

**Sri Geetaansha Digitals**

Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | Kakinada | Vijayawada | Ongole



Print

► Compactible Pigment Inks Available at Low Cost

► News Print Rolls Available at Reasonable cost

\*Conditions Apply

For More Details: 93948 55244, 9059465965

# Sonam Wangchuk Continues Fast

## Seeks MPs' Support for Students



**New Delhi:** Climate activist and education reformer Sonam Wangchuk on Monday announced that he will continue his indefinite fast, entering its 23rd day, citing the treatment of peacefully protesting youth and the lack of dialogue with authorities. In a post on X, Wangchuk shared a handwritten note from Delhi's Safdarjung hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, saying he had decided to continue his fast until student leaders are allowed to meet parliamentarians at Sansad Bhavan or he is permitted to meet them at the hospital. "Seeing the brutality with which peacefully protesting youth are being dealt with, I have decided to continue my fast until the youth leaders are allowed to meet the Parliamentarians at the Sansad Bhavan or I am allowed to meet them here at the hospital," he wrote. Wangchuk expressed hope that the government would address accountability concerning the education minister before such a meeting takes place. The activist also praised the protesters for maintaining peace

despite what he described as provocation. He appealed to both the government and the police to resolve the issue by allowing students to present their grievances before Parliament. "I am touched and moved by how the youth have held on to peace despite provocation and I appeal to the Govt & Police force to resolve the issue by simply allowing the students to present their grievances before the Parliament today or tomorrow," the note read.

# PM Modi Jibes at Rahul Gandhi at Monsoon Session

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi spotlighted that the average age of team members at Skyroot Aerospace, a private space company which scripted history with VIKRAM-1, India's first private rocket to reach orbit over the weekend, is 28 years. He then made it clear that he is not talking about some "56-year-old youth", an indirect reference to Rahul Gandhi, who is referred to as a youth leader. "India's youth have taken a new flight into space; it is a tremendous success. The average age of the entire team of young people working at Skyroot is 28 years," PM Modi said in his customary remarks

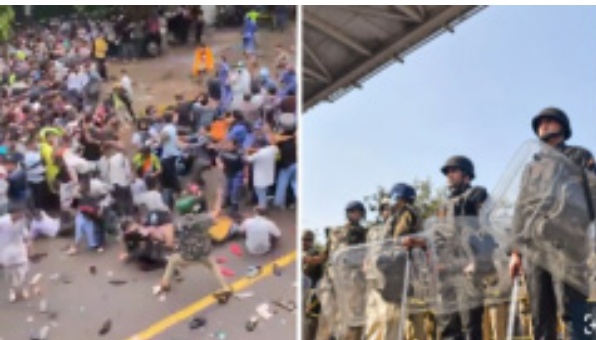


country unemployed, unable to secure government jobs; and even when they prepare by selling off their land, the exam papers end up getting leaked," the Congress MP said. The choice of number 56, it appears, is not accidental. Rahul Gandhi, who holds a black belt in the Japanese martial art of Aikido and chooses to wear T-shirt and cargo pants and not the customary kurta as is the case with politicians, is projected by the Congress as a youth leader.

# CPI's 'Sansad Chalo' March Turns Violent; Over 50 Police Personnel Injured

**New Delhi:** A protest march organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) in Delhi on Monday escalated into violent clashes after thousands of demonstrators attempted to march from Jantar Mantar towards Parliament on the opening day of the Monsoon Session. What began as a rally demanding action over irregularities in competitive examinations ended in widespread chaos, with security forces using tear gas and batons to disperse protesters. The unrest left police vehicles damaged, dozens of people detained, and several injuries reported on both sides. According to officials, more than 50 personnel from the Delhi Police and paramilitary forces sustained injuries during the clashes, including over five IPS officers. Several protesters were also injured. Following the violence, Delhi Police launched an investigation by registering multiple FIRs and reviewing CCTV footage as well as

videos recorded on mobile phones. Investigators are also examining whether the unrest was fuelled by misinformation or was part of a larger planned conspiracy. The CJP had announced the 'Sansad Chalo' march to press for accountability over examination-related irregularities and to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Despite persistent rainfall, thousands of supporters assembled at Jantar Mantar before attempting to march towards Parliament. Police had already deployed extensive barricades around the protest site and key roads across central Delhi. As security restrictions prevented the main route, groups of protesters moved through nearby lanes, with more participants joining along the way.



