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Youth found murdered in Warangal's Urs Gutta

Warangal: A youth was found murdered at the Urs Gutta area in Warangal (East) constituency in the district on Saturday. The locals reportedly found the deceased Mada Anil (23) in a pool of blood with his throat slit at BR Nagar in the area on Saturday afternoon. Upon receiving information, the local police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to MGM Hospital for postmortem. It was alleged that Anil had enmity with one Mahesh and it is suspected that he might have committed the murder. Based on the complaint of the deceased youth's family members, the police registered a case and launched a probe into the incident.

Telangana Cabinet panel pushes land monetisation, pooling to boost revenue

Hyderabad: The State government's Resource Mobilisation Cabinet Sub-Committee has decided to accelerate land monetisation and land pooling initiatives across Telangana to strengthen revenue generation.

The committee held detailed discussions on a comprehensive plan prepared by officials to optimise the use of government land assets within the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) limits. Officials were directed to identify additional land pooling opportunities by adopting transparent models on the lines of the Uppal Bhagayat project. District Collectors of Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajgiri and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri were asked to identify government land parcels and examine the feasibility of land pooling in their districts. City & Local Guides

Dharmendra Pradhan Resigns Over NEET Paper Leak

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has resigned from the Union Cabinet amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the NEET-UG 2026 examination.

In a detailed statement addressed to the nation's youth, Pradhan said he had submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing concerns over the situation that arose following alleged irregularities in the May 3 NEET-UG exam.

He noted that the government acted swiftly by handing over the probe to the CBI, cancelling the examination, and conducting it again on June 21 with a "whole-of-government approach" involving Centre, states, and district administrations. Over 20 lakh students appeared

for the examination, he said, adding that the results declared on July 16 reflected the success of the process.

However, Pradhan expressed concern over recent protests and developments, stating that certain elements attempted to mislead students, leading to unrest. Emphasising that the issue should not become a cause for legal complications or be exploited by "anti-national forces," he said his resignation was intended to ensure that students can focus on their education and future.

Reiterating his commitment to public service, Pradhan thanked the Prime Minister, his Cabinet colleagues, and officials for their support, and said he would continue to work for the welfare of the youth and the nation.

Revanth Proposes Gen Z Push: Lower MLA, MP Election Age to 21

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday announced that Telangana would launch a national movement to enable Gen Z youth to contest Lok Sabha and Assembly elections at the age of 21, instead of the present minimum age of 25.

He said the government would convene special sessions of the legislature in the first week of August and pass a resolution urging the Centre to reduce the minimum age for contesting Assembly and Lok Sabha elections from 25 to 21 years.

Another resolution will also be passed seeking reduction in the age limit from 30 years to 25 years to become MLC and Rajya Sabha member, the Chief Minister while seeking at a candlelight rally in support of students protesting in Delhi over the NEET paper leak issue.

The resolution would be sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the introduction of a Bill in Parliament. Revanth Reddy said he would meet leaders of all political parties and seek their support for the passage of the proposed legislation.

He said said the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan had turned the rally at Necklace Road into a "victory rally". The Chief Minister, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, ministers and senior Congress leaders, participated in the rally from People's Plaza to the Indira Gandhi statue, which witnessed a large turnout of youths.

Revanth Reddy said the "Gen Z tsunami" triggered by the NEET paper leak issue, which he said had resulted in the defeat of Prime Minister Modi and the resignation of Pradhan, should now enter the country's legislative bodies. Youth should become MLAs, MPs, ministers, Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers, make laws and run the country efficiently, he said.

Describing Pradhan's resignation as the defeat of the political image of "chhappan inch ki chhaati" (56-inch chest), a phrase associated with PM Modi's claims of strong leadership, Revanth Reddy said the victory belonged to the protesting youth and should not be claimed by any political party.

Making a case for reducing the eligibility age, Revanth Reddy pointed out that people could contest elections at 18 in the UK and Germany and at 21 in Singapore, where they could also become Prime Minister at that age. He questioned why a 21-year-old in India could become an IAS, IPS or IFS officer and contest local body elections but could not become an MLA or MP.

He recalled that the Rajiv Gandhi government had reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 through the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988, while the P.V. Narasimha Rao government had brought the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, enabling 21-year-olds to contest local body elections.

Citing examples, he said a 21-year-old woman had become mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, while a Telugu woman, Sri Lakshmi, became an IAS officer at the same age and D. Ananya from Mahbubnagar district at 22. He also referred to Telangana DGP C.V. Anand, who, he



said, entered the IPS at 22.

Revanth Reddy noted that the eligibility age for Assembly elections was 25 and for the Rajya Sabha 30, despite Gen Z accounting for around 30 per cent of the population and having less than one per cent representation in Parliament. He said Telangana would take the lead in seeking the reduction of the age limit and efforts would be made under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge to secure the Bill's passage in Parliament. He also said he would discuss with Rahul Gandhi and the I.N.D.I.A. bloc greater opportunities for Gen Z in key positions such as Union education and IT ministers.

Revanth Reddy demanded immediate withdrawal of cases filed against protesting students and compensation for families of students who died by suicide following the NEET paper leak. He said Rahul Gandhi, Kharge and Congress MPs would raise the issue in Parliament.

Alleging that agencies such as the ED and CBI were being used to pressure political parties, he praised the youth for confronting the Centre and said the movement should continue until justice, accountability and greater political representation were ensured.

"This country belongs to Gen Z. The future of the country is the future of the younger generation," he said, calling upon the youth to move from Jantar Mantar to Parliament and make their voices heard globally.



CJP calls off 36-day protest after Pradhan resigns, govt accepts its other demands

New Delhi, July 25

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Saturday called off its 36-day protest at Jantar Mantar over the NEET paper leak controversy, hours after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned as Education Minister and the government accepted its other demands.

At a joint press conference with Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and JP Nadda, CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said the protest had centred on three demands: the resignation of Pradhan, withdrawal of cases filed against protesters and compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of students who died by suicide following the cancellation of the NEET-UG examination.

Das said the government and the CJP would meet again after four weeks to discuss a broader agenda of examination reforms. He was accompanied at the meeting by fellow CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka. "As the government has accepted all our demands, we appeal to everyone to peacefully withdraw from the protest sites and return home," Ranka said.

Nadda said the CJP representatives had submitted a written draft outlining their concerns, particularly regarding the cases registered against protesters. "We discussed these issues in detail. One of the key points raised was that no further action should be taken and no new FIRs should be registered. If any FIRs have already been filed, whether by the Delhi Police or in BJP-ruled states, they will be withdrawn," Nadda said. He added that the government had also agreed to provide "honourable com-

pensation", in accordance with existing rules, to the families of students who died by suicide in connection with the NEET controversy.

Ranka said the CJP had submitted a five-point charter of demands on examination reforms. "We will meet again in four weeks to discuss these proposals and work towards broader reforms in the examination system," he said.

Nadda also said the government would provide the CJP with copies of all FIRs registered in connection with the protests.

Pradhan's resignation, which was accepted by President Droupadi Murmu on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, came amid nationwide protests demanding his removal over the NEET controversy. Announcing his decision, he said he did not want "anti-national forces" to exploit the situation or allow students' future to become entangled in prolonged legal disputes.

"I never shied away from this situation. My resolve was that we would not allow the prospects of any meritorious student to be jeopardised by the exam mafia, and that no student would be treated unfairly. The NEET-UG results declared on July 16 were satisfactory, with many meritorious students from economically weaker backgrounds also achieving success," Pradhan said.

He said he was deeply saddened by the developments over the past 10 days.

Pralhad Joshi Assumes Charge as Education Minister After Pradhan Quits

New Delhi: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has been appointed as Education Minister following Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation from the post on Saturday.

Joshi has been given additional charge of the Education Ministry besides his role as Consumer Affairs Minister.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said the President, as advised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has accepted the resignation of Pradhan with immediate effect.

It said that on the advice of the Prime Minister, the President has directed that Joshi, Cabinet Minister, be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Education, in addition to his own duties.

Earlier in the day, Pradhan resigned from his post following the Cockroach Janta Party-led student protests across the



country, demanding his ouster over the NEET paper leak controversy.

Pradhan said it is not a matter of "individual prestige" for him and he is disturbed to see the series of events that have unfolded in the last 10 days.

Centre issues alert over fake Air Suvidha 2.0 websites charging fees from passengers

New Delhi: The government on Saturday urged passengers to verify the correct website of 'Air Suvidha 2.0' carefully before sharing any personal or travel-related information, as certain fraudulent websites are misleading people. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said that certain fraudulent websites and portals are impersonating Air Suvidha 2.0 and misleading passengers by redirecting them to payment gateways. "Passengers are advised that Air Suvidha 2.0 services are provided free of cost, and no payment is required for submission of the Self-Declaration Form. The only official Air Suvidha 2.0 portal is: <https://airsuvidha.civilaviation.gov.in/>," said the ministry. The ministry further said that passengers are urged to verify the website's URL carefully before sharing any personal or travel-related information and to avoid making payments on any unauthorised website claiming

to offer Air Suvidha 2.0 services. "Passengers are requested to use only the official portal and rely on official Government communications for authentic information," it mentioned. Last month, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in collaboration with Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), launched 'Air Suvidha 2.0' which is an upgraded and fully contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal aimed at enhancing public health surveillance at international Points of Entry amid concerns arising from the ongoing Ebola disease outbreak. The upgraded platform has been introduced following the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of the Ebola/Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on May 17 under the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

NEET — the crisis of educational centralisation

The scathing remarks made by the Supreme Court of India regarding the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) process underscore the deep administrative and moral crisis plaguing the country's educational apparatus. Once envisioned by policymakers as a robust shield to protect merit and enhance transparency in medical admissions, the NEET framework has instead mutated into a dysfunctional mechanism, routinely plunging the futures of millions of students into darkness. These recurring systemic breakdowns stand as living testimony to the structural vulnerabilities that inevitably arise when absolute administrative centralisation aligns with an arbitrary top-down approach.

As the nation grapples with the fallout of yet another disrupted academic calendar, restoring true federalism in the education sector emerges not just as a viable policy alternative, but as an absolute imperative to safeguard the lives of 2.2 million students. The crisis currently gripping medical aspirants is no sudden anomaly; rather, it is the predictable zenith of a decade-long failed experiment that systematically eroded state autonomy and dismantled local oversight.

government introduced NEET with the slogan 'One Nation, One Test,' it effectively abolished diverse State Common Entrance Tests (CETs). It was widely anticipated that a single, unified examination across all medical colleges would curb commercialisation, reduce the financial and mental burden on students, and elevate educational standards. However, in practice, those lofty ideals have been completely upended. While the rhetoric remains politically attractive, the ground reality has yielded nothing but profound public disappointment.

Kalyanalakshmi - Shaadi Mubarak cheques distributed in Bhuvanagiri

- MLA Anil Kumar Reddy, Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar ""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 24):- The program to provide financial assistance under the Kalyanalakshmi - Shaadi Mubarak scheme implemented by the Telangana government to reduce the burden of girl child marriage was held in Bhuvanagiri town. In this program organized at Ravi Bhadra Reddy Garden in the town, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy and Bhuvanagiri Town Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar handed over cheques to beneficiaries from various wards of the town and surrounding villages." Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that the state government will provide financial assistance for the marriage of girls and this scheme will be applicable to every eligible

family. He said that steps are being taken to ensure that government welfare schemes reach the people in a timely manner. Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvanagiri Town Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar thanked the Chief Minister and the government for standing by the girls. He assured that they will work with public welfare as the main objective and will bring such schemes closer to the people in the future." RDO Krishna Reddy, Tehsildar Jagan, PCC member Tangallapalli Ravikumar, District Library Chairman Awais Chisti, Vice Chairman Pothamsetty Manjula Venkatesh, Congress Mandal Party Presidents, Congress leaders, Sarpanchs, Sub-Sarpanchs, Ward Members, Co-option Members, PA, CS Chairmen, Councilors, Congress senior leaders, activists, women and the public participated in this program in large numbers.

BVK Trust Distributes Sewing Machines to Women in Khammam



""Khammam, July 25 (Indian Chronicle):""The second phase of free sewing machine distribution was organized by the Bodepudi Vignana Kendram (BVK) Trust at Manchikanti Hall in Khammam on Saturday.""The meeting, chaired by Nannaka Govinda Rao, was attended by BVK Trust General Manager Y. Srinivasa Rao as the guest of honour and BVK Trust General Secretary Nunna Nageswara Rao as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, they said the trust has been rendering various social services for the past 20 years, including the distribution of free sewing machines, free yoga classes, and the opera-

tion of computer training centres. They expressed gratitude to all those who have supported the trust's service initiatives.""They stated that the free sewing machine programme aims to empower women economically by helping them develop self-employment opportunities and improve their livelihoods.""Sewing instructor P. Pramila, representatives of various charitable trusts including D. Sudhakar, Vasireddy Dayanand, Pasumarthi Rangarao, Pensioners' Association President Gopichand and Secretary Nelluru Veerababu, and Parupalli Jhansi Kumari also addressed the gathering."

"BVK Centre Secretary S.K. Afzal welcomed the guests and speakers to the dais.""Among those present were Vasireddy Veerabhadram, T. Venkata Rao, Samineni Nageswara Rao, G. Rama Rao, John, Pullaiah, P. Ramakrishna, T. Siva Narayana, Bhaskara Rao, G. Sridevi, Rama Sekharam, Swami, and a large number of women who had undergone sewing machine training.""The sewing machines were distributed with the support of Praveen of the Potla Laxmaiah Charitable Trust and K. Himabindu, District President of the NRI Parents Association.

Appreciation to 'Apara Bhagiratha' Tummala "Dr. Pulipati Nagar Welfare Association Members Felicitate Former Minister



"Khammam, July 25 (Indian Chronicle):""Members of the Dr. Pulipati Nagar Welfare Association expressed their gratitude to former Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao for his efforts in bringing Godavari river water to Khammam district, helping address irrigation and drinking water needs.""The association members met Tummala Nageswara Rao in Khammam on Saturday and felicitated

him with a shawl and floral bouquet in recognition of his contribution.""Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pulipati Prasad, Honorary President of the Association, praised Tummala as the "Apara Bhagiratha" for ensuring the flow of Godavari waters into Khammam district through the Sitarama Project at a time when severe drought conditions had left agricultural lands dry. He said Tummala's efforts provided much-needed relief to farmers and helped overcome the district's irrigation and drinking water shortage.""Dr. Prasad conveyed the Association's special gratitude for Tummala's commitment to the welfare and development of Khammam district. He also appreciated Tummala's initiative to facilitate the construction of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, stating that it would enhance the city's spiritual prominence. He further noted that the proposed Haritha Bhavan, to be built at a cost of 747 crore, would add to the district's prestige and development.""The programme was attended by Association President Patnaik Venkateswara Rao, General Secretaries Madhava Rao and Srinivasa Rao, Treasurer Vara Prasada Rao, and members Narayana, Pullaiah, Pawan, Anil, and others.

Telangana Journalists to Hold "Chalo Parliament" Protest Tomorrow Over Pending Demands



టీడీపీ జైషం ఆధ్వర్యంలో...

27వ తెలంగాణ జర్నలిస్టుల "ఫీల్స్ పార్లమెంట్"

- జంతు మంత్రి లో ఒకరోజు ధర్నా -

జర్నలిస్టుల పరిష్కారం కోసం!

“దీర్ఘకాలంగా పెండింగ్లో ఉన్న జర్నలిస్టుల డిమాండ్ల సూచనల్ని 27వ తేదీన ఢిల్లీలోని పార్లమెంట్ వద్ద (జంతు మంత్రి లో) ఒక రోజు ధర్నా నిర్వహించనున్నాము.

కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వం పరిష్కారంకోసం ప్రధాన డిమాండ్లు

- జర్నలిస్టుల రైల్వే టికెట్ల పూర్తి రద్దు
- జర్నలిస్టుల రైల్వే టికెట్ల పూర్తి రద్దు
- పెన్షన్లలో జర్నలిస్టులకు వాటా
- పెన్షన్లలో జర్నలిస్టులకు వాటా
- జర్నలిస్టుల పరిష్కారం కోసం
- జర్నలిస్టుల పరిష్కారం కోసం
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- జర్నలిస్టుల పరిష్కారం కోసం

తెలంగాణ వర్కింగ్ జర్నలిస్టు ఫెడరేషన్ (TWJF)

మొదటి సోమవారం
తల్లిపాటి సోమవారం
ఫోన్: 9106933723

తల్లిపాటి సోమవారం
తల్లిపాటి సోమవారం
ఫోన్: 3330903330

"Hyderabad, July 25 Indian Chronicle: ""Telangana journalists will organise a "Chalo Parliament" protest tomorrow to press the Central Government to address long-pending issues concerning the journalism profession. As part of the programme, a one-day protest demonstration will be held

on July 27 at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, near Parliament."The protest is being organised under the banner of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF). Journalists from various districts across Telangana have already departed for New Delhi to participate. Delegations from Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Suryapet, and Mahabubnagar left on Saturday."TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiah said that, with the Parliament's Monsoon Session underway, the federation is taking up the "Chalo Parliament" programme for the first time to draw the attention of the Central Government and Members of Parliament to the long-pending issues faced by journalists."Key Demands of the Journalists'Restore Railway Concession Passes: Reinstate the 50% railway fare concession for accredited journalists, which was discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic."Establish a National Media Commission: Replace the Press Council of India with a National Media Commission to effectively address the growing challenges of the media sector."Introduce a National Pension Scheme: Implement a nationwide pension scheme for retired and senior journalists to ensure financial security after retirement."Enact a Journalists' Protection Law: Introduce legislation to protect journalists from attacks, murders, harassment, and false criminal cases."Provide Legal Recognition to Electronic and Digital Media: Grant full legal status to electronic and digital media organisations to address existing regulatory issues."Review the Supreme Court Verdict on Housing Plots: Reconsider the Supreme Court judgment restricting the allocation of government land to journalists' housing societies and facilitate housing plots for journalists across the country."TWJF leaders, including State President Mamidi Somaiah and State General Secretary Tanneeru Srinivas, along with several office-bearers and members, have left for New Delhi to participate in the nationwide protest demanding the fulfilment of these long-pending demands.

Fisherman's body retrieved from irrigation tank in Adilabad

Adilabad: The body of a fisherman who accidentally drowned in an irrigation tank while fishing at Kolhari village on Friday was retrieved from the tank on Saturday. Police said the body of Chourya Arun (48) was recovered by expert divers from the tank.

Molugu Lakshmaiah appointed as Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti State General Secretary:

- Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti State President Bugga Maisaiah ""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 24):- Molugu Lakshmaiah of Nandanam village of Bhuvanagiri mandal of Yadadri district has been appointed as the State General Secretary of Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti.. Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti State President Bugga Maisaiah issued orders by handing over the appointment letter at the district level meeting held at the SC Conference Hall on Friday. On this occasion, Molugu Lakshmaiah said that the Congress government had distributed assignment land to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society and that they would provide ownership rights over the assignment lands. In the last assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi had promised AICC President Mallikarjuna Karige in the Warangal Chevella Sabha and included it in the Congress party manifesto. They said that they will intensify the struggle across the state and achieve their rights until the owner grants them the rights to such lands. Several members of the Land Protection Committee participated in this program.

