

Hyderabad: Suspected drug offender rams car into police team, three personnel injured

Hyderabad: A suspected drug offender allegedly rammed his car into police personnel while attempting to flee during a narcotics operation on Tilak Road in Abids on Sunday, leaving three police officials injured.

According to information available, the suspect identified as Saif of Hussaini Alam, drove his vehicle into the police team while trying to escape. Constable Mahender Yadav suffered a leg fracture, while Afzalgunj Inspector Srikanth and Constable Vamsidhar suffered minor injuries in the incident.

Man arrested with country-made pistol in Saroornagar

Hyderabad: The Saroornagar police have arrested a 22-year-old man for allegedly roaming with a country made pistol and creating panic among residents in Bhagath Singh Nagar on Sunday night.

Officers seized a country made pistol and one live round from him.

Police said Imran was allegedly moving around the locality with the firearm, causing fear among the residents.

A case has been registered and further investigation is on to ascertain the source of the weapon and whether it was used in any criminal activity.

Congress Pats Revanth, Flags SIR Threat In Telangana

Hyderabad:The Congress high command has appreciated the performance of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy led government in Telangana and praised the State as one of the strongest in the country in terms of the party's organisational strength. The performance of the government, the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and organisational affairs of the party in Telangana were reviewed at a meeting held at Indira Bhavan, the Congress headquarters in Delhi, on Monday.

AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal reviewed the issues in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC Telangana in charge Meenakshi Natarajan. The meeting noted that the Congress government, which assumed office in December 2023, had completed 31 months in July and crossed the halfway mark of its five year term on June 7. Party sources said the AICC appreciated the implementation of various welfare schemes and the government's performance, with several programmes benefiting lakhs of people every day and every month.

The Mahalakshmi scheme, under which more than 30 lakh women avail free bus travel daily, the Gruha Jyothi scheme providing free power up to 200 units to more than 50 lakh households monthly, and the free supply of fine rice benefiting 3.39 crore people every month were among the welfare initiatives that received special mention. The AICC also appreciated the Indiramma housing scheme, under which more than seven lakh houses are being constructed for poor and middle class families across the State.

However, the high command expressed concern over the ongoing SIR exercise and directed party lead-

ers, workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to remain vigilant and ensure that no eligible voter loses the right to vote. With only about a week left for completion of the enumeration phase, nearly 31 lakh forms across Telangana have been categorised as "uncollectable" after 74.38 per cent of the total enumeration forms were digitised. In Hyderabad alone, around 4.21 lakh forms have been categorised as uncollectible, with digitisation standing at just over 50 per cent.

The uncollectable forms are classified under the ASDDF criteria—Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Foreign—and are liable to be marked for deletion from the electoral rolls. The AICC stressed the need for intensified efforts to ensure that genuine and eligible voters, particularly poor people, do not lose their votes during the SIR process. Party leaders acknowledged slackness in the campaign and called for intensified work at the grassroots level.

The high command also conducted a detailed review of organisational affairs, including appointments from the booth level to the State level, the performance of District Congress Committees and the functioning of mandal Congress presidents. Party sources said the AICC was satisfied with the manner in which programmes assigned by the central leadership were being implemented in Telangana. Venugopal reportedly appreciated the State unit's performance and observed that Telangana was among the states where the Congress was organisationally strong.

The meeting decided to conduct a more detailed review of the SIR exercise at the TPCC Coordination Committee meeting to be held in Delhi on Wednesday. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Meenakshi Natarajan and



all members of the Coordination Committee are expected to attend. The SIR exercise will be the principal focus, with the leadership directing the party machinery to ensure that every eligible voter retains the right to vote.

The Chief Minister is expected to remain in Delhi until Wednesday to attend the further review meeting. The AICC has asked the state leadership to step up efforts on the SIR issue and ensure that no genuine voter is excluded from the electoral rolls due to procedural or documentation related difficulties.

Agitation doesn't justify police excesses, peaceful protest constitutional right: SC

New Delhi, July 27

The Supreme Court on Monday observed that the right to hold peaceful protests is protected under the Constitution and that police excesses during demonstrations cannot be justified merely because an agitation is underway.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana made the oral observations while hearing a batch of petitions seeking nationwide guidelines to regulate peaceful protests in the wake of police action against protesters at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and in Bihar.

The Chief Justice said the constitutional right to peaceful protest could not be denied and emphasised that an agitation, by itself, could not become a reason for the use of excessive force by the police. He said that democratic protests also required self-discipline and observed that every protest should not end in a lathicharge.

The Bench also underlined that the lives of all individuals, including police personnel, were equally valuable. Justice Bagchi remarked that the safety of every person, irrespective of who they were, must be protected.

Appearing for one of the petitioners, advocate Fauzia Shakil alleged that security forces had used AK-47 rifles during the Bihar bandh in Siwan. Senior advocate Vikas Singh also referred to alleged police action against students in Bihar and urged the court to frame uniform guidelines applicable across the country. Another counsel highlighted injuries suffered by police personnel during protests and urged the court to consider their concerns as well. Responding to the



submissions, the Chief Justice said there should be a uniform protocol governing protests across the country, including designated spaces where demonstrations could be held without unnecessary restrictions. At the same time, he observed that anti-social elements could be dealt with separately through appropriate measures.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, assured the court that the government would assist it objectively in the matter. The Bench directed that all petitions concerning the issue be taken up together for hearing on Tuesday. The petitions were filed against the backdrop of police action during student protests over alleged examination paper leaks. The Jantar Mantar protest, which began in June demanding reforms in the examination system and the resignation of then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, was called off on July 25 after Pradhan resigned. Similar protests have also been held in Bihar, where allegations of police excesses have likewise been raised.

Telangana HC Orders Removal of HYDRAA Chief A.V. Ranganath

HYDERABAD, July 27

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the state Chief Secretary to replace HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, holding that his repeated violations of judicial orders and scant regard for the authority of the courts had made his continuation in office untenable.

The court noted that about 63 contempt cases had been filed against Ranganath over the last one-and-a-half years, demonstrating a recurring pattern of disregard for judicial orders. Observing that it was conscious of issuing such directions, the court said that repeated judicial patience had failed to reform the Commissioner's conduct.

"When there is a wilful and deliberate violation of an order passed by a competent court, it would be like giving an



olive branch to the contemnor, further undermining the rule of law and the majesty of the court," the judge observed. The court further noted that if the officer were permitted to continue as Commissioner of HYDRAA, "this court is of the considered opinion that the rule of law would be at peril." Justice Jukanti Anil Kumar dictated the order in open court while disposing of two contempt petitions filed by M/s Shanta Sriram Constructions Pvt. Ltd, which complained of interference by HYDRAA, along with other departments and the police, on its private land measuring 40 acres in Survey Nos. 1 and 2 of Lothukunta village in Medchal-Malkajgiri district.

Nitin Gadkari moves Bombay HC over posts linking family to E20 fuel gains

New Delhi, July 27

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has approached the Bombay High Court over the circulation of social media posts linking him and his family to purported business gains from the government's E20 ethanol-blended fuel programme. The Bombay High Court on Monday permitted Gadkari to initiate a civil suit against the circulation of allegedly defamatory and AI-generated deepfake content targeting him online, according to agency reports.

The legal move comes amid an ongoing public debate over the use of E20 fuel, with Gadkari being a strong advocate of the ethanol-blending programme as part of India's efforts to promote cleaner and more sustainable transportation. The minister has repeatedly defended the initiative against criticism, asserting that there is no credible evidence to support claims that E20 fuel causes damage to vehicles. At a recent public event, Gadkari challenged critics to identify even a single vehicle that had been damaged due to the use of E20 fuel. He dismissed the campaign on social media as a "paid" and politically motivated effort aimed at spreading misinformation about the ethanol-blending initiative.



it should "vacate the throne" and let others govern. He said the present dispensation was "not fit to remain in power".

The BJP is set to put its young Turks at the forefront, with MP Bansuri Swaraj and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya among the opening speakers in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Bill seeks to further strengthen the provisions of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, by providing speedy investigation and trial through special fast-track courts, appointment of special public prosecutors, time-bound disposal of appeals and more stringent penal provisions to effectively deter unfair means and organised examination malpractices.

The Bill proposes to enhance the punishment for persons resorting to unfair means by increasing the term of imprisonment to not less than five years, extendable up to 10 years, as against the existing provision of imprisonment for a term of not less than three years, extendable up to five years. The maximum fine is also proposed to be enhanced from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh. For service providers found involved in offences under the Act, the Bill proposes to increase the maximum fine from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore and extend the period of debarment from conducting any public examination from four years to eight years. To deal more effectively with organised examination-related crimes, it proposes increasing the minimum term of imprisonment from five years to seven years, extendable up to 10 years, while enhancing the maximum fine from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore.

DOCUMENT LOST

I. Sri Soyam Bapurao, S/o Soyam Nago Rao, aged about 57 years, Occupation: Social Worker, residing at H. No. 1-57/1, Village Ghanpur Naguguda, Botha Mandal, presently residing at Vagdevinagar, Adilabad District, hereby inform the general public that my Original Registered Sale Deed Document No. 7165/2020 and Mortgage Deed Document No. 908/2021, registered at SRO Adilabad, pertaining to Plot No. 235, admeasuring 756.22 Sft.= 84.02 Sq. Yards in Sy. Nos. 162/A (162/1) and 162/2/1, situated at Village & G.P. Mavala, Adilabad, were lost/misplaced on 20-07-2026 while proceeding from my residence to a Xerox Centre. Despite my best efforts, the documents could not be traced.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Watershed moment for space industry

India's space journey has reached a historic milestone. The successful launch of Vikram-1, the first orbital rocket developed in the private sector, is a watershed moment because it achieved what is exceptionally rare in the space launch industry: a successful orbital mission on its very first attempt. Most new rockets suffer failures or major anomalies during maiden flights, making its flawless insertion of payloads into a 450-km orbit a remarkable demonstration of engineering maturity, rigorous testing and execution. Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace has now joined a small and elite group of global companies that have successfully developed and launched orbital rockets. India is only the third country, after the United States and China, where a private company has independently placed payloads in orbit.

The seven-storey rocket, carrying technology demonstration payloads and postcards, lifted off ISRO's First Launch Pad at Sriharikota and, a little over 15 minutes later, placed its payloads in an orbit roughly 450 km above the Earth. Named 'Aagaman' (arrival), it was the first of two test flights Skyroot plans to do this year before starting commercial launches next year. For nearly six decades, the space sector was entirely in the hands of the government. Every celebrated milestone, from Aryabhata to Chandrayaan-3, every Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) that became the workhorse of global commercial launches, every Mars and Moon mission, bore the unmistakable signature of the Indian state. That monopoly has ended now. The achievement also validates India's 2020 space-sector reforms, which opened ISRO's infrastructure to private firms, proving that Indian startups can independently design, build and launch orbital-class rockets.

Boinpeta Councillor Potharaveni Srilatha Kranti Keeps Her Promise; Donates Two Months' Salary to Poor Families



“Manthani Peddapalli District, July 27(Indian Chronicle): Fulfilling the promise she made to the people, 6th Ward Councillor of Manthani Municipality, Potharaveni Srilatha Kranti Kumar, utilised her two months' councillor salary for the welfare of poor families and the development of Boinpeta. “As part of the initiative, she distributed essential groceries and daily necessities to four underprivileged families in Boyinpeta. Speaking on the occasion, she said that while many leaders forget the promises they make after winning elections, she believes it is the responsibility of a public representative to honour the trust placed in them by the people.” Srilatha Kranti Kumar was elected as an independent candidate without the support of any political party and secured one of the highest victory margins in the district with the blessings of the people. During the election campaign, she had pledged to use her monthly councillor salary for public welfare, and this initiative was carried out in fulfilment of that commitment. “Keeping in mind the needs of poor families, she provided rice, groceries, and other essential household items, extending support to those facing financial hardship. She stated that the welfare of the people remains her primary objective and that standing by them during their joys and difficulties is her responsibility.” She also noted that she has been undertaking several social service activities with her personal funds, including providing financial assistance to needy families, helping people during emergencies, and supporting various welfare initiatives. “Reaffirming her commitment, Srilatha Kranti Kumar said she would never betray the trust reposed in her by the people. She emphasised that the development of Boinpeta, the welfare of ward residents, and the upliftment of the poor would continue to be her top priorities.” She concluded by saying that serving the public with honesty, integrity, and selflessness is her duty, and with the continued support and confidence of the people, she would strive to transform Boypineta into a model locality through more developmental and welfare programmes.

Hindustan Zinc Ltd Announces Record Q1 FY2026-27 Financial Results

“Hyderabad, July 27 (Indian chronicle) : Hindustan Zinc Limited has announced its financial results for the first quarter of FY2026-27, reporting record-breaking performance across key financial indicators. In a statement released in Hyderabad on Monday,



company representatives Run Mishra and Amit Gupta said the company posted a record revenue of ₹13,747 crore, EBITDA of ₹8,074 crore, and net profit of ₹5,469 crore during the quarter. The company reported a 145% year-on-year increase in net profit and a 77% growth in revenue compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Hindustan Zinc also achieved its highest-ever first-quarter mined metal production of 268 kilotonnes for the fifth consecutive year. The company recorded its lowest-ever zinc production cost of US\$851 per tonne, highlighting continued operational efficiency. The Board of Directors declared a first interim dividend of ₹11 per equity share.

PUPPALA VENKATESWARLU Appointed BJP OBC Morcha Vice President for Medchal–Malkajgiri District Receives Blessings from Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar



“UPPAL, JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Puppala Venkateshwarlu, who has been appointed as the Vice President of the BJP OBC Morcha for the Medchal–Malkajgiri Urban District, paid a courtesy visit to former Uppal MLA and former BJP State Vice President N.V.S.S. Prabhakar and sought his blessings. “Speaking on the occasion, Puppala Venkateshwarlu expressed his gratitude to the

party leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility. He said he would live up to the confidence reposed in him by the party and discharge his duties with dedication and commitment. “He conveyed his special thanks to Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etala Rajender, BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao, Medchal–Malkajgiri Urban District President S. Malla Reddy, District OBC Morcha President Shekhar Yadav, his fellow OBC Morcha committee members, and senior BJP leaders of the Uppal constituency for their support and encouragement.

“On the occasion, Venkateshwarlu was felicitated with a shawl and presented with a bouquet. He reiterated that he would faithfully carry out the responsibilities assigned to him by the party and work in accordance with its directives. “Senior BJP leaders Palugula Yadagiri, Akula Anjaneyulu, Ajay Gupta, Nallu Purushotham Reddy, Ashok Reddy, Nagu Narasimha, Palugula Venkatesh, Bikshapathi, Srinivas Chary, and several other party leaders and workers participated in the programme.

Dr. Radha Mohan Mekala Appointed as Telangana Human Rights Justice Forum State Executive Member



“Assures Commitment to Protection of Human Rights”UPPAL, JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Dr. Radha Mohan Mekala has been appointed as the State Executive Member of the Telangana Human Rights Justice Forum, an organization working for the protection and

promotion of human rights across Telangana. The appointment was announced by the Forum's Chairperson, Dr. Vyasabhat Sreevani Chowdary. The appointment letter was presented to Dr. Radha Mohan Mekala at the Forum's State Office in Habsiguda. Speaking after assuming charge, Dr. Radha Mohan Mekala expressed his gratitude to Chairperson Dr. Vyasabhat Sreevani Chowdary for reposing confidence in him and to Telangana Working President Dr. Satyanarayana Devarakonda for his support in the appointment. “He assured that he would work tirelessly to uphold and protect human rights, extend support to victims of human rights violations, and strive to ensure justice for them. He also pledged to contribute effectively to the growth of the organization and said that the Forum would strongly respond wherever human rights are violated in Telangana. Dr. Mekala stated that the new responsibility has increased his commitment towards society and reaffirmed his dedication to serving the people through the Forum. On the occasion, Trust members, local dignitaries, and social activists congratulated Dr. Radha Mohan Mekala and conveyed their best wishes on his appointment.

Old Age Should Never Become a Curse... Don't Distribute All Your Property While You Are Alive



Dr. Anitha Reddy “Hanumakonda, July 27 (Indian Chronicle): Dr. Anitha Reddy, Member of the Senior Citizens Tribunal Court and Chairperson of Anurag Society, visited the Senior Citizens Pranam Day Care Centre located in the Red Cross premises at Hanumakonda on Monday. During her visit, she interacted with the elderly residents, enquired about their well-being, the facilities being provided, and the issues they were facing. “Dr. Anitha Reddy donated books to the Senior Citizens Library. She warmly interacted with every senior citizen and encouraged

them to make use of the Pranam Centres and the facilities provided by the government. She also urged them to report any problems they encounter without hesitation. “Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Anitha Reddy explained the provisions of the Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and the Rules, 2011, stating that the Tribunal Bench plays a vital role in safeguarding the rights of senior citizens. She advised elderly people facing harassment or any other difficulties to approach the Tribunal. She stressed that old age should never become a curse and warned that strict action would be taken against those who harass senior citizens. “She further advised parents not to distribute all their property to their children while they are still alive. Instead, they should retain sufficient assets for their own needs and prepare a will for the remaining property. She said that respecting and caring for the elderly is a reflection of Indian culture and values. Those who fail to love and care for their parents, regardless of how wealthy they are, are truly poor in character, she remarked. She also emphasized that children should never forget their responsibility towards their parents. “The programme was attended by Dr. Anitha Reddy, senior citizens, and Pranam Centre staff member Srikanth, among others.

