship and provided the lofty scientific method of yoga, Kriya Yoga (the method of controlling life force), which is called the airway path to reach God.

In this regard, he elaborates on this method in chapter 26 of his book 'Yogi Kathamrit', in the pages of which the reader finds a glimpse of the light of spiritual domination. The immortal guru Mahavatar Babaji gave the material knowledge of Kriya Yoga to the great Yogavatar Lahiri Mahasaya and he taught this science to the spiritual guru of Yogananda, Gyanavatar Swami Shriyuktashwar Giri. Lord Krishna has mentioned Kriya Yoga twice in the verses of Srimad Bhagavad Gita. It is the supreme science known to man, which helps the spiritual seeker to constantly move towards the goal of unity with God.

Janmashtami is the birth of Krishna. When we celebrate his birth, we can also pray for the birth of his presence in our hearts. Krishna's flute is still invokable. Its sound is not heard in the noise outside, but in the silence inside. When we turn within ourselves through meditation, we can know what Krishna



tried to awaken in Arjuna - and all of us -, the courage to live, the wisdom of doing karma and the joy of knowing our true divine nature.

The thoughts of the great Yogi Paramahansa Yogananda on the auspicious occasion of Krishna Janmashtami are extremely profound, philosophically and spiritually practical. Yogananda not only considered Lord Krishna as a historical great man or a mythological character, but saw him as the embodiment of divine love and bliss and as a Yogeshwar (the king of yoga).

In his famous interpretation of the Bhagavad Gita God Talks with Arjuna, he has highlighted the sub-

tle spiritual meanings of Krishna's life and message. According to Paramahansa Yogananda, the real meaning of Janmashtami is not just to celebrate the outside or keep a fast. Its deep spiritual meaning is to awaken the consciousness of Krishna within oneself. Yogananda used to say that when a seeker descends into deep meditation, God's bliss and divine love is born in his calm mind womb. This is the real Janmashtami. Yogananda has explained Rasleela apart from the worldly point of view along with Krishna's Bal-Leela and Gopis. Gopis Sang Ras is not a symbol of physical sexuality. Beyond the lit-

eral meanings, it is the path of the divine union of Brahma (Paramatma) and the creation (souls), which expresses divine love. Krishna's flute The sweet tone of Krishna's Bansi is actually the call of that samadhi state of meditation, which pulls the soul from the attractions of the world and leads to the eternal bliss of God. Yogananda explains that the life of Lord Krishna is the most accurate example for the modern era. Krishna was not only a sannyasi, but he also had great responsibilities of the king and the king. He taught that man does not need to escape from the world nor to be immersed in materialism. The right path is meditation in activity and activity in meditation (balanced life). The real message of Krishna is to keep the mind constantly stable in God even while doing duty.

According to Paramahansa Yogananda, the Rajayoga and Niskam Karma Yoga that Lord Krishna has spoken of in the Bhagavad Gita is actually the ancient science of Kriya Yoga. Only by controlling the breath and mind through meditation and scientific yoga techniques can one win the Kurukshetra of

life (war of internal disorders and goodness) like Arjuna. Yogananda used to quote Krishna's message that doing work without the inner pleasure of God can be as painful as hell. But when one touches God's bliss through meditation, he carries a moving sway within himself wherever he goes.

Through the Yogda Satsang Society and Self-Realisation Fellowship, Yogananda taught that on this Janmashtami we should pray to Lord Krishna that we can adopt his example of a balanced life. It is a true tribute to him to experience his ever-present presence and eternal love through meditation and devotion in this holy time.



(The writer is an independent journalist and columnist)

BRICS events: Central, Delhi govt offices to remain closed on Sep 11

NEW DELHI

For minimising public inconvenience on roads, offices of Central and Delhi governments will remain closed on September 11 in view of the security, logistical arrangements and Motor Carcade movement related to the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit, an official said on Thursday.

While the Delhi government had earlier declared a holiday for its offices on September 11, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions issued an official circular declaring a holiday for Central government offices on that day.

Ahead of the international event, the Delhi Traffic Police has been conducting rehearsals for traffic movement during the Summit.

As part of traffic management drill for the events



from September 11 to 13, the Traffic Police have planned diversions at 22 points with regulated traffic movement on more than 35 roads.

On Wednesday, the traffic police enforced curbs and diversions between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a Motor Carcade Rehearsal ahead of the BRICS Business Forum and the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit.

September 12 and 13 being a Saturday and Sunday are expected to be relatively less challenging for traffic managers who are handling Summit-related arrangements.

China avoids international scrutiny by silencing info about Tibetan deaths in flood disaster: Report

LHASA

China's refusal to share information regarding casualties following the devastation caused by flooding triggered by a glacial collapse in Tibet fits into the long-standing policy of Chinese authorities to suppress information whenever Tibetans suffer disproportionately. By not sharing information regarding the deaths of Tibetans in flooding, China has been avoiding international scrutiny and domestic sympathy, a report has detailed.

The devastation caused by flooding in Tibet was immediate and profound, as entire communities were left in shock and families were torn apart. Following the disaster, the first responsibility of the nation is to inform its citizens regarding the scale of the tragedy.



By not revealing information regarding casualties, China has reduced Tibetan lives to abstractions and erased their suffering from public record, a report in Taiwan's Taipei Times highlighted.

"The refusal to announce casualties fits a long-standing pattern of Chinese authorities in Tibet suppressing informa-

tion whenever Tibetans suffer disproportionately. Whether it is uprisings, self-immolations or environmental disasters, the state's instinct is to conceal rather than confront. By silencing reports of Tibetan deaths, Beijing avoids international scrutiny and domestic sympathy. To acknowledge Tibetan suffering would be to admit

that Tibetans are distinct, resilient and enduring — qualities the state seeks to erase," Khedroob Thondup, nephew of the 14th Dalai Lama, wrote in Taipei Times.

The flooding caused by the glacial collapse is a warning to the world. Tibet's fragile environment, already affected by climate change and reckless development, is a harbinger of crisis to come. According to the report, the international community must acknowledge that China's silence on the Tibet flooding is a cover-up of lives, not of numbers. The massive flood that struck Nepal's Rasuwa originated in the Tibetan region of China on August 26. It swept through the trans-boundary Bhote Koshi River, leaving hundreds dead and causing massive destruction in the Himalayan nation.

Nepal govt announces business recovery package for Bhote Koshi flood victims



KATHMANDU

The Nepali government on Thursday announced a comprehensive business recovery package for industries, traders and commercial establishments affected by the devastating Bhote Koshi floods, offering customs duty exemptions, tax relief, loan restructuring and faster insurance claim payments.

The Cabinet meeting held on Thursday decided to provide a range of relief measures and concessions to businesses and economic activities affected by the floods in the Nepal-China border area, Nepal's Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The government's move is aimed at helping businesses revive their operations amid the destruction caused by last week's floods, which had claimed 1,259 lives as of Thursday evening, while 5,083 people remained out of contact, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

Under the package, businesses whose commercial vehicles and transportation equipment were damaged beyond repair or swept away by the floods will be allowed to re-import similar vehicles and equipment without pay-

ing customs duties, after cancelling the registration of the damaged or lost vehicles.

Similarly, businesses whose plants, machinery, instruments and equipment were destroyed will be allowed to import replacements of the same nature and quantity without paying customs duties. The Nepali government has also introduced a provision to adjust customs duties already paid on goods that were destroyed before reaching their destination due to last week's Bhote Koshi flood. Importers will be allowed to adjust the equivalent amount of previously paid customs duties if they import similar goods through any customs office within six months. The package also provides significant tax relief to flood-affected taxpayers. The government announced that it would extend the deadline for filing tax returns and paying taxes until November 11 from mid-October.

Businesses will be allowed to claim the value of destroyed business assets as a one-time expense deduction for tax purposes. As per the Cabinet decision, the country's central bank will make arrangements to allow affected businesses to obtain loan restructuring and rescheduling facilities.

Protect Wildlife, Preserve Habitats and Respect Nature

(On the occasion of 'National Wildlife Day' on 04 September)

Global mankind always rely on wildlife and biodiversity related resources to meet their needs from food, to fuel, medicines, housing, clothing, and others. For us to enjoy the benefits and the beauty of nature, people have to work together to ensure ecosystems for co-existence of animal and plant kingdom for future generations to live in happy environment. So, it is our minimum responsibility to celebrate wildlife and conservation work being done around the globe. Wild animals and plants, from the highland steppes to the coral reefs, are intrinsic to the intricate web of life on Earth. They sustain ecosystems, regulate natural processes, and support biodiversity, providing

the essential services that underpin human livelihoods and contribute to the achievement of our 'Sustainable Development Goals'. Forests alone house around 60,000 tree species, 80 percent of amphibian species, and 75 percent of birds species, while supporting over 1.6 million people with natural capital in the form of food, medicines, and income. The World Wildlife Day is observed on 03 March annually by member countries of UN.

Wildlife Conservation to Protect Endangered Species

Over one million species are estimated to be threatened with extinction, and facing the intensifying triple planetary crisis, innovative finance for wildlife conservation is more important and urgent than ever. More than half of the world's GDP is dependent on nature, making biodiversity protection more challenging.

Over fishing leads to unemployment, disrupted economies, and illegal harvesting practices. Although 143 billion dollars is invested annually in biodiversity conservation, this falls short of the estimated 824 billion required each year. The UNO is trying to procure at least 500 billion each year to combat biodiversity loss and restoration. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of "International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)", highlighting five decades of efforts to regulate international wildlife trade and ensure species' survival.

Protect Wildlife, Preserve Habitats and Respect Nature

Keeping the importance of biodiversity conservation in mind 'Colleen Paige' decided to observe "National Wildlife Day" annually to honour the wildlife

conservationist Steve Irwin on 04 September since 2005. This day will serve as a platform for exchange and exploration of innovative financial solutions for wildlife protection.

The World Wildlife Day is for connecting people with the natural world and inspiring continued learning and action for animals and plants beyond the day. In 2026, National Wildlife Day will be celebrated under the critical theme revolves around the topics like "Protect Wildlife, Preserve Habitats and Respect Nature". The wildlife conservation finance is about conserving plant and animal species in the world, and contributing to the conservation of planet's biodiversity that sustains all ecosystems and communities worldwide.

National Wildlife Day Activities

The National Wildlife Day 2026 in-person and online activities will aim to bring awareness among all sections of the community, showcase inspirational stories and solutions in wildlife conservation, provide a knowledge base for stakeholders(youth, civil society, governments, and NGOs etc), bring together diverse stakeholders for innovative finance(governments, financial institutions, businesses, and civil society), and foster collaboration among different stakeholders and sectors in bringing wildlife conservation funding gaps. The high level discussions, workshops, wildlife trips, social media sensitisation, fundraising campaigns, and exhibitions that bring awareness on the importance of wildlife protection. Sharing the knowledge, fostering partnership, and conservation

finances will go a long way to conserve biodiversity and safe environment to future generations.

National Wildlife Day highlights the vital role that wildlife plays in maintaining ecological balance and supporting human well-being. Since biodiversity is contributing food security, medicines, clear water, fresh air, and climate resilience. However, human activities have led to unprecedented biodiversity loss, with significant economic, environmental, and social impacts. This day must serve as a call to action to conserve and sustainably manage wildlife resources for future generations. Incest in nature today for a sustainable tomorrow and protect wildlife to protect our future.

- Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
Principal & Associate Professor (Rtd) 9949700037.

India dispatches two more aircraft with relief assistance for Nepal, supporting flood-affected communities

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that India has dispatched two more aircraft with 21.5 tonnes of relief assistance for Nepal as the Himalayan nation was hit by devastating floods last week.

"India continues humanitarian assistance to Nepal. India dispatched two more aircrafts (C-130 Js) with 21.5 tonnes of relief assistance for Nepal, including forensic kits and medical supplies. The additional assistance will further strengthen ongoing relief and rescue efforts and support communities affected by the floods," the MEA said on social media platform X.

On Wednesday, a fifth In-



dian Air Force (IAF) plane landed in Nepal, carrying an 11-member rescue team with specialised equipment and 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines.

According to MEA, the fresh tranche of relief material was

handed over to the local government by Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava.

The aid supports the ongoing response to catastrophic flash floods that struck Nepal following a glacial collapse in

Tibet on August 26. Earlier on Wednesday, taking to social media platform X, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar said, "The fifth Indian aircraft has departed for Nepal. It is carrying an 11-member rescue team with specialised equipment, and 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines."

India has rushed more than 68 tonnes of emergency relief materials and specialised rescue teams to support Nepal following devastating flash floods.

Deliveries include blankets, sleeping bags, heavy-duty tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, and hygiene kits. The supplies also include essential medicines, food packets, solar lamps, water purification tablets, and portable generators.

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday called for stronger international attention to growing climate-related risks in the Himalayan region as the death toll from devastating floods in the Bhote Koshi river crossed 1,100.

Addressing the House of Representatives, PM Shah said Nepal must highlight more forcefully the disasters it is facing due to climate change.

Experts said an avalanche blocked the Lengde Khola, a tributary of the Bhote Koshi river near the Nepal-China border. The accumulated water later breached the natural barrier, triggering a massive flood that swept downstream towards the Trishuli river and devastated settlements and infrastructure.

Raghav Chadha to represent India at global young MPs meet in Uzbekistan

NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has been nominated to represent the Indian Parliament at the 12th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, scheduled from September 4-6 in Uzbekistan's Samarkand.

Sharing the announcement on his X account on Thursday, Chadha expressed gratitude to Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan for selecting him as part of the Indian delegation. Founded in 1889 and headquartered in Geneva, the IPU is the world's oldest and largest body of national Parliaments, bringing together 180 Member Parliaments and 15 Associate Members.

This year's conference theme, "Reclaiming human



rights, justice and dignity for all in turbulent times", will guide discussions among young legislators from across the globe.

Over three days, Parliamentarians will deliberate on issues central to youth and governance: youth rights in conflict, digital rights and online safety, climate resilience and justice, and economic opportunities for youth. Chadha noted that India, as the world's largest democracy and home to one of the youngest populations, has both insights to

share and lessons to learn on these pressing questions. He also highlighted the timing of the conference, which follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Uzbekistan.

Chadha said the delegation's participation would help carry forward the momentum of bilateral ties on the Parliamentary front, strengthening India's role in global youth-focused discourse.

India's representation at the IPU conference is seen as an opportunity to showcase its democratic experience, youth-driven initiatives, and commitment to addressing challenges of justice, rights, and sustainability. For Chadha, the nomination shows both recognition of his role as a young Parliamentarian and the importance India places on engaging with international platforms that shape the future of governance.

India and Australia discuss deepening army-to-army cooperation, training

CANBERRA

India's High Commissioner to Australia, Nagesh Singh, on Thursday met Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, Chief of the Australian Army and discussed the strong and growing defence partnership between both nations.

"High Commissioner of India Nagesh Singh met Lieutenant General Susan Coyle AM CSC DSM, Chief of the Australian Army, and congratulated her on assuming the leadership of the Australian Army," the High Commission of India in Canberra stated on X.

"Discussions focused on the strong and growing India-Australia defence partnership, deepening army-to-army cooperation, training and exchanges, and further strengthening collaboration towards a secure and stable Indo-Pacific," it added. Last month, In-



dia and Australia reaffirmed their strong maritime partnership and discussed further strengthening cooperation between the navies of the two nations.

The discussions were held during a meeting between High Commissioner Singh and Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Matthew Paul Buckley. It was the first meeting between the two officials after Vice Admiral Buckley assumed the leadership of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) on July 7, succeeding Vice Admiral Mark Hammond.

Ostriches – Amazing Birds That Run on Earth

DR KANDEPI RANI PRASAD

When we think of birds, we immediately think of them flying in the sky. But some birds in nature, even though they cannot fly, amaze us with their unique body structure, speed, and lifestyle. Among such birds, the largest living bird in the world is the Ostrich. This bird, which is seen with long legs, a long neck, a large body, and a small head, is one of the unique creatures of the African continent.

The scientific name for the Ostrich is *Struthio camelus*. It belongs to the *Struthionidae* family. Ostriches mainly live in the grasslands, savannas, and dry areas of Africa. These are flightless birds. However, the inability to fly is not their weakness. Nature has given them strong, long legs. Their main defense is the ability to run very fast.

The largest bird in the world

The Ostrich is the largest of the birds currently alive in the world. Male ostriches are usually larger



than females. Their long necks and long legs make them easily recognizable from other birds.

Despite their large bodies, their body structure is suitable for running. They can sprint quickly due to the strong muscles in their legs.

Ostriches cannot fly. Their wings do not have the necessary structure for flight. However, these wings are completely useless. They are useful for maintaining balance, changing direction, and display behavior while running.

works specifically to digest food. They help in the process of digesting food by swallowing small stones.

Ostrich egg - the largest among birds

The ostrich egg is one of the largest eggs among birds. Its egg size is much larger than the eggs of other common birds.

Female ostriches lay their eggs in a nest-like hole in the sand or ground. There are also cases where there are several female eggs in a nest. Both male and female birds participate in incubating the eggs.

After the babies hatch from the eggs, they are able to walk within a short time. The parents protect them and take them for food.

Protection from predators is very important in the early stages of the baby's life. That is why ostrich parents pay special attention to the babies. The ostrich has a very long neck.

This allows them to observe the surroundings from a distance. The size of the ostrich's eyes is also large. Good eyesight is very useful

for quickly identifying dangers that may occur in a wide area. Ostriches usually run away quickly when they sense danger. Crouching close to the ground or lowering their heads when near their nest can make it appear as if their heads are buried in the sand from a distance.

Ostriches are part of the grassland ecosystem. They participate in food chains by eating plants, seeds, and fruits. They also help in the dispersal of seeds to some extent.

Habitat loss, hunting, and the expansion of human activities are causing problems for ostriches in some areas. These magnificent birds can be saved by preserving their natural habitat, curbing illegal hunting, and preserving biodiversity.

The ostrich is a magnificent creature created by nature. The ability to run fast despite not being able to fly, the ability to move actively despite its large body, the long neck, wide legs, and large eggs—all of these are its unique features. "Although it cannot conquer the sky... the bird that has conquered the ground with speed—the ostrich!"



All Measures Being Taken for an ACCIDENT-FREE SINGARENI

- * Modern Technology to Be Utilised to Enhance Safety
- CMD Dr. Bud-dhaprakash Jyoti at the 50th Tripartite Safety Review Meeting
- DGMS Officials, Singareni Officers, Recognised and Representative Trade Unions, and Management Representatives Participate



SINGARENI BHAVAN

Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Bud-dhaprakash Jyoti stated that the safety of employees would always be accorded greater priority than coal production. He said that all necessary measures would be taken to make Singareni accident-free and that the suggestions made by trade unions would be duly considered.

He was addressing the 50th Tripartite Safety Review Meeting held on Thursday at Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad.

Officials from the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), representatives of the Singareni Officers' Association, leaders of recognised and representative trade unions, and management representatives participated in the meeting and held detailed discussions on safety measures in Singareni mines.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti said that the management would review how effectively accident-prevention measures are being implemented, whether past mistakes are be-

ing repeated, and what modern technologies are available to ensure accident-free mining. Appropriate decisions would be taken after examining these aspects, he said. He also assured that suitable action would be taken on the suggestions made by trade union leaders during the meeting.

Director of Mines Safety Dr. Sagesh Kumar, who participated in the meeting, said that the trade unions had offered several valuable suggestions. He appreciated the commitment shown by both the Singareni

management and trade unions towards improving safety. He also noted that the number of fatal accidents had declined significantly this year compared with the past.

He suggested that a common biometric attendance system for both Singareni employees and contract workers at opencast mines should be implemented immediately. He further stated that the DGMS would always be ready to extend necessary support and training to enhance the safety of Singareni employees.

The meeting was attended

by Singareni Collieries Workers' recognised trade union President Shri Vasireddy Seetharamaiah and Secretary Shri Raj Kumar; representative trade union INTUC Secretary General Shri Janak Prasad and Senior Vice President Shri S. Narasimha Reddy; Officers' Association President Shri Tallapalli Lakshminipathi Goud and General Secretary Shri Peddi Narasimhulu.

Representatives from various areas also offered several suggestions for enhancing safety and improving health-care services across Singareni. They brought various issues prevailing in their respective mines to the attention of the meeting.

They suggested measures such as addressing staff shortages, providing modern medical services, imparting proper training to contract workers, supplying quality safety boots, appointing the required number of supervisors, employees and officers in mines, and ensuring the availability of spare parts. Senior management officials assured them that appropriate measures would be

taken to address these issues.

General Manager (Safety) Shri Saibaba welcomed the participants to the meeting. At the outset, the gathering observed condolences for workers who had lost their lives in recent accidents. This was followed by a review of the decisions taken at the previous year's Tripartite Safety Meeting. The meeting proceeded in a cordial atmosphere.

Along with the Chairman and Managing Director, the meeting was attended by Director (Operations) Shri L.V. Surya Narayana; Director (Projects & Planning) Shri K. Venkateshwarlu; Director (Personnel & Finance) Shri Gowtham Potru; Director (E&M) Shri M. Tirumala Rao; General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) Shri Tada-bayina Srinivas; General Managers of all areas; Corporate General Managers; and DGMS Directors of Mines Safety Dr. Sagesh Kumar, Dr. I. Satyanarayana, Shri Raj Kumar, Shri K. Maheshwar Reddy and Shri Pankaj Kumar Jain, along with Deputy Directors and other officials.

ED raids 14 locations across India in toll plaza scam, seizes over Rs 1 crore cash



NEW DELHI/ALLAHABAD

The Directorate of Enforcement's (ED) Allahabad Sub-Zonal Office on Tuesday conducted search operations at 14 premises spread across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, and Delhi-NCR under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The action forms part of an ongoing investigation into the "Toll Plaza Scam" involving large-scale fraudulent toll collection.

Dedicated portals were maintained to monitor these illegal collections. Forensic examination of digital devices seized from the accused revealed that the same mechanism was used at around 100 toll plazas. Digital records showed unauthorised toll receipts running into crores of rupees.

Further investigation has brought to light the role of intermediaries and toll collection entities entrusted by NHAI in deploying these unauthorised applications.

A wider network of toll plazas and associated persons and entities has been identified and is under detailed examination.

During the searches, the ED recovered and seized cash amounting to approximately Rs 1.03 crore, along with books of account, financial records, bank-related documents and digital devices. Eight bank lockers were frozen.

A large volume of incriminating material relating to toll-wise collection and reporting, non-FASTag collections, bank accounts, financial transactions and suspicious communications was also seized. Officials said the recovery of cash and digital evidence strengthens the case of systematic diversion of public revenue through the unauthorised toll collection system.

Further investigation into the money-laundering aspects of the scam is in progress.

In January 2025, the state police had exposed a major fraud at Atralla Shiv Gulam Toll Plaza, where an unauthorised mobile application was used to collect tolls from vehicles that had no FASTag or insufficient balance.

The illegal app generated fake receipts and concealed the collections from the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) official system, thereby causing substantial revenue loss to the authority.

ED investigators found that two unauthorised applications - 'Mobdata' and 'Any' - were developed and deployed to facilitate toll collection from non-FASTag vehicles.

India can become global auto manufacturing hub as developed economies face rising costs

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday invited global automobile companies to manufacture in India and use the country as a base to serve international markets, saying rising costs, skill shortages and regulatory pressures would increasingly push production away from several developed economies.

Addressing the 66th SIAM Annual Convention, Goyal said India would encourage more global automakers to establish manufacturing operations in the country and take advantage of its economies of scale.

"We will encourage more and more global companies to come into India and use the economies of scale to serve the global scale," Goyal said.

He urged Indian automobile manufacturers to focus more aggressively on export markets



localisation. He also stressed the need for technology partnerships that can enable the country to manufacture components currently being imported and subsequently supply them to global markets.

Goyal said India's strategy for the automotive sector should focus on building resilience around "molecules, modules, megawatts and markets", covering critical minerals, components and technology, energy security and access to international markets.

He said the government was exploring free trade agreements and other international partnerships to establish stronger linkages for rare earths and critical minerals. India is also promoting ocean exploration and participating in Pax Silica with the US as part of efforts to strengthen access to strategic resources and technologies.

instead of limiting their ambitions to domestic demand. Citing Maruti's exports to Japan as an example, he said Indian companies could significantly expand their overseas presence by adopting a stronger export-oriented approach.

"Look at export market more actively then we can double every two years if we do what Maruti has done," Goyal said.

The Minister said the Indian automobile industry had become more competitive with the help of Japanese investments, partnerships and rising

Preliminary AAIB report on Air India Phuket-Delhi flight incident soon

NEW DELHI

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday said the investigation is underway by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) in the August 4 Air India Phuket-Delhi flight incident and a preliminary report is expected to come out very soon.

The AAIB is looking into the incident related to Air India Flight AI 2379, which abruptly dropped by 300 feet at an altitude of 36,000 feet while flying from Phuket to Delhi on August 4, injuring at least 24 people on board.

Naidu told reporters that once the AAIB report is out, "further course of action will then be decided".

The minister further said that they engage with all the airlines every month regarding difficulties or issues or



challenges they have.

"We have been pushing them to step up their operations, especially the financial side of it. The airlines have assured they will be doing it quite soon," the minister said.

The government has asked the investigative agency to expedite the investigation so that more stringent laws can be put in place, and exemplary punishment meted out to prevent the recurrence of such cases in the future.

AI-2379, carrying 137

passengers and eight crew members, was on its way to Delhi from Phuket on August 4 when it experienced a sudden loss of altitude of 300 feet during its cruise phase. At least 20 passengers and four crew members suffered injuries. Of these, two crew members sustained spinal injuries near the tailbone and neck, Naidu said last month.

The pilot tested positive for psychoactive substances during the post-flight screening in Delhi. Another test was conducted sometime later, which also turned out to be positive. The test reportedly confirmed that the pilot had smoked marijuana, which is commonly known as weed. Meanwhile, the AAIB is examining all relevant technical, operational, medical, and human-factor evidence related to the Phuket-Delhi flight incident.

Wai-Wai-maker CG Foods India ordered to stop veg bhujia namkeen production: FSSAI



NEW DELHI

India's food regulator on Thursday said it has initiated enforcement action against CG Foods India Pvt Ltd. following food safety violations.

FSSAI has directed CG Foods India to stop production of Veg Bhujia Namkeen after an inspection found alleged unsafe processing, unlicensed manufacturing, predated packaging and hygiene deficiencies.

The food watchdog seized 32,107.2 kg of stock on-site, including loose broken noodles.

"The inspection was conducted at CG Foods India Pvt. Ltd., Roopangarh, Ajmer (Rajasthan), to verify manufacturing and hygienic compliance. The unit was found re-pro-

cessing floor-collected, broken noodles into bhujia products without heat treatment, along with using predated packaging dates," the FSSAI said in a statement.

It also found that unlicensed manufacturing of "Wai-Wai MaMa" and "Wai-Wai Mama Punte" bhujia variants was identified in direct violation of Section 31(i) of the FSS Act, 2006.

The inspection revealed several hygiene and documentation deficiencies, including inadequate pest-control records and other deficiencies relating to food hygiene and safety, said the FSSAI.

Several regulatory samples - including loose noodle material, both Veg Bhujia prod-

ucts, used cooking oil from the frying line, and "Wai-Wai Ready to Eat Noodles" were collected for laboratory analysis. Additionally, 1,925 boxes of expired finished goods were detained, and strict legal proceedings were initiated against the FBO.

The FBO has been directed to "discontinue the production of the Veg Bhujia Namkeen products" without proper approvals and measures.

"Further regulatory action as applicable will be taken on the basis of laboratory analysis and inspection findings in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006," said the regulator.

Earlier in the day, the FSSAI initiated strict enforcement

action against British Lifesciences Private Limited in Bengaluru, Karnataka, following an inspection that uncovered misbranded and expired infant food products.

The action was taken as part of an enforcement drive aimed at ensuring the safety and regulatory compliance of infant food products, particularly those intended for infants and young children.

"Strict regulatory measures were taken against British Lifesciences Private Limited, Bengaluru, following food safety inspections of infant food products. The substantial quantity of misbranded infant food was seized. Legal proceedings have been initiated against the FBO," it said.

Himachal's fiscal deficit breaches prescribed limits; 86 pc revenue spent on salaries and subsidies

SHIMLA

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on Thursday painted a worrying picture of Himachal Pradesh's financial health, flagging the rapidly rising debt burden, breach of fiscal deficit limits and shrinking availability of funds for developmental and capital expenditure.



The CAG report for the financial year 2024-25, tabled in the state Assembly by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, said the state's fiscal deficit had crossed the prescribed limits under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework.

The state's revenue deficit stood at Rs 6,804.61 crore, equivalent to 2.94 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while the fiscal deficit touched Rs 12,611.05 crore, or 5.44 per cent of the GSDP. According to the report, the state government failed to keep these deficits within the targets prescribed under the FRBM Act.

The state's outstanding liabilities were also significantly higher than the targets recommended by the 15th Finance Commission and the state's own budget estimates.

The audit report highlighted that as much as 86 per cent of the state's total revenue receipts were being consumed by committed expenditure and subsidies, leaving only a small portion available for infrastructure development and capital investment.

Salaries, pensions and gratuity alone accounted for around 70 per cent of the revenue expenditure, it said.

The CAG also raised concerns over the increasing expenditure on power subsidies and debt relief measures, saying that such commitments were putting additional pressure on the state's finances.

With only about 14 per cent of revenue resources left for developmental activities and capital expenditure, the state faces constraints in creating infrastructure and making long-term investments, the report noted.

The CAG said that Himachal Pradesh's economy registered a growth of 9.20 per cent during 2024-25.

However, the state's contribution to India's GDP stood at only 0.70 per cent and has declined over the past five years, which the national auditor described as a matter of concern.

The state witnessed a 4.34 per cent increase in revenue receipts, aided by Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections and its share in central taxes. Non-tax revenue also increased by 22.40 per cent.

Despite the improvement in some revenue streams, the CAG said that Himachal Pradesh continued to remain heavily dependent on grants from the Centre.

The report also flagged certain irregularities in the management of government funds. It said that funds collected through levies such as the milk cess, environment cess and Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess were kept outside the government account.

According to the CAG, this amounted to a violation of Article 266 of the Constitution, which lays down provisions relating to the Consolidated Fund and Public Account of India and the states.

The auditor also pointed to delays in the submission of utilisation certificates by local bodies, departmental undertakings and autonomous institutions.

It further expressed concern over the excessive use of the budget head 'Object Head 20 - Other Charges', saying this affected transparency in financial reporting.

The CAG, however, acknowledged the implementation of the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) and SNA SPARSH mechanism for tracking funds under centrally-sponsored schemes as a positive step, though it said their full implementation was still pending.

Warning of the long-term implications of rising debt and limited capital investment, the CAG advised the state government to strengthen its revenue mobilisation, exercise greater control over expenditure and undertake structural reforms to restore fiscal stability.



Who Invented The Sandwich?

A Bite Into Its Surprising History

Before it became a lunch-box staple, café favourite or fast-food essential, the sandwich had already travelled through centuries of culinary history. Today, it is one of the world's most popular and versatile foods, enjoyed in countless forms across cultures—from simple buttered bread with vegetables to elaborate deli creations stacked with meats, cheeses and sauces. Its appeal lies in its convenience, portability and adaptability, making it suitable for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a quick snack. Although the sandwich is commonly associated with England and the 4th Earl of Sandwich, the concept of placing food inside or between bread is much older. Civilisations across Asia, the Middle East and Europe had already developed similar ways of eating centuries before the term "sandwich" entered the English language. Historians believe the modern sandwich is the result of many culinary traditions evolving independently before eventually receiving its now-famous name.

The Ancient Idea of Food Wrapped in Bread

The practice of combining bread with meat, vegetables or other fillings is nearly as old as bread itself. Bread has been one of humanity's earliest staple foods, and naturally it became a convenient way to hold or carry other ingredients. Ancient societies relied on flatbreads and simple loaves not only as food but also as edible plates and utensils. People discovered that placing cooked meat, herbs or vegetables inside bread made meals easier to transport, reduced mess and allowed labourers, travellers and soldiers to eat while on the move. This practical approach to eating gradually developed in different regions, giving rise to several foods that closely resemble what we recognise today as sandwiches.

China's Rou Jia Mo: One of the Oldest Sandwiches

Among the earliest documented examples is Rou Jia Mo, a traditional Chinese street food that dates back more than 2,000 years to around 200 BC during the Qin Dynasty.

Often described as one of the world's oldest sandwiches, Rou Jia Mo consists of a round, slightly crisp flatbread filled with slow-cooked meat—traditionally pork—seasoned with a rich blend of spices. The bread is prepared using flour, water and yeast before being baked until golden, while the meat is simmered for hours until tender.

The filling typically includes:

- Pork belly or shredded pork
- Star anise
- Cinnamon
- Cloves
- Ginger
- Garlic
- Soy-based seasonings

The meat absorbs these flavours over long cooking periods before being finely chopped and stuffed into the bread. Even today, Rou Jia Mo remains immensely popular across China, especially in Shaanxi Province, where it originated. Modern versions also feature beef, lamb and vegetarian fillings, demonstrating the enduring appeal of meat enclosed within bread. The existence of Rou Jia Mo centuries before the Earl of Sandwich highlights that the idea of a sandwich predates its English name by more than two millennia.

Bread and Fillings Across Ancient Civilisations

China was far from alone in developing bread-based portable meals. Throughout the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East, flatbreads served as everyday staples. Rather than using forks or spoons, people often wrapped cooked meats, vegetables, herbs and cheeses inside soft breads or folded them together for easier eating. These early combinations resembled modern wraps, pitas and stuffed breads. While they were not called sandwiches, they fulfilled exactly the same purpose: providing a convenient, self-contained meal. Nomadic communities especially valued such foods because they travelled well and required minimal utensils.

Hillel the Elder and the Passover Tradition

One of history's earliest recorded examples of a sandwich-like meal comes from Jewish religious tradition. Hillel the Elder, a renowned Jewish scholar born in Babylon who later lived in Jerusalem during the first century BC, is remembered for combining several symbolic Passover foods into a single bite.

According to the Haggadah, the sacred text read during the annual Passover Seder, Hillel wrapped together:

- Paschal lamb
- Bitter herbs
- Unleavened matzah bread

This combination represented religious symbolism rather than culinary innovation, but it also demonstrated the practical use of bread as a holder for fillings. Today, many Jewish families continue the tradition by preparing what is commonly called the "Hillel Sandwich" during Passover meals. While the ingredients vary according to religious customs, the ritual preserves one of history's oldest documented examples of sandwich-style eating.

The Middle East's Long Tradition of Stuffed Flatbreads

Across the Middle East, flatbreads such as pita, lavash and other regional varieties have been central to daily diets for thousands of years. Unlike thicker European loaves, these breads could easily be folded, rolled or stuffed.

Popular fillings historically included:

- Roasted lamb
- Chicken
- Goat meat
- Fresh herbs
- Yogurt
- Pickled vegetables
- Cheese

Many of today's globally recognised foods—including shawarma, kebabs and falafel wrapped in pita—continue this ancient tradition. These portable meals evolved naturally from local lifestyles, proving once again that the sandwich concept developed independently across multiple cultures.

The Ottoman Influence

Food historian Mary Isin, author of Bountiful Empire: A History of Ot-

toman Cuisine, argues that wrapping meat inside bread had long been common throughout the Ottoman Empire. Ottoman cooks prepared numerous dishes featuring grilled meats enclosed within flatbreads, making them convenient for travellers, merchants and soldiers. Interestingly, historians note that John Montagu, the future Earl of Sandwich, travelled through parts of the Ottoman Empire—including Turkey—during the mid-18th century. Although there is no definitive evidence, some researchers believe he may have encountered these bread-and-meat combinations during his travels. If so, the famous English sandwich may have been inspired, at least in part, by foods already popular across the eastern Mediterranean.

The Famous Earl of Sandwich Story

Despite earlier examples from around the world, the sandwich owes its name to an English nobleman: John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich. The most widely repeated story dates to 1762. According to popular legend, Montagu was engaged in an extended gambling session that reportedly lasted for many hours. Unwilling to interrupt his game for a formal meal, he instructed his servants to bring him slices of salt beef placed between two pieces of bread. This allowed him to continue playing cards while eating with one hand and without dirtying his fingers. Whether the gambling tale is entirely accurate remains debated by historians.

Some believe Montagu may simply have requested such meals while working long hours at his desk rather than during card games. Regardless of the exact circumstances, the meal became closely associated with him.

Why the Meal Became So Popular

Montagu's version was practical for several reasons. It required no plates or cutlery. It could be eaten while working, travelling or socialising. The bread helped keep hands clean. The filling remained enclosed, making it easier to transport. These advantages made the idea immediately attractive to others.

Soon, people at London's clubs reportedly began asking for "the same as Sandwich." Over time, the phrase shortened simply to "Sandwich."

The Birth of a New Word

One of the earliest known written references to the word appears in the diary of English historian Edward Gibbon. On November 24, 1762, Gibbon recorded seeing men dining at a London club, describing them as eating "a bit of cold meat, or a Sandwich."

This diary entry is widely regarded as the first documented appearance of the term in written English.

From there, the word rapidly entered everyday conversation and eventually dictionaries.

Rapid Spread Across Britain

Once the sandwich became fashionable among London's elite clubs, it quickly spread beyond aristocratic circles. Restaurants, taverns and coffee houses

began serving sandwiches to customers looking for quick meals. Workers appreciated their portability. Travellers found them convenient. Families adopted them for picnics and packed lunches. Within decades, sandwiches had become an everyday part of British dining. Expansion Around the World As the British Empire expanded during the 18th and 19th centuries, so too did the sandwich. British sailors, merchants, administrators and settlers introduced the concept—and its English name—to many parts of the world. Local cultures soon adapted it using regional ingredients.

Examples include:

- Cucumber sandwiches in Britain
- Bánh mì in Vietnam
- Club sandwiches in the United States
- Vada pav in India
- Katsu sandwiches in Japan
- Bocadillos in Spain

Although each differs in flavour and ingredients, all follow the same basic principle of bread surrounding a filling.

The Sandwich Becomes a Verb

By the middle of the 19th century, the word "sandwich" had become so familiar that it evolved beyond being merely the name of a food. English speakers began using it as a verb. To "sandwich" something meant placing one object between two others.

Examples include:

- Sandwiching papers between books.
- Sandwiching a meeting between appointments.
- Sandwiching vegetables between bread slices.

This linguistic evolution reflected just how deeply the sandwich had become embedded in everyday life.

Endless Variety

One reason for the sandwich's enduring popularity is its incredible versatility. Almost any ingredient can become a sandwich filling.

Common choices include:

- Meat
- Fish
- Eggs
- Cheese
- Vegetables
- Salads
- Fruits
- Nut butters
- Chocolate spreads

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Premier League

Liverpool, Tottenham, Fulham look for first wins



LONDON: Liverpool visit newly-promoted Ipswich Town on Friday night to open the weekend's Premier League fixtures, with Andoni Iraola still searching for his first win as Liverpool coach. Liverpool travel ahead of next week's Champions League opener at home to Atletico Madrid, with questions persisting over their defense. Late-window signing Bradley Barcola, who joined from Paris Saint-Germain, is likely to start on the bench on Friday but should feature at some point. Manchester City also spent big in the transfer window, with midfielder Enzo Fernandez reunited.

UPT20

Bhuvneshwar takes Lucknow Falcons into final with 47-run win



LUCKNOW: Veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar produced an extraordinary display of seam bowling as the Lucknow Falcons defended a modest total to defeat the Meerut Mavericks by 47 runs in Qualifier 1 of the UP T20 League on Thursday. The result also meant the Falcons secured their first-ever appearance in the tournament's final to be played on Sunday, while the Mavericks will move to Qualifier 2.

Women's Asia Cup: Mandhana's record-making 124, fine bowling help India to big win over Hong Kong



DUBAI

A fine bowling performance, after India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana hit a stroke-filled 124 off 64 balls, helped India thrash Hong Kong-China by 137 runs for their second win in a Group A match in the Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on Thursday.

Mandhana's hundred, which also helped her become the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket, helped India post 193/5 after Hong Kong-China won the toss and elected to field first.

Chasing a massive total, Hong Kong-China were off to a poor start, losing their first wicket for 2 runs in the second over. They did not recover from that stumble and lost wickets at regular intervals, getting bowled out for 56 in 16.2 overs as the Indian bowlers produced a good effort.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma led the Indian bowling effort with 3 wickets for nine runs in three overs. Fellow spinner N. Shree Charani (2-16), Nandani Sharma (2-6) and Prema Rawat (2-12) claimed a brace of wickets each as the Indians remained strong even though they were defending a big score.

Only three Hong Kong batters -- skipper Natasha Miles (15), wicketkeeper-batter Yasmin Daswani (11) and Marina Lamplough (13) -- reached double figures as the ODI World Champions did

not give the minnows many chances.

Earlier, opening the batting alongside Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana overcame a slow, low-paced surface in Dubai to register her second T20I century laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes, making her the first Indian women's batter to achieve this landmark.

In doing so, she surpassed former teammate Mithali Raj's international career tally of 10,868 runs, while also claiming her 18th international hundred across formats - the most centuries hit by a batter in women's international cricket and took her past Meg Lanning in the list.

For Hong Kong China, it was a tough outing as they struggled to nail their lengths and put pressure on the batters. India began cautiously by taking five runs from Iqra Sahar's opening over. But Smriti found her rhythm in the second over by sweeping wrist-spinner Kary Chan for the innings' first boundary, before Shafali Verma exploded in the sixth over off Marina Lamplough, hitting two sixes and two fours in a 22-run over to push India to 60/0 at the end of the powerplay.

The 50-run opening stand, their 29th fifty-plus stand in T20Is, ended in the eighth over when Shafali miscued a full toss from off-spinner Ruchitha Venkatesh to fall for 28. Pratika Rawal (10) fell in the 13th over by miscuing Joyleen Kaur to point.

Smriti, however, accelerated through the back end of the innings. She reached

her half-century off 41 balls with a six over deep backward square leg off Iqra in the 11th over. Adapting to the lack of pace on the pitch, she relied on backfoot placement and lofted shots, with the standout being advancing down the track to hit three consecutive sixes off Ruchitha in the 18th over.

Mandhana reached her landmark century by cutting Marina through backward point in the 17th over to reach her century off 58 balls. Her 124 off 64 balls, featuring 14 fours and seven sixes, also marked the highest individual score in Women's T20 Asia Cup history, eclipsing Chamari Athapaththu's 119 not out against Malaysia in 2024.

Her milestone-laden knock ended on the penultimate ball of the innings when she was run out after a mid-pitch mix-up with Bharti Fulmali. Richa Ghosh (11) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (10) made brief contributions as India set Hong Kong a target of 194, though India's middle order making only 34 runs means that department is still a worrisome point.

Brief scores

India 193/5 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 124, Shafali Verma 28; Marina Lamplough 2-46, Joyleen Kaur 1-12) beat Hong Kong-China 56 all out in 16.2 overs (Natasha Miles 15, Deepti Sharma 3-9, Nandani Sharma 2-6, Shree Charani 2-16, Prema Rawat 2-12) by 137 runs

Pickleball World Cup: India remain unbeaten at end of league stage, win six gold medals

NEW DELHI

India ended the league stage of the team event at the Pickleball World Cup unbeaten after winning all three league stage matches against Antigua & Barbados, Israel and Czech Republic on Day 1 of the tournament at Da Nang, Vietnam.

The Indian pro squad, which features the likes of Harsh Mehta, Arjun Singh, Anish Froilan, Aman Patel, Pearl Amalsadiwala, Naomi Amalsadiwala, Aaliya Ebrahim and Mihika Yadav, registered cakewalk wins in the league stage. India defeated Antigua and Barbuda and Israel with a scoreline of 6-0 each before making light work of the Czech Republic in the final match of the league stage in a 5-1 win. The ties had six matches each, with the games spanning across the women's doubles, men's doubles, mixed doubles 1, mixed doubles 2, women's singles and men's singles.

The Indian team will now be up against Portugal in the round of 32 on Friday.

Meanwhile, India captain Harsh reflected on the league stage. "The team morale is very



high; we have started the tournament with positive energy and great results. Team members are all playing well, which is most important and hence the result. We are preparing mentally for eliminations tomorrow," Harsh said.

Aalap Sharma, treasurer of the Indian Pickleball Association, called India's success a "testament" to the commitment. "It was an exhilarating feeling during the parade, walking as part of the Indian delegation during the opening ceremony of the Pickleball World Cup 2026. Competing internationally brings natural pre-match nerves, but true champions are defined by their

ability to rise above anxiety and deliver when it matters most.

"We are delighted to see our athletes embodying this spirit, performing with resilience, passion, and determination, and achieving victories that make the nation proud. Team India's success is a testament to their commitment and the collective effort behind them. We look forward to their continued excellence as they showcase India's growing strength in the sport of pickleball. Thanks to our sponsors Electrorush, Picklebay, Cosmic Birla Group and Lucknow Leopards for helping us through this journey," Aalap said.

KSLTA J30 Bengaluru: Aahida downs Disha to enter semifinals

BENGALURU

Local junior tennis players continued to make their presence felt as the KSLTA World Tennis Tour Junior J30 Bengaluru moved into the semifinals, with Aahida Singh producing the standout result of the girls' singles quarterfinals by defeating third seed and citymate Disha Kumar 6-4, 6-4.

Aahida and Disha, both Bengaluru players, produced a closely fought contest, matching each other with some excellent stroke-play. Aahida kept her composure at the crucial moments to take both sets 6-4 and book her place in the last four.

The victory sets up an interesting semifinal for Aahida, who will face Zoha Qureshi, who advanced with a walkover against Bawyasri Asr.



Fourth-seed Shreeniti Chowdhury continued her impressive run, defeating eighth seed Riddhi Shinde 6-1, 6-4. The 15-year-old moved into the semifinals, where she will face sixth seed Vasundra Balajee, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Akshita Antil.

In the boys' singles, top seed and home favourite Tejas Ravi overcame Shlok Chauhan

6-4, 7-6(5) in a closely fought quarterfinal. The 17-year-old had to contend with several unforced errors but also produced flashes of brilliance, particularly when under pressure. Shlok matched him with some impressive shot-making and pushed the second set into a tie-break, but Tejas held his nerve to close out the match in straight sets.

London Squash Classic: Anahat Singh in quarters, to meet Sivasangari next

LONDON

Women's World No 20 Anahat Singh advanced to the quarterfinals of the London Squash Classic with a thrilling 2-1 win over Belgian world No 11 Nele Gilis on Thursday. Reigning world junior champion Anahat beat eighth seed Gilis 13-11, 4-11, 11-8 in 39 minutes in the second round of the USD 144,000 PSA Gold event in what was their first meeting on the tour.

The 18-year-old Anahat Singh has become the first Indian woman since 2021 to reach the quarterfinals of a PSA Gold-level tournament after a commanding performance saw her upset No.8 seed Gilis, who reached the final of the London Classic last year.

The crowd at Ally Pally were treated to a series of high-octane rallies, with Anahat edging the first game before being pegged



back by a resurgent Gilis.

However, Anahat was able to keep her opponent in the back of the court to dominate the "T" and was clinical in the front corners to close out the victory.

"She's a great player. "I played her a year and a half ago at the World Teams, and that match really helped me get experience for the PSA circuit. It's always been my dream to play in a venue like this, so it's very exciting," Anahat

said of her opponent.

"I honestly don't love it [the best of three format]. You can't really prepare for it, but I had to be more focused than I would be in a best of five match. It's great here [in London]; I've been roaming the city a lot. I've seen this venue over the years on Instagram, so I've been really excited to play here," said the Indian star. Up ahead for Anahat in the next round is a clash with the

2024 winner Sivasangari Subramaniam, who got the better of Nardine Garas.

The Malaysian memorably beat World No.1 Hania El Hammamy, eight-time World Champion Nour ElSherbini and Belgium's Nele Gilis en route to winning her biggest title at this very venue two years ago. And she looks a good bet to go deep into the tournament once again following a pair of 11-5 wins.

The clash between Anahat Singh and Sivasangari Subramaniam will be a match that could be a precursor to what to expect at the Asian Games next month, where squash's first Olympians will be decided. In men's first round, world No 42 Ramit Tandon beat Qatar's Abdullah Al-Tamimi 11-6, 11-7, while world No 38 Veer Chotrani lost to higher-ranked Yannick Wilhelmi of Switzerland 9-11, 9-11.

US Open: Khachanov sends third seed Auger-Aliassime packing in second round

NEW YORK

World No. 50 Karen Khachanov earned his first Top 10 scalp of the year at the US Open in New York, upsetting World No. 4 and last year's semifinalist Felix Auger-Aliassime in a second-round match on Thursday.

Khachanov came back strongly after losing the first set in a tie-break to oust the Canadian star Auger-Aliassime 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 at the Louis Armstrong Stadium. With this, he also took a 3-2 lead in their head-to-head series. Khachanov arrived in New York having lost all three hard-court matches that he had played since his third-round defeat at Wimbledon in July. The 30-year-old is also competing at No. 50 in the PIF ATP Rankings this week, hav-



ing been inside the Top 10 last year at the hard-court major.

Despite enduring a tough season, the 30-year-old produced a dominant second-round win over Auger-Aliassime to advance to at least the third round at all four majors this year. "I am not sure, but maybe he had some physical issues, and that is part of our sport," Khachanov said in his on-court interview.

"I wish him to feel better and have a speedy recovery if he is injured. I don't know. What I can say from my side is I tried to give my best performance. Fighting, and I am super happy to get this win."

Khachanov, who is 18-18 on the year, was rock solid from the baseline and benefited from an out-of-sorts performance from the third seed. Auger-Aliassime sprayed 47

unforced errors and quickly faded from the three-hour, 16-minute clash after dropping the second set.

Canadian Auger-Aliassime was unable to find his timing and was dominated on his second serve, winning just 41 per cent of points behind that delivery. After reaching the semifinals at the US Open 12 months ago, Auger-Aliassime is likely to fall in the ATP Rankings. Auger-Aliassime performed well at Roland Garros and Wimbledon this season, losing in the quarterfinals at both events, including a fifth-set tie-break defeat to Novak Djokovic at SW19. The 26-year-old was chasing his 50th major win and was trying to join Denis Shapovalov and Milos Raonic as just the third Canadian man to achieve that feat.

US Open: Naomi Osaka gets better of Siniakova in three sets in Round 2

NEW YORK

Four-time Grand Slam titlist Naomi Osaka debuted a new daytime kit for her second-round match and then recovered from losing the second set to overcome Katerina Siniakova in the decider, progressing to the third round of the US Open in New York on Thursday. Osaka, the two-time champion in New York with titles in 2018 and 2020, recovered after losing a 5-3 lead in the second set to defeat Siniakova 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 in 2 hours and 2 minutes.

While her first-round walk-out outfit was inspired by Allen Iverson, with sweatbands and a hoodie embellished with news-making moments from her career, in addition to a long tulle



skirt, Thursday's 'fit' was a bit more understated. The white outer layer is collared and adorned with beaded tennis racquets, and features a long mesh train with strips of fabric that fluttered as she walked. Things were not as smooth on the court once again. Osaka had needed two tiebreaks to scrape past No. 101-ranked Anastasia Zakharova, who broke the former World No. 1's serve

four times, in the first round; after that tussle, she admitted to being "so nervous" during it. Against Siniakova, she did not face a break point through her first seven service games -- but then dropped serve three times in a row before resetting in the decider.

With this, Osaka made the third round of the US Open for the eighth time in 10 main-draw appearances. Having also reached that stage of the Australian Open followed by career-best showings at Roland Garros (fourth round) and Wimbledon (quarterfinals), this marks the second time in Osaka's career that the 28-year-old has reached the third round of all four majors in a single season (following 2018).

'Winning with Ferrari at Monza would be phenomenal': Hamilton

NEW DELHI

Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton has said that winning at the Monza Grand Prix with Scuderia would be "phenomenal" as Ferrari hope to ride on the support of the home fans and the recent upgrades they have made to the SF-26 ahead of the Italian GP.

Hamilton has won the Monza GP five times, including four times with Mercedes and once with McLaren, but the Briton has not clinched victory with Ferrari at their home race, having finished sixth in his first year with the Maranello-based outfit in 2025. "There is a first ahead of me, in the sense that if I were to win, I would go into new territory, winning for the first time with Ferrari at Monza. It would be phenomenal," Hamilton told the media on Thursday.

"The pressure's high. You want to



do it for the team. Many of them will come to this race. The tifosi come out in huge numbers with a passion that's unmatched.

The seven-time world champion will have his mother watching from the stands and will be cheering with the Tifosi for Hamilton and Ferrari.

"And my mum's here. I don't think she's been to Monza, and certainly not (while I was) with Ferrari. I wanted her to experience this and bring any lucky dust she can bring," he said.

Hamilton also spoke on the engine upgrade Ferrari have for the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, saying that the upgrades will help but are not the whole amount they need to push their challenge for the title.

"Every little helps. Until this point of the year, even last race, we were losing 0.4 seconds a lap (on the straights). We have carried that deficit," Hamilton said. "This is a step forward. It is not the whole amount we need, but we knew that was the case. I strongly believe we have what it takes to win. To win this weekend, the whole collective has to come together. Everything has to flow from the beginning," Hamilton added.



PRAGYA JAISWAL'S CAPTIVATING SCREEN AND FASHION JOURNEY

Pragya Jaiswal continues to establish herself as one of the most stunning and versatile talents in Indian cinema. Blending effortless sophistication with an unforgettable magnetic presence, her fashion photoshoots—featuring sleek evening gowns, classic silhouettes, and confident styling—consistently captivate fans across media platforms. Since making her mark in South Indian film industries, Jaiswal has demonstrated remarkable range across action, drama, and comedy roles. Her striking looks and screen grace have earned her a loyal following as she seamlessly expands her presence in both Telugu cinema and mainstream Hindi features. Her recent upcoming project lineup highlights her expanding career trajectory: Daaku Maharaaj: A high-octane action drama where she stars alongside Nandamuri Balakrishna and Bobby Deol. Khel Khel Mein: A multi-starrer Hindi comedy drama showcasing her in a key role alongside Akshay Kumar. Whether delivering power-packed screen performances or headlining glamour galleries, Pragya Jaiswal remains a captivating visual force in modern entertainment.



Is Prabhas Changing HIS STRATEGY FOR FAUZI?

Star heroes are not promoting their films big time in recent days. The likes of Shahrukh Khan and Ranveer Singh haven't even promoted their movies like Pathaan and Dhurandhar, haven't given even a single promotional interview, but still they clicked. Similarly, here we have seen the likes of Chiranjeevi and Mahesh not giving any such interviews, but still their films are clicking. What about Prabhas then? Rather than not even appearing before cameras, Prabhas is following a different style. In recent times, even for "The Raja Saab", Prabhas recorded an interview and released it, but hasn't promoted it big time. This time for Fauzi, it's coming out that the actor will adopt a different strategy. He will go all over the country to promote the film, if reports are to be believed. While the Hanu Raghavpudi directorial is set for a December 3rd release, Prabhas will be travelling across India to give various interviews, take part in promotional programs and give massive hype to the songs of the movie. With that, Mythri Movie Makers is expecting that they are going to see a grand ₹500 crore opening day with this movie. Well, if the plan goes as planned, surely Prabhas will be back on track after the debacle of "The Raja Saab" that hurt him early this year.

Divyabharathi: A Rising Star With Style, Spark and Screen Presence

Divyabharathi has emerged as one of the most striking and promising young talents in South Indian cinema, winning admiration for her combination of expressive performances, natural charm and confident fashion sense. Whether on screen or in front of the camera, she carries an effortless charisma that has made her a familiar and much-followed face among younger audiences. Her photoshoots have become a talking point on social media, with the actress frequently experimenting with bold colour palettes, contemporary silhouettes, elegant traditional drapes and statement

styling. Her confident poses and distinctive fashion choices have helped her build a strong visual identity beyond the silver screen, with fans eagerly following her latest appearances and photographs. Before entering films, Divyabharathi made a name for herself in the modelling world. Her success in beauty pageants and modelling assignments helped establish her as a prominent young fashion personality. She eventually transitioned to acting, making her Tamil cinema debut with the romantic drama "Bachelor", opposite G. V. Prakash Kumar. Her performance and screen presence quickly caught the attention of audiences and

filmmakers, giving her a strong start in the industry. Since then, Divyabharathi has continued to explore varied roles and genres, demonstrating her ability to move between romance, drama, thriller and larger-scale commercial projects. Her growing filmography reflects an actress keen to expand her range while steadily building her position across South Indian cinema. Among her notable projects is 'Kingston', a high-concept sea-fantasy adventure that brings her together with G. V. Prakash Kumar once again.



Allari Naresh Returns to Comedy; Is RUM His Next Kithakithalu?

Allari Naresh is coming back with a comedy movie after a long gap. His new film is Ramba Oorvasi Menaka (RUM), a fantasy comedy that is scheduled to release on September 4. The actor believes this movie will give audiences a fun and relaxed experience in theatres. Allari Naresh became very popular with comedy films in the past. Movies like Kithakithalu and Bendu Apparao R.M.P are still remembered by many Telugu audiences. With RUM, the actor wants to return to the same comedy space that made him a favourite among family audiences. Naresh said that when director Chandra Mohan narrated the story, he immediately felt that it had the potential to become a proper comedy entertainer. He also felt that audiences have been waiting for this kind of full-length comedy movie for a long time. He said that the comedy in RUM is not only based on dialogues or one-liners but director has created many situations around actors body language and acting style. The comedy is expected to come naturally from the situations and characters. The makers are also trying to keep the humour clean. Naresh believes that the film can be enjoyed by both adults and children. The fantasy elements are expected to make the movie more interesting for young audiences, while the comedy is aimed at the entire family. Naresh plays a unique version of Indra in the movie.

Prabhas, Mahesh Babu, Jr NTR, Ram Charan: God Roles Become the New Trend



Mythological characters are once again becoming a big attraction in Indian cinema. Several popular Telugu heroes are showing interest in stories and characters connected to Hindu gods. Now, Mega Power Star Ram Charan may also be entering this interesting league. Prabhas has already played Lord Rama in Adipurush. Ranbir Kapoor is playing Lord Rama in the upcoming Ramayana, while Yash is reportedly seen as Ravana in the same film. Superstar Mahesh Babu is also said to be playing Lord Rama in SS Rajamouli's upcoming film Varanasi. There is also buzz that Jr NTR will appear as Lord Karthikeya in his upcoming film with Trivikram Srinivas. Now, a new report has created curiosity about Ram Charan. According to the latest buzz, Charan is being considered to play Lord Krishna in the Telugu remake of the Gujarati hit Laalo: Krishna Sada Sahayate. The original Gujarati film became a major success despite being made with a small budget. The movie reportedly collected more than Rs 120 crore. The story and its treatment received good attention from audiences. Interestingly, Ram

Charan may not play Krishna as the main character throughout the movie. Reports suggest that the role could be a special appearance. The makers are said to be planning to show Lord Krishna in a modern and different style. There was also earlier talk that Vijay Deverakonda was being considered for the role. But now, reports claim that the makers have approached Ram Charan. If the actor accepts the offer, his look as Krishna could become a major talking point among fans. At present, there is no official confirmation about Ram Charan playing Krishna. Everything is still at the discussion stage. Still, the growing interest of Telugu stars in mythological characters is interesting to watch. From Rama and Ravana to Krishna and Karthikeya, big heroes are slowly entering a new space. If Ram Charan really appears as Lord Krishna, it could be another exciting addition to this trend. Fans will now have to wait for an official announcement.