PARAMESHWAR REDDY Pays Tribute to Patnam Rukkamma



""UPPAL, JULY, 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Mrs. Patnam Rukkamma (95), the mother of Telangana Legislative Council Government Chief Whip (MLC) Dr. Patnam Mahender Reddy, passed away on Saturday following illness."Expressing profound grief over her demise, Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy visited Dr. Patnam Mahender Reddy's residence along with Medchal District Congress Committee President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav and Congress leader Raghupathi Reddy. The leaders paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Mrs. Rukkamma and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to Dr. Mahender Reddy and his family members. Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said that the passing of Mrs. Rukkamma is an irreparable loss to the Patnam family. He prayed for the eternal peace of her soul and wished the bereaved family strength and courage to overcome the tragic loss. Leaders from various political parties, public representatives, supporters, and party workers attended the funeral procession in large numbers to pay their last respects. Her demise has left her family members, relatives, friends, and well-wishers deeply saddened.

BJP Launches Agitation Over Fee Reimbursement Dues in Khammam



'Fee Dues – BJP Fight' Campaign Poster Unveiled""Khammam, July 25 Indian Chronicle: ""The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a statewide campaign in Telangana titled "Fee Dues – BJP Fight", demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues to safeguard the future of students. As part of the campaign, a poster was unveiled on Saturday at the BJP district office in Khammam under the leadership of BJYM Khammam District President Shasanala Sai Ram."Speaking on the occasion, BJP State Leader and Nalgonda District In-charge Sanne Uday Pratap and BJP State Executive Member Galla Satyanarayana alleged that the Congress government has been negligent in releasing the pending fee reimbursement amounts. They said the delay has created serious difficulties for thousands of students pursuing higher education, with many facing financial pressure and demands from college managements."The leaders urged the government to immediately clear the pending dues and provide a permanent solution to the issue, accusing it of jeopardising the future of students."They also appealed to students and youth across the state to actively participate in the "Fee Dues – BJP Fight" movement. The BJP, they said, would continue its agitation until the government responds and ensures the protection of students' rights."Among those present at the programme were Kisan Morcha State Executive Member Ellarao Goud, District General Secretary Gutta Venkateswarlu, District Vice-President Nakinikanti Veerabhadram, Mahila Morcha District President Manda Saraswathi, former BJYM Khammam District President Ananthu Upender Goud, BJYM State Executive Member Nallamasa Srinivas, former Khammam One Town President Pillalamarri Venkat, BJYM leaders Deekonda Shyam Sundar, Vallala Ramesh, Elishetty Manikantha, Battu Rahul Naik, and several other party leaders.

Orange Colour Day Celebrated at Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Mamillagudem Branch



"Khammam, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): ""Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Mamillagudem Branch, celebrated Orange Colour Day with great enthusiasm for its pre-primary students. The young learners came dressed in vibrant orange outfits and displayed orange-coloured fruits, vegetables, and other objects, making the event lively and engaging."The school organized songs, games, and fun-filled educational activities to help children understand the significance of the orange colour. The celebration aimed to enhance their awareness of colours while encouraging creativity, self-confidence, and active participation through interactive learning."The event was attended by School Chairman Mallempati Sidhar, Director Srividya, AGM Chetan, Principal Neeraja, Pre-Primary Coordinator Gauthami, In-charge Geetha, teachers, and students.

Gudimalkapur police arrest five in Hyderabad mobile phone theft gang

Hyderabad: The Gudimalkapur Police arrested five members of a mobile phone theft gang and recovered eight stolen mobile phones along with two motorcycles on Saturday.

The case pertains to a man who was allegedly threatened with knives and robbed of his mobile phone by a group travelling in an autorickshaw earlier this week.

Lions Club of Narsampet Glory New Executive Committee Takes Oath



"Narsampet, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): The oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected executive committee of Lions Club of Narsampet Glory was held grandly at the IMA Hall in Narsampet town. Mothe Indrasena Reddy took charge as President, Md. Yakooab as General Secretary, Nalla Sudhakar Reddy as Treasurer, and Veeramalla Madhava Reddy and Medavarapu Kamalakhar Reddy as Vice Presidents. The ceremony was conducted by Installation Officer Harikishan Reddy, who administered the oath to the new office-bearers. District 320F Governor Narahari

Formation of the United Warangal District Telangana Agitators' Joint Forum Initiated



Hanamkonda, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): The first consultative meeting of Telangana agitators from the erstwhile Warangal district was held at the residence of former corporator Repalle Srinath in Hanamkonda. The meeting commenced after observing a two-minute silence and paying rich tributes to the Telangana martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the achievement of Telangana statehood. The speakers recalled the significant role played by the erstwhile Warangal district in the history of the Telangana movement. They stated that students, youth, employees, lawyers, writers, artists, farmers, women, people's organizations, and the general public, with Kakatiya University as the epicentre, played a crucial role in the movement. They also remembered the sacrifices of those who faced arrests, criminal cases, police lathi charges, permanent disabilities, and those who laid down their lives during the agitation. The meeting was organized as a completely non-political initiative with the sole objective of protecting the rights of Telangana agitators who actively participated in the second phase of the Telangana movement, fulfilling their aspirations, and ensuring due recognition for their sacrifices. The participants resolved to work collectively to bring the issues of agitators to the attention of the government, safe-

Sudhakar Reddy attended the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he said that Lions Club has always been at the forefront of community service. He highlighted the club's contributions in environmental protection, blood donation camps, free medical camps, and extending support to poor students and underprivileged families. He expressed confidence that the newly elected committee would work under the slogan "Heart Full Services – Happy Faces" and undertake several social service initiatives, making Lions Club of Narsampet Glory one of the leading clubs in Warangal district. Among those present were Revuri Ramana Reddy, Lakshmi Narasimha Rao, Region Chairperson Billa Sulochana, Mucha Raji Reddy, Y. Ranga Reddy, Zone Chairman Mothe Sammi Reddy, Lion Kandi Gopal Reddy, V. Subba Rao, Challa Nagarjun Reddy, Gade Raji Reddy, Sherla Santosh, G. Prabhakar Reddy, Vemulapalli Raju, Syed Javed, Jahangir, Venkatram Narsaiah, Dr. Bharat Reddy, Dr. Ramachander, Shanaboyina Raj Kumar, Saipa Suresh, along with Lions Club members and Lion Ladies.

guard their dignity, and strive for their welfare and rightful entitlements. The meeting expressed concern that even after the formation of Telangana, many agitators had not received adequate recognition or welfare benefits. It was decided to gather the opinions of agitators across the region, submit representations to the government, and formulate an action plan to address their issues. On the occasion, Rao Amarendra Reddy was unanimously elected as the State Convener of the "Telangana Agitators' Rights Protection Forum." The participants resolved to unite Telangana agitators across the state under a single platform and undertake collective action under his leadership for the protection of their rights. The meeting also decided to organize a round-table conference at the erstwhile Warangal district level within the next two to three days. The conference will bring together agitators from various political parties, student leaders, representatives of people's organizations, intellectuals, and social activists to gather their views and announce a comprehensive action plan. The participants further resolved to continuously fight for justice for the families of Telangana martyrs and to ensure that those who were injured, permanently disabled, faced criminal cases, or suffered financial losses during the movement receive special recognition, welfare measures, and appropriate assistance from the government. The meeting was attended by second-phase Telangana movement leaders Rao Amarendra Reddy, Matta Rajashekhar Reddy, Niranjan, Pradeep, Sri Ramesh Kumar, Rajanna, Putta Mahender, Sarangapani Sudhakar, and several Telangana agitators from the erstwhile Warangal district. Concluding the meeting, the participants unanimously declared that the forum would continue to work relentlessly until Telangana agitators receive the recognition, dignity, and rights they deserve, upholding the spirit of the Telangana movement that was fought for the self-respect of the people of Telangana rather than for any political party.

Small Traders Must Cooperate to Keep Parkal Clean: MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy

"Parkal, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy urged small traders to extend their full cooperation in transforming Parkal into a clean and model town. On Saturday, the MLA, accompanied by officials, visited the town's vegetable market and fish market. He inspected the market premises and interacted with small traders to understand the issues they are facing. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA advised traders to maintain cleanliness in and around the market and ensure that waste is removed regularly. He announced that CCTV cameras and an improved lighting system would be installed in the market area to enhance safety and sanitation. Referring to the existing fish market, he said its location alongside the road-side was causing inconvenience to the public. To address this issue permanently, he assured that a dedicated site would be identified and developed for the fish market. The MLA warned that penalties would be imposed on those who violate sanitation rules by dumping garbage on roads. At the same time, he assured small traders that they would be provided with a suitable alternative location so that their live-



lihoods would not be affected. Revuri Prakash Reddy appealed to the people to actively participate in the development of Parkal, stating that the town's overall progress is possible only with public cooperation. He remarked that the town had suffered due to the neglect of previous administrations and said that planned developmental works are now being taken up to improve Parkal.

Montfort Quiz Wiz-2026 Held Grandly at Little Flower School, Uppal



"UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Little Flower School, Uppal, hosted the prestigious Montfort Quiz Wiz-2026 Pune Province Intra-Province Quiz Competition with great enthusiasm under the leadership of the school's Principal, Rev. Dr. Brother Joseph. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the chief guests, followed by floral tributes to the portrait of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Dr. M. Aruna Mary Theresa, Chief Medical Officer (NMSG), ESIC Super Speciality Hospital, Telangana, attended the event as the Chief Guest. Welcoming the dig-

nitaries, Principal Rev. Dr. Brother Joseph said that the objective of the competition was to identify and nurture the hidden talents of students and prepare them to become knowledgeable and responsible citizens of the future. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Aruna Mary Theresa encouraged students to enhance their knowledge beyond textbooks, stating that quiz competitions play a vital role in developing logical thinking, analytical skills, and awareness of the world. Students from several educational institutions participated in the prestigious competition, including: All Saints High School, Hyderabad Little Flower High School, Abids Little Flower School, Uppal Montfort School, Kadapa Montfort School (CBSE), Fatimanagar (Kazipet) Montfort School (CBSE), Nalgonda The quiz was conducted by Gregory Turkadile, Data Scientist at ICICI Bank, who served as the Quiz Master and led the competition through several exciting and challenging rounds. At the valedictory ceremony, prizes were presented by the Chief Guest to the winning teams: First Place: All Saints High School, Hyderabad Second Place: Montfort School (CBSE), Fatimanagar (Kazipet) Third Place: Little Flower School, Uppal The event concluded successfully with the active participation of the school management, teachers, and students from the participating institutions, making it a memorable and enriching academic event.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's Resignation a Victory for Congress: Ravella Krishna Rao

"Khammam Nelakondapalli, July 25 Indian Chronicle: Paleru Division Congress leader Ravella Krishna Rao claimed that the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was the result of the sustained protests by students and the Congress party over the alleged NEET paper leak issue. Addressing a press conference at the mandal headquarters on Saturday, Krishna Rao said the agitation that began in New Delhi had spread across the country, triggering widespread protests. He alleged that senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi staged a protest in Delhi against the BJP-led Central Government over the NEET paper leak, and that their arrest further intensified nationwide demonstrations. He stated that the large-scale protests organised by the Congress ultimately forced the Union Education Minister to resign, describing it as a significant victory for the party. He urged the BJP to learn a lesson from the developments and demanded that the Central Government immediately implement the remaining demands related to the issue. Krishna Rao warned that if the Centre failed to act, the Congress would



intensify its agitation. He also thanked everyone who extended support to the movement and called upon the public to unite against what he described as the Centre's anti-student, anti-youth, anti-worker, and anti-employee policies. Note: The statements above are the claims made by Congress leader Ravella Krishna Rao during the press conference.

Khammam Collector Calls for Expansion of Sericulture Area Urges Measures to Promote High-Quality Silk Production

Collector Divakar T.S. Participates in District-Level Stakeholders' Consultation under "My Silk – My Pride 2.0"

"Khammam, July 25 Indian Chronicle: Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S. has called for concerted efforts to expand the district's sericulture cultivation area and strengthen the silk industry. He was speaking at the district-level stakeholders' consultation meeting held under the "My Silk – My Pride 2.0" programme at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Saturday. The programme is jointly organised by the Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and the Telangana Department of Sericulture. During the meeting, the Collector interacted with sericulture farmers to understand the extent of cultivation, years of experience, production costs, water usage, and income from silk farming. Addressing the gathering, Collector Divakar T.S. said that sericulture is currently being practised on around 150 acres in Khammam district and stressed the need to increase the cultivated area to 1,000 acres. He urged officials to work efficiently, create awareness among farmers, and strive to secure cluster status for the district. The Collector advised farmers to adopt modern technologies developed by the Central Silk Board to improve productivity and achieve self-reliance. He expressed confidence that Khammam could emerge as a leading district in Telangana's sericulture sector. Highlighting the benefits of sericulture, he noted that it requires relatively less water, involves lower risk, and offers higher returns compared to many other agricultural activities. He encouraged experienced farmers to guide and motivate others to take up silk cultivation. The Collector said the district administration would submit feedback to the government regarding enhancement of subsidies. Until then, he advised beneficiaries to contribute their share alongside the existing subsidy support. He also emphasised that farmers would gain better marketing advantages by working collectively rather than individually. Senior Scientist Dr G. Subrahmanyam of the Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, ex-



plained the objectives of the programme, stating that its primary goal is to increase farmers' incomes by promoting modern technologies, improving productivity, and ensuring high-quality silk production. Joint Director of the Department of Sericulture Anasuya briefed the participants on the department's initiatives for the development of sericulture in the district. The meeting reviewed the findings of the district's baseline survey and discussed strategies for technology transfer, production of quality silk, effective implementation of government schemes, and stronger coordination among stakeholder organisations. Scientists from the Central Silk Board's Mulugu Centre, Dr Tirupam Reddy and Dr Gundi Raghavender, Horticulture Officer Anitha Sri, government officials, farmer representatives, and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

dren with disabilities. The programme was attended by Dr. Anitha Reddy, Vishali, the administrator of the Vikas Manovikas Home, teachers, students, staff members, and others.

Fruits Distributed to Visually Impaired Students on Nayini Vishal Reddy's Birth Anniversary



"Hanamkonda, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): A service programme was organized at the Lohi Adarsha School for the Blind in Hanamkonda to mark the birth anniversary of late Nayini Vishal Reddy, son of Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy. As part of the programme, fruits were distributed to the students under the leadership of Warangal Parliament Social Media Convener Nehal. The organizers also interacted warmly with the students and enquired about their well-being. Speaking on the occasion, they said that serving society through welfare activities is the true tribute to departed souls. They encouraged the students to pursue their education with dedication and achieve success in life. Congress leaders Deepak Reddy, Bharat, and others participated in the programme.

A Gift of Education to Children with Disabilities... Dr. Anitha Reddy Distributes Notebooks



Hanamkonda, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): Dr. Anitha Reddy, Chairperson of Anurag Society and Governing Body Member of Kakatiya University, visited the Vikas Manovikas Home for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Hanamkonda. During her visit, she interacted warmly with the children, enquired about their well-being, and spent quality time with them. She later distributed notebooks free of cost to the students. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Anitha Reddy said the programme was organized with the objective of supporting the education of children with intellectual disabilities. She emphasized that serving persons with disabilities is equivalent to serving humanity and stressed the need to encourage them to excel in literacy and education. She said children with intellectual disabilities should be taught every aspect of life with love, care, and patience. She further stated that they are entitled to the same constitutional rights as everyone else, including the right to education, inheritance, and all other fundamental rights. She warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone violating their rights. Dr. Anitha Reddy also urged organizations working for persons with disabilities to strictly comply with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and to obtain the necessary government approvals and licences. She remarked that supporting one child's education is equivalent to empowering an entire family. Expressing her hope that every child would receive education and achieve success in life, she appealed to society to extend all possible support and assistance to chil-

Former MLA NVSS Prabhakar Participates in Mass Satyanarayana Swamy Vratam at Ramanthapur



“UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Uppal MLA and senior BJP leader NVSS Prabhakar participated as the chief guest in the Mass Sri Satyanarayana

Swamy Vratam held on Saturday at Sri Sri Sri Durga Baddi Pochamma Temple in Nehru Nagar, Ramanthapur. “On the occasion, he offered special prayers to Lord Satyanarayana and sought the blessings of the Goddess. Addressing the gathering, NVSS Prabhakar said that preserving India’s rich culture and the traditions of Sanatana Dharma is the responsibility of every citizen. He stated that mass Satyanarayana Swamy Vratams promote spiritual awareness, harmony, and unity in society. He prayed that, with the blessings of the Almighty, all people may be blessed with peace, good health, prosperity, and happiness.” The event was attended by Temple President Jagadish, Working President Kompalli Uppender, General Secretary Senapathi, Treasurer Gajula Suresh, public representatives, BJP leaders, party workers, and a large number of devotees.

Congress minority leaders seek equitable share in nominated posts

Former Youth Congress Assembly president Abdul Rahman says long-serving Muslim workers have been overlooked; urges party to base appointments on seniority and commitment.



Karimnagar July 25 (Correspondent): Senior Congress minority leaders on Saturday called for greater representation of Muslim party workers in nominated posts, contending that those who have served the organisation for decades continue to be ignored despite the party assuming office in Telangana nearly three years ago. Addressing a press conference at the District Congress Committee office, former Youth Congress Assembly president Abdul Rahman said numerous grassroots workers who had remained committed to the Congress for over 35 years were yet to be recognised through nominated appointments.

He claimed that the Karimnagar Assembly constituency has nearly 70,000 Muslim voters but alleged that the community had not received adequate representation in nominated positions. “The party should ensure that loyal workers receive their rightful share instead of treating the community merely as a vote bank,” he said. Mr. Raheman said Congress workers had stood firmly with the party

through political adversity, inspired by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and had rejected repeated invitations to join the then TRS, now BRS. He noted that several Congress activists had faced police cases during previous governments while participating in party agitations and were still pursuing legal proceedings at their own expense. Appealing to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Telangana Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, D. Sridhar Babu and Laxman Kumar, DCC president Medipally Sathyam, and Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, he urged the leadership to recognise the contribution of long-serving minority leaders by appointing them to nominated posts. He sought appointments to positions such as SUDA Chairman, Library Chairman, Market Committee Chairman and chairpersons of State corporations, arguing that seniority, loyalty and sustained service to the party should be the guiding criteria. Mr. Raheman also requested the party leadership to provide opportunities to workers who had never held nominated posts instead of reappointing those who had already served in such positions. He urged the leadership to consider senior minority leaders, including Mohammed Tajoddin, Rahmath Hussain, Nehal Ahmed, M.D. Chand, M.D. Kalimuddin, Khamaruddin, Imran, Aamer and Saleem, for suitable appointments. Among those present at the press conference were M.D. Chand, M.D. Kalimuddin, Aamer, M.D. Saleem, Basheer, Abdul Bari, Syed Karim, Jameeluddin, Azeem, Mujahid and Arif Khan.

Karimnagar hosts State-level yoga championship

MLA Gangula Kamalakar stresses the role of yoga in nurturing sporting excellence and holistic development.