# Prime Minister Modi to Inaugurate Bhogapuram Airport on August 1: Home Minister Anitha

**From Our Staff Reporter Vizianagaram District, July 20:** Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport on August 1. As part of the preparations for the Prime Minister's visit, Minister Anitha, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, District Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy, and Superintendent of Police A.R. Damodar in-

spected the arrangements at the venue. Speaking to the media on the occasion, Anitha shared details of the preparations. The Home Minister issued key instructions to officials regarding vehicle parking arrangements and crowd management. She said special welcome arrangements were being made with folk art performances reflecting the culture and traditions of North Andhra. Anitha directed officials to work in



close coordination to ensure that the Prime Minister's visit proceeds smoothly without any inconvenience. She also in-

structed all government departments to coordinate effectively for the successful inauguration of the Bhogapuram Airport.

# Rain Alert Issued for Several Districts in Andhra Pradesh

**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has forecast rainfall in several parts of the state on Tuesday. Officials said weather conditions are likely to change due to a cyclonic circulation over the west-central Bay of Bengal and the North Coastal Andhra region. Authorities warned that coastal Andhra Pradesh may experience gusty winds with speeds ranging between 40 and 50 kmph. Cloudy skies along with light to moderate rainfall are expected in many areas. Officials stated that light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms is likely in Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Polavaram region, Krishna, and NTR districts. Other districts in the state may also receive isolated light rainfall. The highest rainfall of 66.7 mm was recorded at Velamanchili in Anakapalli district. Rainfall of 42.5 mm was recorded at Penjeruvu, while 40 mm was recorded at Somalingapalem, according to officials. The Disaster Management Authority advised people to remain alert in view of the rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds.

# SIT Officials Question Vijayalakshmi in Sai Krishna Case

**From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, July 20:** The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has intensified its probe into the disappearance case of Gade Sai Krishna. As part of the investigation, SIT officials visited Sai Krishna's residence in Vijayawada on Monday. The officials recorded the statement of his mother, Vijayalakshmi. They questioned her about the circumstances and possible reasons behind the alleged lockdown death. In view of the petition filed by Sai Krishna's mother in the High Court, the SIT also sought details related to the case. Vijayalakshmi had also made serious allegations against CI Nagaraju and personnel of the Krishnalanka Police Station. In this context, SIT officials asked her



to provide evidence supporting those allegations. The SIT gathered information from Vijayalakshmi regarding the alleged involvement of Krishnalanka Police personnel as well as Task Force police officers in the case. She shared all the details known to her with the investigating officers during the interaction.

# AIOCD Expresses Concern Over Online Sale of Medicines



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 20:** The sixth Executive Committee meeting of the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) was held in Tirupati under the theme "Educational Seminar and Digitalization Program." Representatives of the organization from across the country participated in the event. On this special occasion, a felicitation ceremony was organized for the newly elected office-bearers of the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council. AP Pharmacy Council President

Rambabu, Vice-President Darapu N.R.P. Reddy, D. Narendra—who was nominated from Andhra Pradesh to the Pharmacy Council of India—and AP Pharmacy Council Executive Committee members Subbarama Gupta and Kalyan Chakravarthy were honored and presented with mementos. Addressing the gathering, AIOCD National President J. Shinde expressed serious concern that online medical stores could threaten the livelihoods of lakhs of medicine traders across the country. He

warned that many families could lose their source of income and alleged that several irregularities were associated with the heavy discounts offered by online platforms. Shinde emphasized that only over-the-counter sales enable authorities to regularly inspect the quality of medicines, thereby ensuring that safe medicines reach the public. The meeting called upon all stakeholders to unite in protecting the pharmacy sector and safeguarding the rights of traders.

# Minister Nimmala Takes Serious Note; Case Registered Against Contractor and Official

**From Our Staff Reporter Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District, July 20:** A case has been registered at Ainavilli Police Station against a contractor and an R&B (Roads and Buildings) official in connection with the construction of a retaining wall on the main irrigation canal near Nedunuru Pedapalem, between Mukkamala and Nadipudi in the district. On July 17, Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Rama Naidu inspected the irrigation canals in the area. During the visit, farmers complained that a retaining wall had been constructed in a manner that obstructed the flow of irrigation water through the canal. Responding seriously to the complaint, Minister Nimmala directed Water Resources Department officials to lodge a police



complaint against the concerned contractor and officials responsible for the work. Following the Minister's instructions, Kothapeta Irrigation Assistant Engineer (AE) Sai Pawan filed a complaint at Ainavilli Police Station. Based on the complaint, police registered a case against contractor P. Padmaraju of Sudharama Constructions and R&B Deputy Engineer Nikki Cruz. The case has been registered as Crime No. 85/2026 under Sections 326(a), 326(b), 326(c) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