Centre Should Focus on Expanding Digital Infrastructure in Government Schools: MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya



“Hanumakonda, July 27 (Indian Chronicle): Warangal Member of Parliament Dr. Kadiyam Kavya raised the issue of providing digital and physical infrastructure to government schools in the Warangal Parliamentary Constituency in the Lok Sabha. She sought comprehensive details from the Central Government regarding the implementation of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, expansion of digital education, development of school infrastructure, and allocation of central funds. “Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, who has consistently been raising the issues of strengthening government education and improving infrastructure in government schools in Warangal, recently questioned the Centre on digital educational infrastructure. She sought details of the assistance provided by the Central Government to Telangana, particularly Warangal district, over the past five years, the works undertaken, and the benefits extended to students. “Responding to the MP's question, Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary submitted a written reply. He stated that under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, technology-enabled education is being promoted across the country through PM e-Vidya, DIKSHA, ICT laboratories, and smart classrooms. He added that the Centre provides financial assistance based on the Annual Work Plans submitted by the states. “The Centre further informed that Telangana has received significant support over the past five years for the development of digital education infrastructure. For the 2025–26 academic year, approval has been granted for 1,242 ICT laboratories and 2,036 smart classrooms in the state, with a financial allocation of ₹108.98

crore. “Speaking on the occasion, MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya said that her primary objective is to further strengthen the government education sector in Warangal. She stated that she has been consistently bringing the needs of Warangal to the attention of the Central Government through Parliament and will continue her efforts to secure more funds and projects for education, infrastructure, and digital facilities. “She emphasized that digital infrastructure, ICT laboratories, and smart classrooms are crucial to ensuring quality education for students from poor and middle-class families studying in government schools. She urged the Central Government to allocate additional funds for this purpose and reiterated her commitment to transforming Warangal into a model district in the field of education.

Indian Stars Add Shine to LPL-2026

“Hyderabad, July 27 (Indian chronicle): The inclusion of Indian cricketers Vijay Shankar and Piyush Chawla in the 2026 Lanka Premier League (LPL) has added greater international appeal to the tournament being held in Sri Lanka, LPL Tournament Director Samantha Dodanwela said in a statement on Monday.

Speaking along with IPG Group Founder and Chairman Anil Mohan, Dodanwela said Vijay Shankar will represent Kandy Royals, while Piyush Chawla will play for the Jaffna Kings. He said the participation of these experienced Indian players will not only contribute to the development of young Sri Lankan cricketers but also strengthen cricketing ties between India and Sri Lanka. The arrival of Indian players reflects the growing global popularity of the Lanka Premier League, he added. Their presence is expected to enhance the quality of the tournament and further establish the LPL as a competitive platform that contributes to the growth of Sri Lankan cricket.

Action Demanded Against Manthani BC Girls' (SMH) Hostel Warden: SFI



“Manthani Peddapalli District, July 27(Indian Chronicle): “The Students' Federation of India (SFI) Manthani Mandal Committee visited the BC Girls' (SMH) Hostel in Manthani on Sunday to inspect the conditions and interact with students. During the visit, the hostel was found locked, drawing strong criticism from the organisation. “Speaking on the occasion, SFI Peddapalli District President Arla Sandeep alleged that the repeated closure of hostels in Manthani reflects the negligence of hostel wardens and district officials. He said that despite drawing salaries from the government, the officials are failing to discharge their responsibilities, resulting in hostels remaining closed and affecting students' education. “Sandeep questioned how admissions could be conducted when hostels remain locked during the admission season. He also pointed out that the SC Girls' Hostel in Manthani was in a similar condition, with its doors locked. “He expressed concern that such a situation continues even in the constituency represented by IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. He urged the Minister to intervene immediately and convene a review meeting on the issues affecting BC and Social Welfare hostels, Gurukul schools, government colleges, and government schools in the Manthani constituency, and take necessary steps to resolve them. “SFI District Vice-President Bandela Raj Kumar, along with Akhil, Mahender, Kiran, and Charan, participated in the inspection.

Sanitation Works Completed Around Temples Ahead of Bonalu Festival



“Mettuguda All Set for Bonalu Celebrations” Indian Chronicle, “Secunderabad, July 27: “Ahead of the Bonalu festival, sanitation and horticulture works have been completed around temples in Mettuguda to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees, said Congress Secunderabad District General Secretary Ryala Rajender Yadav. “Responding to a request from the Palu Devalayam Temple Committee, Rajender Yadav visited the Pochamma, Nalla Pochamma and Ellamma temples in Mettuguda. Accompanied by officials from the Horticulture Department, he inspected the temple premises and oversaw the removal of overgrown tree branches, cleaning of the surroundings and other essential maintenance works. “The required civic measures were undertaken with the support of officials from the Urban Biodiversity Development (UBD) Department to ensure the temple surroundings are clean and safe for devotees during the festivities. “UBD Mettuguda In-charge Suresh, temple committee members and Congress leaders Jai Raj, Dheer Singh, Prithvi Raj, Gaddam Mahender, Raghu and others participated in the programme.

Merugu Srinivas Yadav Re-Elected as Arundhati Nagar Basti President for the Ninth Time



TJS Leaders Congratulate Srinivas Yadav “HYDERABAD, JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Merugu Srinivas Yadav has been unanimously elected as the President of Arundhati Nagar Basti in Gandhi Nagar Division for the ninth consecutive term. Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) Greater Hyderabad President M. Narasayya said that Srinivas Yadav's selfless service to the residents for nearly 23 years, since 2003, was the key reason behind his repeated electoral success. Congratulating and felicitating Srinivas Yadav on his victory, Narasayya expressed happiness over the trust reposed in him by the residents. He said that Srinivas Yadav has always remained accessible to the people and has been actively serving the community. He hoped that Srinivas Yadav would continue to expand his public service and work for the welfare and development of the entire division. “Speaking on the occasion, Merugu Srinivas Yadav thanked the voters for their overwhelming support in the keenly contested election. He assured the residents that he would continue to work with dedication for the development of Arundhati Nagar and address the needs of the people. Among those present were TJS City Vice President Punireddy Jaipal Reddy, M. Laxman, Treasurer Suresh, Gandhi Nagar Division President Gundelli Ravinder Yadav, Kavadiyada Division President Ajay Goud, and local residents Meesala Sheshagiri, C.H. Raju, Mekala Dasu, Gaddam Prabhakar, Satyanarayana, Sampath, Krishna, Shankar, and others.

Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy Reviews Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Programme in Beerappagadda Division



“UPPAL, JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy inspected the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme for the electoral roll conducted near Indira Nagar under the leadership of the Beerappagadda Division Congress Committee. On the occasion, he reviewed the process of voter registration, corrections, address changes, and enrolment of new voters along with the local Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Later, under the leader-

ship of Beerappagadda Division Congress President Akiti Agam Reddy, an awareness programme was conducted to educate residents about the importance of their voting rights. Addressing the gathering, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy urged every eligible citizen to register as a voter and advised those requiring corrections or updates in their voter details to submit the necessary applications. Application forms required for voter registration and corrections were also distributed to the public. He emphasized that every vote is valuable in safeguarding democracy and appealed to all eligible citizens to exercise their constitutional right by ensuring their names are included in the electoral rolls. The programme was attended by Beerappagadda Division Congress President Akiti Agam Reddy, DCC Vice-President Bottu Rajesh, senior Congress leaders Bazar Jagannath Goud, Sandeep Bhushan, Jagadish, Madhusudhan, Sushila, Geetha, Premalatha, Eshwari, Faheem, Ramu Goud, Turpati Jangaiah, Sravan, Subba Rao, Ramesh Goud, Sonu Goud, Sravanthi, Sripatha, Tailor Seenu, Tailor Balu, Sayilu, Gavvala Santosh, Ramulu Goud, Durga, Edla Anjaiah, Sharath, Shankar, Naresh, Srikanth Reddy, Kashi, Vamsi, Bablu, Bunny, members of the Beda Budaga Jangala Basti, Congress Party workers, and several local leaders and residents, who participated in large numbers and made the programme a success.

Youth Must Change for the Nation's Future to Change: AIYF Leader

Stay Away from Drugs and Ganja, Fight for Justice with the Spirit of Bhagat Singh" AIYF 22nd Nelakondapalli Mandal Conference Held Grandly; New Committee Elected Unanimously" Nelakondapalli, Khammam July 27 Indian Chronicle: "The youth are the foundation of the nation's future, and only when they move in the right direction can society witness positive change, said AIYF (All India Youth Federation) Khammam District Assistant Secretary Mamindla Srinath Reddy. He urged young people to stay away from ganja, drugs, alcohol and other harmful addictions, and to draw inspiration from Bhagat Singh by standing up against injustice with courage and social awareness. Speaking at the 22nd AIYF Nelakondapalli Mandal Conference, held on Sunday at Bhairavunipalli village under the chairmanship of Palapati Ashok, Srinath Reddy expressed concern over the increasing number of youth falling victim to substance abuse. He said unemployment, lack of opportunities and inadequate guidance were pushing some young people towards crime. He noted that the illegal trade in ganja and drugs was spreading across both villages and towns, stressing that society as a whole must take responsibility for curbing the menace. Every young person, he said, should stay completely away from such addictions to protect their future and their families. Srinath Reddy also highlighted the plight of educated unemployed youth, stating that delays in recruitment notifications, paper leaks in competitive examinations and a shortage of employment opportunities were causing severe mental distress among lakhs of job seekers. He emphasised that democratic struggles, rather than giving up in the face of problems, were the way to secure people's rights. Referring to student and youth protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, he said these movements had created nationwide awareness and claimed that the protests ultimately led to the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. However, he added that the resignation alone was not enough and called for comprehensive reforms in the education system. He demanded the imme-



diat abolition of the National Testing Agency (NTA), withdrawal of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, free medical treatment for students injured during protests, ₹1 crore compensation for the families of students who lost their lives due to paper leaks and related agitations, and a government job for one member of each affected family. He also urged both the Central and State governments to fill all vacant government posts without delay to provide justice to unemployed youth. Following the conference, the new AIYF Nelakondapalli Mandal Committee was elected unanimously. Aleti Umamahesh was elected President, Palapati Ashok as General Secretary, Pedapaka Nagaraju as Assistant Secretary, Gopinath as Vice-President, along with 19 council members. The newly elected office-bearers pledged to organise extensive awareness campaigns against ganja, drugs and other social evils in the mandal, while intensifying efforts to address the issues faced by students and unemployed youth. The conference was attended by CPI Mandal Secretary Marishetty Venkateswara Rao, AIYF District Assistant Secretaries Chintala Ramesh and Malleboyina Upender, CPI Village Secretary Balina Krishnam Raju, Bhadradi Venkateswara Rao, and a large number of youth from various villages.

Karimnagar PTC begins AI-driven policing course for constables

Personnel from three Commissionerates and six districts to undergo phased training in emerging technologies and cyber investigations.



Karimnagar July 27 (Correspondent) : The Telangana Police on Monday launched a specialised training programme on artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies for constables at the Police Training Centre (PTC) in Karimnagar, with an emphasis on strengthening crime prevention, investigation and public service delivery through technology. Inaugurating the "AI and Technologies of Police Department" training programme, Police Commissioner Gaush Alam said the rapid advancement of technology required the police force to continuously upgrade its skills to meet evolving policing challenges. He said technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital forensics, cybersecurity, data analytics and smart surveillance had become indispensable tools in modern law enforcement.

The Commissioner said the State-wide initiative was being organised for constables of the 2018, 2020 and 2024 batches. As part of the programme, the Karimnagar PTC would conduct training in 11 phases, covering personnel from the Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Siddipet Commissionerates and the districts of Adilabad, Nirmal, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Kamareddy and Kumuram Bheem Asifabad. Each phase will have 80 constables, with every batch undergoing five days of intensive training. The curriculum includes AI-assisted policing, digital evidence management, cybercrime detection and prevention, smart surveillance systems, technology-driven investigation techniques, data analytics, ethical practices, privacy safeguards

and legal provisions. Practical sessions will be conducted by domain experts. Mr. Alam said the programme would help police personnel acquire advanced technological skills, enabling them to provide faster, more transparent and efficient services to the public. He described the initiative as an important step towards preparing the Telangana Police for future policing requirements. PTC Principal and Additional Superintendent of Police M. Pitchaiah, Vice-Principal and ACP Gangadhar, ACPs Vijaypal Reddy and B. Narayana, along with other police officers and staff, attended the inaugural programme.

R.R.Jewellers Celebrates 16 Years : Launches-26 Festival Collection“



“Hyderabad, July 27 (Indian chronicle) : R.R.Jewellers celebrated its 16th anniversary by unveiling its 2026 Festival Collection at its Kondapur showroom. Founded by Radha Ghantasala in 2007, the brand has grown from a home-based venture into a trusted jewellery name known for lightweight and affordable gold jewellery. The new collection features gold, diamond, and precious gemstone jewellery that blends traditional craftsmanship with contemporary designs for the festive season. Over the years, the brand has redesigned more than 1.25 lakh jewellery pieces, served 80,000+ customers across 25 countries, and introduced new collections every three weeks. Speaking on the occasion, Founder Radha Ghantasala said the new collection reflects the brand's commitment to quality, craftsmanship, and customer trust as it continues its journey of excellence.

Youth Congress Leader Akarapu Arun Patel Participates in the Grand Ghatam Procession of Sri Nalla Pochamma Temple at Ramanthapur



“UPPAL, JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of the vibrant Ashada Masam Bonalu Festival celebrations, a grand Ghatam procession was organized with great religious fervour and traditional grandeur by the residents of Ramanthapur village. The procession commenced from the historic Sri Nalla Pochamma Temple near TV Studio, Ramanthapur, drawing hundreds of devotees who came together to celebrate one of Telangana's most revered

festivals. Among the prominent participants was Akarapu Arun Patel, Youth Leader and President of the Uppal Constituency Youth Congress, who joined the procession and actively took part in the religious festivities. He offered special prayers to Goddess Sri Nalla Pochamma, seeking her divine blessings for the prosperity, peace, happiness, and well-being of the people of the village and the entire constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Arun Patel said that the Bonalu festival reflects Telangana's rich cultural heritage, spiritual values, and centuries-old traditions. He noted that festivals like Bonalu strengthen communal harmony, preserve local customs, and unite people from all walks of life in devotion to the Goddess. He prayed for abundant rains, good health, prosperity, and protection for every family, expressing hope that the blessings of Goddess Nalla Pochamma would continue to guide and safeguard the people throughout the year. The Ghatam procession was conducted with great enthusiasm amid devotional songs, traditional drum beats, cultural performances, and chants in praise of the Goddess. The colourful procession attracted a large gathering of devotees and created a spiritually vibrant atmosphere across the locality. A large number of village elders, youth, women, community leaders, and devotees enthusiastically participated in the procession, making the event a grand success. The celebration showcased the deep faith and devotion of the people towards Goddess Sri Nalla Pochamma while highlighting the cultural significance of the Bonalu festival in Telangana.

Work for the Welfare of Grain Market Clerks

Dyagala Srinivas----Grand Felicitation to Gandla Srinivas on His Election as Vice President of the Agricultural Grain Market Clerks' Association" Narsampet, July 27 (Indian Chronicle): Gandla Srinivas, who was unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Narsampet Agricultural Grain Market Clerks' Association, was felicitated by the leaders of the BC Welfare Association. At a programme held at the BC Welfare Association office in Narsampet, Warangal District President of the BC Welfare Association and Narsampet Constituency In-charge Dyagala Srinivas Mudiraj honoured him with a ceremonial shawl and extended his congratulations. Speaking on the occasion, Dyagala Srinivas Mudiraj said that it was a matter of great pleasure that Gandla Srinivas, who is also serving as the Narsampet Town Secretary of the BC Welfare Association, had been unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Agricultural Grain Market Clerks' Association. He expressed confidence that Srinivas would discharge his new responsibilities efficiently and work dedicatedly for the welfare of the grain market clerks. The programme was attended by BC Welfare Association Warangal District Vice President Chennuri Ravi Mudiraj, District Official Spokesperson Marupala Veeraswamy Kuruma, District Youth



President Kadari Suresh Yadav, Narsampet Town General Secretary Noone Ranjith Kumar Mudiraj, Chennaraopet Mandal President Barla Yakaiah, Chennaraopet Mandal Women's President Bandi Vijaya, Narsampet Town Assistant Secretary Sheeramshetty Rajender Peraka, and other leaders of the BC Welfare Association.

Congress Help Centres Should Function Smoothly for SIR Process: Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Calls on Party Cadre



“UPPAL, JULY 27(INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Uppal Division Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy urged Congress workers to ensure that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is carried out smoothly and efficiently by actively assisting vot-

ers through help centres. On Monday, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy inspected the SIR Help Centre established by the Congress Party at Satyanagar, Uppal. Speaking on the occasion, she said that genuine voters should not face any inconvenience or loss due to the SIR process and stressed the need to provide timely assistance to every eligible voter. She advised party workers to coordinate closely with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and extend all necessary support to the public so that the voter verification process is completed without any hurdles.

Among those present were SC Cell President Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Tummala Devi Reddy, Katepalli Vijay Kumar, Kushangala Satish Mudiraj, Eega Rajesh, Pogula Narasimha Reddy, Ramoji Satyanarayana, Pogula Sajeev Reddy, Borra Raju, Supreeth, Venkatesh Set, Nomula Suresh, Bodige Mallesh, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, Kuyyala Srinivas, and other Congress Party leaders from Uppal.

ROB work should be accelerated, says Collector

Collector reviews progress of Theegalaguttapalli railway overbridge; directs officials to expedite service roads, land acquisition and allied works.



Karimnagar July 27 (Correspondent) : District Collector Chitra Mishra on Monday directed Roads and Buildings (R&B) officials to expedite the construction of the railway overbridge (ROB) at Theegalaguttapalli on the Karimnagar-Choppadandi road and ensure its completion within the stipulated timeframe. Inspecting the project site, the Collector reviewed the progress of the bridge works and assessed the status of the remaining components, including service roads, drainage and other allied infrastructure. She sought details of the land acquisition process required for constructing service roads on all four sides of the bridge and instructed officials to remove bottlenecks without delay.

Ms. Mishra stressed that there should be no slackening in the pace of construction and called for daily monitoring to ensure timely completion. She directed officials to maintain quality standards and adopt adequate traffic management measures so that commuters are not inconvenienced during the execution of the project. Emphasising that service roads are integral to the project, the Collector said the land acquisition process was being fast-tracked and that the Revenue authorities had already been instructed to complete the necessary formalities at the earliest. She said the

completion of the ROB would ease traffic congestion on the Karimnagar-Choppadandi corridor and eliminate delays caused by the railway level crossing, thereby improving connectivity and commuter convenience. R&B Executive Engineer Kumaraswamy, Deputy Engineer Kiran, Assistant Engineer Madhu and other officials were present.

Transport department bans brokers from RTA, RTO offices across Telangana

Hyderabad: The Internal Vigilance Wing of the transport department has directed officials across the State to ensure that brokers are not allowed inside Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and Regional Transport Office (RTO) premises. As part of a drive to improve transparency and eliminate middlemen from public service delivery, the Vigilance department has also instructed authorities to remove any unauthorised agents operating around transport offices.