Karimnagar July 25 (Correspondent): Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar on Saturday said yoga is the foundation of all sports and that every sporting discipline has evolved from its principles, urging athletes to make yogic practice an integral part of their training. Inaugurating the State-level Invitational Yoga Championship organised by the Vinyasa Yoga Centre at Ambedkar Stadium, Mr. Kamalakar described yoga as a priceless legacy handed down by India’s ancestors. He said regular practice of yoga enhances physical fitness, mental discipline and concentration, enabling sportspersons to achieve excellence in their chosen fields. He also appreciated the efforts of the Vinyasa Yoga Centre in promoting yoga in Karimnagar. Telangana Yoga Association Chairman Sardar Ravinder Singh said yoga should become a part of every household, adding that it plays a key role in building a healthy society. He said Karimnagar has emerged as the leading district in Telangana in the promotion of yoga. The dignitaries later inaugurated the Vinyasa Yoga Centre. Around 400 participants from various districts across Telangana took part in the championship. The participants impressed the audience with their yoga demonstrations showcasing flexibility, balance and precision.

Telangana Baseball Association president Challa Harishankar, District Yoga Association vice-president Kanna Krishna, Corporator Jayashree, Telangana Yoga



Association general secretary Nagireddy Siddareddy, Vinyasa Yoga Centre president Prashanth, District Yoga Association secretary Kunti Ramakrishna Sai, coaches and several BRS leaders were among those present.

PARAMESHWAR REDDY Visits SIR Help Desk in Habsiguda



— Help Desk Set Up Under the Leadership of Habsiguda Division President KANDI SHRAVAN KUMAR REDDY “UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy visited the SIR Help Desk established near Gandhi Girijan Basti Kaman, Street No. 8, Habsiguda, on Saturday. The help desk, organized under the leadership of Habsiguda Division President Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy, aims to assist residents with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Parameshwar Reddy urged the people of the division to make full use of the facility and emphasized that every citizen should safeguard their democratic right to vote. “He instructed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Congress Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to visit every household, assist voters in filling out the SIR Enumeration Forms, and collect the forms that have already been completed. He also personally interacted with BLOs to review the progress of the SIR exercise in Habsiguda. “Among those present were former Habsiguda Division President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, General Secretary Dharma Nayak, senior leaders Chintala Babu Rao, Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Raju Nayak, Kishan Nayak, Malu Nayak, Javed, Dharma Raju, Youth Congress President Vasu Nayak, Sai Kumar, Sai Kiran, Suman

Nayak, Shiva, Anil Mamidala, Swathi, Jyothi, Srikanth, and several other party leaders and activists.

Union Education Minister's Resignation is the Result of Students' Struggle:

TJS Greater Hyd President M. Narasayya “HYDERABAD, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) Greater Hyderabad President M. Narasayya stated that the resignation of the Union Education Minister was the direct result of the nationwide protests led by students and youth. He described the resignation as a victory achieved by students and said it demonstrated that determined youth can accomplish any goal. “Narasayya alleged that serious irregularities in the conduct of the NEET examination had caused immense hardship to students. He urged the Central Government to take strict action

against those responsible for the lapses and demanded adequate compensation for the families of students who lost their lives. “He further



called for comprehensive reforms in the education system and urged the Centre to ensure that, in the future, NEET examinations are conducted by the respective state governments within their states. M. Narasayya also expressed special gratitude, on behalf of the Telangana Jana Samithi, to the youth across the country who stood in support of NEET aspirants.

Timely intervention by Karimnagar Rural Police averts tragedy

Woman rescued after alleged suicide attempt in Durshed village; counselling provided before reunion with family.



Karimnagar July 25 (Correspondent): The prompt response of the Karimnagar Rural Police helped save the life

of a 23-year-old married woman who allegedly attempted suicide following a family dispute at Durshed village on Saturday. According to the police, Neti Manasa, a resident of Durshed village under the Karimnagar Rural Police Station limits, attempted to end her life after an altercation within the family. Acting swiftly on information received, Karimnagar Rural Inspector Niranjan directed the police team to rush to the spot. Blue Colts personnel Afzal and Home Guard Prasad reached the location immediately and rescued the woman, preventing the suicide attempt.

The woman was subsequently counselled to help her overcome emotional distress and was later reunited safely with her family members. Appreciating the prompt action of the police personnel, Assistant Commissioner of Police Vijay Kumar and Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam commended Blue Colts constable Afzal and Home Guard Prasad for their timely intervention, which helped save a precious life.

Molugu Lakshmaiah appointed as Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti State General Secretary

- Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti State President Bugga Maisaiah “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 25):- Molugu Lakshmaiah of Nandanam village, Bhuvanagiri mandal, Yadadri district, has been appointed as the State General Secretary of Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti.. Telangana Bhu Sarkashma Samiti State President Bugga Maisaiah handed over the appointment letter and issued orders at the district level meeting held at the SC Conference Hall on Friday. On this occasion, Molugu Lakshmaiah said that the Congress government had distributed assignment land to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society and that they would provide ownership rights over the assignment lands. In the last assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi had promised AICC President Mallikarjuna Karige in the Warangal Chevella Sabha and included it in the Congress party manifesto. They said



that they will intensify the struggle across the state and achieve their rights until the owner grants them the rights to such lands.

Several members of the Land Protection Committee participated in this program.

Wall posters released for the 11th All-India National OBC Conference scheduled for August 7 in Bengaluru



— Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – July 25): As part of the nationwide movement to expand the cause of Backward Classes (BCs)—including the demand for a caste-based census—and to address BC reservation eligibility, the 11th All-India National OBC Conference is being organized in Bengaluru on Au-

gust 7. Responding to the call given by BC Welfare Association National President Jajula Srinivas Goud, BC community members from across Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district are urged to attend the conference in large numbers and ensure its success. On Thursday, Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar participated as the chief guest and released the “Chalo Bengaluru” OBC Conference wall posters, an event organized under the leadership of Kotha Narasimhaswamy, the BC Welfare Association’s Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Committee President. Senior Congress leader Kukkadugu Somayya, former PCC delegate Tangallapalli Ravikumar, BC Association constituency president Sabankar Venkatesh, Bhuvanagiri Mandal president Jinna Mallesh, and councilors Pacharla Jagan, Chimala Raju Yadav, Ele Shiva, Bende Lal Raj, Barre Karunakar, Bhuvanagiri Venkataramana, Challagurugula Raghubabu, Salveru Uppender, Sirikonda Shivakumar, and Koora Shivakumar, among other leaders, participated in this program.

First Phase of Teachers' Training Concludes

“Khammam Nellakondapalli, July 25 indian Chronicle: “The first phase of a three-day training programme for teachers, organised at the Nellakondapalli mandal headquarters, concluded on Saturday. “On the final day, District Resource Person (DRP) Itikyala Suresh Kumar conducted remedial mathematics sessions, focusing on various concepts to help teachers strengthen their understanding of the subject. “Addressing the participants, he explained the importance and benefits of SLM (Self-Learning Material), TLM (Teaching-Learning Material), and ILM (Interactive Learning Material) in improving classroom teaching. He advised teachers to conduct a one-hour remedial programme every day, preferably from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., for all classes to enhance students’ learning outcomes. “He also urged teachers to implement government educational programmes effectively and contribute to strengthening government schools. “The programme was attended by Mandal Education Officer B. Chalapathi Rao,



Resource Persons Madhav, Swamy, and Srinivas, Complex Headmaster Ramesh, and teachers T. Vengala Rao, Thorti Suresh, Rama Rao, Thorti Guravayya, Maragani Satyanarayana, and others.

Kalyanalakshmi - Shaadi Mubarak cheques distributed in Bhuvanagiri



- MLA Anil Kumar Reddy, Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 25):- The program to provide financial assistance under the Kalyanalakshmi - Shaadi Mubarak scheme implemented by the Telangana government to reduce the burden of girl child marriage was held in Bhuvanagiri town. In this program organized at Ravi Bhadra Reddy Garden in the town, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy and Bhuvanagiri Town Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar handed over cheques to beneficiaries from various wards of the town and surrounding villages. “Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that the state government will provide financial assistance for the marriage of girls and this scheme will be applicable to every eligible family. He said that steps are being taken to ensure that government welfare schemes reach the people in a timely manner. Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvanagiri Town

Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar thanked the Chief Minister and the government for standing by the girls. He assured that they will work with public welfare as the main objective and will bring such schemes closer to the people in the future. “RDO Krishna Reddy, Tehsildar Jagan, PCC member Tangallapalli Ravikumar, District Library Chairman Awais Chisti, Vice Chairman Pothamsetty Manjula Venkatesh, Congress Mandal Party Presidents, Congress leaders, Sarpanchs, Sub-Sarpanchs, Ward Members, Co-option Members, PA, CS Chairmen, Councilors, Congress senior leaders, activists, women and the public participated in this program in large numbers.

MLRIT celebrates 17th graduation day ceremony

Hyderabad: Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Technology (MLRIT) celebrated its 17th Graduation Day on Saturday at its campus, marking a significant milestone in the academic journey of the BTech graduating batch of 2022–2026. The ceremony was attended by Dr A Damodaram, Rector, JNTU Hyderabad and Dr Ram Vaddadi, Global Delivery Executive, IBM, and presented graduation certificates to nearly 1,250 graduating students. The event was marked by an atmosphere of pride, excitement and celebration as graduates, dressed in traditional academic regalia, received their degrees in the presence of their parents, families, faculty members and distinguished guests.

24-Hour Water Supply Shutdown in Several Areas from July 27 Due to Uppal Flyover Works



“UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has announced a 24-hour suspension of drinking water supply in several areas to facilitate urgent works on the 1,600 mm diameter MS Gravity Main pipeline of the Krishna Drinking Water Supply Project (KWSP) Phase-II Ring Main-2. The works are being undertaken in coordination with the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) to

expedite the construction of the Grade Separator (Flyover) at Uppal Junction. Officials said that since the road from Uppal Junction towards the Warangal Highway has already been closed, the pipeline works are being carried out simultaneously to minimize traffic inconvenience and speed up the construction of the P-15 foundation of the flyover. “As a result, drinking water supply will remain suspended from 10:00 a.m. on July 27 to 10:00 a.m. on July 28 in the areas served under KWSP Phase-II Ring Main-2.” Areas affected include: Fatehnagar, Hasmathpet, Prakash Nagar, Nacharam, HMT Nagar, Beerappagadda, Habsiguda, Ramanthapur, Venkat Reddy Nagar, Uppal, Mekalamandi, parts of Bholakpur, Padmarao Nagar, Bansilalpet, Buddha Nagar, parts of Tamaka, Sitafalmandi, Mettuguda, parts of Lalapet, North Lalaguda, Addagutta, Balanagar, South Central Railway, MES, and areas under the Secunderabad Cantonment Board. The Water Board has urged residents in the affected localities to store sufficient drinking water in advance and use it judiciously during the interruption. Officials added that once the pipeline works are completed, the water supply will be restored in a phased manner.

Government Hospitals Must Provide Quality and Timely Healthcare Services:

Khammam Collector Divakar T.S. “Khammam, July 25 Indian Chronicle: “Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S. has directed officials and medical staff to ensure that government hospitals provide quality, timely and patient-friendly healthcare services. He stressed that improving the quality of services would strengthen public confidence in government healthcare institutions. “On Saturday, the Collector paid a surprise inspection visit to the Manchukonda Primary Health Centre in Raghunathapalem mandal. He reviewed the medical services being provided, staff attendance, medicine stocks, laboratory services, medical wards, patient records and the overall cleanliness of the hospital premises. “The Collector interacted with patients receiving treatment in the casualty ward and enquired about the quality of medical care, availability of medicines, diagnostic tests and treatment. “Inspecting the hospital pharmacy, he instructed officials to maintain adequate stocks of both emergency and commonly used medicines at all times. He emphasised that proper inventory management should ensure that no patient suffers due to a shortage of medicines. “Speaking on the occasion, Collector Divakar T.S. directed hospital authorities to make effective use of laboratory and diagnostic hub services and ensure that test reports are delivered without delay. He noted that delays in diagnostic reports could lead to delays in treatment and stressed the importance of timely medical care. “He instructed doctors and staff to ensure that all essential healthcare services are available under one roof and to perform their duties responsibly without negligence. “The Collector also directed officials to maintain a clean hospital environment, provide safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, adequate seating arrangements for patients and ensure proper maintenance of basic infrastructure. “He reiterated that the government’s objective is to transform gov-



ernment hospitals into trusted healthcare centres, reducing the need for people to depend on private hospitals by providing quality treatment in public healthcare institutions. “The Collector further instructed hospital authorities to prominently display information regarding specialist services, doctors’ availability, diagnostic tests, treatment procedures and medicine stocks within the hospital premises for the benefit of patients. “During the inspection, the Collector was accompanied by Raghunathapalem Tahsildar Swetha, MPDO Ashok, other officials and medical staff.

District Advisory Committee (DAC) & District Samanvay Committee (DSC) Meetings Held to Strengthen MY Bharat Registration Drive in Ranga Reddy District



“The District Advisory Committee (DAC) and District Samanvay Committee (DSC) meetings under the MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat) initiative, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Collectorate Government of India, were held in Ranga Reddy District under the chairmanship of Dr. Kiranmayi Koppiseti, IAS, Additional Collector (Local Bodies), Ranga Reddy District. The meetings were convened to review the progress of the Intensive MY Bharat Registration & Awareness Drive and to formulate a coordinated action plan for achieving the district target of 80,251 youth registrations on the MY Bharat Portal. “Welcoming the members, Smt. B. Snehal Dnyaneshwar Basutkar, Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Ranga Reddy District, and Member Secretary of the District Advisory Committee, briefed the gathering on the objectives of the Intensive MY Bharat Registration & Awareness Drive. She highlighted MY Bharat’s vision of empowering youth through volunteerism, leadership development, civic engagement and community service. She informed the members about the district registration target of 80,251 and requested all stakeholder departments to extend wholehearted cooperation in achieving the target within the stipulated timeline. “Addressing the meeting, Dr. Kiranmayi Koppiseti, IAS, emphasised that the registration drive should be taken up in mission mode through coordinated efforts of all departments. She directed all line departments to organise awareness campaigns, registration camps and outreach programmes through educational institutions, Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, NSS, NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides, Youth Clubs, Self Help Groups and other community organisations so that every eligible youth in Ranga Reddy District is registered on the MY Bharat Portal. “The meetings were attended by Sri Ch. Krishna Reddy, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad; Dr. D. Swarna Kumari, District Medical & Health Officer; Smt. S. Radhalalita, AD, District Industries Centre (DIC); Smt. B. Baleshwari, District Public Relations Officer; Sri. J. Rama Rao, District Social Welfare Officer; Dr. S.Ramesh, NSS representatives; Dr. A. Rachana, NSS representatives; Dr. Chintala Rakesh Bhavani, NSS representatives; Sri. V. Pandu, Vice Chairman and Sri. Raghava Reddy, treasurer, District Red Cross Society; Sri S. Prabhakar, District Tourism Officer; Smt.G. Jayashri , District Employment Officer; Sri S. Venkateshwarlu, District Education Officer;to Sri. Venky Naik, District Intermediate Education Officer; Sri V. Suresh

Mohan, District Panchayat Officer; Sri. Srisailam Yadav, Sri. Shiva Kumar and Shiva Goud, representatives of MY Bharat department. “During the deliberations, both the District Advisory Committee (DAC) and the District Samanvay Committee (DSC) discussed strategies to accelerate youth registrations across the district. The members resolved to organise intensive registration camps in colleges, universities, ITIs, polytechnics, schools, municipalities and Gram Panchayats; leverage NSS, NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides and creates Clubs for mobilisation; and utilise Gram Sabhas, community meetings and departmental outreach programmes to create widespread awareness about the MY Bharat Portal. “The Chairperson instructed all departments to nominate nodal officers, monitor the progress of registrations on a regular basis and maintain close coordination with the MY Bharat District Office. She stressed that collective efforts and convergence among all stakeholder departments are essential for achieving the district target of 80,251 youth registrations and ensuring meaningful youth participation in 7 nation-building initiatives. “The meeting concluded with all members assuring their full cooperation and commitment towards making the Intensive MY Bharat Registration & Awareness Drive a grand success. The District Administration and MY Bharat, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, appealed to all eligible youth of Ranga Reddy District to register on the MY Bharat Portal and actively participate in volunteerism, community service, leadership development and other nation-building programmes offered under the MY Bharat initiative.

13-Year-Old Boy Goes Missing in Uppal

“UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : A 13-year-old boy has gone missing under the Uppal Police Station limits, causing concern among his family members. According to the police, Mallesh (13), son of Nagappa, a resident near the Gandhi Statue in Uppal, has



been missing since Saturday afternoon. Despite extensive searches by his family at various locations, his whereabouts remain unknown. The family members and Uppal Police have appealed to the public to immediately inform the Uppal Police Station if anyone has any information about the boy or spots him anywhere. The Uppal Police have registered a missing person case and have launched an investigation.

Centre Backs Down Over NEET Leak... Dharmendra Pradhan Out; A Victory for Students



Errabelli Swarna “Hanamkonda, July 25 (Indian Chronicle): State Mahila Congress President Errabelli Swarna stated that the Central Government was compelled to respond to the aspirations of students in the NEET paper leak issue due to the support extended by the Congress

Party to the student protests. “In a statement released on Saturday, she said that the credit for this development goes to Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, whose persistent efforts and support for the students played a key role. She alleged that although students had been protesting for 28 days, the Central Government had failed to respond. However, with the Congress Party launching protests across the country in support of the students, the Centre was forced to reconsider its stand. “She further said that no government that stands against students can sustain itself and asserted that the Congress Party would continue its fight against what it described as the anti-people policies of the Central Government in the coming days. “Errabelli Swarna expressed her heartfelt condolences to the students who lost their lives during the NEET protests. She demanded that the injured be provided with proper medical treatment and urged the Central Government to grant ₹1 crore as ex gratia to the families of the deceased and provide one government job to a member of each bereaved family.

Extensive SIR Awareness Campaigns Conducted in HMT Nagar Division

Special Campaign Aimed at Protecting People’s Right to Vote – Saizen Shekhar “Nacharam, Indian Chornical, July 25: “BRS Party State Leader Saizen Shekhar stated that extensive awareness programmes are being conducted across HMT Nagar Division to educate the public about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme undertaken by the Election Commission. “He said that a special auto has been arranged to create awareness among the public about the SIR process and the importance of enumeration application forms. Through microphone announcements, extensive campaigns are being conducted across various colonies and slum areas of the division. “Saizen Shekhar stated that direct awareness is being created among the people to ensure that every eligible voter protects and exercises their right to vote. “He further said that, as per the directions of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, special help desks have been set up under the leadership of the BRS Party to assist people who are facing difficulties in filling out the enumeration application forms. Assistance is also being provided to help citizens identify their names in the 2002 electoral rolls. “He stated that, as a result of these awareness programmes, many people who were previously



unaware of the SIR process are coming forward and taking the necessary steps to safeguard their right to vote. “Saizen Shekhar appealed to all eligible voters to make use of the SIR process and take the necessary steps to protect their right to vote. “Vital Yadav, Vemula Maraiiah, Katta Buchanna Goud, Chandrashekar, Pentaiah, Ganesh, Srinivas, Narasimha, Ashok, Aruna and others participated in the programme.

Bharatanatyam Performance Enthralls Audience at Uppal Mini Shilparamam



“UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The weekend cultural programmes held regularly at Uppal Mini Shilparamam continue to captivate art lovers. As part of the Saturday evening event, a Bharatanatyam recital presented by the disciples of renowned dance guru Saritha Praveen mesmerised the audience. “Showcasing the grandeur of India’s classical dance tradition, the students presented a series of graceful performances that won widespread appreciation from the gathering. The programme commenced with “Vinayaka Kautham,” dedicated to Lord Ganesha, followed by “Pushpanjali,” offering salutations to

the guru and the Almighty. “The troupe then performed a variety of devotional, classical and folk-inspired dance pieces, including “Madhura Madhura,” “Kavadi Chindu,” “Devi Shabdham,” and “Hanuman Chalisa.” Their expressive abhinaya, rhythmic footwork and coordinated movements left the audience spellbound. Students Yashaswini, Keerthana, Sangeetha, Mishita, Pragathi, Aadriti, and Tanushree, among others, displayed exceptional talent throughout the performance. Their expressive facial gestures, technical precision and stage coordination earned repeated rounds of applause from the audience after every presentation. Speaking on the occasion, several art enthusiasts said that such cultural programmes play a vital role in preserving and promoting India’s rich classical dance heritage among younger generations. They appreciated Uppal Mini Shilparamam for regularly organising events that inspire children to develop an interest in Indian culture and traditional arts. The audience and organisers also congratulated dance guru Saritha Praveen and her students for presenting a memorable performance. The Bharatanatyam recital emerged as the highlight of the weekend cultural celebrations, offering the audience a spiritually uplifting and culturally enriching experience.

Permanent Solution to Open Drain Issue in Ram Reddy Nagar



“Residents Appreciate Akarapu Arun Patel for Keeping His Promise “UPPAL, JULY 25 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A permanent solution has been provided to the hazardous open drain issue in Ram Reddy Nagar Colony under Venkat Reddy Nagar Division. “Following the tragic death of a resident who accidentally fell into the open drain some time ago, social activist Akarapu Arun Patel visited the spot, inspected the situation, and assured the residents that he would work towards a permanent solution. Keeping his promise, Arun Patel persistently pursued the matter with GHMC officials and ensured that the open drain was covered, eliminating the danger and bringing relief to the colony residents. The locals praised Akarapu Arun Patel for his commitment to public safety and for fulfilling the assurance he had given. They described him as a leader who stands by his word and works tirelessly for the welfare of the people. “On the occasion, the residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Akarapu Arun Patel, GHMC officials, public representatives, and colony elders for their support in successfully completing the work. Among those present were Kuruma Sangham President Sattaiah, Ramalayam

Temple Director Mallaiah, Bhanu, Arun, Sai Krishna, Ashok, Bhaskar, Sadanand Chary, K. Mahesh, Pala Balayya, Naveen Pasha, and several other colony residents.

The establishment of a mining crusher mill on Naragutta should be cancelled

Telangana Agricultural Workers’ Union District General Secretary Kondamadugu Narasimha Demands “28 We will block the public consultation organized for the establishment of a mining crusher mill... Kondamadugu Narasimha Demands “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. July 25):- Telangana Agricultural Workers’ Union District Secretary Kondamadugu Narasimha has demanded that the government not give permission to establish a stone crusher mill on Naragutta, located between Tokkapuram, Ghaus Nagar, Erramballi, and Namath Pally villages in Bhuvanagiri Mandal, and immediately cancel the establishment of the mill. The District Collector should cancel the public consultation to be held on the 28th of this month, otherwise they warned in a statement that they would mobilize people from all sections and block it. According to official and unofficial figures, there are already more than 40 stone crusher mills and quarries in the district, especially in areas like Bhuvanagiri, Bhoodan Pochampally, Choutuppal, Turkapalli, and Bibinagar. He said that the local people are facing environmental pollution due to stone crusher mills. He said that when the heavy dust particles are crushed and transported by lorries, a lot of micro dust is released into the air, and the areas around the crushers are always filled with dust and it becomes difficult to see the road properly. He expressed his concern that due to respiratory diseases of the people and constant inhalation of dust, the local people, children and the elderly are suffering from lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis. Doctors say that there is a high risk of ‘silicosis’, a fatal lung disease caused by stone dust, and it is revealed that it causes eye irritation and skin allergies.

Leopard kills 5-year-old girl sleeping with family in Pune’s Shirur taluka



GNS News Agency, July 25

A farm labourer who woke up on hearing a noise in Pune district’s Shirur taluka saw a leopard taking away a five-year-old girl from their shed—only to find her body later in a sugarcane field early on Wednesday.According to forest department and police officials, the incident took place in Pimpalsuti village at around 2.40 am. The leopard attacked the girl while her family slept next to a cattle shed.

Officials identified the girl as Bhagyashree Sandeep Ware, whose family hails from Karodi village in Ahilyanagar’s

Pathardi taluka. Her family members work as farm labourers in Shirur and stay on the premises belonging to a local farmer.Officials said the girl’s family raised an alarm and attempted to scare the animal away, but it ran into a nearby sugarcane field with the girl. The incident was immediately reported to the cattle shed’s owner, following which the forest department, police, and villagers were informed.After forest officials arrived, they launched a search operation in the sugarcane field.

The girl was eventually traced and rushed by ambulance to the Rural Hospital in Nhavare. Doctors at the hospital declared her dead before treatment.“We have stepped up patrolling and are deploying trap cameras and trap cages,” said a forest department officer.Pune district has witnessed recurring incidents of human-leopard conflict in recent years. Last year, the Junnar forest division saw a spate of leopard attacks, with three people—two of them children—killed within less than three weeks between October and November.Shirur taluka then witnessed widespread public outrage, resulting in arson and a highway blockade and culminating in the forest department shooting dead a suspected man-eater leopard during a late-night operation after attempts to tranquilise it failed.

As protests swell, 30 more companies of central forces on way to Delhi

GNS News Agency, July 25

The Union Home Ministry has approved the deployment of 30 additional companies of Central Armed Police Forces in the national capital after Delhi Police sought reinforcements to maintain law and order during ongoing protests by the CJP and political parties at Jantar Mantar and nearby areas.

According to official communication, Delhi Police had asked for more force in view of the law and order situation arising from the demonstrations and to strengthen security measures. “After examining the matter, the ministry decided to make available 30 additional CAPF companies to Delhi Police with immediate effect until July 27,” it said. The maximum security personnel, all drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), are being airlifted from West Bengal after the Home Ministry ordered their immediate deployment in the national capital on Tuesday night.The additional deployment includes 18 companies of the CRPF, six companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the CRPF, three companies of the Border Security Force, one company of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and two companies of the Sashastra Seema Bal.45 more companies of security personnel

With this, Delhi Police will have a total of 45 central force companies at its disposal until July 27. This translates to about 4,500 personnel – a CRPF company has a



strength of about 100 personnel.The 45 companies at Delhi Police’s disposal now include 24 from CRPF, 15 from RAF, three from Border Security Force, one from Indo-Tibetan Border Police and two from Sashastra Seema Bal.The Home Ministry has also ordered that adequate arrangements be made for the accommodation and transportation of the deployed security personnel. Officials said the move is aimed at ensuring the capital’s law and order situation remains under control.Delhi has been witnessing protests by CJP, student organisations and Opposition parties over instances of question paper leaks ahead of competitive exams. The protesters demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Sources in the government have indicated that lapses in the exam system have been fixed and that there is no plan to “succumb” to the resignation demand, which they have termed “political”.

ED summons Trinamool treasurer Subhasish Chakraborty in helicopter purchase probe

GNS News Agency, July 25

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday summoned former Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Subhasish Chakraborty to its Kolkata office for questioning next week in connection with an ongoing money laundering probe into party funds.Chakraborty currently serves as the treasurer for the Mamata Banerjee-led faction of the Trinamool Congress. According to ED sources, he has been directed to appear with all documents related to three party bank accounts that the agency recently froze.

The summons comes amid an ongoing power struggle over the legitimate ownership of the party, its name, election symbol, and financial assets. The agency had previously sought transaction details from the bank, which sources say have already been provided. Investigators now aim to cross-examine Chakraborty and corroborate his statements with financial records obtained from the bank and the party.Chakraborty succeeded Aroop Biswas as party treasurer. Biswas had previously written to the HDFC Bank Central Plaza branch requesting a freeze on the three TMC accounts before joining the rival Ritobrata Banerjee-led faction.Legal battle over frozen accounts

The development follows a ruling by Justice Krishna Rao of the Calcutta High Court, who declined to grant interim relief to the Mamata Banerjee faction in its plea seeking a stay on the ED’s debit freeze. It had challenged the action taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).The agency is investigating alleged money laundering involving party fund transfers for the acquisition of an aircraft and a helicopter. Three TMC bank accounts, containing an estimated Rs 440 crore, were frozen after the agency flagged suspicious transactions made to Carewell Aviation India and an associated entity between April 2023 and June 2026.

Appearing for the TMC during court proceedings, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued that the ED’s freeze was an attempt to nullify a prior High Court order



passed in a separate proceeding. Singhvi submitted that the agency imposed a fresh freeze under its PMLA probe despite knowing the accounts were likely to be de-frozen under earlier proceedings.The agency defended its move, maintaining that the attachment was based on an independent money laundering investigation and had no bearing on earlier police action. Sources revealed the agency recently issued a formal request to the HDFC Bank branch for comprehensive deposit and withdrawal records, including timestamps and identity details of transaction parties.Separately, Justice Saugata Bhattacharya appointed retired judge Justice Subrata Talukdar as a Special Officer until September 30. Under Justice Talukdar’s supervision, the High Court permitted the Mamata Banerjee faction to resume operating the frozen accounts to manage day-to-day expenses partially. The order allows any two authorised signatories to present cheques to the Special Officer as needed.The Mamata Banerjee faction had approached the High Court after three accounts holding Rs 440 crore were initially frozen by the police. Following the party’s defeat in the Assembly elections, a rebel group of TMC leaders asked the bank to lock the accounts, citing a “serious dispute” within the party, and filed a complaint with the Bidhannagar cybercrime unit seeking a probe into the source of the funds, prompting an FIR and subsequent investigation.

Rising egg prices force Telangana schools to cut mid-day meal egg supply

Hyderabad: Rising egg prices and inadequate reimbursement from the Telangana Congress government are set to push eggs off government and local body school children’s plates once again. Earlier, eggs were dropped from the menu due to high cost in November last year.

Now, the mid-day meal workers have decided to reduce the supply of eggs to children from thrice to once a week and intend a complete halt of eggs if the government fails to revise the per-egg cost or directly supply them to the school.This move comes as the government reimburses only Rs 6 per egg, while an egg is now being sold between Rs 8.50 and Rs 10 placing the mid-day meal agencies and workers who cook and serve food to 10.55 lakh children under financial stress.

For instance, the government pays Rs 312 per day towards egg costs for 52 students of a local body school in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. However, the cook is procuring eggs for Rs 442 daily, incurring a loss of Rs 130 every

day, translating to a weekly loss of nearly Rs 400.Telangana Mid-day Meal Scheme Workers union raised the issue with the School Education department and wanted the government to directly supply eggs to schools.“Due to additional transportation charges, the cost of an egg has gone up to Rs 10 in the agency areas. Why should we bear the additional burden when the government does not reimburse,” said Vijaya Laxmi, a mid-day meal worker from Bhadradri-Kothagudem district.Now, the rising costs of vegetables, edible oil, salt, and other grocery items have also put them in a fix.

“We urge the government to directly supply eggs, provisions and vegetables, along with LPG cylinders and their refilling cost, to schools. As promised during the Assembly election campaign, the government should also enhance our monthly honorarium to Rs. 10,000,” said P Prema Pavan, president, Telangana Mid-day Meal Scheme Workers Union.

400 cops, 5-hour raid, one village: How Maharashtra cops zeroed in on illegal arms hub in MP



GNS News Agency, July 25Stepping up their action against the illegal arms network, codenamed ‘Operation Combing’, more than 400 policemen from Maharashtra stormed Umarti village in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh and launched a five-hour raid in one of the biggest coordinated anti-arms operations undertaken by the state police.During the raid in Umarti village, the cops searched 45 houses of the suspects linked to illegal arms manufacturing, questioned 20 people and detained 12 for verification. Of the 20, 12 persons were released later with notices, police said.

Umar village, about a kilometre from the Maharashtra border, has long figured on the radar of Maharashtra Police as a suspected hub for the manufacture and supply of country-made weapons used in crimes across north of the state.Police said the operation targeted absconding accused

wanted in serious criminal cases as well as those allegedly involved in manufacturing and supplying illegal firearms.While the raids were on, the cops caught two persons and seized two country-made pistols and four live cartridges from them. Moulds, raw materials and equipment allegedly used to manufacture firearms were also seized.Raid Umarti village Maharashtra Police raids village in MP (Picture by Jalgaon Police)Another major haul included 32 motorcycles bearing Maharashtra registration numbers that are suspected to be stolen and used in criminal activities. According to police, many of the vehicles are registered in Nashik Rural.Jalgaon Superintendent of Police Shrikant Dhivare said the operation was aimed at disrupting the illegal arms supply chain, feeding the criminal networks in Maharashtra.A key feature of the drive was the use of geo tagging technology to digitally map the houses of 27 absconding and suspected accused. Police said the digital mapping would help track suspects and improve future surveillance.The operation was led by Additional Superintendent of Police Ashok Nakhate and involved officers from three districts, including eight police inspectors, 35 police sub inspectors and over 240 constables from Jalgaon, besides 140 personnel from Nashik Rural and Dhule.Nearly 30 percent of the force comprised women police personnel, who were deployed to handle women residents during the searches. Police said lessons from previous raids were incorporated into the planning to ensure the operation could be carried out without resistance overwhelming the teams.

Amid NDA buzz, Sharad Pawar meets PM Modi, flags Maharashtra farm crisis

GNS News Agency, July 25

Amid renewed speculation over the Nationalist Congress Party (SP)’s ties with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), party chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and submitted a memorandum highlighting Maharashtra’s agrarian crisis.Pawar was accompanied by his daughter and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule. The meeting came a day after he met students protesting against the Centre at Jantar Mantar and days after the NCP (SP) said it would support the Centre’s proposed Delimitation Bill if concerns over equitable representation were addressed, triggering fresh political speculation. The party has, however, repeatedly denied any move towards the NDA.Following the meeting, the NCP (SP) released the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, urging the Centre to intervene in what Pawar described as a deepening farm crisis.“The farmer does not merely want relief, grants or loan waivers, but a fair price for their hard work and a transparent, accountable administration,” Pawar wrote, urging the Centre to address policy failures, improve water management and ensure effective implementation of welfare schemes.Pawar said agriculture had been hit by erratic rainfall, drought, inadequate irrigation and poor water management, while administrative apathy, policy shortcomings and poor implementation of schemes had compounded farmers’ distress.He said, on average, one farmer dies by suicide every three hours in Maharashtra and that more than 2,700 farmers in Vidarbha and Marathwada had died by suicide in a year. He also highlighted delays in compensation to affected families, attributing them to cumbersome verification procedures and



administrative delays, and sought faster digital verification and direct transfer of aid.

Pawar also demanded an independent third-party audit of irrigation projects and the Jal Jeevan Mission, alleging poor implementation, corruption, political interference and contractor negligence.The meeting assumed political significance as it came amid Opposition protests over the alleged NEET paper leak and a day after Pawar met students protesting in Delhi Seeking to quell speculation, Maharashtra NCP (SP) president Shashikant Shinde said there was “no proposal” for the party to join the NDA.“I have said this many times before that we have no proposal regarding joining the NDA. The meeting with Prime Minister need not be about joining alliance or switching over to other side. I respectfully request all of you to stop speculating about us joining NDA every time such meeting takes place,” Shinde said.

‘Attackers weren’t hawkers’: Vendors’ body decries assault on Bengaluru civic body team

GNS News Agency, July 25

Street vendors’ body on Wednesday decried the recent assault on Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials during an anti-encroachment drive in Shivajinagar while urging the Karnataka government to initiate stringent legal action against the offenders.In a statement, the Street Vendors’ Joint Action Committee described the assault as “highly condemnable” and maintained that the attackers were not genuine street vendors but individuals allegedly associated with a pro-Kannada organisation.The outfit asserted that registered street vendors have been pursuing their livelihood rights through constitutional and peaceful means.

The committee has urged the government to ensure that genuine street vendors are not harassed in the aftermath of the incident. It also sought an independent inquiry into allegations that certain officials had been protecting groups operating illegal permanent structures on public footpaths.Meanwhile, the city police on Wednesday arrested two more men who were part of the gang that allegedly obstructed and manhandled GBA officers while they were carrying out the demolition and footpath clearance operation in compliance with a court order. The incident took place around noon in front of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College. So far, the police have arrested 12 men, including the main accused, Basawaraj Padukote.“Padukote is the state president of Namma Karnataka Sene, a pro-Kannada organisation, and has a criminal background,” a senior police officer said. He has a criminal background, primarily involving charges of rioting, unlawful assembly, assault, and criminal intimidation, the officer added.He said all the accused will be produced before the court later in the day and seek their police custody.



a case based on a complaint by Madhav Rao, GBA Assistant Executive Engineer, who was also attacked. Rao alleged that two identified individuals, along with several others, pepper-sprayed civic personnel before attacking officials with iron rods and other objects, leaving multiple members of the enforcement team injured.Apart from Rao, those injured include assistant engineers Goutham, 29, (Shivajinagar Sub-Division), and Ruchita, 25, (Shivajinagar Sub-Division); Savitri, 40, Assistant Executive Engineer, Halasuru Sub-Division, and Siddappa, 30. A JCB operator, tractor driver and several workers engaged in the demolition drive were also allegedly assaulted.The police have registered a case under charges of attempt to murder, assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging official duty, assault or criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty, aggravated criminal intimidation, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, unlawful assembly, and voluntarily causing hurt to deter a public servant from discharging official duty of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Hyderabad records light rain as overcast weather continues across Telangana

Hyderabad: Overcast conditions coupled with sporadic short spells of light to moderate showers have continued in Hyderabad and districts over the past 24 hours. The highest rainfall of 59.2 mm was recorded at Nandigam, Rangareddy district, between 8.30 am Tuesday and 8.30 am Wednesday, the daily weather report from TSDPS on Wednesday said.

Across Telangana, the average cumulative rainfall (in one day) throughout Telangana was 9.9 mm, while the highest maximum temperature of 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Alangapuram, Suryapet. In Hyderabad, the maximum temperature of 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Vittalvadi.

In the Greater Hyderabad region, the highest rainfall of 15 mm was recorded at Shankarpalle in Rangareddy dis-



trict. The entire day’s average rainfall in the last 24-hours was 6.3 mm, the TSDPS data indicated.Some of the other regions in Hyderabad,

Record over 1.7 bn people watched FIFA WC related videos on YouTube: Sundar Pichai



GNS News Agency, July 25

New Delhi: Google CEO Sundar Pichai said on Wednesday that YouTube drew over 1.7 billion unique global viewers to watch World Cup-related videos and lifted lifetime views of related content to over 200 billion. "It was our most viewed World Cup ever on YouTube, bringing lifetime views of related content to over 200 billion!," Google CEO said on X. CEO, YouTube Neal Mohan's post was shared by Pichai to mention additional audience figures.

Mohan said that the platform's first Creator Cup drew

over 10 million live views. He also mentioned over 2.5 million views "from our creator cohort who brought iconic commentary and perspectives throughout the tournament," in his X post. "Congrats on an incredible championship, Spain! And a huge thanks to our partners, creators and teams at YouTube who made the fan experience unlike any other," the post said. US President Donald Trump said that over 6.5 million spectators had attended the tournament, exceeding the combined attendance of the previous two World Cups. Trump called the tournament "the most successful sporting event, maybe in the history of the world", adding that fans from 200 countries attended 104 matches across 16 cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The FIFA World Cup disrupted US workplaces and may have shaved as much as \$11.7 billion off the country's productivity as millions of workers adjusted their schedules to watch matches, according to a report. The tournament's global impact was nearly \$17 billion, due to higher absenteeism, late arrivals and early departures during the competition, the data from UKG showed. In addition, the data from workplace platform Envoy showed highest work disruption coming the day after the United States men's team was eliminated from the tournament. Office attendance dropped 26 per cent on July 7, while employee entries dropped 11.5 per cent.

2,000 volunteers join a painstaking effort to restore massive skeleton of prehistoric predator

GNS News Agency, July 25

Warsaw: Volunteers armed with chisels, brushes and protective goggles chip away at rock encasing the bones of a massive prehistoric amphibian in a glass-walled laboratory on the ground floor of Warsaw's Copernicus. On the other side of the wall, visitors watch the work unfold on the bones of the nearly six-meter (20-foot)-long skeleton. Children point with excitement while parents contemplate the creature the massive bones once belonged to. The painstaking restoration is part of an unusual public science project. More than 2,000 volunteers are helping Polish scientists restore the skeleton of the Mastodonsaurus, a fearsome aquatic predator from around the dawn of the dinosaur age. The work is meticulous. Bone must be separated from surrounding rock millimeter by millimeter with a pneumatic chisel, whose needle gently breaks away rock while ultraviolet light reveals where the bone ends and the surrounding rock begins.

The volunteers are managers, cleaners, tattoo artists – not geologists or paleontologists. They receive training and special protective gear, before they begin two-hour-long chiselling sessions under supervision. "I imagine that those bones were lying underground for 240 million years and I am the first human on earth to touch them," said Tatyana Kozyk, the coordinator of the volunteer teams. "I'm still trying to wrap my head around this experience." One of the largest amphibians ever to exist, the Mastodonsaurus lived about 240 million years ago during the Middle Triassic, while the earliest dinosaurs were appearing but before they came to dominate Earth. It was an underwater ambush hunter, preying mainly on fish and smaller amphibians.

Scientists believe it could grow to nearly six meters (20 feet) in length. It had a broad, flat head, long jaws and sharp conical teeth, its appearance resembling a crocodile's, though it belonged to a different branch of the vertebrate family tree. When the restoration is complete, it will be the largest exhibited in a museum anywhere in the world, said Tomasz Sulej, a paleontologist and professor at the Institute of Paleobiology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Its skeleton weighs 1,300 kilograms (2,865 pounds). Sulej and his colleague Wojciech Pawlak from the Faculty of Geology at the Warsaw University are credited with discovering the skeleton in southern Poland in 2023 and coming up with the idea to invite volunteers to help with its restoration. Sulej says there are no other known Mastodonsaurus skeletons this large anywhere else in the world, and the discovery promises to help scientists learn more about the species. "The structure of the body is different from what we knew so far," he said. "This is information that is completely new to the scientific world." Other Mastodonsaurus



skeletons have been found elsewhere, including in Germany and Russia, Sulej said, but they are around 2 to 3 meters (6½ to 10 feet) long.

A chance to reflect on the past and future Dorota Serafin, a 51-year-old manager from Warsaw who volunteers for the project, said working with the skeleton of an ancient animal is an experience that is at the same time "relaxing and philosophical, even mystical." Serafin said she plans to return for other sessions and eventually bring her family to Copernicus when the restored skeleton is exhibited, which is expected to happen in October or November. In addition to the startling experience of touching the remains of an animal that lived hundreds of millions of years ago, contact with the Mastodonsaurus offers an opportunity to reflect on the future, those involved in the project said. The amphibian inhabited Earth's waters after the largest known mass extinction and just before the dinosaurs appeared. As humanity contemplates the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change, Sulej says the story of the Mastodonsaurus offers some hope. "The Mastodonsaurus lived after the great extinction, which shows one thing, that nature always manages," Sulej said. "It's not true that humans can destroy life on this planet. Nature and life always find ways to survive."

US to impose steep tariffs on generic medicine imports from Aug 2028



Washington: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced plans to onshore drug manufacturing by keeping tariffs on imported generic medicines at zero per cent for two years before raising them to 100 per cent in August 2028 and 200 per cent thereafter — a move that could impact India. India is the largest exporter of generic drugs to the US.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said beginning August 1, the US will continue to have a zero per cent tariff on all generic drugs brought into the country for two years, after which it will be raised to 100 per cent for one year, and 200 per cent thereafter. "Effective August 1st, 2026, all Generic Drugs being brought into the United States will continue to have a TARIFF of ZERO PERCENT for two years, after which the TARIFF will be raised to 100 per cent for one year, and 200 per cent thereafter," Trump said.

"This is done in order to RESHORE Generic Pharmaceutical Production into America, with a penalty to those Companies that decide not to build Plant and Equipment within the stated period of time given to them," Trump said. The president said the objective of this policy is to protect the people of the United States. "The Policy on Patented, Branded, or Innovative Drugs, which has been so successful, will remain as is," he said. India is often called the "pharmacy of the world" as it supplies generic medicines to countries across the globe. In 2025, India exported USD 9.7 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the US, accounting for 38 per cent of its total global pharma exports of USD 25.8 bil-

lion, a Global Trade Research Initiative report said. Indian generic medicines are widely prescribed for hypertension, diabetes, cancer, infectious diseases, and mental health.

According to the New York Times report, generic drugs, such as statins and antibiotics, account for about 90 per cent of Americans' prescriptions. They are most often manufactured in India, with heavy reliance on China for ingredients. Republicans and Democrats have identified that as a national security vulnerability. Doctors and supply chain experts have been sharply critical of the idea of taxing imported generics, saying it threatened to raise costs, spur rationing and lead to shortages of crucial drugs. Until now, the administration had said that generic drugs would be exempted from tariffs, the Time report said.

Washington: President Donald Trump has formally approved a landmark nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia that could permit uranium enrichment inside the kingdom and generate tens of billions of dollars for American companies, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing US officials. The 30-year agreement would give Saudi Arabia access to a civilian nuclear programme. It is designed to place US companies at the centre of the kingdom's emerging nuclear infrastructure while excluding foreign competitors, the Journal said.

The deal could mark a significant expansion of nuclear cooperation between Washington and Riyadh. It is also expected to revive concerns in Congress about the spread of sensitive nuclear technology in the Middle East. Under a key provision, American companies could build a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia. The project would proceed only if a joint US-Saudi study concluded that such a facility was warranted, according to the Journal. Uranium enrichment can produce fuel for civilian nuclear reactors.

Explainer: What to know about Iran's Pickaxe Mountain



Dubai: US President Donald Trump has repeatedly issued threats to bomb an under-construction Iranian nuclear site buried deep under a mountain as the two nations exchange blows over the Strait of Hormuz. The site, known as Kuh-e Kolang Gaz La, or "Pickaxe Mountain," lies on the south side of Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment site, which was bombed by the United States during Operation Midnight Hammer in 2025's 12-day war between Iran and Israel. But Pickaxe Mountain has remained untouched as Iran continues to dig at the site.

It remains unclear just what has been placed at Pickaxe Mountain, as the United Nations' nuclear watchdog has never gained access to the site. But Trump on Tuesday talking with journalists in the Oval Office acknowledged the possibility Iran may have moved centrifuges there, potentially at a depth that would challenge even the most powerful bombs in America's arsenal. "We'll be hitting that area ... probably pretty soon. And there's not a thing they can do about it," Trump said. Here's what to know about Pickaxe Mountain and the status of Iran's nuclear program. Pickaxe Mountain site was built after earlier attacks on Iran

The new project at Pickaxe Mountain is being constructed next to Natanz, about 225 kilometres south of Tehran, Iran's capital. Natanz, a mix of above- and underground facilities, has been a point of international concern since its existence became known two decades ago. Repeated sabotage attacks on Natanz, including one likely carried out by Israel that destroyed a manufacturing site for centrifuges, led Iranian officials to start work on the Pickaxe Mountain site. Protected by anti-aircraft batteries, fencing and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, the facility sprawls across 2.7 square kilometres in the country's arid Central Plateau. It has multiple entrances visible from satellite images.

In 2023, an Associated Press story on Pickaxe Mountain included analysis from experts at the James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies that suggested Iran is likely building a facility at a depth of between 80 metres and 100 metres. Digging has continued at the site in the time since, with some experts suggesting it could be even deeper underground. Experts say the size of the construction project indicates Iran will likely be able to use the underground facility to enrich uranium as well as to build centrifuges. Centrifuges, tube-shaped devices arranged in

EAM Jaishankar holds talks with Chinese FM Wang Yi in Manila, says ties gradually normalising



Manila: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a wide-ranging discussion with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Manila, Philippines, focusing on bilateral relations, border stability and key regional and global developments. EAM Jaishankar shared details of the meeting in a post on X, saying he held discussions with Wang Yi, who is also a member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Politburo, on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum. In his opening remarks during the meeting, EAM Jaishankar said, "Excellency, I am glad to meet you again. Our participation in the EAS and the ASEAN Regional Forum not only provides an occasion to exchange views collectively, but also hold this bilateral meeting."

He said the meeting provided an opportunity to review the state of India-China relations and discuss important regional and global issues. "We ourselves met a year ago and you were recently in India. Today's occasion will be useful in taking stock of our ties and also discuss important regional and global developments," EAM Jaishankar

large cascades of dozens of machines, rapidly spin uranium gas to enrich it. Additional cascades spinning would allow Iran to quickly enrich uranium under the mountain's protection. Such underground facilities led the US to create the GBU-57 bomb, which can plow through at least 60 metres of earth before detonating, according to the American military. US officials reportedly have discussed using two such bombs in succession to ensure a site is destroyed. It is not clear that such a one-two punch would damage a facility as deep as the one at Pickaxe Mountain.

Speaking alongside Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Tuesday, Trump initially sought to downplay Pickaxe Mountain by bringing up Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Iran had enriched uranium up to nearly weapons-grade levels of 60 per cent before the 2025 strikes. In the time since, Iran is not known to have restarted enrichment and its stockpile is believed to be at still at the bombed enrichment sites. "We follow the material, that's where the action is," Trump told journalists. Trump, however, said Pickaxe Mountain was a potential target for American bombers as back-and-forth attacks between Iran and the US rage on. "Normally I wouldn't say that," the president added. "If I thought they could do something about it, I would never say that, but we'll be hitting that area pretty soon. And very heavily." Iran says that areas around its only nuclear power plant at Bushehr have already come under attack during the war, though no damage was done to its Russian-run reactor. Tehran also said the US attacked the cleared area where it plans to build the Darkhovin nuclear plant, though the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency says there was no atomic material there the last time they inspected the site. The only nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates, its four-reactor facility at Barakah, also has been targeted during the war. Iran has since warned that it would take unspecified "required actions" to respond to the Darkhovin attack. Iran's nuclear program has been a worry for the West for decades. In 2025, the US bombed Iran's nuclear sites at Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz. All three had conducted uranium enrichment. At the time of the 2025 war and the recent Iran war, both Israel and the US said they aimed to stop Iran from ever be able to build a nuclear weapon. Iran has long insisted its program is peaceful, and it isn't believed by the IAEA or the West to have had an active military nuclear program since 2003. Israel long has been believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear-armed state. However, even before the recent wars Iranian officials have increasingly threatened to pursue an atomic bomb. The late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, killed February 28 in the opening moments of the war, issued a verbal fatwa, or religious ruling, that nuclear weapons were un-Islamic. However, his son, Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, has not issued any statement regarding his views on the atomic bomb. To build a usable weapon, Iran would first need to enrich uranium up to 90 per cent purity. It would then need to build an actual bomb, and then likely also need to miniaturise it and mount it on a ballistic missile. That process would take months or years, and would face the risk of discovery by Israeli or US intelligence in the meantime.

said. Highlighting recent developments in bilateral ties, the EAM said relations between the two countries had been gradually normalising after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan in October 2024. "Since the meeting of our leaders in Kazan in October 2024, relations between India and China have been gradually normalizing. This direction was further affirmed when they met in Tianjin last August," he said.

The External Affairs Minister emphasised that a stable relationship between the two nations should be built on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. "Such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world," he said. On the sensitive border issue, EAM Jaishankar said peace and tranquillity in border areas remained essential for normal bilateral ties. "Peace and tranquillity in the border areas is obviously the pre-requisite for normal ties. Since October 2024, both sides have engaged to ensure that important objective. This will continue to need our constant attention," he said. He added that differences between the two countries should not turn into disputes. "That is why our leaders had agreed that differences should not become disputes. It is the responsibility of diplomacy to properly manage them," Jaishankar said. The External Affairs Minister also welcomed steps taken towards normalisation, including the resumption of direct flights, updating of visa arrangements, restarting of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and recommencement of border trade. However, he said several issues still required attention, including fair market access, trade balance, supply chain concerns and facilitating official as well as people-to-people exchanges. EAM Jaishankar also appreciated China's support for BRICS activities during India's chairship of the grouping and said the current global situation made it important for the two countries to exchange views on pressing international developments.



infrastructure. Saudi Arabia has sought to develop civilian nuclear power as part of its effort to diversify its energy mix and economy beyond oil. The kingdom has also argued that nuclear energy could help meet rising domestic electricity demand and free more oil for export.

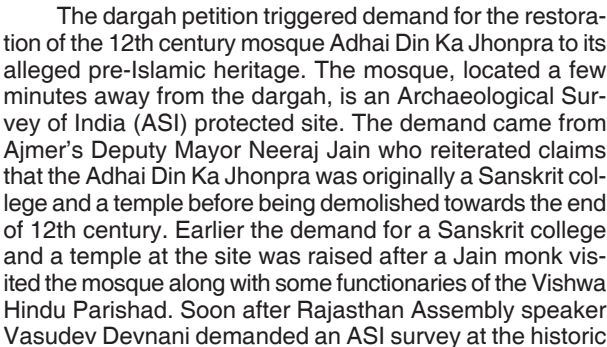
The mosques which face survey petitions | Explained



Carlos Sainz (5th, 290): The Spaniard had the most challenging job among the drivers in the top four teams. Before the start of the season, Sainz was out of a job after Ferrari hired Hamilton for his seat in 2025. It meant the 30-year-old was driving for his future and, considering the pressure, showed an excellent account of himself. His win in Australia, coming weeks after undergoing an appendix surgery, displayed his tenacity. When the Ferrari was unpredictable, Sainz showed great adaptability, but once the Scuderia became competitive, he fell short against Leclerc just a bit consistently. Lewis Hamilton (7th, 223): The seven-time champion started the season with a bombshell announcement that he would join Ferrari in 2025 which signalled that he had lost faith in Mercedes' ability to give him a car that could fight for the championship. Russell outperformed the 40-year-old at the start of the year, though the British legend came back strongly during the summer. The highlight of his season came at his home track of Silverstone, where he took a record ninth British GP win. But post the summer break, the momentum swung back to Russell. Fans and Hamilton himself will hope for better days at Ferrari, which is on an upswing. Nico Hulkenberg (11th, 41): The German driver has long been considered to have failed to deliver on his potential. It hasn't helped that his raw speed has not always worked well in the Pirelli era, where there is more premium on being softer to the tyres than the ability to get very last tenth of the car. Once Renault (now Alpine) dropped him after 2019, it appeared his career was over. Though he did well as a stand-in during the Covid years, he has found a second wind at Haas. This year, he completely demolished his teammate Kevin Magnussen and almost helped Haas move up the table in the constructors'. He also was a bit unlucky in that he finished 11th, just outside the points six times. If not for Alpine's 2-3 finish at the Sao Paulo GP, Haas would have finished sixth in the championship. He will now race for Sauber in 2025 before it becomes the works Audi team in 2026, and the German driver will lead the iconic brand's F1 challenge. Fernando Alonso (9th, 70): The two-time champion had a miserable time in his second year at Aston Martin as the squad failed to build a decent car. At 43, the Spaniard showed he had not lost his speed by wringing consistent points finishes out of uncompetitive machinery, especially in the early part, by dragging his car into the top-10 in the first seven rounds. Last year, Aston fought for podiums consistently in the first half before trailing off towards the end, and that downward trend continued in 2024. Still, if not for Alonso's heroic efforts, who contributed nearly 75% of the team's tally, the British outfit would not have finished fifth in the constructors' table. Yuki Tsunoda (12th, 30): The Japanese driver was saddled in a tricky car but continued to improve his stature in the sport through his impressive performances for the second year. Tsunoda comfortably saw off the challenge from Daniel Ricciardo, scoring points consistently and pretty much ended the latter's career. Once Liam Lawson replaced Ricciardo, Tsunoda comfortably out-qualified the New Zealander and won their intra-team battle. But despite doing all he can, it is not clear yet that he will be considered for promotion to Red Bull Racing.

K3 follows another major AI model release last month from the Chinese startup Zhipu, or Z.ai. Its new flagship GLM-5.2 model is already being widely used by software developers around the world who say it can perform work almost as good as the top US models at a cheaper price. The hype over the new Chinese model resembles the market-shaking panic that followed the release of a new model from Chinese startup DeepSeek in early 2025, though not ev-

anyone finds it justified. The response to K3 is an "overreaction shockingly similar" to DeepSeek's release last year, said tech analyst Patrick Moorhead on social media. He said it could be good for parts of the broader AI industry but pose a revenue challenge to Anthropic and OpenAI. During the conference that runs until Monday, tech giant Huawei has also been showcasing a new AI computing system called the Atlas 950 SuperPoD, a signal that China increasingly is amassing the domestic hardware it needs despite US restrictions on imports from chipmakers like Nvidia. Moonshot hasn't said what hardware it used to build K3, but the startup is a partner with Huawei. The price to use K3 is highest yet for a Chinese AI model, but it is still half as expensive as OpenAI's high-performing GPT-5.5 Sol model, according to a Friday report by Bank of America research analysts. US politicians and several major US AI companies including Anthropic and OpenAI have accused Chinese AI models of illicit "distillation" of their models to extract their technologies, a claim that Beijing says is "groundless." Anthropic in February accused DeepSeek, Moonshot and a third China-based AI lab, MiniMax, of engaging in campaigns to "illicitly extract Claude's capabilities to improve their own models" using the distillation technique that "involves training a less capable model on the outputs of a stronger one." Anthropic said that distillation can be a legitimate way to train AI systems but it's a problem when competitors "use it to acquire powerful capabilities from other labs in a fraction of the time, and at a fraction of the cost, that it would take to develop them independently." But it can go both ways. San Francisco-based startup Anyphere, maker of the popular coding tool Cursor, has acknowledged that one of its top products was based on Moonshot's K2.5 model. Elon Musk's SpaceX is planning to close a deal to buy Cursor for USD 60 billion later this year. Moonshot co-founder and CEO Yang Zhilin earned his Ph.D. in 2019 at Carnegie Mellon University, where he is said to have made fundamental contributions to the machine-learning field and was known for a love of rock bands like Pink Floyd.



The 800-year-old Shamsi Jama Masjid is the latest mosque to face contestation. A fast-track court is hearing the claims of Mukesh Patel of the Hindu Mahasabha who filed a claim against the mosque, insisting it was an ancient Neelkanth Mahadev temple. In response, the Shamsi Shahi mosque's intezamia committee argued the suit was non-maintainable. Incidentally, the mosque is built on an elevated area called Sotha Mohalla, and is said to be the highest structure in Badaun town. After Quwwatul Islam and Adhai Din ka jhonpra, it is the third oldest mosque in north India. After Badaun, cries are being made about the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi too — that it's built at the site of a Vishnu temple. With the districts and sessions courts continuing to freely admit such petitions, the provisions of the Places of Worship Act 1991 which prohibit changing the character of places of worship as they stood on August 15, 1947, stand ignored. Meanwhile, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board appealed to the Supreme Court to take suo moto notice of such petitions and bar the lower level judiciary from entertaining them in the future.

The complexity of the issueWith its passing in the Commons, the proposal is now slated for review by a Public Bill Committee, which will scrutinise, fine tune, and suggest amendments to its various clauses, before it returns the draft to Parliament for an ultimate sanction. Therefore, there is still some way to go. But seeing how previous efforts, to bring about a law to allow assisted dying, have floundered, the Bill's passing represents a milestone, a victory for those who consider the right to die, when faced with an intolerable ailment, as intrinsic to human liberty. At the same time, the sharply divergent views expressed amongst lawmakers in Britain also shows us just how complex an issue this is. The debates contain in them lessons that the rest of the world can take, in deciding how best to allow people to both lead, and end, their lives, with dignity and compassion. The opposition to the law primarily rests on two planks. First, opponents argue that the law is premised on a "slippery slope" — that it would be practically impossible to draw boundaries limiting the right to assisted death, and that the old and the disabled might be pressured into choosing to end their lives in the midst of fears that they might wind up becoming a burden on their loved ones. Critics also claim that a similar law employed in Canada has produced worrying results. Originally, following a 2015 judgment of the country's Supreme Court, the government opened up av-

In many ways, the debates in Britain assume universal value. In India, the Supreme Court has previously recognised a limited freedom to die, a right both to passive euthanasia and a right to make an “advance medical directive” — that is a liberty to stipulate one’s preferences for medical treatment, or the withdrawal thereof.

Chief Justices need longer tenures



In September, Chief Justices were appointed to eight High Courts across India. While a good move, the fact that all of them, with the exception of one, will have very short tenures is unfortunate. This is a persistent problem that calls for urgent remedial action since it affects the institutional effectiveness of the judiciary.

Short tenuresIn fact, one Chief Justice has already completed his tenure. Justice Rajiv Shakhder, who was Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, retired after just 24 days, on October 18. Just as he was settling into his role, he had to attend his farewell. Justice Manmohan, who had been serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, was sworn in as Chief Justice on September 29. On December 3, the Union government announced the appointment of Chief Justice Manmohan as a judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Tashi Rabstan will serve a tenure of about six months as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, who was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has a tenure of about eight months. Justice K.R. Shriram, appointed as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, will serve a one-year tenure. Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji, the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, will also be retiring around the same time as Justice Shriram. Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, has a tenure of about 15 months. The only judge who is will serve a relatively long tenure of about four years is Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao, who has been appointed as Chief Justice in Jharkhand.

The Chief Justice of a High Court plays a pivotal role in sustaining the all-round health of the institution. The Chief Justice administers the institution, tracks its financial health, plays an important role in recommending names for judgeship, constitutes various committees to administer the institution, attends to the welfare of the staff of the High Court, takes disciplinary action against erring trial court judges and staff when warranted, arranges for defence of such action before appropriate authorities when questioned, responds to innumerable mundane administrative requests, accepts invitations and participates in various symposia, seminars, and functions that are not necessarily restricted to law, par-

ticipates in functions organised by the Bar Councils and various advocate associations across the State, and addresses problems related to legal education in the State apart from, of course, discharging the function as the top judicial authority of the State. Clearly, doing all of this in the time available is a daunting task.High Courts are not compact institutions. Further, the tasks that need the attention of a Chief Justice in a High Court situated in one part of the country could be vastly different from what is required of a Chief Justice in a High Court in another part of the country. To understand each of these institutions in their entirety or even substantially takes time and effort. Most Chief Justices barely understand the requirements of the institution by the time their terms cease.A lot has been said about the short tenure of Chief Justices. During his farewell speech in 2022, Supreme Court judge Justice L. Nageswara Rao said those elevated as judges to the top court must get a “minimum seven to eight years” in office “if not 10 years”. He said, “It takes them (Chief Justices) 1.5 to two years to understand how the Court functions here because it is completely different from the High Courts.” He added that by the time they settle down, “they are looking at their retirement”. Several Chief Justices who have retired after brief tenures have voiced similar sentiments. This is a similar lament among Chief Justices of the High Courts too. Yet, little attention has been paid to the problem.A lesson from the BritishIt was not so during British rule. Back then, it was a norm for Chief Justices to have long tenures. The Madras High Court came into existence in 1862. When it completed 150 years in 2012, it had completed 85 years as a Court in British India and 65 years as a Court in independent India. The first Chief Justice was Sir Colley Harman Scotland. In 1947, when it had completed 85 years, the Madras High Court had had just 11 Chief Justices. Each of them had enjoyed an average tenure of a little less than eight years. During the Madras High Court’s 150th year celebrations, Justice M.Y. Iqbal was the 35th Chief Justice. So, in 65 years, the Court had had 24 Chief Justices, which means the average tenure of those judges was hardly 2.75 years. The average term reduces further when we deduct the tenures of Chief Justice P.V. Rajamannar, who served a term of 13 years, and Chief Justice Veeraswami K., who had a tenure of about seven years. This means that there were 22 Chief Justices in 45 years, which brings down the average term of each to merely more than over two years.While the tasks of Chief Justices are only increasing and becoming more complicated, the duration given to them to address these are becoming shorter and shorter. When the system provides such little time for the incumbents to even understand the system, what scope is there for innovation, reform, and improvement?The attempt here is not to provide prescriptions to the malady. It is to emphasise that the problem needs to be addressed. It can only be resolved by a joint deliberation of stakeholders, including the Bar. It is important that they evolve a solution before the problem seriously affects the system.

Battle Of The Bulge: Are semaglutides the answer?

Hyderabad: In the winter of 1944, Nazi Germany unleashed its final major offensive to stop the Allied forces from using the strategic Belgian port of Antwerp and to split enemy lines. It was called The Battle of The Bulge — a key turning point in World War II.Today, our world is living through two major wars — Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Gaza-Lebanon. And, it is on the brink of a full-blown escalation that many fear may manifest in World War III.While top diplomats, leaders of State and geopolitical analysts are yet again in a huddle to save humankind, this time from ballistic missiles and drones, another ‘Battle of The Bulge’ is ensuing far, far away from the frontlines — in the glistening urban landscapes where vanity is up against wellness and cosmetic against health in the race to look like a million bucks.With every passing day, as lifestyle changes for the worse — blame it on technology, sedentary work culture, lack of discipline or arrogance — our world is spending every waking moment fighting OBESITY. According to a recent study published in Lancet, 70 per cent of India’s urban population is obese, which puts the country in the midst of a global obesity crisis. More than one billion people worldwide are obese, which makes them prone to several diseases such as heart ailments, diabetes and cancer, the study states.While each of us should aim to be fit as a fiddle, how we achieve our fitness goals is the real question. Today, many believe that the wait to rid ourselves of weight has ended. Enter Ozempic and Wegovy!Formulated to man-

age blood sugar levels in type-2 diabetics, Ozempic is the new buzzword. It is a semaglutide subcutaneous injection that has caught the fancy of celebs and influencers for its rapid weight-loss properties. With many in the West — notably Elon Musk and Oprah Winfrey — drastically shedding those pounds due the injectable, it’s being touted as a ‘miracle drug’, a ‘gamechanger’. The drug has become an internet sensation; people are jabbing themselves with it even if it is just to lose those last few extra kilos.Drugs with semaglutide as their active ingredient trick your brain into making you feel full. They mimic the role of Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1), which is a hormone that is secreted when we eat. It signals the body that there’s food entering and to get ready to convert the nutrients into energy. Drugs like Ozempic do just that — they suppress appetite and induce satiety.The success of Ozempic in terms of attaining weight loss has been such that drug maker Novo Nordisk came out with Wegovy — another semaglutide injection that it markets purely as a weight-loss drug. While these two are not yet available in India, people either import them or procure them from the grey market, wherein they run the risk of using counterfeit products.“Ozempic, which is a Type-2 diabetes medicine and also used off-label for weight loss, and Wegovy, the first USFDA-approved medicine for weight management, are both semaglutide injection products from Novo Nordisk.

Gujarat’s viral Thums Up and peanut combo is winning over the internet



Hyderabad: Would you drop a handful of salted peanuts into a bottle of Thums Up? If the internet is anything to go by, thousands of people are doing exactly that. The unusual combination, known as Seengh Soda, is a long-loved Gujarati favourite that has recently found viral fame on social media.The recipe couldn’t be simpler. Open a chilled bottle of Thums Up, add a handful of salted peanuts, give it a quick shake and enjoy. The result is a drink that lets you sip and snack at the same time, with the fizz of the cola and the crunch of the peanuts creating a surprisingly satisfying combination.In a recent Instagram video, chef Natasha Gandhi explained why the pairing works “the salt from the peanuts acts as a flavour enhancer, balancing the spices in Thums Up while bringing out its sweetness. The natural oils released by the peanuts also make the drink feel smoother, while the crunchy texture adds another layer to every sip, it actually tastes very good and one has to try it,” she said.The trend has inspired other chefs to get creative. Chef Saloni Kukreja and chef Saransh Goila experimented with a richer version by frothing cream, milk, unsweetened peanut butter and salt before topping it with chilled Thumbs Up.Social media users have been quick to share their thoughts. “Okay bye, need to order some peanut butter and Thumbs Up,” wrote one user. Others pointed out that Seengh Soda has been enjoyed in Gujarat for years, with one commenter adding, “Try it with jeera masala soda too,

it tastes out of the world.”For many, what looks like the internet’s latest food craze is simply an old regional favourite finally getting the attention it deserves.

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.

Deepening India’s steps as a key space-faring nation



India has set ambitious goals for its space programme in the next two decades. These goals hinge on powerful, reusable rockets such as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)’s upcoming Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV). In addition to the NGLV, India must tap into its private sector to develop more such rockets in order to secure strategic autonomy in its access to outer space.ISRO’s road mapFrom an infant space programme in the 1960s, India has grown into a powerful space-faring nation. Preparations for the Gaganyaan mission are underway. Gaganyaan will take an Indian crew to space for the first time, demonstrating Indian human-spaceflight capability. By the end of the next decade, India aims to have a more sustained presence in space by having its own space station in orbit around earth. It also aims to expand its human-spaceflight capabilities to the moon.Realising these objectives effects a road map that consists of multiple uncrewed missions to the moon, mastering human-centric technologies for space travel and developing powerful new rockets. These rockets have to carry heavier payloads to support humans in space. They should also be financially viable as it will take many test flights to reach the safety and the reliability standards for human-spaceflight to the moon. ISRO is fulfilling these requirements with its upcoming NGLV, which has been recently approved for development by the Union Cabinet.

The significance of the NGLV lies in its heavy lift capability and reusability. The NGLV will triple the payload capacity of the LVM3 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III), which is India’s most powerful rocket. This comes with numerous benefits. Heavy lift rockets ease restrictions related to weight and volume. It frees up the focus of engineers and scientists that would otherwise have to be spent on miniaturisation or weight reduction. It greatly increases the potential of space-related missions. The possibilities increase exponentially.In contrast to all of India’s existing rockets which are expendable as they are built for one-time use, a major part of the NGLV will be reusable. Reusability requires that the rocket keep some of its fuel for controlled descent back to the earth’s surface. This reduces the capacity of the rocket to carry heavier loads but offers

massive cost savings. Reusability has become necessary for rockets to remain competitive.The immediate needThe NGLV’s development phase will last for the next eight years. In the meantime, the need for heavy lift capability is already felt. India’s next uncrewed moon mission is slated to use not one, but two rockets. Two LVM3s will carry the requisite modules. They will then be assembled in space to form one composite vehicle that will go to the moon.In another instance, GSAT-N2, a communication satellite built by ISRO, was launched on SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket. It weighed 4,700 kg while the maximum weight that an LVM3 can carry to the Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) is 4,000 kg. A reusable Falcon 9 from SpaceX, a U.S. company, can carry up to 5,500 kg to the Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO). Foregoing reusability, an expendable Falcon 9’s capacity increases to 8,300 kg. Even this figure is dwarfed in comparison to SpaceX’s Falcon Heavy and Starship rockets.The Starship, which completed its sixth test flight recently, has already achieved significant milestones surrounding heavy lift and reusability. Its mind-boggling capacity to lift over 21,000 kg to the GTO (1,00,000 kg to the Low Earth Orbit) while remaining reusable, shows that the Starship is already past the level of advancement that the NGLV hopes to achieve at the end of its eight-year development phase.Leveraging the private industrial base

This is no surprise given ISRO’s wider scope, capability and focus. However, it also raises questions about why India is not exploring more paths to produce multiple reusable, heavy lift rockets.In parallel to developing the NGLV, the Department of Space can give out contracts to the private industry in India to design and develop reusable, heavy lift rockets of their own. Space is an emergent sector with massive potential for commercialisation.There is likely to be strong private sector interest in India to take up these contracts with the right incentives. Even with a lack of existing faculty in rocket technology among Indian corporations, they can explore foreign collaboration.

For instance, various rocket engines are already sold commercially.A milestone-based funding mechanism where the Department of Space pays private players after they meet certain objectives at every stage is a great way to ensure accountability and reduce cost overruns. In the best case, India may end up with multiple NGLV-like rockets alongside the NGLV, resulting in much-needed redundancy and greater launch frequency. In the worst case, there may be delays but that is accompanied by positive spillovers of innovation, technical capability and infrastructure which will ultimately yield positive outcomes.The entire gamut of space activities, which ranges from using satellite data for development to extending Indian presence to the moon and Mars, hinges on a resilient supply of space transportation services. India must foster a strong ecosystem for the growth of a specialised industrial base that can cater to India’s needs and ambitions in outer space.

Why have Mumbai civic polls been delayed and the road ahead

The story so far: Newly sworn-in Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has affirmed that the ruling coalition Mahayuti will contest the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls together. In a series of TV interviews, Mr. Fadnavis, on Friday (December 6, 2024), assured that his government would seek an early hearing to get the stay on OBC quota in polls lifted so that (civic) elections could be held at the earliest.It is the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) which is tasked with conducting the polls but is yet to announce dates. “There are several cases in the Supreme Court moved by petitioners on delimitation of wards, OBC (Other Backward Classes) quota in civic body polls to name a few. Till orders are pronounced, nothing can proceed,” a Maharashtra SEC official informed The Hindu.

Why have civic polls been delayed?

Two of the main issues delaying civic polls across the State are the OBC quota issue and the delimitation of Mumbai wards. On July 21, 2022, the Supreme Court had allowed reservation upto 27% for OBC in nagar panchayat, nagar parishad and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections, accepting the State commission’s report. However, it clarified that the SEC must not re-notify the election programme in 367 local bodies, which included the BMC, to provide reservation.On July 22, SEC reclassified wards in BMC, stating that of the total 236 seats, 156 were reserved for general category, 15 for Scheduled Castes (SC), two for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 63 for OBC category. An irked SC warned the SEC to not renotify the election programme and ordered status quo in OBC reservations in local body elections. The case is still pending in the SC. The other issue is the redrawing of BMC wards due to the Uddhav Thackeray government’s decision to increase seats from 227 to 236. This kicked off the redrawing of wards in Mumbai by the SEC in February 2022. After the split of Shiv Sena, the subsequent Eknath Shinde government withdrew this order in August 2022 and in April 2023, the Bombay High Court upheld this order. Challenges to this order are also pending in the Supreme Court.Currently, Maharashtra has no State election commissioner as Mr. Urvinder Pal Singh Madan’s term expired in October this year.Explaining the road ahead for civic polls in the state, Mr. J S Saharia, former Maharashtra State Election commissioner says, “The governor has to appoint a new State election commissioner, generally, with the advice of the Cabinet. If in his wisdom, he (new State election commissioner) believes elections can be held in the present scenario, then they can proceed. Otherwise he can decide to go to Supreme Court directly to get clarity and then decide how to proceed.”Talking about the delay in polls, he adds, “It is matter of grave concern. I am of the view that elections should be held at the earliest. The main reason why the 73rd and 74th amendment of the Constitution was needed was unwillingness of State governments to hold elections on time.”The 73rd and 74th amendments passed by Parliament in 1992 established rural and local bodies of government which are chosen directly by citizens and State election commissions to hold elections to these bodies. Each Panchayat or urban civic body has a term of five years, one-third seats are reserved for women, a number proportional to the SC/ST population in the State is reserved for these communities while OBC reservation can be provided if States find it necessary. The State election commission is an autonomous body and the commissioner is an independent officer, not under the control of Election Commission of India. “The EC has to conduct elections before expiry, but the State election commission has taken a studied decision not to hold the elections in view of the Supreme Court’s orders. It is a question of interpretation by their advocates,” says Mr. Saharia when asked about the SEC’s stance in this issue. When asked if elections can be held without the OBC quota imposed in local body polls, Mr. Saharia says, “State Election commission is independent of State government but must work subject to Supreme Court



orders and this is their interpretation.”Effect of the Maharashtra poll verdictThe Mahayuti was awarded a massive mandate in the State elections with the coalition winning 230 seats (BJP - 132, Shiv Sena – 57 and NCP – 41) and Mr. Fadnavis has expressed his inclination to hold BMC polls at the earliest. “It is a matter of good governance, and the new government will take these elections very seriously. Now that they have the mandate, they will see to it that it will continue in the BMC elections,” says Dr. Mridul Nile, Associate Professor in Political Science, Mumbai University. He adds, “In Maharashtra, for the past two and half years, municipal corporations are not formed yet on the pretext that the OBC issue is still pending. This matter can be addressed separately without hampering the mandate of holding civic elections once in every five years. A mix of constitutional, political and administrative reasons are there (to hold polls).” He concludes that though the OBCs have clearly sided with the BJP, they will not conduct elections without the quota (27% reservation in local bodies for OBCs). Another political snag adding to the BJP’s woes is the Maratha reservation issue. Mr. Manoj Jarange-Patil, who is spearheading the Maratha agitation, has sought inclusion of all Maratha communities in the OBC category so as to avail reservation. The Maharashtra government’s law classifying Marathas as a socially and educationally backward class (SEBC) and awarding them 12-13% reservation in education and government jobs has been struck down as unconstitutional. Current OBC communities such as Dhangars have opposed Mr. Jarange-Patil’s demand, fearing dilution of the quota. Stuck between two warring classes, the Mahayuti government has sought a review of the Supreme Court’s order and assured both parties that it will provide the required reservation. Hence, in all 27 urban local bodies across Maharashtra, State-appointed administrators are running the civic bodies, as the five-year terms of all these local bodies were over by the end of 2023.The lack of an elected body governing Mumbai has not affected young citizens, observes Dr. Ajinkya Gaikwad, Assistant Professor of Politics, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce. “When I talk to 18-25 year-old students, they are quite okay with the city being run by an administrator as the relevance of the local government is lost. The kind of citizen participation, with the NGOs taking over the space of community has taken away the charm of a lively BMC which Mumbai used to,” says Dr. Gaikwad. Observing the lack of public pressure on the government to hold BMC elections, he adds, “I’m surprised there were no movements. The city, which boasted of a robust civic culture is now falling into an administrative trap where citizens only care about a few services which can be given by any administrator. While the party vying for power understands the importance of civic governments, citizens of Mumbai who were very politically vibrant have become apathetic.”In the last BMC elections in 2017, Shiv Sena, which has controlled the city’s civic body since 1985 was nearly dethroned by the BJP. The undivided Sena won 84 seats while BJP bagged 82 seats. Due to neither party winning an outright majority in the 227-seat corporation, they had to strike an uneasy bargain, with BJP allowing Sena to retain the mayor’s post.

The story behind Sridevi's Lamhe costume: 'Something that looked very Rajasthani'

It comes to creating something and doing something, what you gotta do, you gotta do. This is what I learned from her," she said. Sharing the video on social media, Lulla paid tribute to Sridevi's work ethic. "This is why legends are remembered forever. There are some moments in my career that have stayed with me forever. This was one of them. Working with Sridevi on *Lamhe*, I witnessed a level of dedication that left a lasting impression on me. It is a memory I have carried with me ever since, and a reminder of what true commitment to your craft looks like," she wrote. Released in 1991 and directed by Yash Chopra, *Lamhe* starred Sridevi in a double role alongside Anil Kapoor. The film has since achieved cult status and is widely regarded as one of Sridevi's finest performances.

Having an environment where health is discussed openly, and healthy habits are encouraged across generations, is a positive that many can learn from. Consultant dietician and fitness expert Garima Goyal said that family support can play an important role in maintaining lifestyle changes. "Whether someone is trying to manage their weight, improve metabolic health, become physically active, or recover from a health setback, having people around

The good news is that vegetables considered riskier during the monsoon don't have to be completely avoided. Dr. Katiyar recommends washing vegetables thoroughly under running water, paying special attention to leafy greens by cleaning each leaf individually. "Cooking vegetables well is preferable during the monsoon, as heat helps reduce harmful microorganisms." It is also advised to not wash vegetables with soap or detergents. "If needed, a food-grade vegetable wash or a mild baking soda solution followed by clean water is sufficient," Dr. Katiyar notes. With these simple precautions, you can continue enjoying vegetables throughout the monsoon while lowering your risk of seasonal stomach infections.

who encourage healthier food choices and regular movement can make it easier to remain consistent," said Goyal. As we age, these conversations become even more relevant. "Maintaining muscle mass, cardiovascular fitness, mobility, and metabolic health requires a combination of regular physical activity, strength training, adequate protein, balanced nutrition, quality sleep, and preventive health checks. There is no single habit that determines how well someone ages," noted Goyal. What conversations like these between Sunaina and Rakesh Roshan reinforce is that health can become a shared family value. "When parents and children motivate each other to eat better, stay active, and prioritise their well-being, healthy habits can become easier to sustain," shared Goyal.

The takeaway is simple: sometimes, the most meaningful health transformation begins with a conversation. "Support rather than judgement, and consistency rather than perfection, can help families build healthier lives together," said Goyal. However, health conversations within families should ideally focus on well-being rather than appearance or the number on the weighing scale, she contended. "Constant criticism about weight or food choices can sometimes have the opposite effect, whereas conversations centred around strength, energy, fitness, blood parameters, and long-term health can encourage more sustainable behaviour," said Goyal.

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early deals on Wednesday as higher crude oil prices and selling in bank stocks hit investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 403.54 points to 77,066.06 in early trade, taking the downturn to the third day running. The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 114.75 points to 24,070.05. From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Axis Bank, State Bank of India,

Arnolds of Andhra: Kondavelagada, Amadalavalasa & Godalam’s weightlifting wizards



Exported worldwide, black granite is a popular stone of the region. It has been used for years to carve the Sangidi Rallu, a torus weighing 80-220 Kg. Over time, that folk contest evolved into organised weightlifting in Kondavelagada (pr: kon-duh-wella-gadaa), a village in Vizianagaram district. The village has produced 20 national and 13 international weightlifters, with successive generations securing government jobs through sport, and lifting their families out of poverty.

Among the latest are sisters Bellana Bhargavi (17) and Bellana Harika (19), who won gold medals at the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Samoa in April 2026. Next week, the tiny village will be in the spotlight once again when Ajay Babu – the son of Valluri Srinivasa Rao, a weightlifting pioneer in these parts – steps on the platform at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow later this month. Ajay, who is in Glasgow currently, spoke to the Indian Express about continuing a tradition. “In 2010, my father won a bronze medal, and in 2014 Santoshi Matsa claimed silver at the Commonwealth Games. I want to better that and win gold, and participate in the Olympics.” The story of Kondavelagada’s remarkable production line began more than three decades ago. In 1991, a young Valluri Srinivasa Rao, Annapurna Challa and her elder brother Ramu were among the many children captivated by the annual Sangidi Rallu competition. Winning it was a matter of immense pride, and the contest drew almost the entire village. Around the same time, weightlifting was gaining popularity across northern Andhra. Inspired by what they had seen elsewhere, a few elderly villagers decided to bring proper weightlifting equipment to Kondavelagada.

Ramu, whose movement had been restricted by polio, never had the opportunity to become a competitive weightlifter. But he had developed a fascination for physical strength after watching bodybuilders on Doordarshan. Rao, meanwhile, inherited his father’s love for Sangidi Rallu and tried his hand at the village contest, though without much success. The two friends found another outlet. Every morning, after the regular Sangidi Rallu participants finished training around seven or eight o’clock, they would quietly slip into the gym and experiment with the new equipment. Flower cultivation – marigold, roses, crossandra, was the village’s primary occupation, and Rao’s family depended on it for a living. Morning training was followed by long hours in the fields. “From morning to evening, we worked in the flower fields,” Rao (47) recalled with a smile. “School was optional.”

While training, Rao observed older lifters closely, copying their techniques and picking up whatever advice they were willing to offer. Before long, he entered a district-level competition. Despite having no formal coaching, he won. That victory changed everything. “M.S. Sharma, who was the district weightlifting coach, came home and asked my parents to send me to his academy,” Rao said. “They were thrilled after that district medal and agreed immediately.”

Life, however, did not become any easier. “I used to cycle from the village to Vizianagaram every day to sell flowers. After that, I would go for training.” In 1996, Vizianagaram hosted the National Weightlifting Championships. Rao, Ramu and Annapurna travelled to watch India’s best lifters compete. What they witnessed left a lasting impression. “Our jaws dropped,” Ramu recalled. “It wasn’t just men competing. Women were lifting weights, too.”

For Annapurna, that moment proved life-changing. “My sister started lifting weights soon after,” Ramu said. “Within a couple of years, she became a national champion in the rural championships, while Rao became state champion.” Their progress attracted the attention of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). When Sharma was transferred to the SAI centre in Eluru, he invited both Rao and Annapurna to continue training under him. They accepted immediately. Just days before they were due to leave for Eluru in 1999, Annapurna died after falling into an open well on the family’s farm. Her death devastated not only the family but the entire village, which had celebrated her rise as one of its own. Rao no longer wanted to leave. “The whole village had to convince him,” Ramu recalled. “There were times when his family didn’t even have enough food. We told him that if he went to Eluru, he would at least get three meals a day, become stronger and continue weightlifting.”

Eluru transformed Rao’s career. Under Sharma, the farmer’s son developed into one of Andhra Pradesh’s leading weightlifters, winning silver medals at the National Games in Visakhapatnam (2002) and the inaugural Afro-Asian Championships (2003) in Hyderabad. Back home, his success sparked a ripple effect. Children who had watched Rao grow up now wanted to follow the same path.

For Ramu, though, the years after Annapurna’s death were far more difficult. “For three or four years, I didn’t know what I was doing,” he said. Then one day, village elders approached him with a proposal. “We’ll help you set up a gym,” they told me. “Will you teach our children?” He accepted. “When Rao and Annapurna trained under Sharma in Vizianagaram, I was always there. I learned the techniques, nutrition, training loads—everything by watching. When the village trusted me with its children, I couldn’t say no. That faith turned my grief into strength.”

By 2005, Kondavelagada had its own coaching centre. And soon, Ramu’s trainees were winning national medals. Today, Rao has taken voluntary retirement from the Army and has returned to the village, where he and Ramu are building another gym – determined to ensure the next generation does not have to leave home to chase their dreams. Weightlifting is a route out of poverty with government jobs for medallists. “Our village has around 3,000 people,” Rao said. “Most families still depend on farming. Many take loans just to provide proper nutrition for their children. We can only do so much ourselves. A weightlifter needs Rs 50,000 to 60,000 every month for food and training. Where will these farmers find that kind of money?”

Before Kondavelagada became a weightlifting nursery, there was Amadalavalasa (Pr: Amm-duh-luh-vuhluhsaaa) in the neighbouring Srikakulam district. Its Maruthi Yuvajana Vyayama Mandali, produced eight international and 46 national weightlifters, making it the region’s original weightlifting powerhouse. Founded in 1969 by tailor K. Amminaidu, the gym laid the foundation for northern Andhra’s weightlifting culture. Amminaidu is now 86, partially deaf, and lives a quiet life. He is looked after by his five children, three of whom are weightlifters. “Our inspiration was Kodi Rammurthy Naidu,” Amminaidu said. His son

Madhusudhan added: “Even today, whenever someone joins us, or when we go to Sangidi Rallu competitions to identify youngsters, we invoke Rammurthy’s name as a blessing for a successful career.” The region’s folklore says Kodi Rammurthy Naidu, from Veeragattam near the Odisha border, discovered an idol of Lord Hanuman while bathing in a pond in the late 1800s. Inspired by the deity, he resolved to become the strongest man in the world.

“He had a special breathing technique that allowed an elephant to walk across wooden planks placed on his chest,” former weightlifter Mugithi Appalanaidu recalled a story that’s now a part of the folklore. “The Vizianagaram king was so impressed that he rewarded him with gold and jewels, and sent him to England and China to display his feats of strength and challenge wrestlers there.” Rammurthy’s exploits inspired and he also established a gym in Vizianagaram, where his methods were passed down to students who carried them across the region. One of those inspired was Amminaidu, a former kusti wrestler himself. “In those days, we pushed a rod through two stones and lifted it—that was our weightlifting,” he recalled. “I travelled across the region looking for better facilities, coaches and equipment.”

Eventually, they persuaded R. Suryanarayana of Andhra University, who had trained under Russian coaches, to help them. They also found a fabricator in Rajahmundry capable of building modern weightlifting equipment. As medals followed, so did government jobs. Among those inspired was Neelamsetty Appanna, who turned to coaching after retiring from competition.

He travelled to the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala, for a one-year coaching diploma. There, a lecturer offered advice that would transform the region. “We may soon have women competing in weightlifting,” he told Appanna. “Find girls who are interested.” Maruthi Yuvajana Vyayama Mandali in Amadalavalasa in Srikakulam district. (Express photo) Maruthi Yuvajana Vyayama Mandali in Amadalavalasa in Srikakulam district.

Back in Voosavanipeta, Appanna and Vishwanatham, the former secretary of the Srikakulam Weightlifting Association, began doing exactly that. “Sometimes parents tried to assault us,” he laughed. “They asked who would marry their daughters if they started lifting weights.” Eventually, they changed strategy and focused on children aged nine to 12. Vishwanatham paid for their food from his own pocket to ensure they had enough nutrition to train. “Most of them came from very poor families.” One day, two sisters from the railway colony walked into their lives. The elder was Karnam Narsamma. The younger was nine-year-old Karnam Malleswari. After training under Appanna for a couple of years, Malleswari joined the Maruthi Gym. “She was a tiny girl peeping through the doors,” recalled Appalanaidu. “We told her she shouldn’t be watching seminaked men train. But Amminaidu took her in and started teaching her.” The little girl would go on to become India’s first woman Olympic medalist, winning bronze at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Her success, along with that of several others from the region, appeared to herald a golden era. It didn’t last.

As of today, only seven weightlifters are from the Maruthi gym. There are about 3-4 preparing for national level from the region said Madhusudhan. “We did everything we could. But none of those who got government jobs came back to build gyms or help the next generation. We never received recognition, and neither did our village,” said Vishwanatham. Appanna still remembers the sacrifices. “I travelled with the team in general compartments. The government paid only half of our expenses. The rest came from our own pockets. I was always worried about the safety of those girls while travelling.” The Maruthi Gym now faces another challenge. “Today’s weightlifters need modern equipment, but we simply don’t have the money,” Madhusudhan said. “We don’t know what else to do. But spreading the culture of weightlifting is my father’s legacy. As long as we can, we’ll continue.” Tilaka Dhananjaya Kumar, who won bronze at the National Weightlifting Championships in Pondicherry in 1992, secured a government job as a teacher and was posted in his hometown of Godalam, a remote hamlet of around 1,200 people in Srikakulam district, barely four kilometres from the Bay of Bengal.

Like Kondavelagada and Amadalavalasa before it, Godalam became another village where weightlifting offered a route out of poverty. For Dhananjaya, reaching a gym was once a struggle. There was no road connecting his village to Maruthi Gym, forcing him to hitch rides to Kottabommali, around 13 kilometres away, where the nearest railway station was located. “I travelled there in the morning to train, stayed overnight and returned home the next evening,” he recalled. Weightlifting became Dhananjaya’s way out. After securing his teaching job, he established a gym in Godalam, determined to give local children the opportunities he never had. “There are only two things I know — teaching and weightlifting. If these children reach the national level and get government jobs, their lives, and this region, will improve.”

Every year, veteran coaches and former weightlifters from across Srikakulam gather for Sangati Rallu and local weightlifting competitions with 60-65 registrations. “It’s almost like an annual reunion,” Madhusudhan said. “That’s where we first noticed Dhananjaya arriving with children from his region.” But sustaining momentum got difficult. Since being promoted to a high-school teacher, Dhananjaya has struggled to devote the same amount of time to coaching. “Earlier, I trained around 15 or 16 children. Now I’m down to three or four. That helps maintain quality, but our equipment has become rusty and needs replacing.” The equipment may have rusted, the gyms may be ageing, and the coaches may no longer have the means they once did. But every year, when the Sangidi Rallu competition returns, so does the hope that another child will discover a different future.

Ajinkya Rahane joins BBC Sport commentary team for The Hundred 2026

Hyderabad: Former India Test captain Ajinkya Rahane joined BBC Sport’s commentary team for the sixth edition of ‘The Hundred’, becoming the ‘only Indian’ on the broadcaster’s star-studded panel for the 2026 season. Rahane features alongside World Cup-winning England pacer Mark Wood, former New Zealand international Katey Martin and current England Test opener Emilio Gay, and Isa Guha, Alex Hartley, Michael Vaughan, Phil Tufnell, Sir Alastair Cook, Tymal Mills, Ebony Rainford-Brent, Dawid Malan, Amanda-Jade Wellington and Carlos Brathwaite. Reflecting on his experience behind the microphone, Rahane said: “Back in the UK for another summer, but this time with the microphone instead of the bat

Is Shubman Gill a poor captain? India batter slams skipper after another series loss



Shubman Gill (C) of India during the 3rd ODI International match between England and India at the Lord’s Cricket Ground, London, England on July 19, 2026. Shubman Gill (C) of India during the 3rd ODI International match between England and India at the Lord’s Cricket Ground, London, England on July 19, 2026. (CREIMAS) India’s poor run in white-ball cricket continued as they suffered a 2-1 series defeat to England in the ODIs, following a 4-0 whitewash in the T20I series. This came after the side was also clean-swept 2-0 by Ireland. The ODI series loss was India’s third defeat in the 50-over format with Shubman Gill at the helm, with his only win coming against Afghanistan at home.

India player Hanuma Vihari criticised Gill’s captaincy, saying the young leader still has a lot to learn. In the series decider at Lord’s, Gill opted for four pacers and only five genuine bowling options after Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out due to a knee injury. The inexperienced attack – featuring Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Prasidh Krishna, and Arshdeep Singh – conceded 387 runs as India lost by 27 runs, adding

Should Argentina players be banned? Gavi speaks out after ugly brawl with Paredes



The full-time whistle at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey may have brought ecstasy for Spain and agony for Argentina, but the ugly brawl between players from both sides left a sour taste for football fans across the world. Tempers flared, abuses were exchanged, and punches were thrown in a chaotic melee moments after Spain dominated the summit clash to win their second FIFA World Cup title. Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes grabbed Spain defender Eric Garcia by the throat, sparking a mass confrontation that involved players, substitutes, and members of both coaching staffs. The altercation later saw Gavi dragged to the ground by Paredes in a nasty incident. FIFA has opened an investigation into the post-match events, with speculation suggesting several Argentina players could face bans for their actions. Gavi, however, defended the Argentina players, insisting it was part of football and that they should not be punished.

“No, no. To tell you the truth, I don’t think they should be suspended. I understand it’s not a good image for the kids, for the children, but I think there’s also that side of football that’s a bit more aggressive,” Gavi told El Partidazo

Gukesh, Vaishali among 5 Indians who make cut for Total Chess Tour’s pilot event



Magnus Carlsen will headline the pilot event of the Total Chess World Championship Tour where as many as five Indians could compete in a field of 24 players. The pilot will be held in Budapest’s Anantara New York Palace Hotel from November 10–21 later this year. The new Total Chess World Championship Tour, which is backed by Norwegian footballer Erling Haaland, is being held to determine chess’s most complete player across blitz, rapid and fast classic formats.

A joint statement from the organisers of the Total Chess World Championship Tour on Tuesday named Carlsen, thereby confirming his participation in the pilot event. 18 players so far are eligible to play in the 24-player event. Among the other 17 players who have qualified via various pathways are Gukesh Dommaraju (by courtesy of being the world champion), Vaishali R (by virtue of winning the Women’s Candidates tournament in 2026), Arjun Erigaisi (due to his bronze medal at the World Rapid Championship in 2025), Praggnanandhaa R and Viswanathan Anand (both by virtue of being in the Top 9 in the January 2026 classical rating list). It must be noted that these players are yet to confirm their participation, but have earned a place via various pathways. Also qualified are Javokhir Sindarov (Candidates 2026 winner), Ju Wenjun (women’s world champion), Vladislav Artemiev (World Rapid 2025), Nodirbek Abdusattorov (World Blitz 2025), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (World Blitz 2025), Hikaru Nakamura (Top-9 Rating), Fabiano Caruana (Top-9 Rating), Vincent Keymer (Top-9 Rating), Anish Giri (Top-9 Rating), Alireza Firouzja (Top-9 Rating), Wei Yi (Top-9 Rating), Wesley So (Top-9 Rating). The November tournament in Budapest will serve as a pilot for the full season that starts in March 2027, with multiple tournaments across international host cities over the year. “The Total Chess World Championship Tour is built on a simple belief—that the world’s best chess player should be able to excel across every format of the game,” said Kjell Madland, CEO of Total Chess. “By bringing together fast classic, rapid and blitz under one championship, we’re creating a more complete sporting test while making elite

another white-ball series to their growing list of defeats. Speaking about Gill’s captaincy, Vihari said, “Having just five bowlers in the last ODI, he (Gill) was struggling with his bowling changes. When everyone was getting hit, not having a sixth option became a concern for him,” he said on his YouTube channel. “You should also know how to handle things when this option is not there. Whether it is field placement or bowling changes, I feel he has to improve. He has a lot to improve in captaincy. His batting is outstanding, but he has to get better as captain because the results are not coming,” he added.