# Tammineeni Scam Came to Light After Victim Approached Court: MP Kaliseti

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July 20:** Vizianagaram MP Kaliseti Appala Naidu strongly criticized the family of YSRCP leader and former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Tammineeni Sitaram. Speaking in Amaravati on Monday, he alleged that members of Tammineeni's family illegally occupied land worth 74 crore using fake death certificates. The TDP MP stated that a living person was shown as deceased in official records. He said the alleged conspiracy was aimed at acquiring 922 square yards of land in Davulapeta village of Srikakulam district. Kaliseti further alleged that a fake family member certificate was created to facilitate the registration. According to him, the land was registered in the name of Tammineeni Sitaram's son in 2023. He claimed that fake Aadhaar cards and the support of a criminal network were used in the operation. He also alleged that staff members of Tammineeni's college were used as witnesses during the registration process. The Vizianagaram MP said the scam came to light after the victim approached the court. He accused Tammineeni Sitaram and his family members of attempting to obtain a stay order from the High Court to avoid investigation. Kaliseti alleged that Tammineeni had tarnished the dignity of the Speaker's office and accused him of undermining democracy in the Assembly. He also recalled allegations regarding fake educational certificates linked to Tammineeni. The MP stated that a comprehensive investigation into the alleged illegal activities of Tammineeni's family would be conducted.





# EDITORIAL

## Will the negotiations go smoothly again?

The monsoon session of Parliament is set to begin from the 21st of this month. The BJP-led NDA is preparing for these sessions with a stronger political stance than before. The recent political restructuring that took place after the West Bengal assembly elections has increased the strength of the alliances in the Lok Sabha. With this, the NDA seems confident that there may not be much resistance to its activities in Parliament. But the number of members alone does not guarantee the ability to govern. No matter how strong the ruling party is, the people will benefit only when the Parliament is organized in a way that public issues are discussed smoothly and laws are made beneficially. As always, if the upcoming sessions also end with sloganeering, interruptions and political drama, the people will ultimately lose. Parliament should not be turned into a battlefield to argue over every small issue and adjourn the House. Parliament is the supreme institution that can conduct debates, demonstrate accountability, and enact laws to advance national interests.

It is very sad to see how respectfully the parliamentary sessions were conducted in the past decades when there were great parliamentarians like Vajpayee, Chandrashekhkar, Somnath Chatterjee, Indrajit Gupta, HN Bahuguna, Mulayam Singh Yadav, and how they are being conducted now. Although leaders like Vajpayee, Bahuguna, and Somnath Chatterjee were fierce political opponents, they never forgot their noble responsibility of protecting the dignity of Parliament. They used to conduct discussions in a way that made good use of the Question and Answer Period and Zero Hour. Members used to discuss the House with facts and statistics. Even when there were heated arguments, they would conduct the House without causing chaos. When the Speaker intervened and stopped the discussion on any issue, they would exercise restraint. They rarely resorted to walkouts. If they expressed their protest or objection to anything, they would leave the House later. This will not cause any disruption to the proceedings of the House. In contrast, Parliament is currently in session. This time, it is expected that due to the increased strength of the government, discussions will naturally take place about their legal plans.

The NDA government is ready to introduce controversial issues like delimitation of constituencies, making changes in the laws of the Constitution according to the needs, allocating 33 percent seats to women in the legislatures, and implementing a uniform civil code for all citizens of the country regardless of religion. That is, implementing uniform civil laws on matters such as marriage, divorce, property rights, etc., in the Parliament sessions this time. For this, a two-thirds majority of the members is mandatory for the approval of constitutional amendments. For example, if 300 members attend the sessions, 200 of them must vote in favor of the bill. How many members are physically present in the House at the time of voting, whether they are in favor of or against the bill, and whether they remain neutral by not voting, all these are considered. However, now the government is confident that it can fulfill its interests to the maximum with the strength it has. As for the opposition, most of the bills to be introduced in the House are controversial, so they are devising strategies to hold the government accountable through strong debate. It seems that the issues of NEET exam question paper leak and Ayodhya donation scam are the main ones being raised in the House.

These two issues must be discussed in the House. The government cannot escape from giving a proper answer to the debate. If that happens, it will not be accountable to the people. But will these issues be discussed in a determined manner? Or will they just spend their time with shouting matches between the opposition parties? The question now is. The Congress was initially able to gain public support by launching a movement on the NEET question paper leak. However, later, there is criticism that it was unable to utilize the opportunity to build a strong movement against the government. The BJP should not adopt the attitude of making amends by saying that the mistakes in the NEET exam have been corrected. The government is showing indifference to the demands for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and compensation to the families of the deceased students. There is public anger that the government has not acted properly in the protest of the Cockroach Janata Party members or in the case of Wangchuk's hunger strike. This will shake up the sessions of Parliament. If opposition members continue to ignore questions raised on this issue, parliamentary sessions will become mere television broadcasts.

# The Refugee With No Passport, And The Illegal Immigrant With Indian Papers

The case of Maung Henry Htoo Aung Linn before the Delhi High Court is not only about admission to Delhi University. It is about a deeper contradiction in India's handling of refugees, citizenship, and identity in the border states of the Northeast.

On one side is a young Myanmar refugee who fled his country, studied in India, and is now seeking university admission through lawful means. He does not claim to be an Indian citizen. He does not seek Scheduled Tribe benefits. He does not try to enter the electoral roll. He stands before the court as a refugee, asking that Delhi University should not insist on a passport that his condition as a refugee makes difficult, if not impossible, to produce. On the other side are long-standing allegations in Manipur that some Myanmar nationals have crossed the border, obtained Aadhaar cards, entered electoral rolls, acquired local identity documents, and accessed benefits available to Scheduled Tribes under broad categories such as "Any Kuki Tribes". This is the contradiction India must confront: the honest refugee is visible and, therefore, vulnerable; the illegal immigrant with Indian papers may become administratively invisible. Maung Henry's case shows the burden carried by those who follow the transparent route. According to available details, he fled Myanmar in 2022, completed Class 10 in Mizoram and Class 12 in the Science stream in Meghalaya, and later sought admission to Delhi University. His difficulty began because Delhi University requires foreign applicants to submit a passport. His lawyers argued that treating a refugee in the same manner as an ordinary foreign applicant violates the logic of equality and dignity under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The court's reported question during the

hearing, "How can you expect a passport from a refugee?", goes to the heart of the issue. A passport is issued by a state. A refugee is often a person who has lost the protection of that very state. To demand a passport as the only acceptable identity document from such a person is to misunderstand the nature of displacement.

This does not mean universities should abandon verification. Delhi University has every right to protect its admission process. Public institutions cannot function on sympathy alone. They need documents, records, scrutiny, and accountability. Admission to Delhi University is highly competitive even for Indian citizens. A refugee cannot be admitted merely because he is a refugee. But a refugee should not be rejected merely because he has no passport. There is a middle path. UNHCR registration, Indian school records, residence verification, police verification, and clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs can together provide an alternative documentation system. Such a system would not weaken the law, but make it more realistic. India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol. It also does not have a dedicated national refugee law. As a result, refugees are often handled through executive discretion, local practice, court intervention, and UNHCR documentation. This absence of a clear legal framework has produced confusion, especially in relation to people fleeing Myanmar. The problem becomes sharper in Manipur. The India-Myanmar border is porous. Ethnic ties run across the boundary. Communities on both sides share kinship, language, culture, and clan connections. In normal times, this social closeness may serve as a bridge. In times of conflict, it becomes a source of suspicion. Manipur has already



suffered from ethnic violence, displacement, mistrust, and competing claims over land, citizenship, and indigenous identity. In such a situation, documentation is not a technical matter. It is a political and social question. An Aadhaar card, a voter identity card, a Scheduled Tribe certificate, or a land-related document can alter access to rights, welfare, political representation, and public resources. This is why allegations of illegal Myanmar nationals obtaining Indian documents in Manipur require serious investigation. If a foreign national enters India illegally and later obtains Aadhaar, gets listed in the electoral roll, secures local certificates, or accesses Scheduled Tribe benefits, the issue is not merely illegal migration. It becomes a question of fraud against the state and injustice to genuine citizens. The Scheduled Tribe framework is meant to protect recognised indigenous communities of India. It

cannot become a route through which doubtful citizenship is normalised. The category "Any Kuki Tribes" has long been politically sensitive in Manipur because of questions over identity, classification, and cross-border ethnic overlap. Any misuse of this category by non-citizens would deepen public resentment and weaken trust in constitutional safeguards.

This is the background against which the contrast with Maung Henry becomes powerful. He is not hiding behind forged citizenship. He is not entering the electoral system. He is not asking for the benefits of an Indian Scheduled Tribe. He is asking to be treated as what he is: a refugee seeking education.

The contrast also recalls earlier controversies in Manipur. In May 2021, after the death of 42-year-old Dr Nehginpao Kipgen at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, the United Naga Council questioned his citizenship

and the "legal ground" for the burial of his body in Manipur's Kangpokpi district. Dr Kipgen, who headed the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at O.P. Jindal University, was described by the UNC as not "indigenous" to Manipur, and the Council asked whether he had acquired Indian citizenship under due procedure. