

Recurring food poisoning incidents worry parents in Mancherial

Mancherial: Even as district authorities claim that measures are being taken to ensure supply of hygienic food, various government-run hostels continue to witness food poisoning incidents at regular intervals in Mancherial district. In the latest incident, 21 students were hospitalised after having inner at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Residential School (Girls), Bellampalli on Wednesday night. Earlier, 16 girl students fell ill when they had food at Telangana Social Welfare Residential School in the same town in February.

Telangana govt school students begin new academic year in old uniforms

Hyderabad: More than a month into the commencement of the academic year 2026-27, the government and local body students continue to attend classes in their old uniforms as cloth has not yet reached several districts, let alone the stitched uniform. City & Local Guides

A document accessed by reveals that 19 out of 33 districts are yet to receive the cloth material for taking up stitching, which otherwise was to be completed in the month of May.

Build Indiramma Flats On Unused Govt Land In City, Says Revanth

Hyderabad, July 24

Reviewing the implementation of the Indiramma urban housing scheme on Friday, the Chief Minister decided that land belonging to the police, revenue and transport departments be used for the scheme and they would be compensated with land in other locations.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on housing sites identified in several Assembly constituencies. Revanth Reddy said constructing houses far from residential areas and workplaces could deprive beneficiaries of employment and livelihood opportunities, making it difficult for them to shift to the new colonies. He observed that this was one of the reasons why several 2BHK houses constructed during the previous BRS government tenure remained unoccupied.

The state government has announced plans to construct Indiramma houses in several constituencies within the CURE area. Each flat will have a built-up area of approximately 528 square feet and a carpet area of 400 square feet. While the estimated construction cost of each flat is around `11 lakh, the government will provide a subsidy of `5 lakh, with the beneficiary required to bear the remaining `6 lakh. The government will bear the entire cost of the land.

In the first phase, plans are being finalised to construct and hand over 7,680 flats across 17 Assembly constituencies — Rajendranagar, Maheshwaram, Serilingampally, Ibrahimpatnam, Malkajigiri, Nampally, Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, Karwan, Bahadurpura, Amberpet, Kukatpally, Medchal, Quthbullapur, Sanathnagar, Secunderabad Cantonment and Malakpet.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Ponnam



Prabhakar, R&B special chief secretary Vikas Raj, DGP C.V. Anand, CM's principal secretaries N. Sridhar and V. Seshadri, revenue secretary Lokesh Kumar, HMDA commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad, housing secretary V.P. Gautham, Hyderabad district collector Priyanka Ala and other senior officials attended the review meeting.

Rahul Shows Pellet Injuries, Demands End to 'Assault on Students'

NEW DELHI: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday stepped up the Opposition's attack on the Centre by producing a student he claimed was injured by pellets during the July 20 protest in Delhi and demanding the removal of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



Addressing a press conference outside Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi's residence, Gandhi introduced 19-year-old Sahil, alleging that he suffered a serious injury to his right eye after being hit by pellets while participating in the protest.

Displaying the student's injuries, Gandhi said, "This is the future of our country," and accused the government of responding to students' demands with baton charges and pellet injuries.

Calling Pradhan a "criminal education minister", he alleged that repeated examination paper leaks had ruined students' futures and demanded the minister's immediate dismissal.

"Stop assaulting and threatening our students," Gandhi said, while also demanding action against those responsible for the alleged police action and an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a post on social media, he reiterated: "Modi, our students are demanding Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. Don't insult their intelligence with this pathetic midnight video. 1. Sack Pradhan. 2. Punish those who beat students. 3. Apologise."

Gandhi said Sahil had undergone treatment at multiple hospitals and was at risk of losing vision in one eye.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also sought Pradhan's removal and said the Prime Minister should address the issue in Parliament instead of outside the House.

"When Parliament is in session, the Prime Minister is required to make a statement on the floor of the House. He should not be delivering a one-sided 'Mann Ki Baat' outside Parliament," Kharge said.

The Congress announced candlelight marches and protests across the country, demanding Pradhan's resignation and action over the alleged police assault on students.

The allegations have also renewed questions over the reported use of pellet guns during the July 20 protest. Delhi Police has denied using pellet guns, while the Central Reserve Police Force has not commented.

Apologise, HC Tells HYDRAA Chief

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Friday delivered one of its strongest indictments of HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath, holding that his actions had reached a stage where it was making a "mockery of the rule of law and the majesty of the court."

The court noted that Ranganath had suddenly become the all-pervading authority and interfered with the administration of justice where he was not arrayed as the respondent and that he did not comply with the orders of the court.

The court stated that the actions of the commissioner "went far... beyond the rule of law" and warned that it would have ordered his custody in the ongoing contempt case but for the intervention of Advocate-General A. Sudershan Reddy.

Hearing contempt petitions filed by Shanta Sriram Constructions Pvt. Ltd against the HYDRAA for demolition and interference to its 40-acre land in Lothkunta, Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti directed Ranganath to file a detailed personal affidavit on July 27 explaining the circumstances under which the agency had entered the disputed property despite subsisting court orders. The court also directed him to furnish an unequivocal assurance that HYDRAA would not enter the property again, pending further orders.

The order dated July 23 passed by the court with regard to deploying the Army at Lothukunta to take custody of HYDRAA officials if they violated the orders of the court would be considered after filing of Ranganath's affidavit on July 27.

Recording its strongest disapproval of HYDRAA's conduct, the court observed that an authority which was not even a party to the original writ proceedings had "interfered with the administration of justice" and termed the development "unprecedented and unheard of in the history of the High Court." The court noted that HYDRAA officers were "within the reachable arms of the court" and cautioned that permitting such conduct would undermine the rule of law and reduce judicial orders to a mockery.

Justice Anil Kumar emarked that this was the third occasion in which the court was exercising restraint solely on account of the submissions made by the Advocate General. The judge observed that, but for "the gracious presence of the chief law officer of the state" and his request for indulgence, the court would have ordered the commissioner to be taken into custody.

Appreciating the A-G's assistance, the judge observed that he had been "very fair to the court" and remarked that "people on the other side of the Musi River should also know that there is an Advocate General who is fair to the court."

The bench questioned HYDRAA's expanding role in matters ordinarily falling within the jurisdiction of statutory departments. Referring to representations allegedly being addressed to HYDRAA by departments including the defence authorities, the court asked why agencies such as the revenue and irrigation department, the GHMC and other authorities were approaching HYDRAA despite possessing independent statutory powers to deal with encroachments.

13 killed as landslide buries vehicle in Himachals Lahaul

Thirteen persons, including four women and a six-month-old child, were killed when a cab carrying passengers from Kullu to the remote Pangri Valley was buried under a massive landslide near Kaddu Nala on the Udaipur-Killar road in Lahaul on Friday. As the passengers were trapped under the debris, smoke was seen billowing from the buried vehicle.

According to information, the vehicle, a Tata Sumo bearing registration number HP-01M-2210, was hit by a huge mass of debris and rocks that came crashing down from the hillside, completely burying the vehicle. The victims were believed to be residents of the tribal Pangri Valley in Chamba district.

The passengers had reportedly stayed overnight at Tindi after the Udaipur-Killar road remained blocked due to a landslide on Thursday. They resumed their journey towards Pangri after the road, maintained by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), was reopened on Friday morning. Tragedy struck moments later when the hillside collapsed near Kaddu Nala.

Lahaul SP Shivani Mehla confirmed that immediately after receiving information about the incident, policemen from Tindi, local administration officials and rescue teams rushed to the spot. She said, "A massive relief and rescue operation was launched. At first, the rescue teams managed to pull out one injured person from the debris. However, the injured succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital."



Rescue efforts for the remaining passengers continued, while debris clearance work was expedited using machines.

The SP urged people to avoid travelling on landslide-prone routes during the ongoing spell of heavy rain and advised them to follow official advisories before undertaking journeys in the mountainous region.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed grief over the loss of lives and directed the district administration to provide all possible assistance to the next of kin of the deceased. The government also reiterated its commitment to road safety and promised a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the tragedy.

Will monitor steps taken to prevent paper leaks: SC

Noting that years of ad hoc measures had led to recurring problems, the Supreme Court on Friday said it would closely monitor reforms undertaken to overhaul the National Testing Agency (NTA) and to curb NEET examination paper leaks even as the Centre asserted it was going "10 extra miles" for students.

"We are focusing on institutionalisation. Ad-hocism has troubled us the most throughout these years," a Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe said while hearing petitions filed by the Federation of All-India Medical Association (FAIMA) and others.

One of the petitions sought a direction to replace or restructure the NTA, which conducts NEET-UG, with a robust and autonomous body.

The Centre should indicate the steps taken towards transparency, implementation of recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee and how the IIT model would be followed, the Bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. It also sought details of the safeguards introduced before, during and after examinations.

"Students' future can't be jeopardised. We are going beyond the Radhakrishnan Committee. I assure you that the government is walking 10 extra miles. I can assure you everything is being supervised at the highest level," Mehta told the Bench.

The seven-member Radhakrishnan Committee was set up by the Ministry of Education following the NEET-UG paper leak to recommend reforms in the examination system, improvement in data security protocols and the structure and functioning of the NTA.



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English Daily

Immigrants ditch networking, build real futures.

Discover Open Atlas Summit 2026, where 1,000+ high-skilled immigrants move beyond networking to build careers, companies, and lasting connections. Explore job fairs, hackathons, workshops, and legal consultations designed for real outcomes. Join this transformative event. What Happens When 1,000 Immigrants Stop Networking and Start Building Together - Inside Open Atlas Summit 2026 Open Atlas Summit 2026 will bring together 1,000+ founders, engineers, students, investors and professionals to build careers, companies and lasting connections beyond traditional networking. Most professional conferences promise networking. Attendees exchange business cards, add one another on LinkedIn and return home with a folder of photographs, promotional material and conversations that rarely continue. Open Atlas Summit 2026 is being built around a more ambitious question: What happens when more than 1,000 high-skilled immigrants come together not simply to network, but to find jobs, build companies, exchange knowledge, meet collaborators and help one another navigate life in America? The Summit will take place on August 21 and 22, 2026, at the India Community Centre in Milpitas, California. Across two full days, founders, engineers, students, creators, recruiters, investors, attorneys and experienced immigrant professionals will participate in a Job Fair, Hackathon, keynotes, workshops, legal consultations and practical career and startup sessions. A gathering designed to produce outcomes. The first day of the Summit will place collaboration at the centre of the experience. On Friday, August 21, the event will host a dedicated Job Fair and Hackathon. Job seekers will be able to move beyond online applications and interact directly with founders, employers and recruiters.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Blesses Baby Yashna at Annaprashan Ceremony



UPPAL, JULY 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Annaprashan (first rice-feeding) ceremony of Baby Yashna, daughter of Aletti Ramesh, Personal Assistant (PA) to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, was held with great devotion and grandeur on Friday at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Kushaiguda, in the presence of family members, relatives, and well-wishers. "Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, who attended the ceremony as the chief guest, performed the traditional Annaprashan ritual for Baby Yashna and blessed her. He wished the child a healthy, happy, and prosperous life, expressing hope that she would excel in education and all walks of life, bringing pride to her family and society." "The MLA congratulated Aletti Ramesh and his family on the joyous occasion and wished Baby Yashna a bright and successful future." "On the occasion, the temple priests conducted special prayers and Vedic rituals, offering blessings to the child. Later, the MLA joined the family members in blessing Baby Yashna and conveying his best wishes." "Several BRS leaders, public representatives, party workers, members of Aletti Ramesh's family, relatives, friends, and well-wishers attended the ceremony and extended their blessings to the child. The event concluded in a warm and festive atmosphere.



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – July 24): A view of senior BRS state leader Chintala Venkateswar Reddy meeting BRS Working President and former Minister KTR near the Vivara Hotel on the bypass road in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district headquarters. He is seen welcoming KTR, honoring him with a shawl, and conversing with him while KTR was en route to Warangal on Thursday.

UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Inaugurates Box Culvert in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony



“UPPAL, JULY 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy on Friday inaugurated a newly constructed box culvert in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony under the Ramanthapur Bhagayat area. The event was attended by the colony's newly elected committee members, honorary members, and a large number of

residents. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA assured the residents of his full support for the overall development of Venkata Sai Nagar Colony. He said the pending CC road works and drainage line construction in several streets would be completed soon. He further stated that there would be no compromise on the colony's development and that the required funds would be sanctioned to complete all development works in a phased manner. "Among those present were BRS senior leaders Gandham Nageswara Rao and MD Jangir, Dr. B.V. Chary, Colony President A. Vijayender Reddy, Sarva Sattaiah Yadav, Ramesh Goud, M. Ravikumar, Sanjeev, Shivashankar, R. Govind, G. Ashok, CH. Srinivas Goud, K. Naveen Kumar, Bhupathi Narasimha Goud, Vidyasagar, Ramakrishna, V. Shivakumar, M. Ailesh Yadav, B. Chalapati Rao, B. Ramulu Goud, M. Ramesh Yadav, Ramesh Shetty, Harish, Venugopal Reddy, Somesh, Ramulu, Swamy, Naresh, and several others."

Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy inspects stalled road works..Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah



“If the work is not started within two to three days, the tender will be cancelled and the work will be done by others... Minister Venkata Reddy warns” (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 24):- As the road construction work on the main road from Atmakur mandal to Motkur in Aleru constituency of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district was stalled for about two kilometers, Telangana State Roads, Transport and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, who was traveling on that route, immediately stopped there and inspected the situation. Along with the minister, Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanthi also inspected the road condition himself. Knowing the difficulties

faced by the local people, the minister got an explanation from the concerned contractor over the phone about why the work had been stopped. Speaking to the contractor on this occasion, Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy....having learned the reasons for the road work being stopped, he issued clear orders to resume the work in another two to three days under any circumstances. "Similarly, he said that there is some road construction left on the Yadagirigutta to Turkapalli road and that too should be completed immediately." "If the work is not started within the specified time, we will cancel the relevant tender and hand over it to another agency to complete the road construction. We will not tolerate negligence that causes inconvenience to the people," Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy warned the contractor. Responding to this, the contractor assured that the road construction work would be resumed within two to three days and completed quickly. "Speaking on this occasion, Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah said that the main objective of the state government is to provide better road facilities to the people and that no delay in development works will be tolerated. He said that every development work undertaken in Aleru constituency is being continuously monitored to ensure that it is completed with quality and within the stipulated time frame.

Birthday celebrations of BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) were held grandly at Ambedkar Chowrasta in Manthani On the instructions of former Manthani MLA Putta Madhukar“

“Manthani Peddapalli District, July 24 (Indian Chronicle): As part of the celebrations, milk and fruits were distributed to patients at the Manthani Government Hospital. The programme was attended by Manthani Mandal BRS President Vegolapu Shankar Goud, Sarpanches Kanavena Komuriah and Karengula Sudhakar, along with BRS leaders Konda Ravinder, Kannavena Srinivas, Puppala Tirupati, Prasad Rao, Vemula Laxmin, Pegada Srinivas, Janjarla Shekhar, Manthani Laxmin, Aluguvelli Veera Reddy, Erukala Ravi, Mitta Satayya, Putta Ramaiah, Yakub Javeed, Asif, Irfan, Pilli Satayya, Santhu, former public representatives, village leaders of the BRS party, party workers, mandal women leaders, youth leaders, and several others.



Journalists' Issues: "Chalo Parliament" Protest on July 27“One-day Dharna at Jantar Mantar

TWJF Khammam District Committee Unveils Protest Poster“Khammam, July 24 Indian Chronicle:“The Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF), Khammam district unit, has announced its participation in the nationwide "Chalo Parliament" protest to be held on July 27 at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, demanding the Central Government address long-pending issues affecting journalists. "The announcement was made during a press conference at the Khammam Press Club, where District President Nanabala Ramakrishna and General Secretary Arvapalli Nagesh unveiled the protest poster. "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said the protest is being organized during the ongoing Parliament Monsoon Session to draw the attention of the Central Government and Members of Parliament to unresolved issues concerning journalists. "Key Demands "The federation urged the Central Government to: "Restore the 50% Railway Concession Pass for accredited journalists, which was discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Enact a Journalists' Protection Act to safeguard media personnel from attacks, false cases, and violence. "Introduce a National Pension Scheme for retired journalists across the country. "Establish a National Media Commission in place of the Press Council of India to effectively address the evolving challenges of the media sector. "Provide full legal recognition to electronic and digital media. "Review the Supreme Court judgment that restricts the allocation of government land to journalists' associations and housing societies, and facilitate house-site allotments for journalists nationwide. "The leaders said that journalists have been facing significant hardships since the withdrawal of railway travel concessions, which had been available for nearly 15 years. "They also pointed out that while some states provide pensions to retired journalists, the absence of a national pension policy leaves many senior journalists without financial support. "Nationwide Participation "The TWJF stated that journalists and federation representatives from all districts of Telangana, along with leaders of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists and journalists from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and other states, will participate in the one-day dharna. "Following the protest, a delegation will meet Union Ministers and Members of Parliament to submit memorandums outlining their demands. "Among those present at the press conference were District Treasurer Vemulakonda Ramesh, State Council Member Nalla Rakesh Reddy, Samrat Gupta, Kiran, TWJF District Secretary Kasoju Sridhar, Videographers Association President Amaraboyina Upender, Legal Advisor Pasupuleti Srinivas, City President Elugoti Venkat, City Secretary Kappala Madhu Goud, Press Club President



Anthoti Srinivas, Guju Gopalakrishna, Anchor Keerthi, Dubbaka Srinu, and Elisetti Ramakrishna, among others.

Delay in releasing UGC NET answer key fuels anxiety among candidates

Hyderabad: Nearly a month after the conclusion of the UGC NET June 2026 examination, the National Testing Agency (NTA) is yet to release the provisional answer key or issue an official update on the result timeline, leaving thousands of aspirants across the country anxious.

The UGC NET examination for 87 subjects was conducted between June 22 and June 30, with an additional session on July 5. Since then, candidates have been awaiting the answer key and results, but the agency has remained silent.

The uncertainty has intensified following allegations on social media that the Sociology paper was leaked. However, the NTA has not issued any official statement or notification regarding the claims.



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 24):- BRS Party senior leaders former Sarpanch Jakka Venkat Reddy's mother..Jakka Lakshamma passed away three days ago... On Thursday, BRS Party senior state leaders Chintala Venkateswar Reddy visited the deceased's village Puligillaki and expressed their condolences. They were accompanied by former PACS chairman Nomula Parameswara Reddy, BRS Party leaders Kutadi Suresh, Vallapu Vijay, Dandaboyina Balaraju, Pallepatti Ravikumar, (Kondal), Dosapati Harish, Nagaram Naresh, and others.



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 24):- Telangana State Movement Leader Former Minister and Suryapet MLA "Guntakandla Jagadishwar Reddy" has reached Hyderabad after completing his foreign tour. BRS State Senior Leader "Chintala Venkateswar Reddy" is seen meeting him at his residence in Hyderabad and greeting him with a bouquet of flowers.

Educational Institutions Bandh Observed Peacefully in Nelakondapalli



"Nelakondapalli, Khammam July 24 Indian Chronicle:“A bandh of educational institutions was observed peacefully in villages across Nelakondapalli mandal in the Palair Assembly constituency of Khammam district. The protest was organized by the Youth Congress in response to a call given by student organizations against the alleged NEET examination paper leak. "Youth Congress leaders visited various schools and appealed to management and students to support the bandh and make it successful. "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders strongly condemned the lathi-charge on students who staged a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi against the NEET paper leak controversy. They also criticized the arrest of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, stating that detaining a leader who raised concerns on behalf of students was against democratic values. "The protesters demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him accountable for the alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. "At the programme held in Konayigudem village, Congress leaders Mekala Venkateswarlu, Cherukupalli Rajesh, Mandadi Naga Srinu, Narasimha Rao, Kastala Nagaraju, Kothapalli Naveen, Karla Ashok, Anam Venkat Reddy, Boyina Kondalu, Vadlamudi Narasayya, Mekala Arjun, Thota Suresh, Kummari Nagamani and others participated. "At the programme held in Korutlagudem, District Official Spokesperson Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Jerry, Pothula Anjani, Nelakondapalli Mandal Youth Congress President Yadavalli Nagaraju and several other Congress leaders took part in the protest.

Infosys shares declines nearly 3 per cent after revised FY27 guidance

New Delhi: Shares of IT services company Infosys on Friday declined nearly 3 per cent after the firm lowered the upper end of its full-year revenue growth forecast to between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent amid continued macroeconomic uncertainty. The stock dipped 2.70 per cent to Rs 1,023.30 on the BSE. At the NSE, the stock declined 2.32 per cent to Rs 1,023. Infosys on Thursday reported a 12.2 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 7,769 crore for the June quarter and lowered the upper end of its full-year revenue growth forecast to between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent amid continued macroeconomic uncertainty.

Road Safety Measures Must Be Taken on a War Footing: Khammam District Collector Divakara T.S.



“Khammam, July 24 (Indian Chronicle):”Khammam District Collector Divakara T.S. has directed all departments to work in close coordination and implement road safety measures on a war footing, stressing that there should be no compromise on road safety.”“The Collector, along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Srija, reviewed road safety measures with officials from the Police Department, National Highways Authority, Roads & Buildings Department, Municipal Administration, and other departments at the Collectorate on Friday.”“Reviewing the Action Taken Report (ATR) from the previous meeting, the Collector instructed officials to expedite all pending safety works at identified black spots and coordinate with National Highways authorities to complete road safety improvements without delay. He also emphasized maintaining quality standards in annual highway maintenance works.”“Examining accident statistics presented by the Police Department, the Collector expressed concern that despite corrective measures at black spots, nearly one person continues to lose their life every day in road accidents in the district.”“He directed officials to conduct a scientific analysis of the causes of fatal accidents, identify accident-prone locations, and prepare a comprehensive action plan for their prevention. Special priority should be given to high-risk areas requiring immediate intervention.”“The Collector announced that a district road safety review meeting will be held on the third Friday of every month. Officials from the Police, National Highways, and Roads & Buildings departments have been instructed to jointly inspect roads and submit detailed re-

ports with recommendations and action plans.”“Instead of relying solely on speed breakers, officials were asked to explore alternative engineering solutions such as zigzag traffic movement in accident-prone areas wherever feasible.”“Highlighting the issue of trucks being parked along highways near hotels and dhabas, the Collector instructed officials to identify such locations, develop designated parking facilities, and prevent roadside parking on National Highways.”“He also directed the Police Department to take strict action against habitual traffic violators, including cancellation of driving licences where necessary. Special surveillance was ordered at belt shops and bars to curb violations.”“The Collector instructed officials to remove illegal encroachments and unauthorized access roads along National Highways, including unauthorized entry points to hotels and dhabas. He also called for large-scale public awareness campaigns on road safety with the participation of public representatives.”“Regarding street vending, the Collector said vendors should be relocated sensitively while protecting their livelihoods, but street vending must not be permitted in major junctions and Red Zone areas. Alternative vending locations should be identified wherever necessary.”“Municipal authorities were directed to identify Red Zone/No-Vending Zones in Khammam Corporation, Kallur, Madhira, Sathupalli, Yedulapuram, and Wyra and submit a report before the next review meeting.”“The Collector also emphasized implementing a scientific parking system in municipal areas, taking inspiration from Bengaluru's parking management model. He instructed officials to ensure visible improvements over the next three to six months through phased implementation. Parking management should also be strengthened around private hospitals and major commercial complexes.”“He further directed officials to create widespread public awareness about the ₹1.50 lakh cashless emergency treatment scheme available for road accident victims across the country. Stressing the importance of the Golden Hour, he said timely medical treatment during the first hour after an accident can significantly improve the chances of saving lives.”“The meeting was attended by Khammam Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abhishek Agastya, DRO C.H. Rammurthy, National Highways Project Director Divya, DMHO Dr. D. Rama Rao, IRAD DRMS Hari Babu, police officials, Roads & Buildings officials, municipal commissioners, and other departmental officers.

Arya Vysya Association Seeks Installation of Mahatma Gandhi Statue at Bonakal Khammam Bus Stand Centre

“Khammam Bonakal, July 24 Indian Chronicle:”“The Bonakal Arya Vysya Association submitted a representation to Gram Panchayat authorities on Friday, requesting the installation of a statue of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, at the Khammam Bus Stand Centre in Bonakal village. The association stated that the initiative aims to promote Gandhi's ideals among future generations and instill patriotism, social responsibility, and a spirit of service among the public.”“The memorandum was submitted in the presence of Bonakal Sarpanch Banoth Jyothi, Vice-Sarpanch Banoth Konda, Gram Panchayat Secretary Rajeswari, the Mandal MPDO, and other concerned officials.”“Speaking on the occasion, association leaders said Mahatma Gandhi, who led India's freedom movement and symbolized truth, non-violence, and communal harmony, continues to inspire generations. They noted that installing his statue at the village's main junction would encourage patriotism, discipline, and social awareness among the youth.”“The leaders pointed out that the Khammam Bus Stand Centre is the main gateway to Bonakal village, and installing Gandhi's statue there would not only enhance the village's identity but also strengthen patriotic values among residents.”“They further said the statue would serve as a focal point for paying tributes on national occasions such as Gandhi Jayanti, Independence Day, and Republic Day,



providing inspiration to public representatives, students, and social organizations.”“The association urged the authorities to respect the aspirations of the villagers and initiate the necessary steps for the installation of the statue at the earliest.”“Officials who received the representation assured the delegation that the proposal would be examined and appropriate action would be taken in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.”“The programme was attended by Arya Vysya Association President Chede Venkateswarlu, Katakam Srinivas, Vecha Seetharamulu, Ranga Janardhan, Pallabothula Gopi, Kalavala Lakshminarayana, Tellakula Srinivasa Rao and Rajani, Chenna Bhanu, Bochu Venkateswara Rao, along with association members and village elders.

All India National OBC 11th Mahasabha to be held in Bangalore on August 7.. OBC Mahasabha wall posters released



Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 24):- In the nationwide national census, BC kulgals should be taken up, and as part of expanding the BC movement across the country, the qualifications of BC reservations should be announced on the occasion of BP Mandal Day. The All India National OBC 11th Mahasabha

to be held in Bangalore on August 7, on the call of BC Welfare Association National President Jajula Srinivas Goud, all BCs from across Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district should come out in large numbers to the Mahasabha to be held in Bangalore and make it a success, under the auspices of BC Welfare Association Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Committee President Kotha Narasimhaswamy

On Thursday, the Bhuvanagiri town municipal chairperson, Thangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar, participated as the chief guest and released the wall posters of the Chalo Bangalore OBC Mahasabha. Senior Congress leaders Kukkadugu Somaiya, former PCC delegate Thangallapalli Ravikumar, BC Sangam constituency president Sabankar Venkatesh, Bhuvanagiri mandal president Jinna Mallesh, councilors Paccharla Jagan, Chimala Raju Yadav, Ele Shiva, Bende Lal Raj, Barre Karunakar, Bhuvanagiri Venkataramana, Challagurugula Raghubabhu, Salveru Upender, Sirikonda Shivakumar, Kura Shivakumar, and other leaders participated in the program.



people of the locality. Several Congress leaders, party workers, local public representatives, and supporters also paid their respects by offering floral tributes to Shankaramma's portrait and extended their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

Collector orders measures to avert drinking water shortage

Directs officials to monitor LMD reservoir daily, plug pipeline leakages and curb illegal tap connections amid El Niño concerns..



Karimnagar July 24 (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra on Friday directed officials to take proactive measures to ensure that no part of Karimnagar district faces a drinking water shortage in view of the anticipated impact of El Niño. Reviewing drinking water preparedness with Municipal Commissioner Prafull Desai, Mission Bhagiratha and Public Health Engineering officials at the Collectorate, she stressed the need for seamless coordination to maintain uninterrupted water supply through Mission Bhagiratha and other distribution systems.

The Collector reviewed the daily drinking water demand and supply in urban local bodies and instructed officials to repair pipeline leakages on priority to minimise water loss and prevent inconvenience to consumers. She also directed them to identify defunct borewells, carry out necessary repairs and restore them to service wherever feasible. Ms. Mishra asked officials to accord priority to ad-

ressing drinking water issues in Kothapalli–Elagandula, Bommakal, Vidyaranyaपुरी, Alugunur, Chintakunta and the recently merged villages under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. She also reviewed the water supply position in Jammikunta, Huzurabad and Choppadandi municipalities, besides Gangadhara and Ganneruvaram mandals.

Stressing the importance of prudent water management, the Collector instructed officials to monitor the water level in the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) reservoir on a daily basis and complete contingency arrangements well before the reservoir reaches dead storage. She directed officials to immediately resolve the drinking water problem in Hanumajipalli and Jangampalli villages of Ganneruvaram mandal and examine the feasibility of utilising water from the Narayanapur tank to meet drinking water needs in Gangadhara and Choppadandi mandals. As part of measures to prevent seasonal diseases, Ms. Mishra instructed officials to clean overhead water tanks regularly, strengthen maintenance of the water supply network and conduct field inspections to detect and remove illegal tap connections to curb water wastage. Emphasising that uninterrupted drinking water supply should remain the top priority, the Collector asked officials to remain alert, respond swiftly to public grievances and intensify awareness campaigns on water conservation. She also instructed them to immediately escalate critical issues requiring higher-level intervention. Mission Bhagiratha Executive Engineers Ram Kumar and Sandeep Kumar, Public Health Executive Engineer Sampath Rao and Municipal Corporation officials attended the review meeting.

Congress stages protest in Karimnagar over arrest of top leaders, alleged police action on students

Party condemns detention of Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi; seeks resignation of Union Education Minister over alleged NEET paper leak and demands apology to students.

Karimnagar July 24 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar Corporation Congress Committee on Friday organised protests in several divisions of the city condemning the arrest of senior Congress leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi. Addressing party workers, Karimnagar Corporation Congress Committee president and corporator Vaidyula Anjan Kumar alleged that the arrests were an attempt to stifle democratic dissent and asserted that the Congress would continue to oppose what he described as the Union government's authoritarian functioning through democratic means.

Referring to the alleged NEET paper leak and other reported examination paper leaks, Mr. Anjan Kumar demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him accountable for the incidents. He also condemned the alleged police lathi charge on students in Delhi and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologise to the student community over



the incident. Senior Congress leaders Madupu Mohan, ST Cell president Shraavan Naik, Kankanala Anil, Mandal Congress president Swamy Goud, Penta Shekhar, division Congress presidents Pathyam Rajesh, B. Srinivas and Gaddela Sujatha Shankar, members of the Karimnagar Corporation Congress Committee executive, frontal organisation leaders and a large number of party workers participated in the protest.

KTR Birthday Celebrated Grandly at Peerzadiguda-Free Medical and Blood Donation Camp Organized Under Former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy's Leadership



“MEDIPALLY, JULY 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):”The birthday of BRS Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the BRS Party office in Peerzadiguda Division under the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation limits on Friday. The celebrations were led by former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy. “On the occasion, party leaders, former corporators, workers, supporters, and local residents gathered to cut a birthday cake and extended their greetings to KTR.”“Speaking at the event, Jakka Venkat Reddy described KTR as a visionary leader who played a crucial role in the development of Telangana. He said KTR's contributions in the fields of Information Technology, industrial growth, and urban development had brought national recognition to the state. He also praised KTR's efforts in creating employment opportunities for youth, attracting investments, strengthening infrastructure, modernizing municipal services, and addressing public issues.”“He further stated that KTR has inspired several social service initiatives and that BRS workers have made it a tradition to celebrate his birthday every year as a day dedicated to public service.”“As part of the “Gift A Smile” initiative, the school fees of two students from economically disadvantaged families—Subrath Parihari and Kiran Kulkarni—were paid to support



their education.”“A free medical camp and blood donation camp were also organized with the support of TX Hospital. Hundreds of people underwent free health check-ups, while several youth voluntarily donated blood, demonstrating their commitment to social responsibility.”

The programme was attended by BRS General Secretary Yedavalli Raghuvardhan Reddy, former corporators Donthiri Harishankar Reddy, Kolturi Mahesh, Madhusudhan Reddy, and Kaude Pochayya, senior leaders Lethakula Raghupathi Reddy, Working President Enugu Manoranjan Reddy, Women's President Nirmala, Youth President Prabhu, and party leaders Javeed Khan, Akula Madhukar, Shyamala Srinivas, Shyamala Sailu, Anjaneyulu, Balaraju, Koneti Venkat, Pingali Jogi Reddy, Yasaram Srinivas, Munikuntla Kiran Goud, Narsi Reddy, Ram Reddy, Gadeela Jagan Reddy, Rayala Ashok, Joseph Reddy, Satish, Bullet Shankar, Chirra Santosh, Pasham Narendra Reddy, Tirupati Reddy, Vijay, Mallam Venkatesh, Praveen Reddy, Sagor Reddy, Ashok Reddy, Narayana Reddy, Sai Shetty, Kola Srinivas, Shankarayya, Satyam, Madhu, Srikanth, along with division presidents, senior leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, BRS workers, supporters, and a large number of local residents.

Congress Help Centres Should Ensure Smooth Implementation of SIR Process

MANDUMULA RAJITHA PARAMESWAR REDDY”“UPPAL, JULY 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Uppal Division Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameswar Reddy has called upon Congress leaders and party workers to actively support the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and ensure that it is conducted smoothly and efficiently.”“On Friday, she inspected the SIR Help Centre established by the Congress Party at Gandhi Nagar Function Hall in Ramanthapur. Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameswar Reddy said that every Congress worker should work diligently so that the SIR process is completed without inconvenience to genuine voters.”“She emphasized that no eligible voter should face any hardship during the SIR process and advised party workers to coordinate closely with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) while extending all necessary assistance to voters.”“The programme was attended by Ramanthapur



Division President Sandeep, Lucas, Sathi Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Bhaskar, Bullet Ashok, Aleem, Ratna Reddy, Raghavender, Lakshma Reddy, Poosa Srinivas, Srikanth Reddy, Bhaskar, Lourdi Reddy, Raju, Vinay, Vinod, Santhu, Raju, Pandu, Srinivas, Mahesh, Ramu, Balaswamy and other Congress leaders and party workers from Uppal.

Rajitha Parameswar Reddy Pays Tribute to Senior Congress Leader Bakaram Laxman's Wife Shankaramma

“UPPAL, JULY 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameswar Reddy expressed profound grief over the untimely demise of Smt. Bakaram Shankaramma, wife of senior Congress leader and former Uppal Congress Division President Bakaram Laxman.”“Upon learning of the tragic news, Rajitha Parameswar Reddy immediately visited the residence of Bakaram Laxman and paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Shankaramma. She later consoled Bakaram Laxman and his family members, conveying her heartfelt condolences.”“Speaking on the occasion, she prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and urged the bereaved family to remain strong during this difficult time. She also assured them that the Congress Party would stand firmly by the family in their hour of grief.”“Rajitha Parameswar Reddy recalled that Shankaramma was known for her warmth, kindness, and affectionate nature, earning the love and respect of local residents. She said her passing is an irreparable loss not only to her family but also to the Congress Party and the

Tight Arrangements at Godavari Ghat for Toli Ekadashi



Municipal Chairman Vodnala Srinivas""Manthani Peddapalli District, July 24(Indian Chronicle):"Municipal Chairman Odnala Srinivas said that all necessary arrangements have been completed at the Godavari riverbank in Manthani to facilitate devotees visiting for the holy bath on the occasion of Toli Ekadashi during the Ashada month."On Friday, the Chairman, along with Vice Chairman Muskula Sahender Reddy, inspected the arrangements at the Godavari ghat. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas said that thousands of devotees from Manthani and surrounding ar-

eas are expected to visit the riverbank to take the sacred dip."He stated that special bathing ghats have been prepared, showers have been installed, and separate changing rooms have been arranged for women to ensure the convenience of devotees. The entire riverbank has been cleaned thoroughly, and bleaching powder has been spread to maintain hygiene."Dedicated parking spaces have also been identified and cleaned for vehicles. Additional lighting has been installed along the riverbank to ensure the safety and convenience of devotees during the night. Srinivas said that police assistance will be taken to regulate traffic and prevent inconvenience to pilgrims."The Municipal Chairman also announced that, with the support of State Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, a state-of-the-art Maha Prasthanam will be constructed at the Godavari riverbank in Manthani at an estimated cost of ?20 crore. He said the facility will include all modern amenities and will be developed on the lines of the Maha Prasthanam at Mancherial. He added that Minister Sridhar Babu is taking special interest in the project."Congress leaders, including Jamboju Sammaiah, and others were present during the inspection.

SIR Awareness Campaign Vehicle Launched Under the Leadership of Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj



Inaugurated by Division Coordinator Jaleel Pasha""UPPAL, JULY 23 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The SIR (Special Intensive Revision) awareness campaign vehicle, arranged by United Chilukanagar Division Congress Party President Mulakalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj, was inaugurated on Friday by Division Coordinator Jaleel

Pasha."Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said the campaign vehicle had been launched to create awareness among residents of various localities in the division about the SIR process. They urged every voter in the division to submit their Enumeration Forms to the respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs)."They informed the public that the Election Commission has fixed August 3 as the last date for the submission of Enumeration Forms and appealed to all eligible voters to complete the process well before the deadline by handing over their filled forms to the concerned BLOs."Among those who participated in the programme were Minority Cell President Mohinuddin, BC Cell President Dandugula Shankar, senior Congress leaders Jarripothula Chandrayya, Radhakrish, B.M. Kiran, Kurelli Yadagiri, Ramcharla Balaram, Palnati Ramesh, Marapaka Sailu, Sudarshan, Kanakaraju, Anjat, Jahangir, and women leaders Shabana, Lavanya, Pushpa, Jyothi, Lakshmi, Zakira, Tabassum, along with several other party workers and supporters.

BANNALA PRAVEEN MUDIRAJ Joins BRS Protest Against Alleged Crackdown on Students in Delhi

""UPPAL ,JULY 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): BRS State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj participated in a protest organized by the BRS Students' Wing (BRSV) at Indira Park, Hyderabad, on Friday, condemning what the party described as the Central Government's crackdown on students in Delhi."The protest was attended by BRS Working President K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, along with several party leaders, workers, student leaders, and supporters."Addressing the gathering, KTR alleged that the Central Government's attempts to suppress the voices of students were against democratic values. He remarked, "Generations change, voices change. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be cautious." Referring to recent youth-led protests in Nepal, he said that united student movements have the power to bring about significant political change.KTR also alleged that major media organizations failed to extensively cover the hunger strike of Sonam Wangchuk due to fear of central investigative agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He said today's youth are courageously using social media platforms to raise their voices and fight for their rights, adding that "Narendra Modi has unnecessarily taken on the Gen Z generation."He de-



manded that the Central Government protect the democratic rights of students, stop actions that suppress their voices, and address the genuine issues faced by students.BRS State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, along with party leaders, workers, and representatives of the BRS Students' Wing, participated in the protest in large numbers.

Master Plan Development Works Set in Motion at Nelakondapalli Buddhist Site

Buddhist Site Development Works Entrusted to R&B Department""District Tourism Officer Suman Chakravarthy Inspects Buddhist Heritage Site""Khammam/ Nelakondapalli, July 24: Indian Chronicle""The process for implementing the Master Plan for the development of the historic Buddhist heritage site at Nelakondapalli has officially begun following directions from Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy."Acting on the District Collector's instructions, the proposed development works under the Master Plan have been entrusted to the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department."On Friday, District Tourism Officer Suman Chakravarthy, accompanied by R&B officials, visited the Buddhist site to review the proposed development activities. The officials held detailed discussions on the infrastructure works to be undertaken as part of the Master Plan, including the locations of various facilities, project requirements, and budget estimates."Tourism and R&B officials are preparing a comprehensive proposal containing the



Master Plan layout, infrastructure details, and financial estimates. After securing approval from Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, the authorities aim to commence the development works within a month."R&B Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) Bhagavan, Junior Engineer (JE) Prudhvi, and other officials were present during the inspection.

Teachers Urged to Work Towards Government's Goal of Eliminating Learning Gaps

"District Resource Person Etikyala Suresh Kumar Addresses Teacher Training Programme""Khammam/



Nelakondapalli, July 24: Indian Chronicle""District Resource Person Etikyala Suresh Kumar has called upon teachers to work collectively towards achieving the government's

objective of ensuring that no student is left academically behind."Addressing teachers on the second day of a training programme held at the mandal headquarters on Friday, Suresh Kumar stressed the importance of meeting parents' expectations. He noted that parents have reposed their trust in government schools by enrolling their children and urged teachers to uphold that confidence through dedicated teaching and improved learning outcomes."He informed participants that the teacher training programme in the mandal is being conducted in two phases and will continue from July 23 to July 29."Mandal Education Officer B. Chalapathi Rao, Resource Persons Madhav, Swami and Srinivas, Complex Headmaster Ramesh, and teachers T. Vengal Rao, Thorthi Suresh, Rama Rao, Thorthi Guravayya, Maragani Satyanarayana, and others attended the programme.

Retirement Felicitation for Eminent Writer Urumalla Sunanda on July 26"



"Khammam, July 24: Indian Chronicle""A warm retirement felicitation programme for noted writer and educationist Urumalla Sunanda will be held on July 26 at Bodepudi Vignana Kendram, Khammam, organisers announced on Friday."In a joint statement, Urumalla Foundation founder Bhogoju Upender Rao and Aksharala Thova Literary Organisation representatives Nama Purushotham, Dasuroju Srinivas, and Rachamalla Upender said the event will be-

gin at 10 a.m. on Sunday."They described Urumalla Sunanda as a distinguished teacher, textbook author, children's literature writer, and literary personality who has made significant contributions to education and literature. Throughout her teaching career, she encouraged meritorious students in every school where she served and instituted awards in memory of her sister. She also nurtured young poets and writers by identifying their literary talent and publishing their works at her own expense."The organisers highlighted that she founded the Urumalla Foundation to promote children's literature and encourage emerging poets and writers. For the past eight years, the foundation has been conducting international poetry and short story competitions in memory of Urumalla Padmaja and Urumalla Sriramulu, presenting cash prizes and publishing the winning entries in book form."The foundation has also been honouring distinguished literary personalities from the erstwhile Khammam district with the Bhogoju Samudramma-Purushotham Memorial Award, earning widespread appreciation."Recognising her remarkable services as both an educator and a literary figure, the organisers appealed to teachers, writers, poets, literary enthusiasts, and members of the public to attend the felicitation programme and make it a grand success.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Participates in BRS Students' Protest Against Alleged Crackdown on Students in Delhi"

""UPPAL, JULY 24 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated in a protest organized by the BRS Students' Wing at Indira Park, Hyderabad, condemning the alleged crackdown on students by the Central Government in Delhi."The protest was led by BRS Working President K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), with the MLA joining him in expressing solidarity with the student community."Speaking on the occasion, Bandari Lakshma Reddy urged the Central Government to stop what he described as the suppression of students' voices and to uphold democratic rights. He demanded that the government address the genuine concerns and issues raised by students instead of resorting to repressive measures.Several BRS leaders, party workers, and student wing activists also participated in the protest.



Journalists Must Unite Against Discrimination by Rulers: TWJF State President Mamidi Somayya



"Kukatpally General Body Meeting Held with Enthusiastic Participation""Hyderabad, July 24: Indian Chronicle""Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) State President Mamidi Somayya has called upon journalists to prepare for intensified struggles against the alleged discrimination and neglect they face from governments."Addressing the TWJF Kukatpally Constituency General Body Meeting held at AS Raju Nagar Community Hall in Kukatpally on Friday, Somayya said journalists who had made sacrifices during the Telangana movement are now being subjected to neglect and discrimination. He expressed concern over the government's inability to issue accreditation cards to journalists in a timely manner, forcing them to take to the streets to demand their legitimate rights."He stated that the TWJF would continue its uncompromising fight for the welfare of journalists and warned that the federation would intensify its agitation if the government failed to address their long-pending demands."Somayya also criticised the Central Government, alleging that it had withdrawn the 50 percent railway fare concession that was once available to accredited journalists. He announced that the federation would organise a "Chalo Parliament" protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, on

July 27 to press for the resolution of issues under the Centre's purview."TWJF State General Secretary Tanneeru Srinivas said the federation would strengthen its organisational structure across all districts in Telangana and continue its struggle for journalists' rights. He clarified that TWJF is an independent organisation and is not affiliated with any political party or media house, urging journalists not to be misled by misconceptions."The meeting was presided over by Kattela Mallesham, President of the TWJF Medchal-Malkajgiri District Unit. National Council Member Jagadeeshwar, State Council Member Nagaraju Goud, senior journalists Vidya Venkat and Erra Yakaiah, District General Secretary Gaddameedi Ashok, Vice-President Kondal Reddy, Hyderabad District Convener V. Ravikumar, and several other journalists attended the event."New Kukatpally TWJF Committee Elected""During the general body meeting, a new executive committee for the TWJF Kukatpally Assembly Constituency was elected unanimously."President: Erra Yakaiah""Vice-President: Bomma Gopi""General Secretary: Anjibabu""Joint Secretary: Nagarajuna""Treasurer: Shabbir""Executive Members: Nagaraju Goud, Saidulu, Shyam Sundar, J. Naveen and Sujatha""State Council Member: Mahender

Grand Guru Purnima Celebrations Held at Varapradatha Shirdi Sai Temple



"Sai Baba Adorned with New Currency Notes; Special Abhishekams, Homams and Purnahuti Performed""Khammam, July 24: Indian Chronicle""The 16th Guru Purnima celebrations were conducted with great religious fervour at the Varapradatha Shirdi Sai Temple in Gandhi Chowk, Khammam, on Friday."As part of the celebrations, Anna Abhishekam (ritual with cooked rice), Kanakabhishekam, and Chandi Homam were performed for Sai Baba. The temple had also been hosting a series of special rituals over the previous four days, including Lakshmi

Ganapathi Homam, Anjaneya Homam, and Sudarshana Homam."The concluding ceremonies featured Chandi Homam followed by Purnahuti. Devotees also witnessed Panchamrita Abhishekam performed with 108 sacred yajna kalashes. On the occasion, the idol of Sai Baba was beautifully decorated with new currency notes, drawing large numbers of devotees."Temple Chairman Vemulapalli Venkateswara Rao, Secretary Arvapalli Niranjana, Potti Prasad, Kuruveella Jagannathan Rao, Kakaraparthi Suryanarayana, Vemulapalli Srinivasa Rao, Vemulapalli Nares, Gannavarapu Nageswara Rao, Kusuma Srinivasa Rao, Hanumantha Rao, Noone Srinivasa Rao, and several other devotees and committee members participated in the celebrations.



Mamata Banerjee on CJP’s Jantar Mantar protest: ‘If need be, I will go...’



GNS News Agency, July 24

Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has said that, if needed, she will personally take part in the protest organised by the Cockroach Janta Party in the national capital. She was speaking at the 21 July Martyrs’ Day event, observed annually to commemorate the 13 Youth Congress workers who were killed in police firing in Kolkata in 1993 during a protest led by Banerjee against the Left Front government. Due to the Kolkata police imposing prohibitory orders in the Esplanade area, the Trinamool Congress had to organise the rally near Birla Planetarium following an order of the Calcutta High Court.

“If need be, I will go to Delhi and take part in the protest. Our support to them was there from the beginning, and it will remain so. If we all hit the streets, BJP leaders will run away, as they ran away from here,” she said. “Running a government requires discipline and adherence to democratic norms. Recent events in Delhi have shown how quickly situations can escalate during political confrontations. I have heard reports from Parliament that the circumstances became so tense that even the Prime Minister had to alter his plans. These developments remind us that stability and democratic conduct must always be protected. I want to make one thing clear: If injustice and

Bengaluru civic body officials assaulted during anti-encroachment drive, 10 held

GNS News Agency, July 24

The police arrested 10 people, including street vendors, Tuesday for assaulting officers of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) during a footpath encroachment clearance drive near the Shivajinagar Bus Stand, Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar said. The police said the assault was allegedly led by Basavaraj Padukote, who heads Namma Karnataka Sene, a pro-Kannada organisation. Investigators alleged that a group led by him attacked GBA officials during the anti-encroachment drive. Kumar said GBA officials, including Assistant Executive Engineer Madhav Rao, were obstructed and man-handled by a group while they were carrying out the demolition and footpath clearance operation that was in compliance with a court order. “The assault was captured on video, which has become a key piece of evidence in the investigation. Our officers rushed to the spot immediately after the incident. We will arrest everyone found to have participated in the assault,” Kumar told reporters. The drive was part of the ongoing Safe Footpath Campaign aimed at reclaiming pedestrian spaces occupied by unauthorised vendors, and clearing temporary structures and commercial encroachments across Bengaluru city. Reacting to the incident, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the government stood firmly with the officials discharging their duties and warned that attacks on public servants would not be tolerated and directed the police commissioner and GBA officials to take stringent action against those responsible. “All those who assaulted government representatives during the Safe Footpath Campaign will be arrested.

‘Government should respond to these terrorists’: Sadabhau Khot on Delhi protesters



GNS News Agency, July 24

A day after the protest led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) in Delhi over alleged NEET paper leaks, Maharashtra legislator Sadabhau Khot triggered a political controversy Tuesday by referring to the demonstrators as “terrorists”, drawing sharp criticism from Opposition leaders and even a member of the Maharashtra Government. The remark by Khot, a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC), came after the Cockroach Janta Party’s Delhi protest escalated Monday as thousands of students and supporters marched towards Parliament, demanding action over alleged NEET paper leaks and examination irregularities. “The government should give a democratic response to these terrorists. These terrorists cannot tolerate this,” Khot told reporters, defending the Centre’s handling of the examination controversy. Calling the NEET paper leak a conspiracy, Khot said the culprits had been arrested and investigations were underway as he questioned the demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation. “The government has taken the stance that the guilty will not be spared. Those who qualified in NEET are rushing for admissions, but those who have no connection to it are demanding resignations,” Khot said.

“Dharmendra Pradhan has no connection to the paper leak issue. However, the INDIA bloc and MVA are in the habit of creating anti-government sentiment and continuously spreading falsehoods. The INDIA bloc and MVA are trying to create a situation akin to terrorism,” he added. “The government should not accept the Education Minister’s resignation under any circumstances. Narendra at the Centre, Devendra in the state, and Dharmendra in education,” he said, referring to Prime Minister Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Fadnavis, and Pradhan. While Fadnavis said he was not aware of Khot’s statement, his Cabinet colleague, Shambhuraj Desai, who belongs to the Shiv Sena, said protesters cannot be called terrorists. “In a democracy, everyone has the right to protest. However,

intimidation continue, our movement will remain on the streets,” she said.

“People from Delhi to Kolkata have witnessed what happens when fear and intimidation become political tools. If they cannot win through democratic means, they try to silence voices through threats. But I ask them, how long can fear be used as a weapon? How many people can they continue to intimidate? Our leaders and workers have faced repeated harassment across different parts of the state,” she said. In a message to the opposition parties, she said, “On Rabintra Jayanti, I made it clear that I have no personal ego or bitterness towards anyone. Across India, we fight together as part of the INDIA alliance, and we do the same in Bengal. My priority has never been personal rivalry; it has always been the protection of democracy and constitutional values.” “I also want to caution those who believe they are safe simply because they can hold meetings or operate party offices today under political patronage. If democratic institutions continue to weaken, the consequences will not stop with one political party. I do not want democracy to be destroyed or undermined. If there is still a living conscience in society, then this is the time for everyone who believes in democratic principles to stand together,” Banerjee said. She also took aim at TMC rebels: “I want to tell those who have spent years in the Trinamool Congress and later changed their stand that, one day, every mask will come off. The truth cannot remain hidden forever. People will ultimately recognise who stood with them during difficult times and who chose a different path when pressure mounted. Many have left because of fear – fear of the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, or the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). I have never seen the CID so active in my political life. Through different levels of the administration, thousands of cases have been filed against our leaders and workers. Around 40,000 cases have been registered against our party workers. It is almost unprecedented in scale.”



Assaulting public servants while they implement the directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court is a serious violation of the law,” the minister said. The minister said he was personally monitoring the investigation’s progress with GBA officials and the Bengaluru police. A case was registered at the Commercial Street Police Station, following which the police arrested five accused. “Our officers are also gathering information about the accused’s background,” the police commissioner added.

The police said further investigation is underway to identify additional suspects and ascertain the circumstances leading to the assault. In recent weeks, GBA teams have intensified enforcement in several commercial localities, including Shivajinagar, Commercial Street, Gandhi Bazaar and other busy markets where pedestrian movement is frequently obstructed.

smashing and destroying police vehicles, taking the law into one’s own hands, is not right. At the same time, protesters cannot be called terrorists,” Desai said. NCP-SP spokesperson Sunil Mane said Khot’s statement was “highly deplorable”. “He should have thought several times before calling protesting students terrorists. We condemn his words.” Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Gopal Tiwari called Khot’s statement “shocking”. “How can one call a protest by students in a democratic way an act of terrorism? Actually, Khot reflects the mindset of Modi, which treats citizens who resort to democratic ways as terrorists, and it backs those who loot the country.”

Another farmer leader, MLA Bacchu Kadu, urged Khot to retract his statement. “Sadabhau Khot’s statement is completely wrong. He needs to correct his statement. Protests have been the soul of this country; our nation gained its freedom through movements,” Kadu added.

‘People will think twice about sailor jobs’: UP village mourns man killed in Russian strike

Abhishek Nishad, 22, a native of Uttar Pradesh’s Deoria district, was among four Indian seafarers killed on Sunday when a Russian missile struck a merchant vessel shortly after it departed Ukraine’s southern port of Odesa. A total of 10 people died in the attack. The voyage was Nishad’s first assignment at sea. His family had celebrated his departure, seeing it as the beginning of a promising career abroad. “Abhishek became interested in a maritime career after speaking with his cousin, Jairaj Nishad, a sailor for the past few years,” said his father, Kaushal Nishad, who runs a small cloth shop in Karmel village. “After completing his intermediate studies two years ago, Abhishek began preparing to join the merchant navy and gathered information online.”

“On June 9, Abhishek left for his first assignment as an Ordinary Seaman. He flew to Turkey via Mumbai to join the vessel,” Kaushal added. “Everyone in our family and neighbourhood was proud that one of our boys had secured a job overseas. We never imagined it would end in such a tragedy.” The second of three children born to Kaushal Nishad and his wife Anita Devi, a homemaker, Abhishek was the first member of his family to secure employment abroad. His younger sisters, Sadhna and Aradhna, are pursuing postgraduate and undergraduate degrees, respectively. **Abhishek was unmarried.** “Spoke just a few hours

AI helps ECI detect duplicate voters during electoral roll revision in Telangana



GNS News Agency, July 24

Hyderabad: Technology is playing a crucial role in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll in the State, flagging duplicate and triplicate votes across the constituencies in the State. After implementing photo similar entries (PSE) and demographic similar entries (DSE) during SIR exercise in West Bengal, the Election Commission of India (ECI) rolled out the same features in ongoing SIR exercise in the State. Using Artificial Intelligence, the PSE, which is embedded in the Electoral Roll Management system, is flagging voters who have identical or closely matching photographs for the BLOs and EROs to verify the electors.

In addition, the DSE search has been deployed to scan through the voters’ details such as the elector’s name,

father’s name, mother’s name, spouse’s name, age and date of birth, and address. The application is flagging issues if same or similar demographic entries appear in two or more electoral lists. This is enabling the authorities to verify the details with electors. Speaking to ‘Telangana Today’, one of the BLOs in the Kukatpally constituency said he found three votes of a person with the same name but with different spellings. “I came across one voter, Shankar, whose name has different spellings in different polling booths. However, father’s name remained the same in all three votes. The application flagged it as a triplicate vote, and I have to call up the voter to ascertain which one vote has to be retained,” the BLO said.

Another BLO revealed that after he filled up details of a voter in the ERONET, the application flagged double votes, with one in Khairatabad constituency and another in Amberpet constituency. “Using the PSE and DSE, the application is mapping voter details in the given database and flagging the double or multiple votes of a person. Since it’s a double vote, there is a need to verify with the voter before marking it as a double vote for removal,” the BLO said. Not just intra-State, the application has been flagging individuals with multiple votes across the different States, aiding officers to issue notices for removal of votes. According to the ECI, a staggering 6.44 crore votes had been removed from the final electoral roll of West Bengal after SIR 2025 and 2026. This could be made possible using the PSE and DSE applications in the ERONET.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ashram ‘encroached’ on land beyond lease limits; SIT to probe

GNS News Agency, July 24

The Karnataka government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to inquire into the alleged land encroachment by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar’s ashram and allied groups, based on an October 2025 survey that flagged encroachment of 291 acres of land reserved for animal grazing and public needs. A government order issued on Tuesday stated that the Art of Living Foundation “encroached land beyond the limits of the land leased to it by the government”. The alleged encroachments took place in survey numbers 160, 164/1, 164/2, 150, and 137 of Kaggalipura village, Bengaluru South taluk, which has government land, lakes, and stormwater drains. In 2023, three people—Chandrashekar N, Mahesha B, and Muniraju S—moved the Karnataka High Court alleging that the foundation had constructed buildings over a stormwater drain. They also flagged a lake’s encroachment. The court issued directions in 2025 for the revenue department to clear the encroachment, according to the order. The order further said that a few locals and agents of the foundation had obstructed repeated attempts to conduct a survey as per the law, noting that the majority of the lake in survey no 150 was encroached on. As per the order, the foundation has built a compound wall on land of 291 acres and 38 guntas, including 60 acres leased to it. The lease period for 41 acres expired in 2015, while the lease period for the rest of the 60



acres will expire in 2033. When contacted, Chandrashekar said, “We had compiled documents regarding encroachment of the lake and stormwater drain before approaching the court.” Among the related organisations accused of encroachment along with the foundation are Veda Vijnana Maha Vidayapeeta Institute, Sumeru Global Support Solutions Private Limited, and Sumeru Realty Private Limited. The SIT will investigate the violations, how the lands were encroached upon, the conditions allegedly violated by the foundation, and other land-related complaints against it. The SIT will verify land grant documents and also identify public roads, water sources, and other common land that the foundation is accused of encroaching on.

Lohagad wasn’t first choice: Pune Rural police reveal fresh details in Ketan murder probe



GNS News Agency, July 24

The Pune Rural police investigating the murder of Ketan Agarwal last month said his fiancée, Siya Goyal, and her boyfriend, Chetan Chaudhary, explored other locations, including Tiger Point in Lonavala and some other forts, before finalising the spot at Lohagad Fort. The police also said the two researched other ways, including poisoning, to kill Ketan and also studied ways to protect themselves from getting caught. They added that the two watched some murder conspiracy movies for this purpose.

“Our investigation suggests that before finalising Lohagad fort as the location where they would execute their plan, Chetan and Siya explored other similar locations in the area, including Tiger Point at Lonavala and other forts near Lonavala, including Visapur, which is next to Lohagad,” an officer who is part of the probe said. “After they decided

on Lohagad, they shared some photos of the fort with each other. They had finalised Lohagad fort sometime before May 31,” the officer added. The police, however, refused to divulge how they explored other options and finalised Lohagad. Amidst reports that Chetan and Siya contacted a contract killer, the police said the two discussed the option of arranging a hit to injure Ketan but did not approach anyone. Investigators claim the alleged murder was the culmination of weeks of planning by Siya and Chetan. According to the Pune Rural Police, Siya allegedly made multiple trips to Lohagad Fort with Ketan before the incident, including on May 31 and June 14, to familiarise herself with the location.

They also said she tried to persuade him to visit the fort on June 4, but the trip did not materialise after his family objected. The police have further alleged that Siya and Chetan rehearsed the crime days before Ketan’s death in an open space near a club lounge in Pune’s Lulla Nagar area. Investigators also claim Siya had earlier tried to derail her planned marriage to Ketan by stealing his passport ahead of their proposed pre-wedding shoot in Bali and later discarding it in a washroom at a food mall on the Pune-Mumbai Expressway. Siya and Ketan got engaged on February 19 and were scheduled to marry later this year. However, the police allege Siya had been in a relationship with Chetan since October last year and did not want to go ahead with the marriage. Siya and Chetan were arrested on June 23 in connection with Ketan’s death, which investigators now allege was a premeditated murder rather than an accident.



Deoria Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Raj Kumar Gupta said he had been informed of Abhishek’s death by local residents but was awaiting official communication from government agencies. While the Centre is yet to release the names of the dead, another sailor killed was identified as Akhil Joyan, 26, a resident of the Kasaragod district in Kerala. Family sources said the shipping firm contacted them. Meanwhile, India Tuesday summoned Russia’s charge d’affaires and lodged a strong protest over the killing of Indian sailors aboard the Guinea-Bissau-flagged merchant vessel struck off the coast of Ukraine.

US strikes Iran military sites in Strait of Hormuz to protect shipping lanes



GNS News Agency, July 24

Washington: The US Central Command (CENTCOM) has carried out another round of strikes against Iran, targeting military facilities and capabilities as Washington seeks to reduce Tehran’s ability to threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.In a post on X, CENTCOM said: “U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) completed another round of strikes against Iran at 9 p.m. ET, July 20. US forces struck Iranian military command centres, maritime capabilities, missile and drone launch sites, and air defence systems to degrade Iran’s ability to continue attacking commercial vessels flowing through the Strait of Hormuz.”

According to CENTCOM, commercial vessel transits through the vital international maritime corridor continue. “Since early May, CENTCOM forces have helped facilitate the transit of approximately 900 commercial vessels and 450 million barrels of crude oil.”US forces remained prepared to take further action against Iran, accusing Tehran of carrying out what it described as unwarranted aggression against civilian mariners seeking to transit the Strait of Hormuz freely and openly.CENTCOM said the strikes were aimed at weakening Iran’s military infrastructure linked to

attacks on maritime traffic in the strategically important waterway. The Strait of Hormuz is a key global energy route through which a significant volume of international oil shipments passes.The latest military action comes amid heightened tensions across the Middle East, with concerns growing over possible further escalation and threats to regional security.

Meanwhile, the US Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs issued a worldwide caution notice, warning American citizens about the complex security environment.In a post on X, the department said: “Worldwide Caution: Due to heightened tensions in the Middle East, the security environment remains complex with the potential for unforeseen escalation.”It added: “Americans currently in the Middle East should exercise caution and heightened vigilance and should be prepared for possible flight cancellations, periodic airspace closures, and potential travel disruptions. Please monitor embassy and consular security alerts, local authorities, and the news for breaking developments.”

The advisory further warned that US diplomatic facilities and American interests could face threats.“U.S. diplomatic facilities, including outside the Middle East, have been targeted. Iran and groups supportive of Iran may target other U.S. interests overseas or at locations associated with the United States and Americans throughout the world,” the department said.The State Department urged US citizens to stay informed through official channels and security alerts, saying: “Enroll at <http://step.state.gov> to receive the latest security alerts and follow the “U.S. Department of State – Security Updates for U.S. Citizens” channel on WhatsApp or @TravelGov on X.”The department also advised travelers to review official travel advisories and destination-specific information before making plans amid the uncertain security situation.

families of the deceased Indian nationals and wish the injured Indian national a speedy and full recovery,” it said in a statement.Without directly naming Russia, the MEA said: “India condemns such attacks and reiterates that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members, or otherwise impeding freedom of navigation and commerce, is deplorable and should be avoided.”

Western media reports said the death toll in the attack had risen to 10.The incident came amid escalating hostilities between Ukraine and Russia.Ukrainian Foreign Minister Sybiha strongly condemned Russia over the attack.“A civilian ship. An international crew. A route serving global food security. (Russian President Vladimir) Putin saw another target,” Sybiha said on social media.“This attack leaves no room for illusions. Putin’s Russia does not care whom it kills. Ukrainians or citizens of any other nation,” he said.Sybiha said the attack was not an “isolated incident”.“Just yesterday, Russia attacked another foreign merchant vessel in the Black Sea flying the flag of Antigua and Barbuda, killing one person and injuring three others. Russia is deliberately turning freedom of navigation into a target of war,” he alleged.The Ukrainian Foreign Minister said he discussed the issue with the leadership of the International Maritime Organization and called for the deployment of an international monitoring mission to Ukraine’s ports.“We expect this mission to begin its work as planned in the fall and help document every act of Russia’s maritime terror, paving the way for accountability,” he said.

day a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz reported being struck by an unknown projectile, forcing its crew to abandon the vessel and board a lifeboat.Item 1 of 6 An Iranian missile launched in an unknown location in this screengrab obtained from a handout video released July 21, 2026. WANA Via Pool/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERSAlso on Tuesday, Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said two oil tankers had caught fire after explosions while attempting to transit the southern route of the strait. It was not immediately clear when those incidents took place.

Just four commodity vessels crossed the strait on Monday, mostly using the northern shipping lane near Iran’s coast, down from seven the previous day, Kpler data showed.Iran had been pressing the Houthis to close the Bab el-Mandeb gateway to the Red Sea if the U.S. continued to attack Iranian power infrastructure — putting two of the world’s most vital energy arteries at risk.A full closure of Bab el-Mandeb could reduce global oil supply by 7% as it would leave most Saudi oil exports unable to leave the region, adding to the 10% cut in oil flows from the war in the Gulf.Oil markets weighed the threat to shipping against reports of diplomatic efforts to contain the conflict, with benchmark Brent crude prices edging slightly higher in morning trading.DIPLOMATIC PUSH TO RESTORE CEASEFIREA senior Iranian official told Reuters on Monday that Tehran had received a proposal from mediators for a 10-day ceasefire in efforts to salvage the interim deal, intended to pave the way to a lasting agreement to end the war that began on February 28 with U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran.Israel has not joined the latest round of strikes on Iran.“We have no desire to insert ourselves into this but we are prepared for any scenario,” Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on Tuesday.Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni had asked Pakistan to resume its mediation role in the conflict. He later arrived in Islamabad for further talks. The latest phase of fighting has proved to be among the deadliest of the conflict for U.S. forces. U.S. troop deaths rose to 17 over the weekend.Trump, under mounting pressure at home over rising gasoline prices since the war began, said the latest U.S. strikes on Iran were avenging the deaths of American service members.“Every time Iran kills an American Soldier they will pay for that killing many times over!” Trump wrote on Truth Social on Monday. The war has killed thousands of people, mostly in Iran and Lebanon. Parts of Lebanon remain under Israeli occupation following attacks on Israel by Hezbollah fighters, who said they were acting in solidarity with Tehran.Lebanese President Joseph Aoun is due to meet Trump at the White House on Tuesday to present a plan on how to disarm Iran-aligned Hezbollah and secure an Israeli withdrawal.Reporting by Reuters bureaux; Writing by Ros Russell; Editing by Philippa Fletcher

Lebanese army enters southern town after Israeli withdrawal, in first test of US-brokered deal



BEIRUT, Lebanese army troops began deploying in the southern Lebanese town of Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh on Tuesday after Israeli forces withdrew from the area, a senior Lebanese security official said, in line with a U.S.-brokered plan.The plan foresees Lebanese army troops confiscating weapons from the Iran-aligned Hezbollah group in parts of southern Lebanon and phased withdrawals of Israeli troops. The Israeli military said on Monday that the plan, dubbed the pilot zone programme, has begun. It had no immediate comment on Tuesday.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Tuesday’s handover of territory is the first test of the plan, which Lebanon hopes will enable it to restore control over a strip of land about 10 km (6.2 miles) deep into the country that remains occupied by Israeli troops.Dozens of villages have been razed in that area and public infrastructure has been destroyed, including hospitals, power stations and water pumps. Tens of thousands of Lebanese who call the area home have been unable to return.The latest round of fighting between Hezbollah and Israel began at the start of March, two days after the United States and

Israel launched strikes against Iran. Hezbollah said its actions were in support of Tehran.The Lebanese army said its units began deploying in Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh in the Nabatieh region on Tuesday.The army renewed a call for residents not to enter the town until the security situation stabilises and to follow instructions from deployed military units for their own safety.

A senior Lebanese military official told Reuters that army units were sweeping the town for unexploded ordnance, but that much work remained before it could be declared safe for residents."Army engineering teams have entered Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh, and we are waiting for further instructions," the town’s mayor, Abed Ezzeddin, said. "We will inform residents once the area is confirmed to be safe and under the army’s control."Ezzeddin described the destruction as extremely extensive, saying more than half the town had been destroyed and that the remaining homes had suffered severe damage, leaving the village uninhabitable.He questioned whether residents could return safely while Israeli forces remained in neighbouring Zawtar al-Sharqiyyeh, which he said was closely connected to Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh and only a five-minute walk away."How can I be sure that I can enter Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh safely?" Ezzeddin said. "How can I think of settling there when the Israelis are right next to me in Zawtar al-Sharqiyyeh?"The Israeli military confirmed on Monday that it was redeploying its forces as part of the pilot programme."The pilot serves as a test of the Lebanese Armed Forces’ sovereignty in the three pilot villages, as the sole official authority authorised to bear arms in the area," an Israeli military official said.Israeli officials have voiced scepticism about Lebanon’s ability to disarm Hezbollah but Israel sees the deal reached last month as a vital step towards building peace with Lebanon in the long run.Lebanese President Joseph Aoun was due later on Tuesday to meet U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington.

GNS News Agency, July 24

- Iranian strikes damaged a desalination plant in Kuwait over the weekend, raising concerns in the Gulf that more of such vital infrastructure may come under fire as the conflict in the region escalates.The Iranian military has in the past warned it would launch attacks on desalination plants and other infrastructure in the Gulf region if the U.S. follows through on threats to target its fuel and energy infrastructure.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Below are details about Gulf Arab states’ reliance on desalination for their basic water needs.HOW DEPENDENT IS THE GULF ON DESALINATION PLANTS? In the United Arab Emirates, desalinated water accounts for more than 80% of potable water. Bahrain became fully reliant on desalinated water in 2016, with 100% of groundwater reserved for contingency plans, authorities have said.

In Saudi Arabia, a much larger nation with a greater reserve of natural groundwater, about 50% of the distributed water supply came from desalinated water as of 2023, according to the General Authority for Statistics. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE combined produce around a third of the world’s desalinated water and are home to many of its largest desalination plants. The six countries, which form the Gulf Cooperation Council, have a combined population estimated by the U.N. to have topped 61 million in 2025. Desalination in the Gulf is highly concentrated, with a small number of plants producing the majority of output. Many of them are co-generation plants, meaning they also produce significant electricity for the national grid. The plants sit within range of missiles and drone strikes, and attacks could trigger humanitarian and economic shocks, according to the Atlantic Council. The consequences could be devastating, disrupting water supplies to public facilities, businesses, houses and hotels, or cascade into city-wide power outages and calls for complete evacuations, the Atlantic Council said. The Saudi capital Riyadh would have to evacuate within a week if the Jubail plant, its pipelines or associated power infrastructure were seriously damaged or destroyed, a 2008 U.S. diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks said. To mitigate the risk of supply disruptions to the capital, the Saudi government commissioned the Riyadh Strategic Water Reservoir which in 2023 was verified by Guinness World Records as the world’s largest drinking water storage facility. Qatar assessed several years ago that it risked running out of potable water within three days if supplies were

disrupted, the prime minister said last year. The tiny peninsula nation — where summer temperatures can reach 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) — in 2018 completed 15 of the world’s largest concrete drinking water reservoirs, each with a capacity of around 100 million imperial gallons, enough to fill about 180 Olympic-size swimming pools. The project earned Qatar a Guinness World Record for the largest individual tanks and the largest such network, according to state utility firm Kahramaa.Saudi Arabia leads the desalination industry in terms of capacity, with the UAE and Israel in second and third place, respectively, according to the consultancy Blackridge. The largest plant is the \$7.2 billion Ras Al Khair facility in Saudi Arabia, able to process 3 million cubic metres of water per day, followed by the \$1 billion Jubail plant. Ras Al Khair supplies drinking water to Riyadh, home to some 8 million people, and the city of Hafr Al-Batin. The UAE hosts four major plants with combined cost of \$5.3 billion, in Dubai’s Jebel Ali industrial port, at Taweelah between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and in the emirates of Fujairah and Umm Al Quwain The \$500 million Sorek plant in Israel can process 640,000 cubic metres of water per day and contributes 20% to Israel’s water demand. It is located near Tel Aviv and was built with the help of Singapore-based Hutchison Water, part of Hong Kong-based conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings. Most Saudi and UAE plants don’t involve U.S. investors. The Saudi plants were built with the help of Germany’s Siemens and France’s Engie while UAE plants involved Spain’s Acciona Energia and Belgium’s BESIX Group.

Four Indian seafarers killed in vessel attack off Ukraine coast

GNS News Agency, July 24

New Delhi: Four Indian seafarers were among 10 people killed in an attack on a Guinea-Bissau-flagged merchant vessel off the coast of Ukraine, prompting strong condemnation from India and fresh calls to protect commercial shipping during conflicts.Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Russia attacked a civilian vessel navigating Ukraine’s maritime corridor on Sunday and that its crew included citizens of Syria and India.It is the first instance of Indian seafarers being killed in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.The Guinea-Bissau-flagged ship was hit by Russian cruise missiles, the Ukrainian Air Force said.

The vessel, MV Golden Leo, had 17 crew members, including five Indian nationals, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).India condemned the attack and reiterated that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members is “deplorable and should be avoided”.“On the evening of July 19, the vessel MV Golden Leo was attacked while departing the port of Odesa. At the time of the incident, there were 17 crew members on board, including five Indian nationals,” the MEA said on Monday.“As per information available, four Indian nationals have tragically lost their lives, while one is hospitalised in a critical condition,” it said.The MEA said the Indian mission in Ukraine was closely monitoring the situation and was making every effort to extend all possible assistance to those affected.“We extend our deepest condolences to the

families of the deceased Indian nationals and wish the injured Indian national a speedy and full recovery,” it said in a statement.Without directly naming Russia, the MEA said: “India condemns such attacks and reiterates that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members, or otherwise impeding freedom of navigation and commerce, is deplorable and should be avoided.”

Western media reports said the death toll in the attack had risen to 10.The incident came amid escalating hostilities between Ukraine and Russia.Ukrainian Foreign Minister Sybiha strongly condemned Russia over the attack.“A civilian ship. An international crew. A route serving global food security. (Russian President Vladimir) Putin saw another target,” Sybiha said on social media.“This attack leaves no room for illusions. Putin’s Russia does not care whom it kills. Ukrainians or citizens of any other nation,” he said.Sybiha said the attack was not an “isolated incident”.“Just yesterday, Russia attacked another foreign merchant vessel in the Black Sea flying the flag of Antigua and Barbuda, killing one person and injuring three others. Russia is deliberately turning freedom of navigation into a target of war,” he alleged.The Ukrainian Foreign Minister said he discussed the issue with the leadership of the International Maritime Organization and called for the deployment of an international monitoring mission to Ukraine’s ports.“We expect this mission to begin its work as planned in the fall and help document every act of Russia’s maritime terror, paving the way for accountability,” he said.

Iranian forces target Bahrain and Kuwait after US hits Iran's south

DUBAI, GNS News Agency, July 24- U.S. forces bombed Iran’s south and west after President Donald Trump said Tehran would pay dearly for the deaths of American soldiers, while Iran targeted U.S. sites in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan on Tuesday and a tanker was hit in the Strait of Hormuz.The exchanges came a day after Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthis said they would impose a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia, opening a potential new front in the war and raising the threat to global energy supplies and trade beyond the Gulf.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Shipping companies loading or discharging cargo at Saudi ports could be targeted “in any location” by Houthis, according to an email sent to companies on Monday and seen by Reuters.Despite the escalating cycle of attacks that has all but wrecked an interim peace agreement signed last month, signs that Tehran and Washington want to resume diplomacy kept

U.S. Central Command said it had hit Iranian military command centers, maritime capabilities, missile and drone launch sites, and air defence systems in its latest round of strikes.Explosions were heard around the city of Shiraz in southern Iran. Konarak and Chabahar on the southern coast and the city of Khorramabad and a civilian site outside the city of Abadan, both in the west, also came under attack, according to state media.As hostilities spread across the region, the U.S. State Department issued a new “worldwide caution” for Americans due to “heightened tensions in the Middle East”.Iran launched renewed attacks across the Gulf, where recent strikes on desalination facilities have raised concerns about water shortages and underscored the growing threat to civilian infrastructure.Attacks on Kuwait power generation and water desalination plants on Monday caused fires that had been extinguished by Tuesday with repairs under way, authorities said.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said they targeted infrastructure in Bahrain belonging to U.S. tech company Amazon in retaliation for what they described as a U.S. strike on the construction site of Iran’s planned Darkhovin nuclear power plant.Iranian state media reported that Iranian forces also targeted accommodation facilities used by U.S. military personnel at Bahrain’s Sheikh Isa Air Base. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military, Bahrain or Amazon on the reported incidents, which Reuters was unable to verify.The Iranian army said it launched drone attacks against three U.S. military bases in Kuwait on Tuesday. The Guards said they attacked a U.S. military site in Jordan, while Jordan said its forces intercepted and destroyed five Iranian drones.

The maritime security agency UKMTO said on Tues-

Chinese AI model Kimi K3 sparks global buzz, hits capacity limits

Hong Kong: The new, powerful Chinese artificial intelligence model Kimi K3, which has caused a stir in the US tech industry, has suspended new subscriptions after a flood in demand overwhelmed capacity within days of the launch.The development highlighted challenges faced by Chinese AI models in serving a growing user base at home and abroad, at a time when the US-China tech race is heating up.Chinese open-source, lower-cost advanced AI models, including DeepSeek’s latest V4, have been moving fast in gaining global attention. In early 2025, DeepSeek shook world markets and helped China to be recognised as a serious competitor to the US, where Chinese frontier AI models are largely open source.

“Kimi K3 has received far more love than we expected,” Moonshot AI, which is Beijing-based, wrote in a X post late on Sunday. “Over the past 48 hours, demand has pushed close to the limits of our current capacity.”Moonshot said that it’s prioritising existing subscribers and would be temporarily pausing new ones. “We’re adding capacity as fast as we can and will reopen new subscription spots in batches,” it added. The AI startup also posted a similar message on Chinese social media.K3’s public rollout late last week, aiming at challenging more advanced AI models by Anthropic, OpenAI and others, has rattled US rivals. At 2.8 trillion parameters, a measurement of an AI model’s capabilities, it’s deemed the world’s largest open-source AI model.“New model releases generally trigger massive interest, which can strain existing compute infrastructure,” said Lian Jye Su, a chief analyst at the technology research and advisory group Omdia. “This does show Moonshot AI does not have sufficient compute chips to serve the current surge in demand.”Su said that the key reason was more likely due to Moonshot not fully anticipating the surge in K3’s popularity. K3 is “very demanding” in terms of compute re-



quirements, he said, making compute allocation challenging and expensive.By measure of front-end coding capability, a metric for AI models’ performances, Kimi K3 topped the chart of the major advanced AI models in rankings on Arena — an AI model evaluation platform — after its public release.K3’s release has also put pressure on stocks of American technology titans, on worries that more affordable Chinese AI models may undercut the pricing power and demand at the US AI companies. They are investing heavily in AI, even as US-led restrictions have already barred China from accessing some of the world’s advanced technologies, including the most cutting-edge chips.K3 is one of the latest Chinese AI models coming out that have drawn strong global reactions. Over the weekend, China’s Alibaba also previewed its latest Qwen3.8 Max AI model, which the tech giant said had 2.4 trillion parameters as one of the world’s most powerful models and was second only to Anthropic’s Fable 5. Last month, Chinese startup Zhipu, or Z.ai, also rolled out its GLM-5.2 model, which saw rapid adoption across the world.

Can insolvency proceedings shield you in a cheque bounce case? The legal conflict, explained

The court ruled in favour of the university, saying the scope of the work had expanded significantly, due to the massive shift of infrastructural and operational responsibilities to the vendor now, justifying the more stringent financial benchmarks. Dismissing the petition filed by Promarc, it said the authorities have the discretion to set qualifications to determine a contractor's capability. Speaking to The Indian Express, a senior Promarc official repeated charges regarding the bidding process such as the minimum turnover requirement for a firm being increased from Rs 5 crore to Rs 25 crore, the experience criterion reduced from handling three lakh students annually to two lakh students, and a dilution in the condition requiring prior experience in establishing digital valuation centres. The official also denied the university's allegation regarding non-transfer of data. "Our bills were cleared only after the data was submitted. If the data had not been handed over, examinations could not have continued," the official said, adding that payments were withheld only after the company challenged the tender process in court.

Over 2,000 cough syrup makers: Can regulators ensure their safety?



Cough syrups are among the most widely manufactured and consumed medicines in India, making robust regulation of the market essential. In May alone, sales touched at least 8.47 lakh units worth Rs 6,670 crore, according to Pharmarack. Yet the sector has repeatedly come under scrutiny after contaminated cough syrups were linked to the deaths of children in India and abroad. The Union health ministry has since tightened rules, restricting sales to licensed chemist stores and making doctors' prescription mandatory. With more than 2,000 manufacturers producing cough syrups across the country, experts say sustained regulatory oversight, rigorous quality testing and stricter enforcement are critical to safeguarding public health.

"Cough syrup manufacturers are like halwais — they are everywhere. This is the reason it is very difficult to maintain the quality of the products. While bigger companies may implement good manufacturing practices and ensure sterile water and an environment, it is not true for most manufacturers," said an industry expert, who did not wish to be named. This is a cause for concern, considering the apex drug regulator did not have on its records the Tamil Nadu-based firm whose cough syrup was implicated in the deaths of at least 22 children in Madhya Pradesh last year. After the incident, the drug regulator admitted that the company was not on its records and that the state had never shared information about them with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). Massive inspection drive

Following the incident, the apex regulator reached out to all states to gather data on all cough syrup manufacturers across the country and then carry out a risk-based inspection — inspection of the premises of a manufacturing unit that has been repeatedly flagged for drugs that are not of quality. The CDSCO, along with state regulators, has inspected the premises of 960 companies since last year, based on which 860 actions were taken, including issuance of showcause notices, stop production order, suspension, cancellation of licences /product licences, warning letters. Around 1,100 manufacturers have been subjected to intense audit since.

Where are manufacturing units located?
Some of the most common brands of cough syrups sold in India are Cipla's Corex, Glenmark's Ascoril, Centaur's Sinarest, Dr Reddy's Zedex and Johnson and

Johnson's Benadryl among others. Manufacturing units of the companies making the most common cough products — by sale and by volume — are largely clustered in states such as Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Goa.

What are regulatory challenges?
While the current move by the Centre is likely to have limited impact, experts say that ensuring availability of quality raw materials — even to the smaller companies — is likely to reduce instances of contamination. "The 2,000 manufacturers of cough syrup are not the problem; the fragmented regulatory ecosystem in India is the problem. India today has effectively 37 regulators, one per state/UT and the national regulator — the CDSCO. There is no consolidated database containing accurate information from all these 37 regulators, despite India being a single market for all practical purposes with drugs being able to cross state borders as easily as any other commodity," says public health activist Dinesh Thakur. So, a drug manufactured in West Bengal can be sold in Karnataka, but the Karnataka Drug Controller cannot inspect the plant in West Bengal or cancel its manufacturing licence if it sells substandard drugs in Karnataka. "At most the Karnataka Drug Controller can launch a criminal prosecution, and that can take a lot of time in Indian courts and even if there is enough evidence, the courts tend to be very lenient. It is this fragmented regulatory framework that is the problem," adds Thakur.

Why do toxic contaminants continue to enter the pharmaceutical supply chain?
Pharmaceutical companies have not been testing their ingredients, especially propylene glycol that they use to manufacture cough syrups. "This is a brazen violation of the GMP (good manufacturing practices) code. Given the lax nature of regulation in India, most of these companies know they can escape punitive consequences," says Thakur. He argues for a consolidated database of licensing, inspection, marketing information across states and the Centre to ensure a single source of truth of all regulatory information. "Not just for regulatory purposes but also procurement purposes by both the public and private sector," adds Thakur. He believes the industry's argument that propylene glycol (solvent used in cough syrups) has to be regulated doesn't hold. "No other country regulates raw materials. It is the responsibility of the pharma company, as it is written in the law, to test their raw materials before using them. The cough syrup tragedies are only the tip of the iceberg. Cancer medication manufactured by Indian companies is contaminated in Colombia and Yemen. There are a huge number of complaints coming in from Nepal, Sri Lanka and many African countries. Poorly manufactured eye drops have made their way to the US. Then some doctors have discovered that their patients often do not react as expected to Indian manufactured drugs. The Indian industry's reputation is taking a beating across the globe — at some point, when more trustworthy competitors emerge, it will be the end of the Indian pharma dream," says Thakur.

Covid vaccines linked to lower risk of heart attacks and strokes, finds large US study

A large US study has found that people who received the latest COVID-19 vaccine shot (2024-2025) alongside their flu shot were less likely to suffer heart attacks, strokes or die from cardiovascular causes than those who did not take the shot. The findings, published in JAMA Internal Medicine, add to evidence that COVID-19 vaccination does not increase the risk of heart problems — a concern that has persisted on social media despite a lack of scientific evidence. However, experts caution that the results do not necessarily translate into a need for additional vaccine doses in India, where COVID-19 complications are now uncommon and vaccine strategies differ from those in the US. COVID-19 vaccines have previously been shown to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE).

What was the study about?
The cohort study analysed 1,039,659 participants from the US Department of Veterans Affairs between September and December 2024. Researchers compared people who received both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines with those who received only the influenza vaccine. At eight months of follow-up, the vaccinated group showed a lower risk of COVID-19-associated MACE, according to lead author Dr Miao Cai, a biostatistician who studies the long-term effects of COVID-19 and vaccine effectiveness. Because the study was observational rather than a randomised trial, the findings cannot establish cause and effect. The benefit was modest, translating to roughly 2-5 fewer cardiovascular events per 10,000 people. According to Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of the National IMA Covid Task Force, who was not involved in the study, the reduction in risk was mainly seen among older adults and those with existing health conditions. "The most plausible explanation is that vaccination reduces COVID-19 infections and the blood vessel inflammation that can follow infection, thereby lowering the risk of cardiovascular complications," he said. What the study means for India India administered more than 2.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by October 2022, according to the National Health Mission. As vaccine uptake declined, private hospitals gradually reduced procurement.

Even so, public debate over sudden deaths among younger people has frequently centred on concerns about vaccine-related effects. Multiple investigations by Indian agencies, including the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Centre for Disease Control, have found that COVID-19 vaccines used in India are safe and effective, with serious adverse events being extremely rare. Experts have pointed out that sudden cardiac deaths can result from a range of factors, including genetics, lifestyle, pre-existing illnesses and complications following COVID-19 infection. No case for policy change Dr Jayadevan said the findings should not be interpreted as a basis for changing India's vaccination policy. "Continued doses of vaccines of the type studied are not being administered as part of India's programme. Moreover, mRNA vaccines were not used in India unlike in the US. COVID-related complications are now exceptionally rare compared with the earlier phase of the pandemic. Therefore, the study does not support a policy change at this time," he said. At the same time, he said, the findings are reassuring because they counter the false social media narrative that COVID-19 vaccines increase the risk of heart attacks.

India already faces high heart disease burden India already carries a disproportionately high burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD), particularly among younger adults,



said Dr Shrikanth N. Hegde of Anushri Medical and Diabetes Care Centre, Shivamogga, writing in the Association of Physicians of India — Karnataka Journal of Internal Medicine. India accounts for nearly one-fifth of global cardiovascular deaths, with an age-standardised CVD mortality rate of 272 per 100,000 population, higher than the global average of 235 per 100,000. Coronary artery disease affects an estimated 12-16% of Indians aged 35-65 years and tends to develop 5-10 years earlier than in many other populations. Among people younger than 45 years, sudden deaths increased from 20,179 in 2019 to 29,147 in 2023, accounting for nearly 46% of all sudden deaths in 2023.

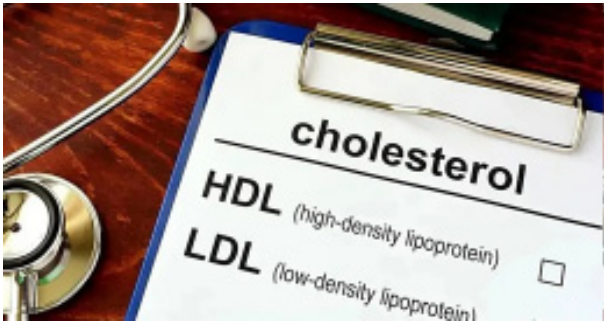
A sunscreen breakthrough after 20 years. Dermatologist explains what's new

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved bemotrizinol, the first new sunscreen active ingredient to be cleared in more than two decades. The approval has generated excitement among dermatologists worldwide, not because it is an entirely new molecule, but because it brings to the US a sunscreen ingredient that has already built a strong reputation internationally. What exactly is bemotrizinol? How is it different from existing sunscreens and can it really offer better protection against sun damage? Dr Rashmi Sharma, dermatologist at Fortis Vasant Kunj answers: Bemotrizinol is a very good molecule. Dermatologists have been aware of it for years because it has been available in many countries outside the US. The biggest reason for the excitement is that it offers broad-spectrum protection. It blocks both UVA and UVB rays. People are generally familiar with UVB because these rays are responsible for sunburn. But UVA rays penetrate much deeper into the skin. They are associated with premature ageing, pigmentation, loss of elasticity and also contribute to skin cancer risk. Bemotrizinol offers superior UVA protection compared to many existing sunscreen ingredients, and that is one of its biggest advantages.

How is it different from the sunscreen ingredients currently available?

Most sunscreens currently available use a combination of filters because individual ingredients are often specialists rather than generalists. Some protect well against UVB, others are better at UVA protection. Bemotrizinol is different because it covers a broad range of the ultraviolet

IIT Bombay scientists find a new way to lower LDL cholesterol



For decades, scientists have tried to lower harmful fats in the blood by targeting enzymes, genes or receptors involved in fat metabolism. Researchers at IIT Bombay have now taken a strikingly different approach: preventing fat from reaching the point inside liver cells from where it is released into the bloodstream. Working with scientists at IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) Pune and IISER Kolkata, the team has developed a tiny peptide (a short chain of amino acids or the building blocks of life) called KTDP that interrupts the movement of fat inside liver cells. In laboratory-grown liver cells and zebrafish, this reduced the release of cholesterol and triglycerides into the bloodstream by nearly 50 per cent. The findings, published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), are still at an early stage. The peptide has not been tested in humans. But researchers say the work opens an entirely new strategy for reducing the biggest risk factor of heart attacks, namely bad fats — LDL (low-density lipoprotein) and triglycerides — in the blood.

Why does this finding matter?
While medicines such as statins have transformed the treatment of high cholesterol, options for lowering triglycerides remain relatively limited. The IIT Bombay study proposes a fresh way of tackling the problem: reducing the liver's export of fats into the bloodstream rather than interfering with how fats are produced or broken down. The liver is the body's central hub for fat metabolism. Inside liver cells are tiny storage compartments called lipid droplets that temporarily hold fats such as cholesterol and triglycerides. When required, these droplets are transported to specific loca-

tions within the cell, where they are repackaged into very low-density lipoproteins (VLDL) and released into the bloodstream. Professor Roop Mallik of IIT Bombay explains it simply. "There are little balls of fat inside our liver cells. These little balls of fat need to be carried to certain specific locations inside the liver cell. From there, the fat is repackaged into lipoprotein particles and sent out into your blood," he told The Indian Express. "If we can somehow tone down the export of fat from the liver into blood using a small peptide, we could eventually have a new way of treating high serum lipids." Researchers identified a motor protein called kinesin-1, which is a delivery truck operating inside a cell. "These motor proteins catch hold of these fat particles and take them to a certain location. What we discovered is a small piece of this protein, called a peptide. When we delivered this peptide to cells or zebrafish, these fat balls didn't get carried to the right location," Prof Mallik said. Without reaching that destination, the fat cannot be packaged into VLDL particles and exported into the bloodstream. How is this different from statins? Current cholesterol-lowering medicines, including statins, work by reducing cholesterol synthesis or increasing its clearance from the blood but have nothing to halt it in its tracks. Because the peptide selectively blocks the transport of lipid droplets without shutting down protein functions overall, researchers believe it could avoid some of the side effects associated with disrupting a motor protein. Excess fat circulating in the blood can accumulate in several organs. "If there is too much fat in your blood, that is a disaster because that fat is going to accumulate in your heart and in other tissues," said Prof Mallik. Interestingly, blocking fat export did not lead to dangerous fat build-up inside the liver. Imaging studies showed that fatty acids were instead redirected to mitochondria — the cell's energy-producing structures — where they were broken down to generate energy. The secretion of both triglycerides and cholesterol fell by around 50 per cent in zebrafish, a widely used model organism whose lipoprotein system closely resembles that of humans. What happens next? The team has filed a patent. The peptide must now be tested in mammals before researchers can evaluate its long-term safety, dosage and effectiveness, and eventually move towards human clinical trials.

FSSAI asks restaurants, food businesses to stop using rusted knives; warns of food contamination

The country's apex food regulator has directed restaurants and other food businesses against using rusted or corroded knives in food preparation. In its advisory, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has said: "It has been brought to the notice of FSSAI that certain food businesses are using rusted, corroded, chipped, painted, damaged or otherwise unsuitable knives, blades and other cutting equipment during food handling, preparation, processing, cutting, slicing, and packaging operations.... (it) may result in physical, chemical, and microbiological contamination of food." Now, the food regulator has said that all food businesses should use only food-grade, corrosion-resistant knives, blades and cutting equipment. Any equipment used should be maintained in a sound and hygienic condition and are free from rust, corrosion, chipping, paint, cracks, breakage or any other defects. Any defective equipment should be removed from use and replaced. There should be adequate cleaning, sanitation, and sterilisation procedures wherever applicable. The advisory said: "The commissioners of food safety of all states and Union Territories and regional directors FSSAI are requested to direct the concerned licensing authorities and food safety officers to maintain strict vigilance during inspections and ensure compliance..." Why rusted knives are a health risk Rust flakes, chipped metal or fragments from damaged blades can break off and mix with food, posing a choking hazard or causing injury to the mouth and digestive tract. Rusted and pitted surfaces are rough and may harbour food particles, moisture and microorganisms. Tiny cracks and pits can become breeding grounds for bacteria, increasing the risk of food-borne illnesses. Corrosion damages the protective oxide layer that makes stainless steel resistant to rust. This can increase the possibility of metals leaching into food, particularly acidic or salty foods. Tomatoes, lemons, tamarind, vinegar-based dishes and pickles are among foods that can accelerate corrosion or react with damaged metal surfaces.

What is "food-grade" steel?



"Food-grade" does not refer to a single metal but to materials that are safe for direct contact with food, do not react with food, resist corrosion and can be cleaned and sanitised effectively. Among stainless steels, 304 grade (18/8) is the industry standard for most food-contact surfaces because of its durability and corrosion resistance. 316 grade is preferred in environments with frequent exposure to salt, acids or harsh cleaning chemicals, such as seafood or meat processing units. 420 grade stainless steel is commonly used for knives and blades because it can be hardened to maintain a sharp edge, though it requires proper maintenance to prevent corrosion.

How often should knives be replaced?
There is no fixed replacement schedule prescribed by FSSAI or international food safety standards. Instead, food businesses are expected to inspect knives and cutting equipment regularly and replace them as soon as they show signs of rust or corrosion, cracks, chipping, peeling paint or coatings, breakage or any surface damage that prevents effective cleaning and sanitisation.

What does the FSSAI advisory require?
The advisory covers not just kitchen knives but also blades and other cutting equipment used during food handling, preparation, processing, slicing and packaging.

spectrum. It protects against both UVA and UVB effectively. Another important feature is that it is highly photostable. In simple terms, it does not break down easily when exposed to sunlight. This is important because some sunscreen ingredients lose effectiveness after sun exposure unless they are carefully stabilised. Bemotrizinol remains stable and can also improve the stability of other sunscreen filters used in the formulation. That means better and more reliable protection.

Does this translate into better protection for the skin?

Yes, particularly when it comes to protection against UVA rays, which penetrate deeply into the skin and are largely responsible for what we call photoageing. They damage collagen and elastin fibres, leading to wrinkles, sagging, fine lines and uneven pigmentation. Long-term UVA exposure is also linked to skin cancers. It cannot reverse existing damage. But as a preventive measure, it is a major step forward. Sunscreens are often criticised for being greasy or heavy. Does this ingredient address that problem?

One of the reasons people avoid sunscreen is that they dislike how it feels on the skin. Some formulations are greasy, sticky or leave a white cast. Bemotrizinol allows formulators to create sunscreens that are lighter and more elegant in texture while maintaining excellent protection. If an ingredient allows companies to make products that are cosmetically more acceptable, compliance improves and ultimately skin protection improves too. There has been a lot of debate about the safety of chemical sunscreens. Is

bemotrizinol safe?
Based on the available evidence, yes. This ingredient has been used in Europe, Australia and several Asian countries for years. So, we already have extensive real-world experience regarding its safety and effectiveness. Bemotrizinol is also a relatively large molecule. Because of its size, very little of it is absorbed through the skin into the bloodstream. Studies have found no evidence of significant accumulation in the body or meaningful systemic exposure after regular use. The FDA approval is reassuring because it follows a rigorous review process. The ingredient has been evaluated for safety, efficacy, photostability, degradation products and environmental impact. So, from a dermatologist's perspective, it has a strong safety profile.

How does it compare with mineral sunscreens such as zinc oxide and titanium dioxide?

Zinc oxide and titanium dioxide remain excellent sunscreen ingredients and continue to be recommended. They are mineral sunscreens and are especially useful for people with sensitive skin. Bemotrizinol is a chemical sunscreen ingredient, but it broadens the options available to consumers. The goal is not to replace mineral sunscreens. The goal is to offer better choices and formulations so that more people use sunscreen consistently. What should consumers remember when buying sunscreen? Do not become obsessed with one ingredient. Choose a sunscreen that offers broad-spectrum protection with SPF 30 or higher. Apply enough sunscreen.

No call yet on hiking ethanol blending in petrol, no plan to also sell lower blends: Centre



India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol five years ahead of schedule.India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol five years ahead of schedule.Amid the backlash on ethanol-blended petrol, the government on Monday informed Parliament that no decision has been taken on raising blending levels beyond the current 20%, and any decision to raise the blending levels will be taken only after detailed studies and stakeholder consultations. There is also no plan to make lower ethanol-petrol blends and pure petrol available at fuel stations.

“So far, no decision has been taken by the Government for increasing ethanol blending with petrol beyond 20%. Any future decision regarding higher ethanol blends will be taken only after detailed scientific and technical studies and consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including automobile manufacturers, Oil Marketing Companies and research institutions,” Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi informed Rajya Sabha.India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol last year and at present, the E20 fuel — 80 parts petrol and 20 parts ethanol — is the standard petrol variant across the country. There has been a public backlash over the E20 fuel, with claims ranging from notable reduction in mileage and engine component wear and tear in older vehicles whose engines were not designed for higher ethanol blends.Gopi said that while the E20 fuel can reduce fuel economy by 3-5% in older vehicles whose engines are not designed for this blend, it is cleaner and superior in other performance parameters vis-a-vis pure petrol and lower ethanol-petrol blends.

“With regard to efficiency, studies indicate that fuel economy depends on several factors, including driving conditions, driving habits and vehicle maintenance. Mileage depends on driving habits, tyre pressure, servicing and AC load far more than fuel type.Any reduction in fuel economy in certain older E10-designed vehicles is generally limited to about 3-5%,while E20 offers a higher octane rating, su-

perior anti-knock characteristics, cleaner combustion and smoother engine operation,” the minister said.On its part, the government has been attempting to allay fears, saying that the drop in mileage in older vehicles would be marginal, and would be outweighed by the benefits like higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pickup, smoother acceleration and cleaner engine operation. The government has also consistently rejected claims that E20 fuel could damage engine components. Amid the backlash, questions were also raised on why motorists aren’t being offered the choice of pure petrol, E10, and E20 fuels, as is the practice in some countries.“Extensive testing, vehicle homologation, manufacturer validation and more than three-and-a-half years of nationwide experience with E15+ fuel and over two-and-a-half years with E19-E20 fuel, covering over 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars, have not revealed any verified evidence of widespread engine failure attributable to ethanol blending,” Gopi said.

“Maintaining parallel nationwide supply chains for lower-blend petrol would increase logistics complexity and costs while diluting the environmental, energy security and farmer welfare benefits already achieved through the EBP Programme. Accordingly, the Government’s objective is to move forward with a scientifically validated and superior fuel, not revert to lower blends,” the minister added.India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol five years ahead of schedule. The ethanol-petrol blending programme dates back over two decades, but after languishing for about a decade, the programme gathered pace over the past few years as the present government made concerted efforts to ensure sufficient ethanol availability. Average blending rose from about 1.5% in ethanol supply year 2013-14 to 10% in 2021-22, and further to 20% in the 2025-26.

“The premise that E20 is a new or suddenly introduced fuel is not correct. Ethanol has been used as a transport fuel globally for over a century, and India’s Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme commenced with a pilot in 2001. Rather than a sudden shift, the transition to E20 has been phased, calibrated and evidence-based, with blending increasing progressively from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 20% in 2025-26 after scientific evaluation and stakeholder consultations at every stage,” Gopi said.According to the minister, the ethanol-petrol blending programme has saved over Rs 1.97 lakh crore in foreign exchange, displaced about 3.16 crore tonnes of crude, prevented around 952 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, while generating over Rs 1.66 lakh crore in income for farmers.

Weeks after rollout, Centre defers domestic solar cell sourcing mandate till December 31

domestic solar cell sourcing, solar cell sourcing, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, solar module manufacturing base, Indian express business, business news, current affairsIndia has a large solar module manufacturing base, nearly 200 gigawatts (GW) per annum.One-and-a-half month after implementing mandatory domestic cell sourcing mandates for all domestic, commercial and industrial solar projects, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on Saturday exempted these projects from the mandatory cell sourcing requirement till December 31.

In an office memorandum, the ministry said the decision has been taken after detailed deliberations with various stakeholders of the solar industry to ensure a smooth transition to mandatory domestic cell sourcing mandate.The exemption comes after the government had on May 25 said that there would be “no blanket” relief for domestic cell sourcing mandates despite developers seeking an extension of the deadline.It, however, said certain projects would be eligible for case-by-case extensions to protect investments already made, provided developers have either installed solar modules or taken key implementation steps such as land acquisition, financial closure and connectivity arrangements.

The present exemption effectively extends the May 31 deadline to December 31, giving these projects an additional seven months to commission without complying with the mandatory domestic cell sourcing mandate.Projects commissioned thereafter will be required to meet the domestic cell sourcing mandate.“The number and capacity of module manufacturers is pretty high vis-a-vis domestic cell manufacturers. This will allow domestic module manufacturers to get some more time to adjust to the ALMM-II and protect their investment,” a senior government official told The Indian Express, explaining the latest move.

Cells are the building blocks of solar modules that convert sunlight into electricity. The manufacturing chain begins with polysilicon, which is processed into ingots. These ingots are sliced into wafers, which, in turn, are used to manufacture solar cells. These cells are subsequently assembled into modules, or panels.India has a large solar module manufacturing base, nearly 200 gigawatts (GW) per annum. But the manufacturing capacity of cells, the primary constituents of these modules, is far lower at around 30 GW.This means much of the module manufacturing capacity has been built upon imported cells.Even though the mandatory domestic cell sourcing mandate is aimed at reducing India’s dependence on imports and strengthening the domestic solar manufacturing ecosystem, it could disproportionately affect smaller solar module manufacturers



which, unlike larger companies, may not manufacture their own cells.The new mandate had sparked concerns among module manufacturers, particularly non-integrated players — those without internal cell manufacturing facilities, this newspaper had earlier reported.

Industry executives had cautioned that such companies could face significant supply risks as they would now be forced to procure domestically manufactured cells from larger competitors that also operate in the module market, potentially creating an uneven playing field.Meanwhile, India’s solar module manufacturers are currently grappling with overcapacity and weakening export opportunities amid steep US tariff barriers.Against solar capacity installations of around 45 GW in 2025-26, India’s annual solar module production is estimated at nearly 60-65 GW, highlighting the growing oversupply concerns in the sector. Industry sources said capacity utilisation levels at several module assembly plants are currently hovering around 30-40%.Industry executives had expressed apprehension that the domestic sourcing mandate for solar cells would push up the prices of domestically manufactured cells, making cell production more lucrative for integrated manufacturers because of stronger margins and assured demand.The mandate also threatened to hit the country’s flagship solar rooftop program, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana by pushing up domestic solar cell prices and limiting the availability of rooftop solar panels.Taking cognizance of the issue, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary at MNRE in June held a meeting with domestic solar cell manufacturers to emphasise the need to ensure adequate availability of domestically-manufactured solar PV cells and Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) solar modules, especially for vendors and installers engaged in setting up of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) solar projects like solar rooftop plants and solar agricultural pumps, while also keeping the prices reasonable.

NRI inflows to lift deposit growth to 15 pc in FY27: Report

New Delhi: Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNR-B inflows are expected to boost aggregate bank deposit growth up to 15 per cent in FY27, helping narrow the gap between deposits and credit, although credit expansion is likely to remain robust, according to a report released on Monday.According to a report from SBI Research, around \$13-14 billion has already been mobilised through the FCNR-B deposit window, which is expected to strengthen banks’ deposit base during the current financial year. It highlighted that bank credit has continued to outpace deposit growth since FY23. For the fortnight ended June 30, bank credit grew 18.6 per cent year-on-year, while aggregate deposits increased 13.3 per cent, widening the credit-deposit gap to 5.3 percentage points.

According to the report, the persistent gap reflects structural changes in both deposit mobilisation and credit demand following the Covid-19 pandemic, rather than a temporary liquidity mismatch. Traditional deposit markets in large metropolitan cities have become saturated, with deposit growth increasingly shifting towards semi-urban and rural areas, aided by rising household incomes, women-

centric welfare schemes and expanding banking penetration, it said.At the same time, urban households are increasingly diversifying their savings into market-linked instruments such as mutual funds and equities, reducing the share of household deposits in the banking system. On the lending side, the report said credit growth has become more broad-based after regulatory measures curbed unsecured personal loans.Incremental lending has increasingly shifted towards industry, infrastructure, working capital loans and loans against gold jewellery, supported by the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). SBI Research also said supply-side shocks, including elevated crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions, have a stronger impact on credit growth than on deposits, creating persistent liquidity gaps in the banking system.However, the report said Indian banks remain well-capitalised, with strong capital adequacy and low non-performing assets, placing the sector in a ‘Goldilocks’ phase. It added that credit growth is expected to remain healthy, supported by consumption demand and capital expenditure, while banks are likely to maintain balance-sheet discipline.

After 35, belly fat can have different causes. Here’s what matters



Many notice changes in how their bodies store fat, particularly around the abdomen, after crossing their mid-30s. Some experience what is often called a ‘stress belly,’ while others may develop a ‘hormonal belly.’ Although both appear as increased abdominal fat, the underlying causes can differ significantly. A stress belly is often linked to elevated cortisol levels, the body’s primary stress hormone. Chronic stress can lead to increased fat storage around the midsection, alongside symptoms like disrupted sleep, sugar cravings, and low energy. On the other hand, a hormonal belly may develop due to shifts in oestrogen, progesterone, and testosterone levels that typically occur during perimenopause and menopause. These hormonal fluctuations can influence fat distribution, slow metabolism, and promote fat accumulation in the abdominal region.While lifestyle factors such as diet, sleep, and exercise play a role, physiological changes after 35 can make fat distribution patterns unique to each individual. To gain clarity on what drives these changes and how to manage them, we reached out to an expert for insights.

Physiological mechanisms that cause fat to accumulate differently in a stress belly versus a hormonal bellyDr Palleti Siva Karthik Reddy, MBBS, MD, general medicine, FAIG, consultant physician at Elite Care Clinic, tells indianexpress.com, “Abdominal fat accumulation can be driven by different biological pathways depending on whether stress or hormonal changes are the primary trigger. A stress belly is largely associated with chronically elevated cortisol levels. Cortisol promotes fat storage around

The bedtime drink PV Sindhu doesn’t skip

PV Sindhu, who recently made history by becoming the first Indian to win the Japan Open title, has now given a peek into what recovery at home looks like, courtesy of her husband and entrepreneur, Venkata Datta Sai. Sharing a story by Indian Express, the badminton champion wrote on X, “The recovery experiments at home are all true too. @deepigoyal got him sold on an inversion table after reading and testing a thesis while building Temple. Another dear friend convinced him that red-light therapy was the answer. Then, one fine morning, a temperature-controlled mattress magically appeared. Tart cherry juice became compulsory before bed. Recovery boots. Breathing drills. Cryotherapy. At this point I don’t even ask questions anymore... I just say, “Okay... what’s today’s experiment?”Adding that Datta’s latest “obsession” is finding a hyperbaric chamber, Sindhu continued: “I made the mistake of looking it up... and it’s literally a giant metal tube.?? Strangely enough, a lot of these bizarre things are actually starting to make sense.”

In the same note, Sindhu also thanked cricketer Virat Kohli for his support. “One thing I’ll always be grateful for, though, is Virat bhai. I reached out to him at one of the lowest points of my career. Injuries were piling up, the results weren’t coming, and I just needed someone who understood. He replied within minutes, and we met the very next day. What we spoke about will always stay between us. But I’ll always be grateful that when I needed someone, he was there. He didn’t say much, but every word stayed with Datta and me. Some conversations change the way you see things. That was one of them.”Sindhu also mentioned the importance of “finding your joy again.” “Today, I know exactly why I wake up for those 5:30 a.m. sessions. And I can honestly say... it isn’t the trophies. It isn’t the wins. It’s something much deeper. And this time, I’ll protect it with everything I have,” she said.Taking a cue from her revelation, we asked an expert about the benefits of tart cherry juice before bed.

Dt Amreen Sheikh, chief dietitian, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, affirmed that there is some scientific basis. “Tart cherry juice contains natural compounds like anthocyanins, which have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, along with small amounts of natural melatonin. Research suggests it may support better sleep quality and help the body recover after intense physical activity. However, it is not a magic drink. For athletes, it works best as part of a recovery routine that includes good nutrition, hydration, and enough rest,” said Sheikh.Notably, better sleep allows the

visceral organs in the abdomen by increasing insulin resistance, appetite for calorie-dense foods, and fat cell deposition in the midsection. This type of fat gain is often accompanied by sleep disturbances, fatigue, sugar cravings, and weight gain concentrated around the waist despite otherwise stable body composition.”A hormonal belly, on the other hand, is typically linked to changes in reproductive and metabolic hormones, particularly during perimenopause. Dr Reddy states that declining oestrogen levels “influence how and where the body stores fat, shifting distribution from the hips and thighs toward the abdomen.” Women experiencing hormonal fat gain often notice a gradual, persistent increase in abdominal fat, along with symptoms such as irregular menstrual cycles, hot flashes, reduced muscle mass, and a slower metabolism.The distinction is not always absolute, he says, since stress and hormonal changes frequently overlap after the mid-thirties, but symptom patterns and lifestyle factors can provide useful clues.

Most effective strategies for managing or reducing abdominal fat caused by stress or hormonal changesDr Reddy mentions that management depends on addressing the root cause rather than focusing only on weight loss. For stress-related abdominal fat, regulating cortisol is critical. Consistent sleep schedules, moderate-intensity exercise such as walking or strength training, mindfulness practices, and reducing excessive caffeine intake can significantly improve cortisol balance. Nutritional strategies that stabilise blood sugar, including adequate protein and fiber intake, are also beneficial.For hormonally driven abdominal fat, Dr Reddy notes, resistance training becomes especially important because it helps preserve muscle mass and metabolic rate. “Adequate protein intake, vitamin D, and calcium support metabolic health during hormonal transition. In some cases, medical consultation for hormonal evaluation may be appropriate, particularly if symptoms of perimenopause are pronounced.”“Across both scenarios, sustainable lifestyle interventions are more effective than aggressive calorie restriction. Strength training, stress regulation, balanced nutrition, and proper sleep together form the foundation for managing abdominal fat changes after 35,” concludes Dr Reddy.



body to repair muscles, restore energy stores, and perform better the following day. “That said, the benefits are usually modest, and cherry juice should not replace healthy sleep habits like maintaining a regular bedtime and limiting screen time before sleep,” reiterated Sheikh.

Is tart cherry juice useful only for athletes, or can others benefit too?

Most healthy individuals can enjoy tart cherry juice as part of a balanced diet, but athletes or those who exercise regularly will likely see the most benefits and need faster recovery. “For someone with a sedentary lifestyle, just adding cherry juice is unlikely to result in noticeable health improvements if their overall diet and lifestyle are poor,” said Sheikh.

What to note?

Sheikh noted that many commercially available cherry juices have added sugar, which can lead to excess calorie intake and blood sugar spikes if consumed regularly. “People with diabetes or those trying to lose weight should read labels carefully and choose products with no added sugar whenever possible. Portion size also matters since even natural fruit juices should be consumed in moderation,” said Sheikh.If you have an early morning workout, focus on supporting recovery the night before rather than relying on just one food or drink. A light evening meal containing protein, complex carbohydrates, and healthy fats, along with enough hydration, is often more beneficial.“If needed, a small bedtime snack like unsweetened yogurt, a handful of nuts, or a moderate amount of tart cherry juice can fit into a balanced routine. Consistency in sleep, nutrition, and training will have a much greater effect on performance than any one superfood,” said Sheikh.

When fat reaches the pancreas: Here’s what happens next

Many people have heard of fatty liver disease, but not many know that fat can also accumulate in the pancreas. This condition, commonly referred to as fatty pancreas, is one where excess fat builds up within the pancreatic tissue — and Fatty Pancreas Disorder (FPD) has now been officially recognised as a distinct disease, marking a landmark shift in the understanding of pancreatic health.Dr Saiprasad Lad, consultant gastroenterologist, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, said that the pancreas is important for digestion and blood sugar control. “Fat buildup in the pancreas may harm the cells that produce insulin, making it harder to control blood sugar and increasing the chance of developing diabetes for those at risk. This creates a cycle where obesity, diabetes, and fatty pancreas can support and worsen each other,” said Dr Lad.Why has it been recognised as a disease?

Excess fat in the pancreas was often viewed as an incidental finding rather than a medical condition requiring attention. However, according to a review published in Nature Reviews Gastroenterology and Hepatology, excessive fat accumulation in the pancreas can damage the organ and increase the risk of serious illnesses.The newly released Melbourne Consensus report published in the journal notes that while a small amount of fat naturally accumulates with age, excessive fat can develop due to obesity, genetics, environmental influences and lifestyle factors. Notably, even lean individuals may develop the condition.Experts urge that untreated fatty pancreas disorder can significantly increase the risk of type 2 diabetes, pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. “If fat is not cleared out of the pancreas continuously, it

can lead to pancreatitis, diabetes, pancreatic dysfunction and pancreatic cancer,” said Dr Ameet Mandot, director — Hepatology, Gleneagles Hospital Parel.While not everyone with a fatty pancreas will face serious complications, it serves as an early warning sign to improve lifestyle habits and have regular health check-ups, added Dr Lad.“This is because the pancreas works together with the liver in processing the fats from the body, so if the liver is overloaded with the work of removing the toxins, then the fat that was previously processed by the liver will get stored in the pancreas. As a consequence, fat can deposit in the pancreas too, and that is the cause of fatty pancreas disorder,” described Dr Mandot.Dr Mandot said that fatty pancreas “does not have characteristic signs and symptoms” and people get to know about it only when they have medical imaging such as ultrasound, CT scanning, or MRI done for some other purpose.“Some people without any specific warning signs, however, do experience discomfort on a continuous basis on the upper part of the stomach and feel full for a long time while eating, bloated after meals or have indigestion or unexplained changes in the digestive system. Even a small change in digestion and bowel habits can be an issue for people who are overweight, but it doesn’t mean that this is necessarily due to fatty pancreas,” said Dr Mandot.Many people think that if they feel no pain, there is nothing to worry about. “Fatty pancreas is often silent, but that silence does not mean it is safe. It should be seen as a chance to identify and tackle lifestyle and metabolic risks before they result in more serious health issues. If not addressed, it may worsen diabetes and has been linked in some studies to a higher risk of pancreatic cancer.

How a cryptic Virat Kohli remark sparked PV Sindhu’s revival on the court



PV Sindhu once cautiously asked Virat Kohli how he dealt with the interminable wait for an elusive century. The cricket star told her he needed to rediscover the joy of scoring runs. Venkata Datta Sai, Sindhu’s husband, listening in, had noted the import of those words. During a consultation with Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala a few months later, after snapping a toe ligament, Sindhu was put on a three-month complete rest. But India’s top shuttle kept asking the doctor how soon she could return to the court. The wise surgeon took Datta aside and told him, “Look, there’s no comeback for three weeks. She needs a break or she will burn out.”

Datta summoned Kohli’s words, and booked the next flight to Atlanta, where his sister Amu lived, to whisk his wife away from the constant refrains of why she wasn’t winning, and why she was even playing. “We had to rebuild her joy,” Datta recalls, “and Virat’s words kept ringing in my head. At Atlanta’s Exos Sports Performance facility, she trained with three excellent trainers Wayne, Tim and Rayan. My sister would drive her to the facility everyday for three weeks for rehab and strengthening. We rekindled the love surrounded by family where she wasn’t a star, just a regular person.”

Datta insists the bedrock of Sindhu’s resurgence is ‘stability’, a word he uses often. It’s why 13 members of her support staff, each a specialist, had tears in their eyes when she won the Japan Open and flashed a wide smile on the podium. For Datta, who Sindhu credited for rebuilding her team, every improvement is measured in numbers. A big believer in data analytics, the World No.7’s support team is steeped in sports science. South African Wayne Lombard was brought in before the Paris Olympics, to devise a programme that helps prepare her for the challenges of being a 30+ athlete. Coach Irwansyah was a critical addition, but Team Sindhu was clear she would need the backing of cutting edge science if she had to make good her 3.0 return. “After the Paris Olympics, we pulled out data that revealed two things. The attacking mindset was down. And she was needing the second, third or fourth attack in a rally to get points against top players. So the chances of errors increased. And while she used to make two line judgments earlier, now she was taking six. It was too many. She was ‘hoping’ to get easy points,” Datta recalls. Both pointed to low confidence in her fitness. Speed and strength needed shoring up.

The tech buff hubby deployed seven devices last April-May, tweaking Sindhu’s training and “hyper-controlling her load.” Heart rate, sleep, sleep quality, stress levels in rally – everything was monitored every single hour. Heera Mundluru came in as the physio, Shreyasi Sanjay was on strength and conditioning duty, while nutritionist Nicol Haria monitored every morsel. It was 230 gm chicken (protein punishment) and an ice-cream (“which Sindhu loves”) as a treat after winning the Japan Open. Reducing 3.5 kgs in her 30s had been an almighty pain, without reducing muscle mass. Even reducing 1 kg is tough. So we told Sindhu to not gain weight,” Datta says. On the Tour, even when she lost to Unnati Hooda at the China Open, the game reconstruction was underway. Sindhu, her husband claims, has VO2 Max numbers that belong to the top 1 percentile of female athletes in the world. Sindhu sits in red-light chambers for infrared therapy that top footballers use for recovery. “Recently, we had her on an inversion table just to get the blood flow (draining lactic acid). She sleeps on a temperature-controlled bed.” But it’s miles away from the traditional concepts of hard work – 5K, 10K runs. “I’d heard somewhere that a marathon runner doesn’t run marathons daily,” he says.

Datta insists that stability was behind zeroing in on Irwansyah as coach, and if it needed seven coaches to change, it was worth it. With some like Park Tae-Sang, Sindhu had stagnated into a defensive rut. She had stopped training at the academy where Hafiz Hashim trained. Another Korean coach could train only on wages of \$12,000 + expenses a month. So the churn continued, till Irwansyah fetched up. “Our fear was he was a men’s singles coach. It’s a different ball game, but he’s been excellent,” he says. Sindhu’s net game has become a serious weapon. Irwansyah has brought in the very Indonesian pushes and flat exchanges, improving Sindhu’s reflexes with box-game drills so opponents don’t trap her on defence. Datta acknowledges a fact. “Players like An Se-young grew up on defensive games. So though we want to add to Sindhu’s deceptive strokes, she’s 31, we can’t ask her to change her footwork and micro-movements she has been used to for 22 years.” PV Sindhu Wedding Marriage India’s PV Sindhu returns to compatriot Unnati Hooda during the women’s singles semi-final match at the Syed Modi India International 2024 badminton tournament, in Lucknow, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024. Sindhu won the match. (PTI Photo) Irwan has worked on deceptions to score from those feisty net drops though. Teaching Sindhu to create openings needed a show-and-teach approach. “It needs patience. We pulled videos to show her how she was getting restless to kill a shuttle.” Snatching at shots and overhitting were increasing the unforced errors count, such as the 19-19 pressure mistakes at the Olympics against He Bingjiao. “Last November, she finally agreed that we were right,” he recalls. Once convinced, Irwansyah could drill in the patience. The third and fourth attacks began to flow. The team would kill sessions if recovery or eight-hour sleep wasn’t completed. “The rule was to not let micro-pile up happen.”

Paredes’ red card for ugly brawl with Spain players ‘deleted’ by FIFA: Report

GNS News Agency, July 24

While FIFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against Argentina for their players’ various altercations against their Spanish counterparts, Leandro Paredes, who was seen in a scuffle with Spain’s Eric Garcia and Gavi, was given a red card which has since been ‘deleted’ by the sport’s governing body, according to the BBC. “It was incorrectly reported on Fifa’s commentator information system that Paredes had been sent off by referee Slavko Vincic for pushing Spain’s Eric Garcia by the throat. Paredes’ red card was deleted shortly afterwards and Fifa has confirmed to BBC Sport that no disciplinary action was taken at the time,” the report stated. However, the FIFA probe is still on over the ugly incidents that ensued after the final whistle where Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 to win the World Cup.

It is unclear what the provocation was but in videos floating on social media, Garcia can be seen falling on the ground in the seconds after the referee blew the final whistle. He then gets up and has heated words with Paredes who then proceeds to push Garcia away with a hand on the latter’s neck. Additionally, Argentina defender Nahuel Molina also reportedly attempted to knock over Rodri who was running across the field to celebrate the win. Argentina coach Roberto Ayala was also seen trying to punch Dani Olmo in the face. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni and other players rushed in to deescalate the situation. On Monday, FIFA opened an investigation after Spain’s celebrations on beating Argentina in the World Cup final took an ugly turn when players



briefly clashed on the field. FIFA said in a statement its “disciplinary committee has appointed a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor to investigate potential breaches of the (FIFA disciplinary code) with regard to the post-match incidents.” The brief statement gave no timetable for an investigation and did not name Paredes, who was not shown a red card after the game yet could face a suspension. Spain needed extra time to win Sunday’s final 1-0 after Argentina was reduced to 10 men. Enzo Fernandez was sent off with a second yellow card in stoppage time at the end of 90 minutes. The Argentina players stood facing their fans, with their backs to the podium, when Spain’s squad lifted the trophy. It was an unusual show of disrespect to the new champions, who had given their opponents a guard of honor to collect their medals.

India announce 20-member squad for Hockey World Cup



GNS News Agency, July 24

India on Tuesday announced a 20-member squad for the Men’s Hockey World Cup, set to begin on August 15 and go on till August 30. Harmanpreet Singh, ace drag-flicker and defender, who led India to Olympic bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Games, will lead the side. Defender Amandeep Lakra, midfielders Raj Kumar Pal and Abichandra Singh Moirangthem, and forward Selvam Karthi were the four players omitted from the 24-member Pro League squad due to the tournament’s squad-size limit. Veteran midfielder Manpreet Singh, India’s most-capped player, adds experience to a squad blending established stars with promising youngsters. The goalkeeping department comprises Mohith HS and Suraj Karkera, while the defensive unit features Jarmanpreet Singh, captain Harmanpreet, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit and Yashdeep Siwach. The midfield will be led by Manpreet, Hardik Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad, alongside Nilakanta Sharma and youngsters Rajinder Singh and Aditya Arjun Lalage. The forward line consists of Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet

Singh, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Shilanand Lakra. India are in Pool D alongside England, Pakistan and Wales, with all their group-stage matches scheduled to be played in Amstelveen, the Netherlands. They will open their campaign against Wales on August 15 before facing England on August 17 and arch-rivals Pakistan on August 19. India finished ninth in the previous edition in 2023 and have not won any medal since claiming their lone title in Kuala Lumpur in 1975. They had earlier secured bronze in Barcelona in 1971 and silver in Amsterdam in 1973. Last month at the FIH Pro League, India won four, drew five and lost seven matches to finish eighth among nine teams, just above Pakistan.

As Ferran Torres scored the winning goal for Spain in the FIFA World Cup final in the 106th minute, it brought back memories for Vijay Patil, watching from the stands at New Jersey’s MetLife Stadium. Torres’ footballing journey had gone through India and Navi Mumbai, when he was part of the Spanish squad for the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup held in India. One of his teammates in the current senior squad, Eric Garcia, also played at Navi Mumbai’s DY Patil Stadium. Vijay Patil owner of DY Patil Stadium during FIFA World Cup final. Torres played at DY Patil Stadium in 2017

“Torres and Garcia came with the under-17 team and

Commonwealth Games 2026: Who are India’s top medal contenders at Glasgow



With the Commonwealth Games only a few days away, 126 Indian athletes will vie for medals at Glasgow later this week. With big names like Neeraj Chopra, Lovlina Borgohain, Murali Sreeshankar and Mirabai Chanu in the mix, India will be hoping that they can rake in medals in the watered down CWG which does not include wrestling, badminton, hockey and table tennis. With India finishing 4th in 2022 in the Birmingham Games with 61 medals, this time due to the exclusion of the aforementioned disciplines, their hopes this time mostly depend on athletics, boxing and weightlifting. The Indian Express tries to predict who are India’s top medal-winning prospects this time around. The first name on the list when it comes to medals will surely be India’s javelin star Neeraj Chopra who had skipped the 2022 Games due to a groin injury he had sustained during the World Athletics Championships. Since then, Chopra has won the silver medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics. In the same year, he also bagged silver in the Doha Diamond League as well as a gold in the 2024 Paavo Nurmi Games.

In May 2025, he breached the elusive 90m-mark when he threw a new personal best of 90.23 m at the Doha Diamond League. After that, Chopra finished eighth at the Tokyo World Championships which ended his streak of podium finishes. He was then out with an injury for 9 months and only returned to competition in the 2026 Doha Diamond League where he finished 4th. Chopra had said that his body was still not back to his best after that event in June. With tough competition from Sri Lanka’s Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, Grenada’s Anderson Peters, Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem and India’s own Rohit Yadav, Neeraj will have to dig deep in order to win his second Commonwealth medal. But if anyone can do it, it’s him. Mirabai will be look-

ing for her second Commonwealth Games medal as well, having bagged a gold at the 2022 Birmingham Games. Chanu, who turns 32 on August 8, has been India’s leading weightlifter for close to a decade and has also won the silver medal in the women’s 49kg category at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Although she was unable to replicate that success at the 2024 Paris Olympics, she remains one of India’s strongest medal hopes in Glasgow. She is also a multiple medalist at the World Championships. Ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, she looks in great form, having lifted 89kg in the women’s 48kg category at the 2026 Weightlifting Nationals and equalling her personal best with a total lift of 205kg. Chanu created three national records in the 48kg category: 89kg in snatch, 116kg in clean and jerk, and 205kg overall. She matched her 49kg category best mark, which came at the 2021 Asian Championships. Boxer Lovlina claimed the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics before winning gold at the 2023 World Championships. She also secured a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou and is expected to be among India’s leading medal contenders in Glasgow. However, her Paris campaign ended in disappointment after losing the quarterfinal bout to China’s Li Qian. However, since moving up to the 75kg weight class, Lovlina has seen a drop in performance barring her world championship title at home and Asian Games silver in 2023. However, Lovlina will be hoping to add the only major medal missing from her cabinet which is a CWG one as she gets set to compete in her Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. 27-year-old Sreeshankar will be looking for another podium finish after winning silver in the 2022 Birmingham Games with a 8.08m leap. Last month, at the 65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship, Sreeshankar won with 8.38m — the second-best jump of his career, behind only his national record of 8.41m. Sreeshankar had suffered a career-threatening knee injury in 2024 that ruled him out of the Paris Olympics. “After the injury, I never thought I would jump this far. When I first broke my knee and had the MRI report in my hand, it looked over for me,” he said. The knee is still not fully right. “One knee is big and one is small. There are three anchor screws in my knee, so I need to ice it regularly and take a deep tissue massage. But I have got used to the new training regime now.” Now, he is one of India’s brightest prospects for a podium finish at CWG.

‘He’s shut everybody up’: Shastri hails Rohit Sharma’s Lord’s century



Rohit Sharma’s spot in India’s ODI squad had come under the scanner ahead of last weekend’s series decider against England at Lord’s. It was understood that the national selectors had had a word with Rohit, indicating that they were set to move on from him post the England tour. However, the Mumbaier came up with his own emphatic response, smashing an 84-ball century during a 388-run chase in London.

The 39-year-old Rohit finished with a solid knock of 138 off 110, striking 17 fours and 4 sixes and proving his detractors wrong in the process. Rohit’s century was the

first by an Indian batter at Lord’s, but it wasn’t enough to push India to the finishing line as they fell short of 27 runs while chasing a mammoth total and lost the series 2-1. Former India coach Ravi Shastri, who watched the game from the commentary box, hailed Rohit’s knock, his 34th ODI century. “Rohit didn’t need to prove himself, but he has shut everybody up,” Shastri said while speaking on Sky Cricket. “When you get those kinds of rumors floating around, it is sometimes irritating. When a player has done that much, he doesn’t have to prove anyone anything,” he added. Shastri talked around that a player of Rohit’s stature should never be questioned for his position in the team. Shastri said Rohit should have never been put in a position to prove his credentials. “But if he has the desire to play and work hard at his game and is still enjoying it, I think he should be given the opportunity for as long as he wants. The day will come when he will feel he doesn’t have it in him; he’ll go,” Shastri said making the case of leaving the decision entirely on Rohit only. Rohit also responded to speculation about his place in the side, saying people can express their opinions freely, but his job is to keep scoring runs for India and help his country in winning. “Look, my job is with the bat. Come and play, represent my country, represent the team. That’s what I’ve been told since I made my debut, so that’s what I am going to do,” Rohit said in a BCCI.tv video.

Chess legend Judit Polgar turns down offer to become Hungary President

Chess legend Judit Polgar has declined an offer to become the next Hungarian President, a day after the country’s Prime Minister, Peter Magyar, said that he would meet her to ask if she was willing to accept the position. Magyar said that he wanted Polgar to stay in the role until the adoption of the new Hungarian Constitution. After a meeting on Monday, Polgar took to social media to announce that she had declined Magyar’s offer, a nomination that was said to have been put forth by “respected figures in Hungarian public life”. “I do not feel I have the strength to take on the historic responsibility of uniting a divided nation, and so I am unable to accept the invitation,” Polgar wrote on social media. “I will do everything in my power to support a new, independent, and respected President of the Republic in achieving these goals,” she further added to her post. Should Polgar, 50, have accepted the offer, she would have enjoyed the unanimous backing of Magyar’s Tisza party, which commands a two-thirds majority in parliament, but also she would have broken another ceiling by becoming probably the only female chess player to hold the top office in her country. “I am sorry, but I respectfully accept her decision. Thank you to her for taking the request seriously! Thank you for her openness, her straightforward speech, and the dignity with which she handled this situation,” Magyar said on social media in response to Polgar’s announcement. Polgar is unarguably the greatest female player in chess history. She remains the only woman to



have reached the chess world’s overall top 10. She is known for breaking Bobby Fischer’s record as the youngest grandmaster in chess history. Polgar had also defeated other chess legends like 11 world champions, including Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand, over the board. Polgar is also a five-time Chess Olympiad champion, and a recipient of the Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen.

In an interview with The Indian Express in March this year, Polgar had said that the ‘next Judit Polgar’ is likely to come from India. Her sisters Susan and Sofia were also elite chess players who were shaped by a radical experiment by their father Laszlo, who believed that geniuses can be moulded rather than them being born.

Ferran Torres’s path to FIFA World Cup-winning goal goes through Navi Mumbai

played at my ground. To see him scoring a goal in the World Cup final was an amazing experience and a memory to cherish. I had seen him in Navi Mumbai as a young boy and like most of their players, he too was looked at as one to watch out for,” Patil told The Indian Express from the USA. The DY Patil Stadium, which was a cricket venue, was converted into a football arena for the U-17 World Cup. “It’s very special to see somebody who came to India in his formative years and then see him scoring the World Cup-winning goal. Spain had beaten Mali in the 2017 tournament but I remember dragging a few of my friends to see this young crop of players. I told them ‘who knows, some of them may become great footballers in the future’.”



‘I will protect till my death’: Raghav Juyal on shielding Shehnaaz Gill from paparazzi



Raghav Juyal recently found himself at the centre of social media attention after a video from his birthday celebration went viral. The clip showed the actor shielding his close friend Shehnaaz Gill as she was mobbed by fans and paparazzi while leaving the venue. The moment quickly reignited long-standing speculation about the two dating, rumours that have persisted since they shared the screen in Salman Khan's Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan.

‘I will protect till my death’ Now, in a chat with Pinkvilla, Raghav opened up about the viral moment and explained

why stepping in to protect Shehnaaz came naturally to him. He said, “My parents raised me to be a man. If you had been there with me, or any woman, and a group of men had pounced on her, I was brought up to throw a solid punch if needed. That’s how I’ve been raised. I can’t be that detached, urban guy who just stands by. I couldn’t do it. I will protect till my death, my friends, my family, and any woman I’m with. Whether it’s you or any other woman, that’s simply my nature.” He further reflected on the idea of masculinity and said, “If there’s such a thing as sacred feminine energy, there’s also sacred masculinity. Both need to exist in balance. My dance, my art, and my fluidity reflect the sacred feminine. But when the situation demands it, the values my parents instilled in me, to protect, to stand by my sister, my friends, and to respect women, come to the fore.” Raghav Juyal added that he never thinks about his public image in such situations, saying, “I can’t just watch if a woman is being harassed, no matter who she is. If something like that happens, I know how to handle it, and I have no inhibitions about stepping in. In those moments, I don’t think about my star image or any public image.” Shehnaaz says Raghav is her good friend. Meanwhile, Shehnaaz Gill also addressed the dating rumours in a recent conversation with Pinkvilla. While refusing to comment on her personal life, she described Raghav Juyal as a close friend and urged fans to support his upcoming film Bhai Tera Star Hai. When asked about the rumours, Shehnaaz said, “No personal questions, please,” making it clear that she did not wish to discuss her relationship status. Instead, she encouraged fans to support Raghav’s new release. Calling him a close friend, she said, “Mere dost ki film aa rahi hai, Bhai Tera Star Hai, aap please usko support karo (My friend’s film is coming, please support him).” She further added, “Woh mera boht acha dost hai, uski film chalni boht zaroori hai (He is my very good friend. It is important for his film to work).”

Hanumankind joins CJP protest, slams police action: ‘No justification for this’

Rapper Hanumankind, whose tracks “Dhurandhar”, “Big Dawgs” and “Run It Up” have earned him global recognition, joined students and activists at the Chalo Sansad protest in New Delhi on Monday. Videos circulating on social media showed the rapper marching alongside protesters in an Indian cricket jersey, while his Instagram posts later criticised the police action against demonstrators.

Hanumankind shares videos from the protest. Taking to Instagram Stories, Hanumankind shared a video from the protest moments before police intervened. The clip showed demonstrators carrying Indian flags and raising slogans. “Right before the cops starting firing tear gas and beating people with sticks,” he wrote alongside the video. He later reposted another video showing protesters amid tear gas and a lathi-charge, expressing his disapproval of the police response. “There’s no justification for this kind of force being used against the people that showed up today. Believing we deserve better is not a crime,” the rapper wrote. He also reshared a note that read, “I witnessed two very different demonstrations. One created by the people. One created by the response.”

Several videos from the protest have surfaced online, including one posted by a participant showing Hanumankind marching with the crowd while wearing a face mask. The rapper briefly appeared in the selfie video before continuing with the march. The video carried the text, “Hanuman kind also joined today’s Jantar Mantar protest.” Hanumankind acknowledged the post by commenting with a salute emoji. “@diljitsdosanjh kuch sikho bhai, yeh hota hai real artist globally famous and big stepper jaise hit song dene ke baad bhi protest join kiya. Artist ager social issues par nahi bolega to kon bolega? (Diljit Dosanjh, learn something, brother. This is what a real global artist is like. Even after delivering a globally famous hit like Big Dawgs, he joined the protest. If an artist doesn’t speak up on social issues, then who will?) #hanumankind #jantarmantarprotest #delhi #hiphop #diljitsdosanjh,” the caption read.

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh also extended support to the protesting students after videos of the police action surfaced online. Sharing a note on social media, he urged the



authorities to hear the students’ demands. “What happened today was really sad... Students shouldn’t have been treated this way. I request the authorities to listen to the demands of the students. The voice of the masses is the voice of God,” he wrote. Acknowledging that he could once again face criticism for speaking out, Diljit added, “I have been tagged as an anti-nationalist on many occasions. Even now, I will be called an anti-nationalist. After the farmers’ protest, I faced a lot of backlash and legal problems which I can’t even discuss. Rest, God is watching everything. May God bless.” Comedian Vir Das, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, actors Riteish and Genelia Deshmukh, Huma Qureshi, Shabana Azmi and Prakash Raj also voiced their support for the students. While Vir Das questioned the silence of artists on issues affecting young people, Huma Qureshi said the protests could have been handled with “more patience, more listening, and more dialogue.” Shabana Azmi, who was present at Jantar Mantar, said she witnessed the police action firsthand and alleged that the students had intended to hold a peaceful demonstration.

Why Aryan Khan never smiles in public? Raghav Juyal says Shah Rukh’s son ‘doesn’t want to fake it’

Raghav Juyal shot to widespread fame last year with the Netflix series The Ba***ds of Bollywood, created and directed by Aryan Khan. Having developed a close bond with Shah Rukh Khan’s son over the years, the actor was recently asked a question that has long intrigued the internet, why doesn’t Aryan Khan smile during his public appearances? Aryan Khan doesn’t want to fake it.

Responding to the question in a chat with Pinkvilla, Raghav said, “He doesn’t want to fake it, and I don’t think he wants to put on an act. That’s just who he is, and I think he should be allowed to be that way. He’s incredibly creative, free-flowing, and kind. That’s his nature.” He went on to reveal that Aryan is very different in private, adding, “If he doesn’t want to smile, that’s his choice. At home, he laughs, jokes around, and has fun.” During the same conversation, Raghav was also asked about actor Shehnaaz Gill publicly cheering for his upcoming



film and the speculation surrounding their relationship. Dismissing the rumours, he described their bond as one built on mutual trust and affection. “We’re family. She’s like family to me. She’s someone who leads with her heart. Ever since I met her during the making of Bhaijaan, we’ve always been there for each other. If anything ever happens, I know she’ll be there for me,

and I’ll be there for her. We’re like family. We share a wonderful friendship, and that’s something I want to preserve.” Raghav also addressed the viral video from earlier this month in which he was seen shielding Shehnaaz from a crowd as she was being mobbed by fans. Explaining his instinctive reaction, he said, “My parents raised me to be a man. If you had been there

with me, or any woman, and a group of men had pounced on her, I was brought up to throw a solid punch if needed. That’s how I’ve been raised. I can’t be that detached, urban guy who just stands by. I couldn’t do it. I will protect till my death, my friends, my family, and any woman I’m with. Whether it’s you or any other woman, that’s simply my nature.”

Pharma Giants’ CSR boost for Telangana’s School Breakfast Programme

Divi’s Laboratories Limited & Aurobindo Pharma Limited Partner with Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation to Set Up Centralised Community Kitchens at Choutuppal and Sangareddy, and Upgrade the Kitchen at Kodangal.



Hyderabad, Friday, July 24, 2026.

In a remarkable stride towards enhancing education and child nutrition, the *Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF)* has partnered with two esteemed organisations—**Divi’s Laboratories Ltd & Aurobindo Pharma Ltd**—to establish state-of-the-art centralised community kitchens at Choutuppal and Sangareddy, along with a kitchen upgradation at Kodangal. This marks a significant milestone in the Telangana Government’s ongoing mission to combat classroom hunger and promote quality education by providing hygienic, nutritious breakfasts daily to all the government school children of Telangana state.

Divi’s Laboratories Limited’s Support for Establishing a Centralised Community Kitchen at Choutuppal

Divi’s Laboratories Limited extended its support to HKM Charitable Foundation by sponsoring the establishment of a state-of-the-art greenfield centralised kitchen at Choutuppal, with a generous contribution of **₹ 12.18 Crores. This kitchen will enable feeding nutritious breakfasts to 60,000 children across 1,234 schools & junior colleges spanning 31 Mandals of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri & Nalgonda districts**, bringing quality nutrition to the doorstep of communities where Divi’s has operated for over decades.

Aurobindo Pharma Limited’s Support for Establishing a Centralised Community Kitchen at Sangareddy and Upgrading the Kitchen at Kodangal

With a generous contribution of **₹ 10 Crores, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd** is sponsoring a new state-of-the-art brownfield centralised kitchen at Sangareddy along with centralised kitchen upgradation at Kodangal, which will enable **feeding breakfast to 85,000 children across 1,264 schools & junior colleges spanning across 43 Mandals of Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Narayanpet & Mahabubnagar districts**, extending the reach of quality nutrition and contributing to improved learning outcomes in the region.

These contributions demonstrate a deep-rooted belief in the power of nutrition to transform education & learning outcomes and reflect confidence in **Hon’ble Chief Minister’s vision that no child in Telangana shall be deprived of education because of hunger.**

During a special ceremony today, Sri Madhu Babu, Vice-President of **Divi’s Laboratories Limited, Sri P. Sarath Chandra Reddy, Director, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd; Director, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, Sri S. Sadananda Reddy, Director, CSR, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation** and Sri K. Nityananda Reddy, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director of **Aurobindo Pharma Limited** and Director of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, handed over Cheques to the President of HKM Charitable Foundation, **Sriman Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji**, in the gracious presence of **Hon’ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri Anumula Revanth Reddy garu.**

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri Anumula Revanth Reddy Garu appreciated **Divi’s Labs and Aurobindo Pharma** for their generous contributions and encouraged the functionaries of Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation in successful ongoing implementation of the Telangana School Breakfast Programme.

Sriman Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa (M.Tech IIT-Madras), President, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, said:

“We also express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Hon’ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy ji for his historic and compassionate vision of ensuring that hunger never comes between a child and their education. His personal commitment to this cause has been extraordinary — from taking a hands-on interest in designing the menu himself to championing the launch of the project, his leadership has been the driving force behind this initiative at every step. The overwhelming and positive response the pilot received across schools stands as a testament to his foresight and deep understanding of what our children truly need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Under his visionary leadership, Telangana is setting a benchmark for the entire nation — demonstrating that good governance is not just about policy, but about genuine compassion translated into action. It is this rare combination of statesmanship and heartfelt care for the state’s children that makes this programme a model wor-

thy of emulation across the country.

We are deeply grateful to Divi’s Laboratories Limited and Aurobindo Pharma Limited for their generous and visionary support. Their contributions play a pivotal role in enabling HKM Charitable Foundation & Government of Telangana to deliver hygienic, nutritious breakfasts to thousands of school children every single morning — children who are the true pioneers of Telangana’s future.”

Madhu Babu, Vice-President of *Divi’s Laboratories Limited* said:

“We are delighted to partner with the HKM Charitable Foundation and the Government of Telangana in this vital mission of nourishing our future generations. Divi’s Laboratories has always believed that lasting progress begins with the wellbeing of our children, and this centralised kitchen at Choutuppal reflects our deep



commitment to the communities”

K. Nityananda Reddy, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director of *Aurobindo Pharma Limited* said:

“We are extremely happy to work with the Government of Telangana and HKM Charitable Foundation in this noble cause of serving breakfast to underprivileged Government school children. With these 2 kitchens, we have collectively donated 6 centralised kitchens to HKM Charitable Foundation from where hundreds of thousands of needy people are being served with wholesome, nutritious meals.”

A Shared Vision for Impact

These meaningful collaborations exemplify how public-private partnerships can collectively drive transformative change. By investing in child nutrition and education, Divi’s Laboratories Limited and Aurobindo Pharma Limited are playing vital roles in advancing the Telangana Government’s commitment to nurturing the state’s future — while directly contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Quality Education (SDG 4) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10).

About The HKM Charitable Foundation:

An independent charitable trust, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) is a registered public trust serving the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra through large-scale philanthropic initiatives. Over the past 12 years, the Foundation has served more than 25 crore meals, benefiting lakhs of individuals through free and subsidised food programmes implemented in partnership with government agencies and donors. These services are delivered through a network of modern, centralised community kitchens. In Telangana, HKMCF tied up with the Government of Telangana as implementing Partner of Indiramma Canteens, Telangana Breakfast Scheme, Bhojanamrita and Soddimoota programmes.

About Divi’s Laboratories Limited

Divi’s Laboratories (headquartered in Hyderabad) is one of the top three Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturers globally. Known for its strong presence in custom synthesis, nutraceutical ingredients, and generic APIs, the company operates massive cGMP-compliant facilities that serve over 100 countries.

About Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is the philanthropic and CSR arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, working towards the social and economic upliftment of the nation through impactful CSR initiatives. Along with implementing projects through its expert teams across multiple locations, it also collaborates with community groups to support public welfare programmes.

Key areas of contribution include Education, Healthcare & Sanitation, Nutrition, Rural Development, Sustainable Agriculture, Skill Development Programs, Women Empowerment Programmes, Environmental Sustainability, Public Safety, Disaster Relief, Rural Sports, and Art, Culture & Heritage.

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HKM Charitable Foundation.