“Why was Kuldeep left out?” Vihari also questioned India’s decision to leave out wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav for the entire series. On a dry surface at Lord’s, where England’s spin option Jacob Bethell turned the game, Kuldeep’s exclusion proved costly, according to Vihari.

“Why was Kuldeep left out? It is something that I cannot understand. Going with youth in T20s is still fine, but here you have to go with experience. India have so many such players. Seeing the IPL, you feel there are many new players, but match-winners are very few, and you have to pick those match-winners. If you have winning the World Cup in mind, you will pick experienced players and those who know how to win games,” he said. Vihari called Kuldeep’s exclusion a “shocker” and questioned how the selectors would pick him for the 2027 ODI World Cup if he continues to warm the bench. “Lord’s is a slow wicket. On that wicket, you played four fast bowlers and did not play Kuldeep. It was a shocker. If you take him in the team but don’t give him a chance in a series like this, how will you pick him for the World Cup? This is a question everyone has to ask after losing a series like this,” he added.

de COPE after returning from the World Cup in North America. “Perhaps the most logical thing for me would be to send him off during the match and that’s it. But as I said, in the end I think it’s all football and it always has to be that way,” added Gavi, who was caught up in the chaos after the final whistle as he tangled with Paredes, while coach Roberto Ayala was seen punching Dani Olmo. Spain won the game 1-0 to be crowned world champions for the second time in a hard-fought contest that saw Argentina reduced to 10 men when Enzo Fernández was sent off. Gavi’s heartfelt message Gavi also shared a heartfelt social media post, thanking the people who influenced his career while reflecting on the sacrifices that helped him reach football’s biggest stage. “No one wakes me up from this dream, that of a boy from Los Palacios and Villafranca who dreams of winning the World Cup with his country, playing in the Jesús Navas pavilion, and now, at 21, fulfilling it in New York with a group of animals that will pass into history and remain forever in everyone’s memory.

“Each with their own story, the strength of this group has made us get the second star for this country, and millions of people celebrate this success, because this has to be celebrated! My story is that I’ve been through rough times in the last few years because of injuries, but thanks to mine, my family, friends, and all the work and sacrifice I’ve done to get here, today I can say it was all worth it, and I would go through it all again and more. “I owe a lot to many people, starting with my family, to Liara, to Betis, to all the people of La Masia who welcomed me from the first day, coaches and staff of FC Barcelona, who made me grow as a football player and a person, and helped me reach the point where I can call myself a world champion. And a special memory to my grandmother, for that extra strength you gave me these past few months – I’m sure you’ve helped me from up there,” wrote Gavi on Instagram.

SC Bar Bodies Condemn Police Action on Protesting Students, Seek Independent Inquiry

New Delhi: Two Supreme Court bar bodies on Wednesday condemned the police action on students and lawyers during the July 20 protests in Jantar Mantar and called for an impartial inquiry into the “excessive use of force” and fixing accountability.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), headed by its president and senior advocate Vikas Singh, in a resolution, said the police action left several students and members of the legal fraternity, including members of the association, injured. In a separate statement, the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA), expressed deep concern over “reports and visuals showing the use of force by Delhi Police against students and young protesters who had assembled to peacefully voice their grievances over the integrity of public examinations and the future of the country’s youth”.

The SCBA resolution, issued by its secretary Pragya Baghel said, “The use of excessive and disproportionate force against peaceful students and members of the Bar is deeply disturbing and wholly unacceptable in a democratic society.” The bar body urged the authorities concerned to conduct an immediate, impartial and time-bound inquiry into the incident, identify those responsible for the alleged excessive use of force, and initiate appropriate action in accordance with law. It also called on the authorities to ensure proper medical treatment and assistance for all injured students and members of the legal fraternity, while taking necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. “The association stands in solidarity with all those injured and reiterates its commitment to protecting constitutional rights, human dignity and the rule of law,” it said.

‘Cowards’: Seema Pahwa, Ratna Pathak Shah cry, slam Bollywood for not supporting CJP protests



As the Cockroach Janta Party-led student protests against the leaking of the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) papers continue to gain momentum across the country, more key voices from the Indian entertainment industry are speaking out against the use of force against the students at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Veteran actor Seema Pahwa, last seen in Baby Do Die Do, took to her Instagram handle and shared an emotional selfie video on Wednesday. “I’m with these children, these families, this country,” she wrote in the caption and also tagged Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which is leading the protests at Jantar Mantar.

“I don’t understand how this will stop, who will stop it, and what can be done to stop it because humanity is over. This isn’t humanity. Just imagine how shocking it is that so many people are still keeping quiet. You think you’ll lose some work and your position because the government will turn on you? That’s so shameful,” Seema said.

“Dial up the humanity within. Look at the children who are crying, squirming, and getting bloodied and beaten up. They’re fighting the good fight. If our children today have reached London, America, and other far-flung places and are safe within their homes there, does that mean the humanity within us has died? Does that mean you don’t empathize with these children at all? You’re just holed up in your homes because your awards would stop coming?,” asked the actor. She underlined that the country needs vocal support today, from the big achievers across all areas and professions. “But we’re all holed up like rats because we want to protect our reputation. But do you think these children, who are getting beaten up today, will support you in the future? Do you really think you’ll become bigger with the government’s support? If the public only disowns you, then what can the government do for you?,” she argued.

“Are you this scared? Are you all cowards? You should be ashamed! Step out of your homes, raise your voices, and lend your support to the students,” added Seema. She then lauded veteran actor Shabana Azmi, 75, who has been protesting on ground in Delhi alongside all the students. “I’ve become a huge fan of that woman who’s marching there at this age! Had I not been dealing with my problem, I’d have run away from my home and taken on the lathi charge with those children,” said Seema, tearing up. “You are really pathetic people,” she concluded.

Ratna Pathak Shah Hours after Naseeruddin Shah lent his support to the students, his wife and fellow veteran actor Ratna Pathak Shah also shared a selfie video on her

‘We don’t care about you’: The Vijay Anand-Vyjayanthimala feud that almost derailed Jewel Thief



Long before Jewel Thief (1967) became one of Bollywood’s most memorable spy thrillers, it brought some of the biggest names of Hindi cinema together. Legendary actors Dev Anand, Vyjayanthimala, Ashok Kumar and Tanuja, who had already delivered several hits by then, collaborated with acclaimed filmmaker Vijay Anand for this immersive whodunit. While the film went on to become a huge commercial and critical success, Jewel Thief’s director had to face several challenges while shooting the film, including his feud with the lead actress Vyjayanthimala. His biography, Goldie: The Man and His Movies, details the journey of making the film.

After the success of his hit film Guide (1965), Vijay was keen to move away from romance and try a different genre. The story, which he wrote with Narayan Sanyal, is about Vinay (played by Dev Anand) who is taken for a criminal mastermind Amar. To clear his name, Vinay goes undercover and becomes a part of a mind-boggling heist. The casting of Jewel Thief was also finalised after much thought. While Dev Anand was confirmed to play the lead actor in the film, Vijay wanted to cast someone ‘innocent-looking’ for the antagonist’s role. For the villain’s character, he approached Raj Kumar; the next choice was Ashok Kumar. After laying out a few conditions related to the timings of the shoot, the actor agreed to the offer. For the female lead, the choice was pretty clear in their mind — Vyjayanthimala was at the peak of her stardom, making her an ideal choice for the film.

But, as per the biography, Vijay Anand and Vyjayanthimala found themselves at odds from the begin-

ning of the shoot. One early incident that triggered their differences was the actress arriving late and keeping the crew waiting. While every other cast members was ready, she refused to come out of her makeup room. When she finally did, the director didn’t get any apology from her. “What can I do for you?” she questioned, as an incandescent Vijay shouted at her and said, “You can’t do anything. It’s lunch time, we will shoot later now.” Vijay believed that Vyjayanthimala had disrespected a senior actor like Ashok Kumar who had his health issue and followed a strict schedule.

As the shooting progressed, their differences escalated. Another rift came during the filming of the iconic song ‘Hothon Pe Aisi Baat’. During the filming, Vyjayanthimala was in a relationship with Dr. Chamanlal Bali, whom she later married in 1968. However, their relationship had an impact on her professional commitments. While shooting the elaborate dance number, which required a lot of rehearsals, Vyjayanthimala would reportedly arrive late. She would also hesitate to perform romantic scenes with Dev Anand whenever Dr Bali was present on the set, leading to delays and frustration. The director was clear that he didn’t want to film the lengthy track without rehearsals. He instructed her to rehearse and said the shoot will happen the following day. She refused to follow the instructions, leading to more bad blood. At the end, the song turned out beautifully as Vyjayanthimala was among the finest dancers of her era. As a consequence, the biography states that Vyjayanthimala didn’t show up on the film’s trial show and did not even actively participate in its promotions. Despite the long-standing feud between Vijay Anand and Vyjayanthimala behind the scenes, Jewel Thief hit the theatres in 1967 and achieved commercial and critical success. The story did not end there. As per the book, after Vyjayanthimala received the Padma Shri award in 1968, Vijay sent her a congratulatory letter. But, she gave a cold response to his gesture, and replied, “You may think you are intelligent but we don’t care about you.”

Saumya Tandon, actor best known for playing Akshaye Khanna’s wife in Aditya Dhar’s blockbuster spy thriller Dhurandhar last year, also lent her support to the protesting students. “The scenes from the student protests are deeply disturbing. While there have been reports of violence in some places, including instances of stone pelting, that should not justify the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters,” she wrote. “It is heartbreaking to see so many young people in turmoil. A democracy is strongest when disagreements are met with dialogue, not confrontation. I hope the government engages with the students, listens to their concerns, and works towards a peaceful resolution,” added the actor in her X post on Wednesday. The protests in Jantar Mantar, initiated by Cockroach Janata Party last month, gained momentum when educator and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk announced an indefinite hunger strike, which has now entered its 25th day. Students from around the country assembled in New Delhi on Monday for a protest march towards the Parliament, coinciding with the commencement of the Monsoon session. Delhi Police, in its attempt to curb the peaceful march, used lathi charge and tear gas bombs on the protesting students, inviting widespread ire on the internet. The protesters want to have a dialogue with the Central government, and have placed multiple demands before them, including resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

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Mumbai: The makers of the iconic film ‘3 Idiots’ have quashed the reports of the film’s re-release. On Wednesday, the production house behind the film took to social media, and clarified that the film is not making its way to theatres for its re-release. Vidhu Vinod Chopra Films has issued an official clarification in response to recent media reports about the re-release on September 4, 2026.

They wrote, “With reference to recent media reports claiming that ‘3 Idiots’ will be re-released on 4th September, Vidhu Vinod Chopra Films would like to clarify that these reports are false and factually incorrect. We request members of the media and fans to rely solely on official announcements made through Vidhu Vinod Chopra Films’ verified channels. We urge media publications to refrain from pub-

Naseeruddin Shah slams Jantar Mantar police action, warns ‘sab yaad rakha jayega’



Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has strongly condemned the police action against protesters at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, sharing an emotional video in support of the students participating in the Chalo Sansad March. His remarks come after tensions escalated following the lathi charge on protesters during Monday’s demonstration, days after activist Sonam Wangchuk was removed from the protest site.

Naseeruddin Shah reacts to Jantar Mantar violence Expressing his anger over the incident, Naseeruddin Shah said in the video, “I would like to say two things to you all. The first thing is that if an ignorant person leads this country, then his heart will want the whole country to become as ignorant, incomprehensible, and merciless as he is. After completing two illustrious acting courses from the National School of Drama (NSD) and the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), what I have learned the most about the craft is from those children and educated personalities whom I tried to teach once.” “I sympathize with

them. Iss waqt mera dil bhi bhara hua hai aur main gusse se khaul bhi raha hoon yeh dekhkar ke humare bachchon ke saath kis tarah zulm ka bartav kiya ja raha hai unn gundon ke haathon joh mujhe America ke agents ki yaad dilate hai, muh pe naqab lagaye hue, haath mein danda liye hue. Kabhi apne bachchon ke baare mein bhi socha karo aur yeh bhi socho tumhara anjaam tumhe bhi ek din milega zaroor. (I am emotional, and at the same time, my blood boils seeing how the youth are being tortured by those goons who remind me of the mask-wearing agents in America. Think about your own children too. One day, you will also have to face the consequences of your actions,) Naseeruddin Shah added.

He said, “Sometimes, think about your children, and also think that one day, you will also face the same fate. I want to tell all these children not to lose hope. Many people sympathise with you. Many people are with you. Keep fighting. I have always expected a lot from the nation’s youth, and my confidence in them has only gotten stronger now. I’d also like to tell the Government, sab yaad rakha jaayega (everything shall be remembered).”

What happened at Jantar Mantar?

On Monday, tensions escalated at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar as police carried out a lathi charge during the Chalo Sansad March, triggering widespread outrage and drawing criticism from several public figures. The march was organised days after activist Sonam Wangchuk was removed from the protest site and shifted to Safdarjung Hospital. Wangchuk, the protesting students and the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which has been leading the demonstrations, have been demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak and other alleged irregularities in the examination process. Several Bollywood celebrities, including Sonu Sood, Dia Mirza, Shabana Azmi, Swara Bhasker, Prakash Raj, Diljit Dosanjh, Riteish Deshmukh, Vir Das, Genelia Deshmukh, Richa Chadha, Sonakshi Sinha and Ayush Sharma, have also voiced their support for the protesters.

‘Could be your family tomorrow’: Vismaya Mohanlal, Tovino Thomas support CJP protests

The ongoing student protests in New Delhi continue to garner global attention and gain further momentum, with even film industry professionals from South India extending their solidarity to the demonstrators. Recently, Dadasaheb Phalke Awardee Mohanlal’s daughter, Vismaya, and renowned Malayalam actor Tovino Thomas reacted to the latest developments and criticised the purported heavy-handedness of security personnel against protestors.

Vismaya, who is gearing up for her acting debut next month with director Jude Anthany Joseph’s Thudakkam, slammed the authorities for using lathi-charge and tear gas shells, as well as shutting down roads and metro stations, to clamp down on the agitation. Taking to her Instagram stories, she recently noted, “Tear gas. Lathi charges. Students injured. Roads blocked. Metro stations closed. Heavy barricading across the city. Internet suspension.”

She continued, “You don’t have to agree with the protesters. You don’t have to support their demands. You don’t even have to like the organisations involved. But if the response to citizens raising their voices is overwhelming force instead of dialogue, every one of us should stop and ask what kind of democracy we are becoming.” Vismaya added, “Because tomorrow, it could be you asking to be heard. Your city. Your neighbourhood. Your own family. My question to all of you is simple: Do you genuinely believe this is how a democracy should respond to its own citizens?” Scores of people, predominantly students, have been protesting in the national capital for the past few weeks, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET-UG question paper leak earlier this year. On Monday, July 20, the protesters, under the aegis of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), organised a Chalo Sansad March, which security personnel tried to resist using force.

Tovino Thomas on Delhi protests: ‘Right to dissent’

Actor Tovino Thomas has also been posting frequently on social media, expressing his support for the protest. In a strongly worded statement, he criticised the authorities’ handling of the demonstrators, noting that “the right to dissent is not a threat to democracy.” He wrote, “Right and wrong may be relative, but this is certainly NOT the way to handle a peaceful protest.” “When the future generation of a nation speaks up, and their voices are met with repressive force, it is the future itself that is being stamped down. It is faith in democracy that is being drained away. What did these students do wrong? Did they destroy property? Did they resort to violence? What exactly did they do to deserve this treatment?” Tovino asked. “To every person protesting for a just cause, peacefully, in any part of our country, I extend my wholehearted solidarity. The right to dissent is not a threat to democracy; in fact, it is one of its foundations. And to anyone about to question my sense of nationalism, I know myself better than you do. This goes beyond politics, religion, and every other form of division. My politics is humanity. My belief is in peace,” he concluded. Don’t Miss | 18 hour shifts, paid after 90 days: Actor Sudhir Pandey, 72, says deserves ‘better industry’ Pa Ranjith calls for government accountability Tamil filmmaker Pa Ranjith, renowned for his unwavering political stances, also shared a lengthy post on social media, denouncing the “brutal use of violence to crack down on peaceful protesters.” He wrote on X (formerly Twitter), “What began as a



demand for accountability has become the collective anger and agitation of a generation that refuses to accept a government which continues to gamble with the futures of millions of young people.”

Ranjith added, “The brutal use of violence to crack down on peaceful protesters only exposes the government’s unwillingness to answer legitimate democratic questions. Repression cannot become a substitute for accountability. It is equally heartening to witness young people across the Indian diaspora standing in solidarity and raising their voices globally. This struggle belongs to every young person whose future is at stake.”

What began as a demand for accountability has become the collective anger and agitation of a generation that refuses to accept a government which continues to gamble with the futures of millions of young people.

Celebrity television anchor Ranjini Haridas and Alappuzha Gymkhana actor Noila Francy, meanwhile, have been with the students on the ground in New Delhi for the past few days. Veteran actor-filmmaker Revathy Asha Kelunni expressed concerns about the education system’s shortcomings and the government’s response to the ongoing protests. “As a parent, I believe education shapes not just our children’s future, but the future of our nation. It’s important to pay attention to voices that raise concerns about the future of education. Whether we agree with every viewpoint or not, the future of our children deserves thoughtful dialogue,” she stated. Revathy added, “Watching reports of violence during a peaceful march is heartbreaking. Praying for the safety, strength, and courage of everyone involved. May wisdom, compassion, and dialogue guide every decision because our children’s future deserves nothing less.” Parvathy Thiruvothu, Kunchacko Boban back protesters Actor Parvathy Thiruvothu slammed the detention of opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday, July 21. She wrote on her Instagram stories, “The opposition leaders are being dragged, attacked and arrested by the Delhi Police. This is what YOU voted for. The voices raised in peace for the lives lost due to gross negligence by the government has been met with violence of a nature never seen before.” Actor Kunchacko Boban also reacted to the ongoing protests and wrote on Instagram, “It has nothing to do with politics, religion, faith, caste, or system. It is about upholding the whole idea of being a citizen of the greatest Democratic country in the world! Upholding and safeguarding the ultimate idea of Unity in Diversity!”



Bollywood entertainment with a strong social message. The film challenged conventional ideas of academic success,