As per information available, the directive comes after instances and reports highlighted alleged involvement of brokers in RTA offices, illegal slot booking rackets and complaints regarding technical glitches in online transport services. Taking serious note of these issues, the Internal Vigilance Wing has asked transport authorities to tighten monitoring and ensure that citizens can access services directly without the interference of brokers. Officials have also been instructed to maintain strict vigilance over office premises and prevent any unauthorised persons from influencing or facilitating transport-related services.

TWJF Raises Voice for Journalists' Rights in New Delhi



Telangana Journalists Hold Massive Protest at Jantar Mantar““New Delhi, July 27: Indian Chronicle““Journalists from Telangana raised their voice in the national capital, demanding that the Central Government immediately address the long-pending issues faced by journalists across the country. A large-scale protest was organized at Jantar Mantar, near Parliament, under the banner of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF).““Responding to the Federation’s “Chalo Parliament” call, journalists from various districts of Telangana gathered in New Delhi and participated in the demonstration, highlighting the pressing con-

cerns of the media fraternity.““The protest was presided over by TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiah and inaugurated by leaders of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ), including Maroof Raza, President of the Delhi Union of Journalists.““Addressing the gathering, Maroof Raza urged the Central Government to resolve the issues concerning journalists without further delay. He appreciated the initiative taken by Telangana journalists in organizing a protest near Parliament in support of journalists’ rights across the country. He also lauded the Telangana Working Journalists Federation for taking a leading role in safeguarding the welfare, security, and rights of media professionals nationwide.““Speaking on the occasion, TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiah asserted that the Federation’s struggle would continue until the legitimate demands of journalists are fulfilled. He reaffirmed the Federation’s commitment to protecting the rights and welfare of every journalist in the country.““During the protest, the Federation submitted memorandums to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, highlighting several key demands. These included the restoration of railway concession passes for journalists, implementation of a National Pension Scheme for retired journalists, enactment of a Journalists’ Protection Act, establishment of a National Media Commission, and a review of the Supreme Court judgment relating to house sites allotted to journalists.““Journalists from different states also extended their support to the protest. Among those present were Delhi Union of Journalists Vice President Liaquat, member Manvika Mishra, TWJF State General Secretary Tanneeru Srinivas, State Vice President Bandi Vijay Kumar, State leaders Kuncham Srinivas, Kuduthadi Bapurao, K. Ramadevi, Jagadeeshwar, Padmanabha Rao, along with district presidents, secretaries, and a large number of journalists from across Telangana.

Resolve Prajavani petitions without delay, Collector tells officials

250 grievances received at weekly public hearing; departments asked to clear pending applications after field verification.



Karimnagar July 27 (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials to accord top priority to petitions received through the weekly Prajavani grievance redressal programme and ensure their prompt disposal after field-level verification.Receiving petitions from the public during the Prajavani programme held at the Collectorate auditorium on Monday, Ms. Mishra said grievances should be examined carefully and resolved within the prescribed time, with particular focus on clearing pending applications.

A total of 250 petitioners submitted representations during the programme. While some grievances were resolved on the spot, the remaining petitions were forwarded to the concerned departments for necessary action.The Collector instructed officials to closely monitor the progress of each case and ensure that applicants receive timely relief through coordinated action by the respective departments.Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Srinivasa Reddy, along with senior district officials, participated in the programme.

Samira's Birthday Celebrated in a Green Way at Velugumatla Urban Park“



“Parents Plant Saplings to Mark Their Daughter's Birthday““Khammam, July 27: Indian Chronicle““Samira's birthday was celebrated in an eco-friendly and meaningful manner at the Velugumatla Urban Park near Khammam on Sunday. On the occasion, her parents, Shaik Meera and Saidabi, planted saplings in the park premises to commemorate their beloved daughter's birthday.““The parents said they were inspired to organize the unique programme following the appeal and guidance of Anthoti Srinivas, Khammam District Bureau Chief of Praja Jyothi newspaper and President of the Press Club. They expressed happiness that celebrating their daughter's birthday by planting trees was a meaningful contribution to society and the environment, bringing immense satisfaction and joy to their entire family.““The chief guest, Dr. Akula Lakshmi, Founder of Artism, appreciated the initiative and said she was de-



lighted to participate in the tree plantation programme organized as part of young Samira's birthday celebrations. She remarked that along with celebrating special occasions, people should also undertake socially responsible activities that help protect the environment.““Dr. Akula Lakshmi urged parents and the public to plant at least one sapling on occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and other family celebrations to contribute to environmental conservation. She appealed to everyone to come forward and help create a greener and healthier environment for future generations.““Among those who attended the programme were Samira, her parents Shaik Meera and Saidabi, Dr. Akula Lakshmi, Touch Rakesh Reddy, Press Club President Anthoti Srinivas, Praja Jyothi reporter Dubbaka Srinivas, family members, environmental enthusiasts, and other well-wishers, who conveyed their birthday greetings to Samira.

Committee Formed for Construction of New Hanumakonda DCC Office Building:

Inagala Venkatram Reddy““Hanumakonda, July 27 (Indian Chronicle): DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy announced the formation of a special committee to oversee the planning and construction of the new Hanumakonda District Congress Committee (DCC) office building. He stated that the list of committee members has been officially submitted to Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud for approval. He noted that construction of the new party office would commence on a priority basis immediately upon receiving approval from the party high command.““Husnabad MLA and Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, along with Rajya Sabha Member V. Narendar Reddy, will serve as advisors to this building construction committee. Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy has been appointed as the Chairman, while DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy will serve as the Convener.““The governing body will include Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, TPCC Women's Wing President Errabelli Swarna, MLC Basavaraju Saraiah, Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju, Jayashankar Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, Huzurabad in-charge Voditala Pranav, and Government Coordinator



E.V. Srinivasa Rao, alongside several other senior party leaders. Inagala Venkatram Reddy stated that details regarding the 48-member comprehensive committee—comprising representatives from various mandals and affiliated organizations in the district—have been submitted to the party high command.

Plans to Enhance Groundwater Levels Reviewed



MPDO Calls for Completion of Water Conservation Works Before August 15““Nalakondapalli (Khammam), July 27: Indian Chronicle““Nalakondapalli MPDO M. Yarraiah has directed officials to prepare and implement effective plans to enhance groundwater levels across the mandal.““A special review meeting on the Jala Siri programme was held at the Mandal Parishad Office on Monday. Addressing the

meeting, the MPDO said that in view of the impact of El Niño and the possibility of similar climatic challenges in the future, every drop of rainwater must be conserved.““He instructed officials to ensure the construction of soak pits, farm ponds, and individual rainwater harvesting pits in every village. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive action plan to promote water conservation and stated that allowing rainwater to percolate into the ground would significantly improve groundwater reserves.““The MPDO directed officials to create awareness among farmers and the public and counsel them on the importance of constructing rainwater harvesting structures. He instructed that all planned works under the Jala Siri programme be completed before August 15 and warned that negligence in implementing the programme would not be tolerated.““The meeting was attended by Mandal Panchayat Officer Srinivasa Rao, EGS APO R. Sunitha, Panchayat Secretaries, EGS staff, and other officials.

Strengthening Padmashali Sangham is Our Primary Goal: President Manda Jagan

Indian Chronicle,“Secunderabad, July 27.““ The first review meeting of the Secunderabad Padmashali Sangham was held with the objective of strengthening the organisation and promoting unity among its members, said Sangham President Manda Jagan.““The meeting focused on organisational strengthening, member coordination, future service initiatives, and an action plan for the social development of the community. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Kannepalli Raju, General Secretary of the Greater Hyderabad Padmashali Sangham, urged every member to work with a spirit of service for the welfare of the community. He emphasised the need to involve youth actively in the Sangham's activities and to prioritise education, employment, and social service.““Speaking on the occasion, President Manda Jagan said the Secunderabad Padmashali Sangham would be further strengthened and would continue to undertake meaningful welfare and service programmes for the benefit of the community. He expressed confidence that, with the cooperation of the executive committee members, the organisation would emerge as a model community body.““Members including



Chintakindi Mallesh, Bhoga Sanjeev Kumar, Oggu Sridhar, Gabbeta Raju, Cherupalli Srikanth, Veldanda Sai, Chintakindi Sai Kiran, Shyamala Shiva, Anandas Karunakar, Thoutam Satish, Karnati Anand, Vellandi Srikanth, Puli Shivakumar, Amancha Ramu, and Tirumala Ravi attended the meeting and assured their full support for the organisation's development.““The meeting concluded with a unanimous resolution to further strengthen unity among members and expand community welfare and service activities.

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao Reviews Progress of Underground Drainage Works in Khammam



100-Crore AMRUT 2.0 Project Aims to Prevent Flooding and Protect Lakes from Pollution““Khammam, July 27: Indian Chronicle““Telangana Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao on Monday inspected the progress of the underground drainage (UGD) works being executed in Khammam city under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme at an estimated cost of ₹100 crore.““Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the underground drainage system is being developed to prevent urban flooding and to stop sewage from polluting the city's lakes. At present, sewage flowing through municipal drains from the upstream of Khanapuram Lake to Dhamsalapuram Lake reaches the lakes through flood channels, resulting in severe pollution and the death of fish in Dhamsalapuram Lake.““He said all municipal drains would be connected to the underground drainage network, and the sewage would be diverted to a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for treatment. The treated water would be reused, while the remaining water would be safely discharged into the lake.““Recalling previous years' floods, the Minister noted that overflowing waters from Khanapuram Lake had inundated several divisions of the city. To address the issue, proposals worth ₹250 crore have been submitted for the construction of major stormwater drains to ensure the smooth discharge of rainwater during the monsoon.““He also



announced that the nala beautification works between the two Lakaram lakes would be completed soon, providing a pleasant and healthy environment for walkers and visitors.““The Minister said the State Government has initiated permanent measures to eliminate drinking water scarcity in Khammam. If Krishna River water is unavailable, Godavari water will be diverted to the Nagarjuna Sagar Canal to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply. He added that Godavari waters have already been brought up to the Munneru River.““He further stated that a permanent drinking water solution for Khammam city would soon be implemented under the UIDF scheme with an investment of ₹200 crore. The project includes the construction of a 25-million-litre water treatment plant, 24 new overhead water tanks, 100 kilometres of water pipelines, and 23,000 new household tap connections. It also aims to provide 24-hour protected drinking water supply across four zones through a fully automated distribution system.““The Minister expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for extending full support to the implementation of the drinking water project and the underground drainage works in Khammam.““The inspection was attended by Khammam Municipal Corporation Public Health Superintending Engineer Ranjith, Public Health Deputy Executive Engineer Naveen Kumar, Assistant Engineers Navya Jyothi and Divya, along with other officials and public representatives.

Katapaka Kumar Donates Sound System for Digital Classrooms at Medipally ZPHS



““MEDIPALLY, JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): With the objective of providing quality digital education to students at Medipally Government Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS), socially conscious Medipally resident Katapaka Kumar donated a sound system for the school's digital classrooms.On this occasion, the Headmaster, teachers, and students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Katapaka Kumar for his generous contribution. They said the sound system would help students hear digital lessons more clearly, thereby enhancing their learning experience and

academic performance.“The speakers also noted that education is the foundation of social development and appreciated individuals like Katapaka Kumar who come forward to support the improvement of government schools, calling them an inspiration to others.

The programme was attended by Headmaster Satyaprasad, social education activist Panga Pranay Kumar, youth leaders Panga Raju, Kallepalli Naveen, Katapaka Bharat, Katapaka Sampath, Abhishek, Vikram, along with the school teachers and staff.

TWJF Leads Protest in New Delhi for Journalists' Rights



“Jantar Mantar Demonstration Receives Wide National Media Coverage” “National Media Appreciates Telangana's Initiative to Champion Journalists' Welfare” “New Delhi, July 27: Indian Chronicle” “A protest organized by the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) under the leadership of its Founder and State President Mamidi Somaiah at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi received an overwhelming response and extensive coverage from several national media organizations.” “Representatives of the national media appreciated the initiative taken by journalists from

Telangana in leading a movement in the national capital for the protection of journalists' rights. They described TWJF's efforts to safeguard the welfare, security, and rights of journalists across India as a significant and commendable initiative.” “During the protest, the Federation highlighted several key demands concerning the welfare of journalists before the Central Government. Among the major demands were the restoration of the railway concession pass facility that was withdrawn during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the establishment of a National Media Commission, allocation of a separate budget for journalists in the Union Budget, issuance of free health cards to all eligible working journalists, allotment of house sites, and free education and medical facilities for journalists' children.” “Journalists from various states also extended their support to the movement launched by TWJF.” “Speaking on the occasion, Federation leaders asserted that their struggle would continue until the legitimate demands of journalists are fulfilled. They reiterated that the Telangana Working Journalists Federation would always remain at the forefront in protecting the rights and interests of every journalist in the country.” “The extensive coverage by the national media brought the movement into the national spotlight, with many journalists stating that it reflected the growing recognition earned by the Telangana Working Journalists Federation for its consistent efforts on behalf of the journalistic community.” “Among those who participated in the programme were Khammam District President Nanabala Ramakrishna, District General Secretary Arvapalli Nagesh, District Treasurer Vemulakonda Ramesh, National Council Member Velugoti Venkat, district members Mamidala Kiran, Kappala Madhu, Guju Gopalakrishna, Velishetti Ramakrishna Babu, and several other journalists.

Do Whatever It Takes... Please Save Our Peddi":



KCR Appeals to Doctors with Folded Hands” “Narsampet, July 27 (Indian Chronicle): BRS President and former Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) on Monday visited Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad to enquire about the health condition of senior BRS leader and former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, who is undergoing treatment after falling critically ill. KCR met the medical team and spent nearly 45 minutes reviewing the treatment being provided.” “After visiting the ICU and observing the treatment being administered to Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, KCR folded his hands before the doctors and appealed, “Do whatever it takes, but please save our Peddi.” He urged the medical team to ensure that the best possible treatment was provided without any compromise.” “The doctors informed KCR that Peddi Sudarshan Reddy is receiving world-class medical care and that consultations are being held with specialists from abroad whenever necessary. They explained that his heart, lungs, and other vital organs are functioning normally, but his brain is yet to regain full responsiveness, which may take another 48 hours. They added that more time is required before giving a clear and definitive assessment of his



condition.” “After receiving the medical update, KCR assured that the party would extend every possible support, without any financial constraints, for Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's treatment. He expressed confidence that, with God's grace, the dedicated efforts of the doctors, and the blessings of the people, Peddi Sudarshan Reddy would recover.” “KCR later met Sudarshan Reddy's family members, including his wife Swapna, son Nidarshan Reddy, daughter Dharmishta, brothers Srinivas Reddy and Ravinder Reddy, and sister Swathi. He consoled them, assured them of the party's full support, and urged them not to lose hope.” “Former ministers Harish Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Rajaiah, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, Padma Rao Goud, Vinod Kumar, former MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar, MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, Dr. Sanjay, along with party leaders Maloth Kavitha, Balka Suman, Gyadari Balamallu, Satish Reddy, Rajini Sai Chand, Palte Ravi Kumar, Rajam Yadav, Vasudeva Reddy, Gajjala Nagesh, Chirumalla Rakesh, Errolla Srinivas, and several others accompanied KCR during the visit.

Farmers Advised to Shift from Paddy to Alternative Crops“



“Errupalem and Kusumanchi Record Lowest Rainfall in Khammam District” “District Agriculture Officer Recommends Pulse Cultivation Amid Rain Deficit” “Nelakondapalli (Khammam), July 27: Indian Chronicle” “District Agriculture Officer Danasari Pullaiah has advised farmers to shift from paddy cultivation to alternative crops in view of the prevailing rainfall deficit and declining groundwater levels.” “Speaking at a Seed Fair (Vittana Mela) held at the Rythu Vedika in Nelakondapalli on Monday, Pullaiah urged farmers to avoid cultivating paddy under the current conditions and instead opt for pulse crops, which are more drought-resistant and require less water.” “He said farmers across the district have been requesting subsidized seeds for dryland crops and that the matter has already been brought to the notice of the State Government. To create awareness among farmers, the Agriculture Department is conducting awareness programmes in every village.” “The District Agriculture Officer cautioned farmers against depending solely on borewells for paddy cultivation, stating that groundwater levels are rapidly declining and that adequate irrigation water may not be available under the present circumstances. He advised farmers to choose crops based on the prevailing climatic conditions, noting that both water scarcity and power supply issues pose major challenges to agriculture.” “Pullaiah emphasized that farmers should give priority to cultivating pulses and other crops that require minimal water.” “Providing rainfall statistics, he said that 12 mandals in the district have received normal rainfall, while seven mandals recorded below-normal rain-

fall. Kusumanchi registered a 60 percent rainfall deficit, while Errupalem recorded the highest deficit at 71 percent.” “He further stated that Seed Fairs are being organized at one Rythu Vedika in every mandal across the district and appealed to farmers to make effective use of these programmes.” “The programme was attended by Kusumanchi Assistant Director of Agriculture Rajesh Kumar, Market Committee Chairman Vennapusala Seetharamulu, Mandal Agriculture Officer M. Radha, farmer representatives Mekala Venkateswarlu and Garidepalli Ramarao, seed dealers Gella Venkateswara Rao and Ramarao, Agriculture Extension Officers Aravind and Durgabhavani, along with other officials and farmers.

NTCA approves tiger reintroduction plan for Kawal Tiger Reserve

GNS News Agency, July 27 news for nature lovers and officials, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given its nod for the reintroduction of tigers and to enhance their population in Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR), which has been struggling to attract tigers for quite a long time despite a slew of measures.

As per a report titled Roadmap for effective management of tigers in India, released jointly by the NTCA and Wildlife Institute of India, KTR has no resident tigers that can help increase the tiger population. The report highlighted that the Reserve has been witnessing the migration of tigers from both Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Indravati Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra.

Against this background, the NTCA, in its sustained efforts to revive the environment, has accorded permission to reintroduce tigers to the reserve in the first phase. KTR has been included in the list of crucial corridors identified by the Centre for the conservation of tigers. This is viewed as a strategic move to tap the potential of the reserve, cheering nature lovers and officials.

Clinical Establishments Act Must Be Strictly Enforced: Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija“



“Comprehensive Inspections Mandatory Before Granting Registration or Renewal to Medical Institutions” “Directions Issued at District Multi-Member Appropriate Authority Committee Meeting” “Khammam, July 27: Indian Chronicle” “Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija has directed officials to ensure the strict implementation of the provisions of the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 while processing the registration and renewal of medical institutions.” “Chairing the meeting of the District Multi-Member Appropriate Authority Committee at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Monday, Dr. Srija reviewed the status of registrations, renewals, and compliance with statutory norms by medical establishments across the district.” “Addressing the officials, the Additional Collector instructed that every hospital and medical institution must undergo a comprehensive field inspection before registration or renewal is approved. She emphasized that

authorities must verify whether all provisions of the Clinical Establishments Act are being strictly followed.” “She directed officials to issue notices to hospital managements wherever deficiencies are identified during inspections and ensure that the shortcomings are rectified within the stipulated time. Institutions that fail to comply with the prescribed standards should not be granted renewal, she stated.” “Dr. Srija also instructed officials to ensure that all medical institutions provide adequate parking facilities for patients and their attendants. Institutions receiving notices were asked to submit compliance reports to the concerned authorities after rectifying the identified deficiencies.” “She further directed officials to immediately prepare and submit estimates for essential repair works and required materials for Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-Health Centres across the district.” “During the meeting, officials presented the status of registrations of medical establishments in the district. They informed that a total of 689 medical institutions, including AYUSH centres, diagnostic centres, hospitals, clinics, and dental hospitals, have been registered. Of these, 595 are active and 94 are inactive.” “Officials also stated that 47 provisional certificates have been issued so far, while nine applications are pending. In addition, 25 permanent certificates have been issued, four applications have been rejected, and 21 applications are under scrutiny. Another 12 applications are pending with the Police Department for traffic clearance, while 12 applications are awaiting clearance with the District Medical and Health Office (DMHO).” “The meeting was attended by District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Ramarao, Programme Officer Dr. L. Venugopal Reddy, the IMA President, ACP, a representative of the Telangana Pollution Control Board, the Deputy DMHO, committee members, and officials from various departments.

Public Grievances Must Be Resolved Promptly: Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija

“Additional Collector Receives Petitions During Prajavani Programme” “Khammam, July 27: Indian Chronicle” “Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Srija has directed district officials to examine and dispose of public grievances submitted through the Prajavani programme without delay.” “She received petitions from the public during the Prajavani programme held at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Monday and instructed the concerned departments to take immediate action on the issues raised.” “K. Sakkubayamma, a resident of V. Venkatayapalem village in Raghunathapalem Mandal, submitted a petition requesting the cancellation of the NALA permission issued for 5 acres and 26 guntas in Survey No. 257/AA and sought the issuance of an e-Pattadar Passbook. The Additional Collector directed the Tahsildar to examine the matter and take necessary action.” “Members of the Pallegudem Village Panchayat in Khammam Rural Mandal requested that the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue, which is being relocated due to road widening works, be safely shifted to available government land adjacent to the Gram Panchayat office. Dr. Srija instructed the Khammam Rural MPDO to take appropriate action on the request.” “Members of the Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU), Khammam District Committee, submitted a representation seeking the resolution



of problems in welfare hostels across the district and requested the provision of beds and mattresses for students. The Additional Collector directed the concerned officials to take the necessary steps to address these issues.” “District Revenue Officer C.H. Rammurthy, district officials, and representatives of various departments were also present during the Prajavani programme.

Dowry Harassment Case Registered Against Five persons in Medipally

“MEDIPALLY , JULY 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Medipally Police have registered a case against five persons on charges of dowry harassment, criminal intimidation, and assault on a woman.” “According to the police, the case was registered based on a complaint lodged by the victim, who alleged that she was subjected to mental and physical harassment by her in-laws after marriage for demanding additional dowry. She also alleged that she was threatened and assaulted. The complaint further stated that certain mediators spread false allegations against her parental family, causing further harassment. Based on the complaint, Medipally Police registered Crime No. 1088/2026

against Kandi Padma (mother-in-law), Pavani (sister-in-law), Talluri Lachinarsaiah, Jhansi, and Jaleel under Sections 85, 351(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.” “The investigation is being conducted by Medipally Sub-Inspector (SI) Pattipati Srinu. Police stated that the case is being investigated from all angles and that further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. Medipally Police warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone involved in crimes such as violence against women, dowry harassment, and criminal intimidation, in accordance with the law.

Former SUDA Chairman Narender Reddy blames Centre for crackdown on protesting youth

Former SUDA chairman seeks withdrawal of criminal cases against protesters, compensation for the families of those who died, and implementation of youth-centric reforms proposed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.



Karimnagar July 27 (Correspondent): Former SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy on Monday accused the BJP-led Union government of resorting to excessive force against youth protesting over the alleged NEET examination paper leak and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah apologise for the police action. Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Narender Reddy alleged that the use of tear gas, lathi-charge and pellet guns against protesters had left hundreds of young men and women injured. He questioned Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar over his silence on the issue and said the Minister should stand by the youth instead of making provocative speeches.

He urged the Centre to withdraw criminal cases registered against the protesters and extend financial assistance to the families of those who lost their lives during the agitation. He also called for the implementation of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposal to lower the minimum age for contesting legislative elections to 21 years. Mr. Narender Reddy criticised Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakara and the previous BRS government, alleging that repeated examination paper leaks during its decade-long rule had deprived unemployed youth of job opportunities. He claimed that the Congress government had successfully conducted

competitive examinations, including Group-I, and filled around 70,000 government posts. He reiterated his demand that the Union government accept responsibility for the alleged excesses against protesting youth and that Mr. Bandi Sanjay speak out on the issue. District Minority Cell president Tajuddin and several Congress leaders were present at the press conference.

Collector Haritha Presents Sapling to Principal District Judge



Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, July 27: District Collector K. Haritha paid a courtesy visit to Principal District and Sessions Judge Sharada Devi at the District Court Complex in Asifabad on Monday. “During the meeting, the Collector presented a sapling to the Principal District Judge as a symbolic gesture of goodwill and extended her best wishes.” “The interaction reflected the cordial relationship and mutual cooperation between the district administration and the judiciary

Suvendu Adhikari seeks death penalty for gateman in Murshidabad train accident



GNS News Agency, July 27

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday directed the police to seek capital punishment for the gateman for the “extreme negligence and human error” that claimed the lives of five individuals, including four school children, in last week’s Murshidabad train accident. “I have directed the police clearly to complete their investigation while the accused gateman is still in custody. They must submit the chargesheet while he is still in custody. The local MLA and senior officers have been instructed to monitor the investigation directly,” CM Adhikari told reporters after visiting the families of the victims in Gobindpur village and those undergoing treatment at Murshidabad Medical Col-

lege and Hospital.

The accident occurred around 7 am on July 17 when a passenger train struck a car carrying eight students, while it was crossing the railway tracks in Gobindpur village in Murshidabad’s Karnasubarna area. “Tiny, innocent children fell victim to this accident. I don’t know how to express my sympathy. Financial compensation cannot make up for such a loss, but it is the government’s responsibility because we are compassionate,” he said after handing over financial aid of Rs 5 lakh to the bereaved families. Earlier, while interacting with the families of victims at the hospital, Adhikari assured a migrant labourer in Chennai, who lost one of his daughters in the crash, of alternative work so he would no longer have to leave his home state. Adhikari also said the government would take full responsibility for the education expenses of a girl currently recovering in the hospital. “I met the child in the hospital and told her that I will take responsibility for her studies. We also extended financial help. The incident took place due to a man’s irresponsibility. He will not be spared,” said Adhikari. One of the grieving families sought employment from the CM, who assured them support. The Chief Minister appealed to the local community to stand united in supporting the grieving relatives. Promising zero leniency, Adhikari said he had given clear directives to the Murshidabad District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police to complete the investigation while the accused is in custody.

Bengal birth, death certificates under scrutiny amid SIR-linked fraud claims

GNS News Agency, July 27

The West Bengal government has started verifying birth and death certificates following allegations that they were issued indiscriminately during the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll when the Trinamool Congress was in power. “We have received many complaints after the election. During the SIR, many errors and irregularities were detected. The police have also received many complaints. Fake birth certificates have been found in many places. Many people have taken advantage of the situation. Although there were rules, there have been many irregularities,” Chief Secretary Manoj Agarwal said on Thursday.

“If anyone has knowingly and deliberately committed fraud, they won’t be spared,” said Agarwal, who was the state’s chief electoral officer during the SIR. “This verification of birth certificates is only a routine procedure. This step has been taken to eliminate corruption. Government officials will carry out the verification. No contractual employee will do the verification.” The chief secretary said that many people were facing inconvenience now because of a few others’ mistakes. Officials said verification drives would be launched across districts to investigate fake birth and death certificates. The process of verifying registers is underway in Birbhum, Purulia, and Jhargram districts. The police are also conducting searches, they added.

Last year, nine people, including contractual post of-



fice employees and a former police officer, were arrested in border districts for allegedly helping people obtain Indian passports using forged documents, especially fake birth certificates. These passports were used to travel to France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Canada. “The investigation has revealed that the accused were operating an international human trafficking ring. They were recruiting illegal immigrants and facilitating their travel to European countries by providing them with fraudulently obtained Indian passports,” the police submitted in a court in the case. One of the arrested accused, Gautam Sardar, a casual worker at the Pathankhali gram panchayat office in South 24 Parganas district, had allegedly issued more than 3,500 fake birth certificates over the last couple of years.

‘Please talk to children’: Physicswallah’s Alakh Pandey makes appeal to government

GNS News Agency, July 27

Alakh Pandey, the co-founder and CEO of the popular educational technology company Physicswallah, has expressed himself strongly in support of the student protesters on the streets of Delhi, and criticised the government for not talking to them to resolve their grievances. In an impassioned video posted on the Instagram handle of Physicswallah, Pandey also criticised the “national media” for running fake news about the students, falsely accusing them of having connections with Pakistan, China, or terrorists. “The children of India led a historic protest on July 20, expressing their anger against the entire education system. Their protest was not just about NEET... it is also about IIT, CBSE, SSC, admissions, recruitments...,” Pandey said in Hindi in the video.

“These children were beaten with sticks, they were given wounds... They were beaten by police, and by many goondas as well... Why doesn’t the government talk to these children? These are the children of our country. Please talk to them once and listen to their problems,” he said. Protesters at the Cockroach Janta Party’s (CJP) sit-in at Jantar Mantar said Pandey had visited the site. The activist platform has been demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for the leak of the May 3 NEET-UG question paper. However, the protest has widened into a massive outpouring of street anger against the central government and the problems in India’s education system. “It is the compulsion of the youth that has forced them to take to the streets. So many children have died by suicide because of NEET... And the national media of the country is running fake news, that these children are supporters of Pakistan, that these children have been funded by China, that these children are terrorists, anti-nationals, all of this is so wrong,” Pandey said in the video. “All that I would say to the government is that these are our own children, the children of our country, please support them... From my side, I would like to say that I will support the



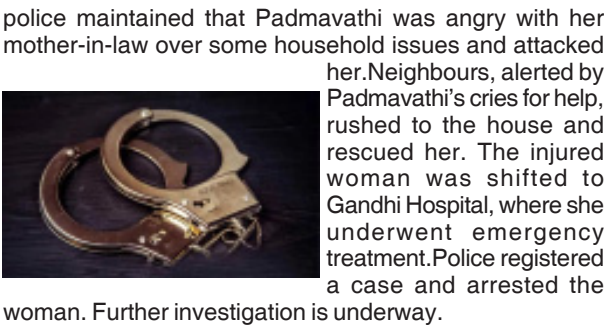
families of all the children who have died by suicide, I will ensure that the other children of these families receive education, and I would like to appeal to the government to please listen to them (the protesters)...,” he said. Pandey, an educator, started out by giving physics lessons on YouTube in 2016 to students preparing for the engineering entrance examination JEE, medical entrance examination NEET, and the CBSE board examination. As the channel gained in popularity, Pandey co-founded Physicswallah in 2020, and the company became a unicorn two years later. Physicswallah went public last year.

Himmat mat harna bachon, Mehnat Kabhi bekaar nhi jaati??? Students were waiting for clarity, and now 21st June the re-exam has finally announced We deserve a fair, transparent, and stress free examination process. I hope computer bas After this year’s NEET was cancelled and rescheduled after the paper leak, Pandey posted words of encouragement for aspirants on X: “Himmat mat harna bachon, Mehnat Kabhi bekaar nhi jaati (Do not lose hearts, my children, hard work never goes in vain)... We deserve a fair, transparent, and stress free examination process. I hope computer based test will ensure justice for every sincere aspirant who prepared day and night with honesty.”

Woman arrested for allegedly attacking mother-in-law over property dispute

GNS News Agency, July 27 Hyderabad: A woman was arrested by the Chilkalguda police for allegedly attempting to murder her mother-in-law following a dispute over family property in Secunderabad on Thursday. The suspect, identified as D Vijayalakshmi (33), is alleged to have attacked her 57-year-old mother-in-law, D Padmavathi, at their residence in Erukala Basti, Chilkalguda, on Tuesday.

According to police, Padmavathi was alone on the first floor of the house when the suspect allegedly assaulted her with a vegetable-cutting knife. She is alleged to have pulled the victim by her hair, dragged her and inflicted multiple injuries on her neck and fingers in an attempt to kill her. The



police maintained that Padmavathi was angry with her mother-in-law over some household issues and attacked her. Neighbours, alerted by Padmavathi’s cries for help, rushed to the house and rescued her. The injured woman was shifted to Gandhi Hospital, where she underwent emergency treatment. Police registered a case and arrested the woman. Further investigation is underway.

‘Peaceful protest is a constitutional right’: 140 HC lawyers question Mumbai Police’s prohibitory orders



A group of over 140 lawyers practising before the Bombay High Court, including senior advocates, on Wednesday issued a statement deprecating the prohibitory orders passed by the Mumbai Police restricting movement and unlawful assembly of five or more persons in view of the recent gatherings and protests. The lawyers sought that the Mumbai Police Commissioner withdraw the prohibitory orders, the subsequent actions by Police “to curtail lawful protests by citizens” and refrain from pursuing further action against peaceful protests.

The statement issued on July 21 claimed that no such prohibition can remain in force for more than 15 days without the State government’s sanction and that consecutive prohibitory orders (July 7 to 21 and July 23 to August 6), with only a respite of 24 hours, appear intended “to circumvent the requirement of State government sanction”. It further said that “mass detention and arrests by the Mumbai police are also concerning” in the context of the recent prohibitory orders issued under the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951. The lawyers said constitutional courts have repeatedly held that restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly must record the facts and reasons warranting such curbs and demonstrate that they are the least restrictive measure. Signed by at least 141 lawyers, including senior advocates Janak Dwarakadas, Navroz Seervai, Gayatri Singh, Mihir Desai, Dinyar Madon and Hareesh Jagtiani, along with advocate Yug Mohit Chaudhry, the statement said the prohibitory orders “appear to fail to comply with the requirements under law”, lack accountability and create “difficulties in immediately obtaining legal redress”. “It ought not to fall on citizens to seek recourse to already overburdened courts,” it said.

Senior advocate Dwarakadas said there was no response to lawyers’ statement urging the police authorities.

A human leg travelled to Mumbai beneath a train. Police still don’t know where it came from.

GNS News Agency, July 27 When railway staff began cleaning the Amritsar-CSMT Express after it arrived in Mumbai last week, they made a gruesome discovery: an amputated human leg lodged beneath one of the train’s coaches. Five days later, the Government Railway Police (GRP) are still trying to answer the central question — where did it come from? Investigators have widened their probe across the train’s route after initial inquiries failed to establish where the fatal accident occurred or how the body part became lodged beneath the train.

The first lead came when police identified two railway accident cases reported on tracks in Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh. One of those cases was ruled out after investigators confirmed that the deceased’s body had both legs intact and that the accident involved another train travelling towards Chennai. The second case, however, remains under scrutiny because the victim’s body was mutilated to such an extent that it has been difficult to determine whether a leg was missing. Police are now consulting doctors who conducted the post-mortem in the Lalitpur case and have sought blood sample analysis to determine whether the recovered limb could belong to the deceased. If the medical opinion and blood examination suggest a possible match, the GRP will proceed with DNA testing for confirmation, a police officer said. At the same time, investigators are not relying solely on the Lalitpur lead. The GRP has alerted railway police stations along the Amritsar-Mumbai route to report any railway accident or suicide cases that occurred between July 15 and July 17, as well as during the preceding two weeks. The Amritsar-CSMT Express left Amritsar on the morning of July 15 and reached Mumbai at around 12.15 am on July 17.

Investigators have also questioned the train’s motorman, who said he did not witness anyone being struck during the journey. “As per railway protocol, if a train runs over a person or a suicide occurs, the motorman is required to immediately alert the railway control room and report the



incident,” a senior GRP officer said. The incident came to light on the morning of July 17 when cleaning staff noticed an amputated leg below the knee while washing the rake at the CSMT coaching yard. During an undergear inspection, railway staff found the severed limb lodged near the wheel assembly beneath the trolley of the M2 coach of Train No. 11058 (Amritsar-CSMT Express). The train was undergoing scheduled maintenance between 6 am and 2 pm before its next journey. Officers from the CSMT GRP rushed to the spot, conducted a panchnama and sent the body part to St George’s Government Hospital for forensic examination. Railway police officers said such cases are rare, although not unprecedented. Last year, a severed human hand was recovered from a train and, after an extensive investigation, the deceased was eventually identified. An officer associated with the current investigation said the force of impact in railway accidents can throw body parts several metres away or cause them to become lodged in the undercarriage of a moving train. Recalling an incident from 2006 while posted in Solapur, the officer said a man’s amputated leg had become stuck in a train’s chassis and was carried nearly two kilometres from the accident site before being recovered. “Initially, one leg was missing during the panchnama. We searched along the tracks and eventually found it about two kilometres away,” the officer said.

Toni Daa Dhaba, 11 others face FDA action over hygiene lapses

GNS News Agency, July 27

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Pune Division, suspended the licences of 12 hotels, restaurants, bakeries and food establishments across Pune and Satara districts after inspections found serious hygiene violations, officials said. The action was part of the ‘Safe Food, Safe Drug, Safe Maharashtra’ campaign launched by Tukaram Mundhe, Commissioner of Maharashtra’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Inspection drives were carried out on July 18 and July 21. According to the FDA, the establishments operated in unhygienic conditions, stored expired food products and violated provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. Their licences were suspended with immediate effect.



The establishments against whom action has been taken include Joker Hospitality in Balewadi, Red & Huge in Kalyani Nagar, Toni Daa Dhaba in Kamshet, Hotel Lokpriya and Jai Sadguru Irani Tea & Snacks Centre in Market Yard, Fountain Pure Veg in Alephata, M Foods in Khed, Aksa Bakery in Pimpri Chinchwad, Foclo Technology Pvt. Ltd. in Bavdhan, Swinsta Enterprise Pvt. Ltd. in Aundh, and Shalimar Udupi Veg Restaurant and Surabhi Hotel and Bar in Vaduj, Satara district. In a press release, the FDA said all hotels, restaurants and bakeries must maintain hygiene standards and strictly comply with food safety regulations. It directed food business operators to provide free clean drinking water to customers, use only food-grade packaging materials, avoid reusing cooking oil, operate only with valid licences and ensure menu cards do not carry mis-

leading information. The department also appealed to consumers to report complaints related to food quality or hygiene through its toll-free helpline, 1800-222-365.

In a separate enforcement drive conducted between July 16 and July 21, the FDA inspected three establishments in Chinchwad, Pandharpur and Vaduj in Satara district. During the inspections, officials seized banned food items worth Rs 3.48 lakh. The FDA said cases were registered against the accused under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the respective police stations, and five persons were arrested in connection with the seizure. Joint Commissioner (Food), Pune Division, D. V. Bhogawade said the department will continue its inspection drives and take strict action against establishments violating food safety norms.

India’s AI investment, the budgetary push, the need for regulations



The allocation of ₹2,000 crore to the IndiaAI mission in the Union Budget 2025-26 demonstrates India’s commitment to developing its artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure. But this also calls for more robust AI regulations. India has legislation governing personal data protection and the government has issued warnings against AI-generated content. However, there is still a dearth of more nuanced AI-specific legislation to govern this evolving sphere. The United States and the state of its AI legislation and regulations serve as a cautionary tale against having an inadequate regulatory approach towards a technology that is effectively uncharted territory.

What is happening in the U.S. Instead of a comprehensive law that governs AI, the U.S. regulation is fragmented, and the orthogonal views of the Biden and Trump administrations further complicate the matter. For instance, the Biden administration signed an executive order in 2023 on ‘Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence’ that broadly established safety, security and transparency guidelines. However, the Trump administration rescinded many of these directives in a new executive order signed on January 23, 2025. Moreover, in the absence of any federal legislation, U.S. States have begun to develop their own regional legislation, examples being New York and Tennessee laws. Although in some cases this can be beneficial, considering different regional contexts, in this case it leads to inconsistency that can potentially make it difficult to navigate legal issues for individuals and tech companies alike.

The patchwork that is the U.S.’s AI regulation landscape can be seen in recent developments. For instance, Texas recently banned foreign AI applications such as DeepSeek on government devices in light of security concerns. However, the app is still at the top of the app store and is widely available elsewhere. On another note, the many ongoing legal battles, such as the lawsuits against OpenAI over training data, exemplify how current legislations on intellectual property need to be updated to be applicable to AI.

India’s focus and what needs to be done Circling back to India’s budgetary allocations, it is worth noting that almost 44% of the Budget’s allocation towards AI will be directed towards building domestic computing capabilities. According to the Union Finance Minister’s Budget speech, a new centre of excellence for artificial intelligence (AI) for education with an outlay of ₹500 crore will be set up. This follows an announcement in 2024 that AI centres of excel-

lence for agriculture, health care and sustainable cities would be set up. To build India’s capabilities and keep up with emerging industries, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is also setting up five national centres for skilling in the fields of electronics and information technology. The Budget also focuses on developing several strategic components such as compute infrastructure, datasets, the promotion of AI-based applications and innovation centres that will support AI research. Union Minister for IT Ashwini Vaishnaw also announced India’s intention to build its own large language model (LLM) days after DeepSeek R1 was released to the public. These are all positive developments in India’s bid to become a leading player in the global AI landscape despite falling behind countries such as the U.S., Israel and China. In light of this commitment towards developing its AI ecosystem, India must develop new legislation that cater to the unique problems posed by the technology and modify older legislation to include these requirements.

Arguably, the first step that the Indian government needs to take is establishing a dedicated independent regulatory authority on AI, with representatives from different Ministries and sector-specific bodies to ensure harmonised policies. Once inputs have been taken from various regional and ministerial representatives, clear ethical guidelines and accountability standards that address transparency, algorithmic fairness and human oversight need to be implemented. Regular audits need to occur to ensure these standards are met. With more indigenous AI systems, this will become increasingly important. Collaborating with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to develop national AI safety and reliability benchmarks would help ensure that AI systems meet these standards. On IP and copyright

Current intellectual property and copyright frameworks need to be revised to accommodate fair use for AI training without overstepping data privacy laws. Additionally, a licensing framework for copyrighted material needs to be implemented for AI training to ensure that content creators are protected while supporting innovation. Additionally, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) also needs to be expanded to have specific guidelines on using training data, consent, and anonymisation in AI. Protocols need to be established for text and data-mining to ensure the ethical sourcing of training data. Specific guidelines and frameworks for accountability and transparency will also have to be established that cater to the use of AI for military purposes, where the margin of error is much lower. The outcry over Israel’s use of AI target-identification systems highlights the need for such frameworks. On this front, the AI Governance Guidelines Development report by MeitY is a significant step in the right direction. While every new technology is met with doubts and scepticism, from automobiles to the Internet, if history is any indication, it eventually becomes integrated with society despite the risks it may pose. With AI as well, rather than shirk away from it, governments should try and adapt it for their contexts as India is doing. However, this needs to be done responsibly. With technology that is as rapidly evolving as AI, it is integral to change regulations and legislation to meet new and previously unanticipated challenges that it may pose.

In Tamil Nadu, CM’s health insurance policy claims continue to be denied on ‘flimsy grounds’

Claim denials on “flimsy grounds” under the Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) remain a contentious issue for many government hospitals in Tamil Nadu. Documents accessed by The Hindu show that during 2024-2025 (as of January 29, 2025), nearly 29,000 policy claims from various government hospitals amounting to around ₹36 crore were denied for reasons of delay in submission/re-submission/query response, discrepancy and liaison officer sign issues. Hospitals in Chennai faced the highest number of denials followed by Madurai, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur and Coimbatore. Hospital-wise, Madurai Medical College, Madras Medical College, Government Royapettah Hospital and Government Stanley Medical College Hospital were among the institutions with the highest number of claim denials.

Claim denials for government hospitals are high, a senior doctor, on condition of anonymity, said. “We looked at a number of policy claims that were denied, and found that the reasons cited for denial were petty. For instance, they say an X-ray image, which was to be uploaded yesterday, was uploaded the next day, or a CT scan report was not submitted within 48 hours,” he said. A doctor in Chennai provided a closer look at the major reasons for denials. “It starts with spellings of names. If the spelling of the patient’s name in the CMCHIS card and Aadhaar card varies, it is immediately rejected. Patients/their attendants are told to make the correction and come. Imagine telling this to a critically ill patient and his/her family. Claims for repeat procedures and repeat hospitalisations such as for patients on dialysis in case they have infections are turned down. Similarly, pre-authorisation for post-operative complications are also rejected,” he said. “If a patient grievously injured in an accident is being wheeled in, isn’t it inhumane to ask the patient/family member to bring their CMCHIS card immediately? Some may be unconscious or may require to be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. Seeking pre-authorisation within 48 hours of admission is impossible in many cases. So, if we submit for pre-authorisation after 48 hours of admission, it is turned down,” a government doc-



tor in a central district said. “Claims should not be denied for reasons like mismatch in names and radiological images not clear,” another doctor said. A surgeon noted that in his department, denials were mostly due to late card submissions or technical grounds. “A simple spelling mistake in CMCHIS card and investigation reports also leads to denial.” If replies to queries are not within 48 hours, it is rejected, another doctor said, adding that the State government should conduct an audit of the claims rejected. Pre-authorisation approvals are increasingly becoming difficult, another specialist said. “Different reasons are being cited.

If the names are wrongly spelt on the CMCHIS card and ration card, then it is an issue. If family members named on the ration card had died and the names were not deleted from the card, it becomes a problem. In fact, pre-authorisation for single ration card holders are outrightly turned down,” he said. In addition, the amount approved is reduced and only half or less is given citing some reason or the other, he added. “If the total claims exceed the total premium amount paid, the government will pay the amount. What needs to be done is simplifying procedures. These documentation works should not come under the purview of a clinician,” another senior doctor said. In 2023, the State government had constituted a committee to streamline the implementation of CMCHIS. However, the outcomes remain unknown, doctors said.

Why Your Hands Age Faster Than Your Face

Ageing of hands and face: Most people invest time in skincare routines for their face, but often forget about one body part that can reveal age just as quickly, their hands. From fine lines and wrinkles to age spots and thinning skin, hands are often among the first areas to show signs of ageing.

Unlike the face, hands are constantly exposed to the sun, water, soaps, cleaning products and changing weather conditions. Frequent handwashing and sanitising can strip away natural oils, leaving the skin dry and making fine lines appear more noticeable. At the same time, the skin on the back of the hands is naturally thinner and contains less fat, making signs of ageing easier to spot over time.

Sun exposure also plays a major role. While many people remember to apply sunscreen to their face, their hands are often left unprotected, allowing UV rays to contribute to pigmentation, wrinkles and a loss of skin



elasticity. The good news is that caring for your hands doesn’t require an elaborate routine. Applying sunscreen to the backs of your hands before stepping outdoors, using a moisturiser after washing them and wearing gloves

Bill on simultaneous polls will fail legal challenge, former CJI tells Parliamentary panel



In its current form, the Bill on simultaneous elections will not sustain a legal challenge in the Supreme Court, former Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit said, in a submission before the Parliamentary Joint Committee reviewing the legislation on Tuesday. According to sources, Justice Lalit said that the provision to curtail the tenure of State Assemblies in order to synchronise the polls runs counter to the basic structure of Constitution, which is protected by the Kesavananda Bharati judgement. The Parliamentary Joint Committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024. The Bill seeks to empower the Election Commission of India to conduct simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies. To synchronise the elections, the Bill includes a provision enabling the President to set an “appointed date”, through a notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha post the general election. This “appointed date” would mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle. State Assemblies formed after that date and before the completion of the Lok Sabha’s term would conclude their own term before the subsequent general election. After this, elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies would be held simultaneously. Suggests staggered approach

According to sources, Justice Lalit supported the underlying principle of the legislation, but said that curtailing the tenure of all State Assemblies on the “appointed date” will not pass legal scrutiny in the Supreme Court. He made a distinction between the “non-substantial” or “peripheral” tenure of a State Assembly versus the “substantial term”. The former Chief Justice said that if 30% to 40% of the tenure of an Assembly is yet to be concluded, this would fall under the category of a “substantial” term, and curtailing it would be considered a violation of the basic structure of the Constitution. Instead, sources said, Justice Lalit suggested a staggered approach, with State Assemblies being

disbanded in batches.

‘Assemblies not subservient’ At this point, an Opposition member of the panel pointed out that the electoral cycle has evolved organically, without any Constitutional fiat, from the initial elections during colonial rule under the 1935 Government of India Act till the Parliamentary and Assembly electoral cycle diverged after the 1967 election. Justice Lalit, according to sources, conceded that the proposed legislative intervention could stunt such an organic evolution. The curtailment of the tenure of State Assemblies has been a major concern for several political parties, including the Janata Dal (United), which is a partner in the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, and also leads the NDA government in Bihar. Rajya Sabha MP and JD(U) national general secretary Sanjay K. Jha, who is a former member of the panel, had raised this question. Congress MP Manish Tewari, while opposing the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, had also argued that the State legislatures stand on an equal constitutional footing with the Parliament and therefore cannot be made subservient, as this legislation aims to do. The panel’s discussion with Justice Lalit went on for nearly three hours, with several interventions and questions from the Opposition members, sources said.

Cutting costs Former Law Commission of India chairperson Ritu Raj Awasthi also appeared before the panel. Arguing in support of the legislation, Justice Awasthi called it a “transformative idea” which will address challenges such as “policy paralysis, governance inefficiencies, excessive election-related expenditure, and the prolonged deployment of security and administrative personnel”. Justice Awasthi argued, as per sources, that simultaneous elections would allow for cost optimisation. The Parliamentary polls are funded by the Union government, while Assembly elections are funded by the State. The average expenditure per Assembly constituency for the 2019 Lok Sabha election and subsequent State Assembly elections revealed that both incurred nearly the same costs. In certain cases, Justice Awasthi pointed out, citing the examples of Delhi and Haryana, the Assembly election expenditure even exceeded that of the Lok Sabha election. IAS officer Niten Chandra, secretary of the high-level Ram Nath Kovind-led committee on simultaneous elections, and E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, a senior advocate and former Congress MP who had headed a 2015 parliamentary panel that favoured simultaneous polls, also appeared before the panel but could not share their views due to the paucity of time. The meeting began with more than an hour of wrangling over procedures. Opposition members demanded that a consolidated list of the witnesses to be called to appear before the panel must be shared. The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for March 10.

What did the HC rule about arresting women at night? | Explained

The story so far: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court in *Deepa versus S. Vijayalakshmi and Others* ruled that the legal provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which restricts the arrest of a woman after sunset and before sunrise, is directory and not mandatory. In this case, a woman was arrested at 8pm. A single Judge of the High Court held that the arrest was in breach of Section 46(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, a two-Judge Bench of the High Court, in an appeal, held that Section 46(4) of the CrPC was directory and not mandatory.

What are the safeguards? Two safeguards are provided under Section 43(5) of BNSS (which corresponds to Section 46(4) of CrPC) for the arrest of a woman by the police. First, no arrest of a woman shall be made after sunset and before sunrise except in exceptional circumstances. Second, even in exceptional circumstances, the prior permission of the jurisdictional magistrate must be sought by a woman police officer by making a written report. Section 46(4) of the CrPC is a beneficial provision incorporated to ensure the safety of women. However, the provision does not explain what would constitute an exceptional situation. In addition, the proviso to Section 46(1) states that the arresting police officer should not touch the person of the woman, unless it is a woman police officer or if the circumstances otherwise require it.

What did the Madras HC rule? The Madras High Court said that Section 46(4) of CrPC does not spell out the consequence of non-compliance of the provision. If the provision was intended to be mandatory, the legislature would definitely have provided for the consequences of non-compliance. A police officer who effects arrest, carries out a public duty. The Court underlined that there could be a situation where a heinous offence is committed by a woman in the night and the magistrate may not be available for obtaining permission. Under such a situation, the accused woman may escape. Therefore, such mechanical adherence to procedure can injure public interest.

What is history of Section 46(4) CrPC?

How to marry art to public spaces

The Ministry of Works and Housing mandates that one percent of the cost entailed in the construction of a public building be reserved for works of art. That is a precondition for approval of a public project. The artworks at Mumbai and Bengaluru airports reflect this rule, and they do blend into the landscape. However, hurdles have to be crossed to achieve this, from choosing a particular work of art to incorporating it seamlessly into a public space.

Recently, at an event at Bangalore International Centre, global management and strategy consulting firm Zinnov released a guidance document “Integrating Art Into Public Spaces” to show how to deal with those hurdles. Prepared in collaboration with Yamini Telkar, former head of Art Programme at Bangalore International Airport Limited, this document is in the public domain. The document is an attempt to establish a set of standards for high quality and accessible public spaces. It hopes to inspire like-minded corporates and individuals to adopt, implement and sustain projects in public spaces. It is a handbook for identifying an appropriate art form for a public space, planning the budget, selecting artworks, navigating regulatory procedures and addressing the questions of maintenance and decommissioning. Elaborating on the opportunity in this area, Pari Natarajan, CEO of Zinnov, said as per reports India was going to spend 1.72 trillion dollars in infrastructure projects in the next five years “If we were to consider 1-2% of public infrastructure being spent on art then we are looking at 17 to 34 billion dollars in art projects in India in the next five years. This is like the golden age of public art,”

said Natarajan. “By 2030, 124 million sq ft. of office space will be leased with Bangalore being the front office for many Fortune 500 companies. The way these offices are being designed is changing with a lot more collaborative spaces and an opportunity to include art in these corporate public spaces,” said Natarajan. Natarajan announced they would be collaborating with various stakeholders including the government, corporate leaders across realty, technology, and hospitality sectors to make art in public spaces more appealing. It will also focus on implementation which will have Zinnov lend its expertise in providing end-to-end support for art integration, including project conceptualisation, budget planning, and resource management. “We are working to create a larger ecosystem where we have enough curators and artists,” he said, adding that there was a need to build a case internally for art in CSR. This initiative is also aimed at creating an ecosystem of curators, urban planners, designers, architects, government officials and corporate partners. Heena Pari, Visual Artist, Creative Consultant and Advisor, Zinnov, pointed that they launched the “Public Spaces Initiative” by the installation of “Past Continuous” - an art piece exploring Bengaluru’s evolution into Silicon Valley. At the launch of the guidance document, two artists — Yamini Telkar and Shanthamani Muddalaiah — associated with integrating art at the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) held court. They shared their experience working on the BIAL project. “We had a stakeholder engagement in 2019 at BIAL where we had artists, architects and the community attending it and this was before anything was crystallised,” says Yamini Telkar.

Trump plans tariffs on Mexico and Canada on March 4, while doubling existing 10% tariffs on China



President Donald Trump plans to impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting Tuesday (March 4, 2025), in addition to doubling the 10% universal tariff charged on imports from China.In a Truth Social post Thursday, Mr. Trump said illicit drugs such as fentanyl are being smuggled into the United States at “unacceptable levels” and that import taxes would force other countries to crack down on the trafficking.

“We cannot allow this scourge to continue to harm the USA, and therefore, until it stops, or is seriously limited, the proposed TARIFFS scheduled to go into effect on MARCH FOURTH will, indeed, go into effect, as scheduled,” the Republican President wrote. “China will likewise be charged an additional 10% Tariff on that date.”The prospect of escalating tariffs has already thrown the global economy into turmoil, with consumers expressing fears about inflation worsening and the auto sector and other domestic manufacturers suffering if Trump raises import taxes. But Mr. Trump has also at times engaged in aggressive posturing only to give last-minute reprieves, previously agreeing to a 30-day suspension of the Canada and Mexico tariffs that were initially supposed to start in February.

The threat of tariffs frightened the stock market with the S&P 500 index falling 1.6% on Thursday. The S&P 500 is now just 1.4% higher than it was after Mr. Trump won the election in November, giving up almost all of the gains that the president once cited as evidence of an economic revival.Asked Thursday about the fact that tariffs are largely paid for consumers and importing companies, Mr. Trump dismissed any concerns by saying: “It’s a myth.” It’s possible for a stronger U.S. dollar to offset some of the costs of tariffs, but Trump’s statement goes against most economic modeling given the breadth of his planned taxes.Mr. Trump intends to put 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, with a lower 10% tax on Canadian energy products such as oil and electricity. The move, ostensibly about drug trafficking and immigration, led Mexico and Canada to respond by emphasizing their existing efforts to address these issues. Canada created a fentanyl czar, and Mexico sent 10,000 members of its National Guard to its border with the United States.Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Thursday that she hoped to speak with Mr. Trump after the Cabinet-level meetings occurring in Washington this week. Mexico’s Foreign Affairs Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente was scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday afternoon.Mr. Trump, “as you know, has his way of communicating,” Ms. Sheinbaum said. But she said that her government would stay “cool-headed” and optimistic about an agreement coming together to avoid the tariffs.“I hope we are able to reach an agreement and on March 4 we can announce something else,” she said.She said Mexico’s security chiefs were discussing intelligence sharing with their American counterparts that would allow for important arrests in the U.S. On the economic front, she said Mexico’s goal is to protect the free trade pact that was negotiated during the first Trump administration between Mexico and the United States. That

2020 deal, which included Canada, was an update of the North American Free Trade Agreement from 1994.Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his country has invested more than 1 billion Canadian dollars to improve border security, adding that his government’s ministers and officials are also in Washington this week.“There is no emergency for the United States at the border with Canada when it comes to fentanyl, and that is exactly what we are demonstrating at this time,” Mr. Trudeau said in Montreal. “If the United States goes ahead and imposes tariffs, we already shared the details of our plan. We have \$30 billion worth of U.S. products that will be subject to tariffs. And \$125 billion of tariffs that will be applied three weeks later. But we don’t want to be in that position.”Mr. Trump did impose a 10% tariff on China for its role in the manufacturing of chemicals used to make fentanyl, and that tax would now be doubled, according to his social media post.On Thursday, China’s Commerce Minister Wang Wentao wrote to Jamieson Greer, the newly confirmed U.S. trade representative, that differences on trade should be resolved through dialogues and negotiations.

The 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada would amount to a total tax increase on the U.S. public of somewhere between \$120 billion to \$225 billion annually, according to Jacob Jensen, a trade policy analyst at the American Action Forum, a center-right think tank. The additional China tariffs could cost consumers up to \$25 billion.The potential for higher prices and slower growth could create political blowback for Mr. Trump, who promised voters in last year’s presidential election that he could quickly lower the inflation rate, which jumped during Democratic President Joe Biden’s term. But, Mr. Trump also campaigned on imposing broad tariffs, which he plans to launch on April 2 by resetting them to match the taxes that he determines are charged by other countries on American goods.“The April Second Reciprocal Tariff date will remain in full force and effect,” Mr. Trump said as part of his new social media post.

In an interview with News Nation, Kevin Hassett, the director of the White House National Economic Council, said progress by Mexico and Canada on fentanyl “was not as impressive as the president had hoped.” There are significant differences between Canada and Mexico on the scale of drug smuggling. U.S. customs agents seized 43 pounds (19.5 kilograms) of fentanyl at the Canadian border during the last budget year, compared with 21,100 pounds (9,570 kilograms) at the Mexican border.Mr. Hassett stressed that the reciprocal tariffs would be in addition to the ones being placed on Canada and Mexico.Mr. Trump indicated Wednesday that European countries would also face a 25% tariff as part of his reciprocal tariffs. He also wants separate tariffs on autos, computer chips and pharmaceutical drugs that would be levied in addition to the reciprocal tariffs.The President already announced that he’s removing the exemptions on his 2018 steel and aluminum tariffs, in addition to planning taxes on copper imports.The prospect of a broader trade conflict should other nations follow through with their own retaliatory tariffs is already spooking U.S. consumers, potentially undermining Trump’s promise to unleash stronger economic growth.The Conference Board reported on Tuesday that its consumer confidence index had dropped 7 points to a reading of 98.3. It was the largest monthly decline since August 2021, when inflationary pressures began to reverberate across the United States as the economy recovered from the coronavirus pandemic. Average 12-month inflation expectations jumped from 5.2% to 6% in February, the Conference Board noted.“There was a sharp increase in the mentions of trade and tariffs, back to a level unseen since 2019,” said Stephanie Guichard, a senior economist at the Conference Board. “Most notably, comments on the current administration and its policies dominated the responses.”

What do Germany’s election results mean? | Explained

On February 23, Germany held its federal elections with a new record of 82.5% turnout. According to the Federal Electoral Committee, the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) along with the Christian Social Union (CSU) won the majority of votes followed by the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) leaving the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens in third and fourth places. The primary takeaway of the election is not the win of CDU but the rise of the AfD. For CDU to form a coalition, 316 seats are needed and the negotiations between CDU, AfD, and SPD remain a deciding factor for Germany’s political landscape. The table shows the election results.

What are the major electoral issues?

In 2025, a new electoral reform changed the distribution of parliament seats. Voters cannot choose the chancellor directly. A ballot paper has two votes: one to decide the candidate with the most votes in a district, among 630 such seats in parliament. The next decides the proportional representation and vote distribution of the contending political parties. A clause excluded parties winning less than 5% of the vote from parliament. The reform removed “overhang seats,” which previously benefitted the SPD, limiting parliament’s size. Now, even if a candidate wins in a district, they cannot secure a seat unless their party succeeds in the second ballot. The second issue was that of immigration. The CDU, FDP, AfD, and BSW have constantly called for tougher immigration regulations over the SPD and Greens’ moderate stance. After several attacks in Germany, the public demand for stricter policies increased. CDU leader Friedrich Merz aimed to deport “undocumented foreigners and asylum seekers” from the border. Chancellor, Olaf Scholz criticised his approach but promised further border controls and faster deportations in a “humane and consistent” way. One of the reasons for AfD’s vote gain is its strong stance against illegal migration.Economic revival was the third issue. The parties stood for increasing economic competitiveness. The most debated issue was the debt brake law, restricting the structural deficit to 0.35% of GDP. CDU and FDP supported it, while the SPD and Greens preferred to relax it. However, with a recession, new investments remain uncertain. Merz pledged to cut bureaucracy, while Scholz called for wealth and high inheritance taxes.Fourth, Ukraine and NATO dominated foreign policy. Most parties stood for supporting Ukraine and boosting the defences of NATO, except for AfD and BSW, who opposed military aid and favoured closer ties with Russia, including repairing Nord Stream pipelines. Meanwhile, SPD, CDU, and Greens supported increasing military spending above NATO’s 2% requirement.

What explains the rise of AfD?

The growing influence of the far-right AfD is due to several reasons, primarily the migrant crisis. The government’s lenient approach to refugees led to the rise of security and economic concerns, creating a divide. This was used by the AfD in its favour, showcasing a stricter stance on immi-



What are the major issues that shaped the German federal elections? Will AfD’s rise affect Germany’s future?

gration and border control. Another key reason for AfD’s rise was its encasing in on the dissatisfaction of mainstream parties. AfD also targetted young voters through social media and appeals to East Germans, who face high unemployment and feel unrepresented. Beyond domestic factors, the broader right-wing shift in France, Italy, and Hungary further aligned with AfD’s agenda.

Will CDU be able to form a stable government?

To form a government, the parties that won must negotiate to form a coalition majority. Germany’s election system and the recent reform promote coalition governments, and with CDU and CSU falling 108 seats short of a majority, they need support from either the SPD or AfD. However, with SPD, negotiating on social policy is viewed to be difficult, while the AfD stands secluded as the mainstream parties have vowed not to work with it. CDU leader Merz indicated the same, calling the new government “one of the last chances” to prevent the growth of AfD. According to AfD’s leader, Alice Weidel, a political change is already in process but is being delayed. Considering the possibilities of a CDU-SPD coalition, several ideological differences persist on issues such as taxes, social welfare, immigration, employment flexibility, and climate action. But, given the historical relations and the mindset of both parties, despite Scholz’s objections, to come together, intense talks are needed to lead to a coalition. One advantage of Germany’s political system is that it facilitates negotiations and is well structured to provide opportunities that can prevent a political impasse.

Ripe time for Mango Board, says Chittoor farmers



In July 2023, mango farmers in the undivided Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh had just wrapped up their harvest. The yield was dismally low, but the growers had faith in the demand-supply equation, certain that a crunch would push up the prices.When the time came for them to sell their produce, the dozen or so pulp-making units in the region, one of the farmers’ main customers, proposed their procurement price: ₹6 a kg, said to be the lowest in the history of mango trade in Chittoor.Bewildered, the farmers, some starving at certain financial ruin, sought government intervention. Consequently, the price was slightly raised to ₹9 a kg, still a far cry from the remuneration the farmers had counted on.

Pushed further, the pulp-makers threw up their hands, saying they could not afford to offer any higher prices, for they were sitting on huge stocks from the pandemic years.Sixty-year-old K. Mani, a farmer from Mandipeta Kotur in Palamaner mandal who had to endure that tough year, says the farmers would not have had to take up such gambles had there been a Mango Board on the lines of the Tobacco Board.“Only such a board can stabilise the prices, save us from exploitation and cushion our losses,” he adds.Mr. Mani is one of the 40,000-odd mango growers, large and small, in the undivided Chittoor district, one of the most important mango cultivation belts in India and especially famous for the ‘Thothapuri’ variety of mangoes.A batch of mango farmers attending a workshop on the latest trends in cultivation in Chittoor.A batch of mango farmers attending a workshop on the latest trends in cultivation in Chittoor.On a trip at the end of winter through the highways and the rural roads meandering the region, one can feast their eyes on mango orchards swaying in full bloom.The crop has become part of the region’s cultural identity. During ‘Ugadi’, which heralds the mango blossom, its leaves adorn thresholds of houses, and tender mangoes are turned into the famous ‘Ugadi Pachchadi’.According to the Horticulture Department, the region has about 1.7 lakh hectare under mango cultivation, capable of producing 12 lakh tonnes of mango annually, which is considered a benchmark by the growers to calculate the annual yield.“Over the past 15 years, however, the yield hardly crossed 30%. In 2024, it slipped to just 20%,” says 28-year-old Janardhan, who looks after mango orchards at Irala mandal. “The mango business in Chittoor has the potential to make over ₹3,000 crore in annual turnover,” he adds.But, myriad problems such as expanding real estate, lack of a minimum support price (MSP), disunity among growers and human-animal conflict keep mango farming in the region stunted.A rich history

The origin of mango cultivation in Rayalaseema, especially in Chittoor, is said to date back to the early Satavahana period of the second century BCE. The crop enjoyed the patronage of the Vijayanagara rulers, too. Mango orchards were said to have been raised in the surroundings of forts, temples and palaces. Even today, mango trees dot the vicinity of the Chandragiri Fort and the Penukonda Fort, built during the heyday of the Vijayanagara Empire.The British, from the mid-19th century, viewed mango, along with sugarcane, as one of the best commercial goods from India, exporting them to London and encouraging its cultivation on the foothills of the Himalayas and the deltas of Ganga and Brahmaputra, albeit with limited success. The humid but arid region of Chittoor remained supreme in delivering bumper crops and continues to be so, say farmers.Real estate boomIn the eastern parts of the undivided Chittoor district, mango orchards face the threat of expanding real estate layouts, particularly on the outskirts of Nagari, Puttur, Chittoor, Palamaner, Punganur and Madanapalle.This, along with massive highway undertakings and a tepid agricultural sector, is pushing mango orchards to the verge of disappearance from the vicinity of urban and semi-urban areas in the region, say Horticulture officials.Beast of a problem

Large swathes of land under mango cultivation about the Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over Palamaner and Kuppam forest ranges and extend as far as Irala, Tavanampalle and Puthalapattu mandals.Many farmers face raids by elephants emerging from the wildlife sanctuary and the forests in Tamil Nadu. During peak mango season, from May to July, elephant raids become the order of the day in the region, wreaking havoc on the crop, say the officials.The

human-animal conflict claims lives on both sides. In October 2019, the carcasses of two tuskers were exhumed at a mango orchard near Irala, 30 km from Chittoor, after they were reportedly buried clandestinely following the animals’ electrocution. In 2024, two farmers died in elephant attacks in Chittoor’s mango orchards.The absence of night vigils over fear of elephant attacks lures thieves as well, exacerbating the losses.

According to K. Subramani (60), a mango farmer from Palamaner, wild elephants raiding the orchards has been a problem for them for the past 25 years. “Though the Forest Department claims to have installed solar fences and elephant trenches along the forest fringes, it has not helped us much, he says.“Though the Forest Department claims to have installed solar fences and elephant trenches along the forest fringes, it has not helped us much”K. Subramani A mango farmer from PalamanerAccording to some farmers, many of these trenches, each over six feet in depth and width, have not been maintained, leading to silt build-up. This allows elephant herds to cross these trenches and enter human habitat. Also, farmers say the elephants often pull out the fences or find gaps between them to make their way onto the orchards.When contacted, a senior Forest official, seeking anonymity, said there was a plan to create a 250-km long elephant trench along the Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary. As for solar fences, a stretch of over 100 km had been fenced off by 2022, and steps were afoot to strengthen the system.Lack of coordinationMr. Subramanyam believes that a Mango Board could get the Forest Department enough funds to execute works on preventing elephant raids or could come up with a solution on its own. “This can even usher in a mango revolution in the region,” he says.Deputy Director (Horticulture) D. Madhusudhan Reddy agrees that a Mango Board is indeed essential for the farmers. “We have submitted proposals to the authorities [Ministry of Commerce] for a Mango Board in Chittoor. The District Collector, too, reviewed the circumstances and requirements surrounding the need for such a board,” he says.Though mango is a horticulture crop, it also requires the services of the departments of Agriculture, Marketing, Revenue, Forest and Commercial taxes as well as discoms, making coordination an absolute necessity, he adds.“The absence of remunerative prices for the produce remains a major problem. The marketing facilities are poor, and they are forced to depend on private entities,” he points out.Mr. Madhusudhan says that a Mango Board can work like a single-window system. “On the lines of the Tobacco Board, the Mango Board will look after the entire spectrum of the trade, from lab to land, exports and general transportation. Farmers will start getting fair prices for their produce, and mango cultivation will improve dramatically,” he adds.Knowledge is moneyA major hurdle faced by mango growers in exporting their produce is a lack of understanding of the import rules in different countries.According to Horticulture officials, Singapore, Malaysia and other South-east Asian countries mandate that mangoes coming on their shores must be washed in hot water. In Japan, however, the mangoes should compulsorily be ‘irradiated’, the technology for which is not available in Andhra Pradesh. For this, farmers from the Chittoor region go to Malur in Karnataka, which leads to additional expenditure in transportation and laboratory procedures.“Owing to a supply shortage from India, the American mango market depends on Mexico and Peru”Badri Narayan Owner of a small-scale mango pickle business in the U.S.The West, on the other hand, has completely different cleaning and packaging rules for imported mangoes. Badri Narayan (27), a Hyderabad-based youth settled in Texas, the U.S., and running a small-scale mango pickle business, says there is great demand for the Alphonso, Kesar and Benisha varieties of mangoes in that country. “Owing to a supply shortage from India, the American mango market depends on Mexico and Peru,” he says.Critical needsMango growers want the Board to constitute MSP for their produce and introduce insurance cover, crop subsidies and pest and disease management.Despite the efforts of several associations of mango growers, insurance cover for their crops continues to elude the farmers. During times of low yields, as was the case in 2024, many farmers suffered. Such predicaments would hamstring their ability to invest in the venture for several years, says Kothur Babu, president of Chittoor District Mango Producers Association.Eighty-five-year-old N.C. Ramachandra Reddy, former president of Chittoor District Mango Merchants Association and considered a doyen in Rayalaseema’s mango trade, says that mango cultivation in the region can achieve its potential. “We are expecting a yield of 60% this year, despite reports of delayed flowering,” he said.“It’s a prestige to be a mango farmer. Several youths, who are now doctors and software professionals, are showing interest in horticulture, particularly mango cultivation. When our neighbouring Anantapur district can become a horticulture hub, why can’t Chittoor?” He asked.

Guardians of ‘green gold’ in Godavari Valley

It’s January 31, a Friday. As the clock struck eight, Kondla Sambhu Reddi, 62, puts on his off-white dhoti and a wrinkled white shirt to go to the weekly shandy. He steps out of his wooden hut and checks the dried bamboo shoots hanging on a string in the verandah. The weakened current of the stream flowing close by his hut brings a smile on his face as he knows that it is an indicator of the onset of summer.Sambhu brings home the best fish available at the shandy to cook and relish his tribe’s ancient delicacy. “We welcome summer with the delicacy made of the fish caught in our stream and the dry bamboo shoots. This is our unique tradition, a cherished memory of our Konda Reddi tribe that has been passed on for generations,” he says.Nearly 50 Konda Reddi families live in Alluri Sitarama Raju district’s Aaku Maamidi Kota village, where the biggest weekly shandies on the tri-State border of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh are held“Preparing dishes with bamboo shoots to welcome the summer is not a community affair. However, every family enjoys cooking and eating them as the catch of fish and prawn are abundant in our stream at the beginning of the summer,” says Sambhu’s son Nagi Reddi, 35.“Our tribe collects and consumes the tender shoots of the Konda Veduru bamboo variety [Dendrocalamus strictus], which grows only on the hill plains,” he says.Konda Shambu takes out some dry bamboo shoots he saved to cook his favourite traditional fish curry at Aaku Maamidi Kota village in Mareduhilli Agency.Konda Shambu takes out some dry bamboo shoots he saved to cook his favourite traditional fish curry at Aaku Maamidi Kota village in Mareduhilli Agency. After dropping out of college in his final year of B.Sc, he assists his father in commercial agriculture, primarily cultivating Annato, a seed used in lipstick production.The Konda Reddi tribe is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) located in the

Godavari Valley of Andhra Pradesh. Women in this tribe have a high fertility rate, with most having more than five children. As of 2024, a Konda Reddi woman from Muntha Maamidi village in the Mareduhilli Agency of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, holds the record for the highest number of children—11 in total.Sambhu lives in Aaku Maamidi Kota village, nearly 27 kilometres deep inside the Mareduhilli forest cover on the ancient Rampa-Malkangiri tribal trade route, which is still a stronghold of Left Wing Extremist (LWE) Groups in India’s Red Corridor spreading along the Sabari-Sileru-Godavari rivers.Native to South Asia, Konda Veduru occupies more than 53% of India’s total area under bamboo. It is also extensively used by the Konda Reddi and Koya tribes of the Godavari Valley to make musical instruments.“We welcome summer with the delicacy made of the fish caught in our stream and the dry bamboo shoots. This is our unique tradition, a cherished memory of our Konda Reddi tribe that has been passed on for generations” Kondla Sambhu ReddiElder of Konda Reddi tribe, Aaku Maamidi Kota village“Konda Veduru is the dominant species among the eight bamboo species spread over 2.25 lakh hectares in the Valley. It spreads across more than half of the total area,” says R. Srinivas, State Silviculturist of the Regional Forest Research Centre, Rajamahendravaram. Most of the area under Konda Veduru species grows naturally.The Konda Reddis strictly adhere to one precaution: boiling bamboo shoots, fresh or dry, before adding them to any dish.“Boiling the bamboo shoots is a must. We can eat them by adding some red chilli and salt. This is the easiest recipe of Konda Veduru,” says Pallala Bojjamma, an elderly woman and mother of five, from Perika Valasa, 15 km from Aaku Maamidi Kota.“Every season, we serve food made of bamboo shoots for all—children, pregnant women, and even lactating mothers in our families.

Amid renewed West Asia conflict, discounts on Russian oil for Indian refiners vanish



Discounts on Russian oil for Indian refiners have vanished again amid the resurgence of conflict in West Asia and the drastic reduction in energy flows through the critical trade artery of the Strait of Hormuz, according to a senior official with government-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL). Given the renewed disruption in supply of West Asian oil following the collapse of the US-Iran peace MoU, demand for oil from other regions has shot up again, leading to erosion of discounts on Russian oil, the mainstay of India's oil imports.

BPCL's Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta said that while Indian refiners are not receiving any discount offer for Russian crude in the prevailing market conditions, there is ample availability of Moscow's oil and crude from other sources in the market to keep India well-supplied. Given the tightness in global energy supplies, Indian refiners are prioritising oil supply security over price considerations. As for the US allowing its sanctions waiver on Russian oil purchases to lapse, Gupta said that the move has had no notable impact on buying behaviour as there are enough non-US-sanctioned suppliers of Russian oil in the market. The sanctions waiver, which was issued by the US to keep the global oil market well-supplied, lapsed on June 17, the same day on which the US-Iran MoU was inked.

"Russian oil was never sanctioned, only some vessels, service providers, and certain other entities were sanctioned (by the US). But if you are purchasing from other entities, you can very well continue to buy... We are buying completely from the non-sanctioned entities," Gupta told The Indian Express Thursday. He added that the non-sanctioned sources of Russian oil supplies were more than adequate to meet India's demand and supplies till August-end were already tied up, with "Volumes are available, only the price fluctuates. At times it (Russian oil) even commands a premium, instead of (the usual) discount, but enough volumes are available. In fact, because Russian refineries got impacted (due to Ukrainian attacks), surplus Russian oil volume was available for exports," he said.

Rise in equity investment, leisure travel lift LRS remittances in May



Resident individuals stepped up overseas investments in equity and debt instruments while spending more on leisure and other travel in May 2026, helping outward remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) recover from the previous month.

Total outward remittances rose to \$2.396 billion in May 2026, up from \$2.286 billion in April 2026, reflecting renewed overseas spending despite moderation in some major categories such as gifts, maintenance of close relatives and studies abroad, according to RBI data. Among the key contributors to the monthly increase was investment in equity and debt, which climbed sharply to \$363.64 million in May from \$238.63 million in April, registering an increase of over 52%. The rise suggests that resident individuals increased allocations to overseas financial assets after a softer performance in April. Although the May figure remained below the \$440.22 million recorded in March 2026, it marked a significant rebound in portfolio investments abroad, RBI says.

Another major driver of the overall increase was other travel, which includes holiday travel and payments for settling international credit card transactions. Remittances under this category surged 21% to \$831.44 million in May, compared with \$686.65 million in April, indicating stronger discretionary spending on overseas travel and related expenses. The category also remained well above the \$623.05 million recorded in March. Under the LRS, resident individuals, including minors, can freely remit up to \$

2,50,000 per financial year for permissible current or capital account transactions. These transactions include education, studies abroad, travel, medical treatment abroad, purchase of property and investments in foreign stocks. Overall travel remittances continued to dominate LRS outflows, increasing to \$1.28 billion in May from \$1.16 billion in April. Within this, business travel remittances rose to \$13.95 million from \$10.03 million, while pilgrimage-related travel moderated to \$10.13 million from \$17.31 million. Travel for medical treatment edged lower to \$4.13 million from \$4.58 million, while spending on travel for education declined marginally to \$422.97 million from \$439.34 million, LRS data shows.

RBI data shows deposit-related remittances also strengthened during the month, increasing to \$118.12 million from \$94.79 million. In contrast, remittances for the purchase of immovable property fell to \$35.76 million in May from \$49.21 million in April, indicating relatively subdued overseas property acquisitions. Several categories recorded declines during the month. Remittances made as gifts fell to \$201.50 million from \$270.44 million, while maintenance of close relatives overseas dropped to \$289.11 million from \$328.73 million. Studies abroad, which cover payments for overseas education undertaken remotely rather than through travel, declined significantly to \$92.61 million from \$134.75 million.

Medical treatment payments for services availed without travelling abroad increased modestly to \$4.92 million from \$3.37 million, while donations eased slightly to \$0.69 million from \$0.82 million. The miscellaneous "Others" category also witnessed a marginal decline to \$7.43 million from \$7.94 million, RBI says. For the first two months of 2026-27, cumulative outward remittances under the LRS stood at \$ 4.68 billion, highlighting the continued appetite among resident individuals for overseas investments, travel, education and other permitted transactions. The latest data suggest that stronger spending on financial investments and discretionary travel more than offset weakness in family maintenance, gifts and education-related remittances, resulting in a modest month-on-month rise in overall overseas outflows during May 2026.

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corridors. The fresh attacks have added to fears of tighter global oil supplies, extending a rally that has already pushed Brent crude nearly 30 per cent higher this month. Analysts have warned that oil prices could return to the \$100-per-barrel mark if geopolitical tensions continue to escalate and supply disruptions intensify. According to them, the latest attacks have aggravated the West Asia conflict and pushed Brent crude above \$95 per barrel, a level that could negatively impact market sentiment in India. They said the dependence on imported crude makes elevated oil prices a key macroeconomic risk, with the potential to pressure inflation and external balances.

Walking epidurals can ease labour pain, but they are still rare in India — here's why



Movement can really help during labour. Walking, standing, squatting, or simply changing positions can help gravity assist the baby's descent and may lead to stronger, more effective contractions. Many women also feel more involved in the birthing process when they are not stuck in bed. "Staying mobile can boost comfort, lessen feelings of helplessness, and in some cases, may shorten labour and reduce the need for interventions," said Dr Richa Bharadwaj, consultant gynaecologist and obstetrician, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central. Unlike a traditional epidural used to ease labour pain, which often causes numbness in the legs and keeps mothers confined to bed, a walking epidural uses a lower dose of anaesthetic combined with pain-relieving medicines. "This helps reduce labour pain while allowing women to move their legs, change positions, and in some cases, walk with assistance," said Dr Anita Roy, consultant anaesthesiologist, Motherhood Hospitals, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai

According to Dr Roy, walking epidurals can make labour more comfortable by encouraging movement, which may help the baby descend naturally and improve the mother's overall birth experience. "Women often report better control during labour, less discomfort, and greater satisfaction," said Dr Roy. India has been offering walking epidurals for well over a decade, particularly after the introduction of newer pain-relief medicines that help women stay

more comfortable while maintaining some movement during labour. However, the prevalence is "very low compared to Western countries...hardly 10-20 per cent", said Dr Bharadwaj.

Can walking epidurals become common in India? The idea is promising, but bringing it to many hospitals in India will need careful planning. Walking epidurals require experienced obstetricians, skilled anaesthesiologists, continuous fetal monitoring, and trained nursing staff to keep both mother and baby safe. "Not every hospital has the resources or staff needed to support this type of monitoring," said Dr Bharadwaj. Experts urge that the effectiveness of a walking epidural largely depends on the expertise of the anaesthesiologist, who carefully administers the drugs in the right combinations and dilutions to achieve optimal pain relief while preserving mobility. "Women with low-risk, uncomplicated pregnancies who request pain relief and have no contraindications to epidural anaesthesia are generally considered suitable candidates," said Dr Roy. Additionally, every labour is unique, and being mobile does not guarantee an easier delivery, contended Dr Bharadwaj. Patient selection is just as crucial. "Women with high-risk pregnancies, certain medical conditions, or complications during labor may still need traditional pain management and closer monitoring," remarked Dr Bharadwaj.

As more women look for personalised and evidence-based maternity care, the need for options that provide effective pain relief while allowing more movement will likely increase. "Larger, specialised hospitals in India may be the first to adopt these practices, provided they have the right expertise, safety systems, and trained teams in place. The goal should always be to offer safe, individualised care instead of applying a one-size-fits-all approach," said Dr Bharadwaj. With growing awareness and improved maternity care, more hospitals across India may gradually introduce this option. "However, the choice of pain relief should always be individualised, ensuring the safety of both mother and baby remains the top priority," said Dr Bharadwaj.

'Woh soft launch...': Anshula Kapoor on introducing her fiancé to family early; expert explains

Anshula Kapoor, who recently got married, once opened up about her relationship with fiancé Rohan Thakkar, explaining why she chose to introduce him to her family early on rather than keep the relationship private. Speaking in an old interview with *Hauterfrilly*, she said, "Why should you hide? There's nothing to hide. So the minute that I was sure that I was giving this relationship a proper go-ahead, Jhanvi was the first person Rohan met." Explaining why she chose Jhanvi Kapoor to meet Rohan first, Anshula clarified that it was not about seeking approval. When asked whether Jhanvi is a good peer lens to check, she joked, "No. She's a very nice person; she's very sweet, gharelu. But it was more than that; she has my best interests at heart... Yeah, it was more of the fact that she was just trying to — I just wanted, firstly, to introduce, woh soft launch hota hai na family mein, and she felt like a safe place to do this in. So this worked out great, as they say, the rest is history (sic)." Her remarks highlight how having a trusted family member can sometimes make important relationship milestones feel less intimidating.

Anshula also shared that both families were well acquainted and that she saw no reason to keep the relationship under wraps. "But he's met the family; I've met his family. There's nothing to hide in that sense. We're pretty open on our social media as well." Reflecting on her personal journey, she added, "And it's also been a great learning curve for me, because first relationship. So I forgot everything, sorry guys." While every relationship unfolds differently, her experience raises broader questions about balancing privacy with openness, navigating family introductions, and building healthy relationships without feeling pressured by social expectations.

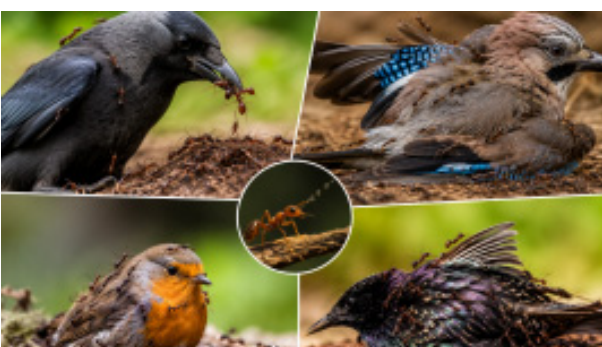
When is the right time to introduce your partner to your family?

Psychologist Rasshi Gurnani tells indianexpress.com, "There is no universal timeline for introducing a partner to family because every relationship develops at its own pace. What matters more than the duration is the emotional foundation of the relationship. Psychologically, it's a good sign



when both partners have developed trust, emotional security, and shared expectations about where the relationship is headed." Introducing someone too early, she adds, before the relationship feels stable, can sometimes add unnecessary pressure or invite outside opinions before the couple has built enough confidence in each other. "On the other hand, waiting indefinitely out of fear can create anxiety and uncertainty. The healthiest time is when both partners genuinely feel ready, see a future together, and view the introduction as a natural progression rather than a test the relationship has to pass." Why a trusted confidant matters in a new relationship Having a trusted family member or close friend who feels like a safe space can make a significant emotional difference. From a psychological perspective, Gurnani mentions, this kind of support provides emotional validation, helping individuals feel understood and accepted during an important life transition. "Sharing exciting relationship milestones with someone who listens without judgment can reduce anxiety and strengthen confidence in the relationship. It also creates a sense of psychological safety, where people feel comfortable expressing both excitement and vulnerability. While the success of a relationship shouldn't depend on someone else's approval, having one trusted person who offers encouragement and perspective can make navigating family dynamics much easier and strengthen communication between partners," states Gurnani.

These birds wear 'ant perfume' and scientists are still figuring out why



While it sounds unbelievable, some birds indeed rub ants into their feathers on purpose. The unusual behaviour is called anting, and it has been observed in more than 200 bird species, from crows and blue jays to robins, starlings and some parrots. While scientists have studied anting for many years, they're still debating exactly why birds do it.

What is anting? There are two main ways birds "ant." Some pick up ants in their beaks and carefully rub them through their feathers. Others spread their wings or lie near an active ant nest, allowing the insects to crawl over their bodies. At first glance, it looks strange. But the ants may be doing more than just crawling around.

The secret lies in the ants Many ant species defend themselves by releasing formic acid, a strong-smelling chemical. Scientists think birds may take advantage of this chemical, but exactly how it helps them is still unclear.

A natural way to deal with parasites?

One of the leading theories is that anting helps birds control feather mites, lice and other tiny parasites. The formic acid may make feathers less inviting to these unwanted hitchhikers or help reduce their numbers. However, researchers are still investigating how effective this really is. It may soothe itchy skin Another possibility is that anting provides relief during moulting, when birds shed old feathers

and grow new ones. Fresh feathers can irritate the skin, and some scientists believe the chemicals released by ants may help ease this discomfort. There's another interesting idea. Because formic acid is part of an ant's defence system, some researchers think birds deliberately make ants release the chemical before eating them. Once the defensive spray is gone, the ants may become easier—and more pleasant—to eat. No single explanation fully accounts for every case of anting. Different bird species may ant for different reasons, and it's even possible that the behaviour serves several purposes at once. Whatever the answer, anting remains one of nature's most fascinating mysteries—a reminder that even common birds can have surprisingly unusual habits. Explore more captivating stories about pets and animals here, and make us your daily stop for the latest from the animal kingdom.

The Truth About Jaggery: Is It Better Than Sugar?

Jaggery vs Sugar: Whether it's stirred into tea, added to sweets or eaten as a post-meal treat, jaggery has long been a staple in Indian kitchens. In recent years, it has also earned a reputation as a 'healthier' alternative to white sugar. But is it really the better choice?

Jaggery is made by boiling sugarcane juice or palm sap until it solidifies, while white sugar goes through a more refined process. Because it is less processed, jaggery retains small amounts of minerals such as iron, calcium and potassium. However, these nutrients are present in relatively small quantities and shouldn't be relied upon to meet your daily nutritional needs. The biggest misconception is that jaggery is sugar-free. In reality, it is still a form of sugar and contains nearly the same amount of calories as white sugar. Eating too much jaggery can still contribute to excess calorie intake and cause blood sugar levels to rise.

Lovlina Borgohain assured of medal at Commonwealth Games 2026 without throwing a punch



GNS News Agency, July 27

Star Indian pugilist Lovlina Borgohain is already assured of a medal for India at the Commonwealth Games 2026 without even stepping into the ring or landing a single punch. On Thursday, the day the CWG 2026 gets underway in Glasgow, the boxer from Assam received a direct entry into the semifinals of the women's 75kg event, which guarantees her at least a bronze. The Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist was handed a first-round bye in the five-boxer draw, automatically securing a place in the last four and assuring herself a podium finish. She will now take on Tuvalu's Taronā Khanum Badi Pasoni (TKBP) Taafaki in

the semifinal on July 31, with the winner advancing to the gold medal bout.

This will be Lovlina's first Commonwealth Games medal and the only major multi-sport honour that had eluded her decorated career until now. The 28-year-old has already won medals at the Olympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games, and Asian Championships. Since only five boxers are featuring in the women's 75kg event, three of them – Lovlina, Taafaki, and Australia's Emma-Sue Greentree – received byes in the first round, which served as the quarterfinal. All three advanced to the semifinals without fighting. England's Mary Kate Smith and Nigeria's Patricia Mbata will face each other in the only quarterfinal, with the winner taking on Greentree in the other semifinal. In the previous edition in Birmingham in 2022, Lovlina had reached the quarterfinals of the light middleweight category, where she lost to Wales' Rosie Eccles. Along with weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina has also been named India's flagbearer for Thursday's opening ceremony. Boxing has been a key sport for India at the Commonwealth Games, yielding 44 medals for the country so far. At the Glasgow event, as many as eight Indian boxers have received first-round byes. The likes of Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Priya Ghanghas (60kg), and Preeti Pawar (54kg) are just one win away from securing medals.

Commonwealth Games 2026 Lawn Bowls Explainer: Rules, scoring, key terms & India's medal hopes



When India's women's fours team of Lovely Choubey, Pinki, Nayanmoni Saikia, and Rupa Rani Tirkey clinched a historic gold medal at Birmingham 2022, they transformed Lawn Bowls from an unfamiliar Commonwealth niche into an overnight sensation across the country. The Commonwealth Games 2026 begins on Thursday, with Lawn Bowls being the first event of this edition. Think of Lawn Bowls as a game of precision, similar to petanque or curling, played on grass. The objective is to roll your bowls as close as possible to a smaller target ball called the "jack" or "kitty." What makes it tricky is that the bowls are slightly heavier on one side, so they curve as they slow down instead of rolling straight. This built-in weight imbalance is called the "bias."

As the bowl slows down, it curves gracefully toward its heavier side. Players use this arc to steer around opponent bowls that might be blocking the direct path to the target. Matches can be played as singles, pairs, triples, or fours. In singles, the first player to reach 21 points wins, while team events are often decided over a set number of ends. Only two teams compete in a single game of Lawn Bowls. Rules & Objectives The Equipment: A game uses a jack (the target, which can be white or yellow) and several bowls (each weighing about 1.5 kg). Players roll their bowls from a mat at the start of each end. The jack must travel at least 23 metres, and the point where it settles becomes the target for that end.

How Abhinav Bindra, Yuvraj Singh, Nikhat Zareen reacted to NEET protests

GNS News Agency, July 27

After days of nationwide protests over NEET paper leaks, India's top athletes, including Abhinav Bindra, Yuvraj Singh, Nikhat Zareen, spoke up on the issue, stressing on the need for "dialogue" and to "work together". The protesters, led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), are demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan besides also demanding accountability for the NEET paper leaks earlier. The protests in the national capital had taken a violent turn a few days ago when CJP tried to march to Parliament on July 20. Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, did not directly mention the protests, but made his stance clear.

"I have never considered myself a political person. But I do believe that some issues belong to all of us, regardless of where we stand. Education is one of them. The measure of a nation is found not only in its economy or its achievements, but in the opportunities it creates for its young people. An education system that inspires confidence, rewards merit and nurtures curiosity is one of a nation's greatest strengths," Bindra wrote. "I hope we can all unite and work together to continually strengthen our education system, so that it remains a source of opportunity, innovation and hope for generations to come," Bindra added. On Tuesday, boxer Nikhat Zareen had asked the government to listen to the protestors.

"Students are the future. Listen before they stop speaking. Nations don't grow by silencing questions. They grow by answering them. Dialogue safeguards tomorrow. That is democracy," she wrote on X. On his Instagram Stories, World Cup winning cricketer cricketer Yuvraj Singh also urged for dialogue. "To every child, student, woman and



man: you deserve the opportunity to learn in peace, grow with safety and chase your dreams. Your well-being is the foundation of a brighter India. Let's come together to build communities of care, opportunity, and hope. Through dialogue we can find an amicable solution for the sake of India's future." Earlier, double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker had also spoken up through a social media post for the youngsters hitting the streets.

Here's what Bhaker wrote: "At this point, it's about the lives of the future of our nation. It's about us. I am a student, and at one point, we all were students. Every child deserves access to education, safety, and a fair chance at life. These are not privileges—they are fundamental rights. "The students and children who lost their lives were meant to be the future of our country. Their dreams, their potential, and their futures should have been protected. This is not about promoting or opposing any political party. It is about speaking up for what truly matters—education, the environment, safety, and accountability. These issues affect every one of us, regardless of our beliefs.

concerns the rights of students, and it is the duty of lawyers to stand before the Supreme Court and demand justice for them. The role and function of the Supreme Court of India is to dispense justice. That is why we are here, in the temple of justice, with our demands," she said. The CJP, an organic movement against paper leaks and alleged irregularities in the examination system that started with a comment from Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, referring to youngsters as "cockroaches", has been sitting at Jantar Mantar since June 20. The protest gathered traction as activist Sonam Wangchuk and a group of students from the Left-affiliated AISA started a hunger strike.

India opt to bowl against Zimbabwe in 1st T20I; pacer Ashok Sharma debuts in Harare



Harare: India have handed a debut to pacer Ashok Sharma as skipper Shreyas Iyer won the toss and elected to bowl first against Zimbabwe in the first T20I at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday. India, the current T20 World Cup winners, are eyeing redemption after suffering series defeats to England (4-0) and Ireland (2-0). After winning the toss, Iyer said India are fielding three seamers in Ashok, Prince Yadav and Mayank Yadav, along with leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi being the lone spin-bowling option.

"This is my first time here, so I don't know how the wicket is going to play. But looking at the practice wickets and the practice wickets on the side, there was a decent amount of bounce. So definitely, that's one of the aspects. I don't know how it's going to play, but I'm anticipating it (more bounce). "They (Zimbabwe) have been playing brilliantly for

the last couple of years, especially at the World Cup, the way they played. It was pleasing to the eye. The batsmen and the bowlers executing their strengths. It was amazing," he said.

Zimbabwe arrive on the back of losing the T20I series to Bangladesh 2-1, though they won the Test and ODI series. Captain Sikandar Raza said Ben Curran and Newman Nyamhuri are making their T20I debuts. "This is not your typical Harare Sports Club wicket, I think. There will be something in the start, but I don't expect it to last too long. I think there are a lot of runs on this wicket and hopefully we can put up those runs on the board. "A lot of positives, to be honest (against Bangladesh). As I said, in the pressure as well, even though the results didn't go our way, there were a lot of positives, especially the way the bowling unit has been holding themselves as well. "Also in Bulawayo, on a slightly slower surface, I thought our top three batters did contribute the bulk of the runs as well. So hopefully the lower order and the middle order can contribute, can try and put up those runs and the bowling unit keep leading the way they are leading. And I'm pretty sure it will be a very good game after that," he said. India: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shreyas Iyer (captain), Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Prince Yadav, Ashok Sharma, and Mayank Yadav Zimbabwe: Brian Bennett, Tadiwanashe Marumani (wk), Ben Curran, Dion Myers, Sikandar Raza (captain), Ryan Burl, Wessly Madhevere, Brad Evans, Newman Nyamhuri, Richard Ngarava, and Blessing Muzarabani

The Oval to host 2027 ICC World Test Championship Final from June 9



London: The Oval has been confirmed as the venue for the 2027 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final, with the marquee Test match scheduled to be played from June 9 to 13. The 2027 contest will mark the second time The Oval hosts the championship decider after staging the inaugural final in 2021, where Australia defeated India in front of a capacity crowd. Last year, during the ICC Annual Conference 2025, ECB was awarded hosting rights for the next three World Test Championship Finals, which are 2027, 2019 and 2031. The first three editions of the WTC Final were held at different venues in England, with Lord's hosting the 2025 final, where South Africa beat Australia by five wickets. New Zealand claimed the inaugural title by defeating India in Southampton in 2021, before Australia lifted the trophy at The Oval in 2023. The upcoming final will also conclude the fourth cycle of the World Test Championship.

ECB Managing Director of Competitions and Major Events Neil Snowball said England was proud to continue hosting the global showpiece for the longest format of the game. "We are honoured to be staging the next three ICC World Test Championship Finals in England and Wales, and we're pleased to confirm that The Oval will play host again next year. The 2023 final at The Oval was a huge hit with broadcasters and fans, and I've no doubt that next year's event will be extra special again. "This promises to be another fantastic opportunity for cricket fans in this country

and from around the world to see the best two Test teams in the world from the past two years taking each other on in a showpiece event," Snowball said in an ECB statement on Thursday.

The 2027 edition will carry additional historical significance as it coincides with celebrations marking 150 years of Test cricket, adding further prestige to a fixture that brings together the world's two top-performing Test sides over the preceding two-year cycle. ICC General Manager, Events & Operations, Gaurav Saxena, believes the choice of venue reflects the strong relationship between the ICC and the ECB, while also recognising The Oval's place in cricket history. "The ICC World Test Championship Final has established itself as one of the most prestigious occasions in the global cricket calendar, bringing together the two best Test teams in the world after two years of sustained excellence and consistency. The confirmation of The Oval as the venue for the 2027 final is another testament to the strong and collaborative partnership between the ICC and the ECB. This partnership was showcased through the outstanding success of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, where both organisations worked seamlessly together to deliver several landmark moments for women's sport and create an unforgettable experience for players, fans and the wider cricket community.

"The 2027 World Test Championship Final will hold special significance as cricket celebrates 150 years of Test cricket. The Oval has played a proud role in the history of our sport and has hosted some of its most memorable moments. We look forward to working closely with the ECB to deliver another world-class event that celebrates the enduring legacy of Test cricket and creates lasting memories for fans around the world," Saxena stated. Australia are currently atop the WTC rankings, with 87.50 percentage points, while defending champions South Africa follow them in the second spot with 75 percentage points. New Zealand, Bangladesh and India occupy the third, fourth and fifth spots, while Sri Lanka, England, the West Indies and Pakistan hold the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth places respectively.

Uncapped Prabhsimran eyes maiden India cap



New Delhi: Punjab wicketkeeper-batter Prabhsimran Singh is hoping the upcoming T20I series against Zimbabwe becomes the moment he finally makes his international debut, with the uncapped opener saying his immediate goal is to earn his first India cap and make the most of the opportunity if selected. Named in India's squad after impressing in domestic cricket and the IPL, Prabhsimran also described the intense competition for opening slots as a positive challenge and praised fellow youngster Vaibhav Sooryavanshi following their recent stint together with India A. For the 24-year-old, a maiden appearance in India's colours would fulfil one of the biggest ambitions he has carried since taking up the sport.

"When you start playing cricket, there are two main objectives in your mind, and even in your parents' minds, to represent the country and to play in the IPL. I am playing in the IPL, but now I've gotten this opportunity to represent the country. I got it earlier as well during the Asian Games, but unfortunately, I couldn't play. Now, my only wish is that I return as a capped player this time around and, obviously, perform well there so that I get more opportunities," Prabhsimran told JioStar. Prabhsimran was part of India's squad for the Asian Games but did not feature in a match. With another opportunity now knocking, the opener is eager to translate selection into an on-field appearance and establish himself in the national setup. Competition at the top of India's batting order has intensified with several young players staking a claim through domestic performances and the IPL. However, Prabhsimran believes the battle for places is a healthy one that pushes players to improve. "The IPL is such a big platform where you rub shoulders with international players from all around the world, youngsters from across the country, established players representing India,

and even legends who are playing alongside you. So, obviously, it is a bit tough. But if you look at it, it's healthy competition. There is so much competition just for the opening spot in the Indian team, and the only thing that comes to mind is, 'Just give me an opportunity, and if I get the chance, hopefully I'll do well'," he added. Prabhsimran also reflected on his recent experience opening the innings alongside teenage batter Sooryavanshi during the India A assignments against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, saying the partnership allowed the two youngsters to learn from each other both on and off the field. "Recently, we went to play the India A series against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, and Vaibhav was there with me too. Watching him bat is so much fun; it brings a lot of joy. Since we were opening together, we got to spend more time together and discuss various things. It was a great experience," Prabhsimran stated.

Three Odisha AM/NS GHPC gymnasts selected to represent India at Commonwealth Games 2026

Hyderabad: Three athletes of Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre (Odisha AM/NS GHPC) to represent India in the Commonwealth Games 2026 to be held in Glasgow, Scotland during July 23 – August 02, 2026. Out of the eight athletes in artistic gymnastics category, three athletes — Tapan Mohanty, Tapeswaranath Das and Olympian Pranati Nayak are part of the Odisha AM/NS GHPC. Tapan Mohanty and Tapeswaranath Das are part of the India Men's Team in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) category. Olympian Pranati Nayak is part of the India Women's Team in the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) category. This achievement highlights the dedication and hard work of the athletes, and world-class training and holistic development provided at the Odisha AM/NS GHPC, which continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing young talent and elevating Gymnastics in India. Mr. Ashutosh Telang, Director & Vice President – HR & Administration, AM/NS India said, "Having three athletes from our Odisha AM/NS GHPC competing at the Commonwealth Games is a proud milestone for us.

Inauguration of Centralized Community Kitchen at Madhira for Serving Nutritious Breakfast to Government School Children

The State-of-the-Art Centralized Community Kitchen will provide nutritious breakfast to 44,107 Government School children studying in 879 schools across 16 mandals of Khammam district



Friday Millet Idli, Sambar
Saturday Bonda, Chutney

The **School Breakfast Programme** is dedicated to providing **hot, tasty, and nutritious** breakfast to Government School children, especially those from underprivileged communities. By ensuring a nutritious start to the day, the **programme promotes better health, supports optimal physical and mental development, and creates a stronger foundation for effective learning and overall well-being.**

State-of-the-Art Technology and Infrastructure:

The **Centralized Community Kitchen** is equipped with cutting-edge technology and advanced automated systems designed to produce hygienic preparation of breakfast on a large scale while eliminating any scope for food contamination. The facility houses high-capacity **automated steamers** capable of preparing **5400 idlis per hour**, a specially designed **automatic dosa-making machine** capable of producing **2000 dosas per hour**, and a fully **automatic puri-making machine** with a production capacity of **3000 puris per hour**.

The kitchen is also equipped with automated **sambar cauldrons** and **curry-making equipments** capable of preparing sambar and curry for **5,000 students within two hours**, along with **high-capacity rice cooking equipment** that can prepare rice for **1,000 students in just 15 minutes**.

Demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, the kitchen converts biodegradable waste generated during food preparation into **biogas**. It is further equipped with a **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant, Boiler Plant, Central Gas Bank, and an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP)** to ensure safe water usage, efficient operations, and environmentally responsible waste management.

To ensure that every child receives not only a hot and hygienic breakfast but also a nutritious and enjoyable meal, HKMCF has developed a carefully planned, diverse menu that varies each school day.

Message from Chief Guest, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka garu said:

Providing a nutritious breakfast to our school children is far more than a free scheme—it is a vital investment in the future of Telangana and the development of our greatest resource: our people. True social equality begins when every child starts their day nourished, equal, and ready to learn.

Today at Madhira, during the inauguration of the **Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) centralized kitchen** and the launch of the breakfast program, I experienced one of the most deeply moving moments of my life. Sitting down and sharing a meal with these wonderful children, seeing the pure joy and brightness in their eyes, brought a sense of satisfaction that words can hardly capture.

Seeing HKMCF's mechanized kitchen firsthand puts every doubt to rest. The state-of-the-art technology, high hygiene standards, seamless process flow, and large-scale cooking capabilities are truly impressive.

I assure my full encouragement and continued support to the **Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation**. We must accelerate the expansion of such modern kitchens across the state to ensure that no child in Telangana ever attends school on an empty stomach.

Message from President - HKMCF:

His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa (M.Tech., IIT Madras), President, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF), Regional President, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TG & AP) said:

"Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation has been privileged to serve society through several nutrition

Madhira, July 27th, Monday:

The Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation's (HKMCF) **State-of-the-Art Centralized Community Kitchen** was inaugurated today by **Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka garu** at Madhira, Khammam district to provide nutritious breakfast to Government School children. HKMCF is the premier implementing partner of the Government of Telangana for the implementation of the School Breakfast Programme, one of the Government's flagship initiatives to improve child nutrition and learning outcomes.

This initiative will benefit approximately **44,107 students from 879 Government Schools** across the following **16 Mandals viz. Madhira, Bonakal, Chinthakani, Enkuru, Kalluru, Konijerla, Kusumanchi, Mudigonda, Nelakondapally, Penuballi, Sathupally, Thallada, Thirumalayapalem, Vemsoor, Wyra, Yerrupalem of Khammam District**. The nutritious breakfasts will be prepared hygienically and distributed timely from this newly constructed advanced Centralized Kitchen.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by **Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Garu** as the **Chief Guest**, in the august presence of **His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji, President, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF)** and **Regional President, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh)**, besides public representatives, eminent dignitaries, special guests, patrons, Government officials, and HKMCF functionaries.

Equipped with modern technology and advanced food production practices, the state-of-the-art Centralized Community Kitchen will prepare and deliver fresh, hot, and nutritious breakfasts to Government School children on every school working day.

This project is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Government of Telangana, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF), and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. While the Government of Telangana provided an 8,000 sq. ft. shed at the Agricultural Market Yard, Madhira, SCCL funded the construction of the kitchen, and HKMCF established the modern facility and will operate it under the Government's School Breakfast Programme.

This inauguration reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring nutritious breakfasts for Government School children through collaborative efforts with HKMCF and CSR partners.

This Inaugural event was also attended by

Guests of Honour:

Sri Pingili Sripal Garu, Member of Legislative Council

Sri Maloth Ramdas Naik, MLA Wyra

Smt. Samineni Sujatha Garu, Chairperson, Madhira Municipality

Sri Bandaru Narasimharao Garu, Chairperson, Madhira Agriculture Market Committee

Smt. Gaddala Madhuri Garu, Councillor, 11th Ward, Madhira



Special Guests:
Sri Divakara, IAS, District Collector, Khammam
DEO & DPRO Khammam

Anchor Patrons:
General Managers from Singareni Collieries Company Limited

And was presided by **Sri Kaunteya Dasa Swamiji, Chief Executive Officer, HKM Charitable Foundation.**

Event Details:

Upon arrival, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and dignitaries were accorded welcome honors and the program commenced with **SriNarasimha Homa and Purnahuti**, invoking auspicious blessings for the successful functioning of the kitchen in its noble service.

Following the ceremonial proceedings, the **Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister** unveiled the inaugural plaque and officially dedicated the **Centralized Community Kitchen** to public service. He also inaugurated the **Office Block** and the **Quality Testing Laboratory**, highlighting HKMCF's unwavering focus on food quality, hygiene, and stringent safety standards.

The visiting dignitaries were given a comprehensive tour of the modern kitchen facility and introduced to its **technology-driven food production processes**. They witnessed the operation of advanced equipment, including **automatic vegetable washing and cutting systems, automated curry-making machines, high-capacity steamers and sambar cauldrons, fully automatic dosa and puri-making machines, and a dedicated milk processing unit**. Designed for large-scale breakfast preparation, these modern systems will ensure the timely delivery of fresh, nutritious, and hygienically prepared meals. The dignitaries also **flagged off newly commissioned, custom-built vehicles** for the distribution of breakfast to schools.

In a heart-warming gesture, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and dignitaries served hot breakfasts to school children, reaffirming their commitment to child nutrition and education

Day	Breakfast Menu
Monday	Idli, Sambar
Tuesday	Poori, Aloo Kurma
Wednesday	Dosa, Chutney
Thursday	Upma, Chutney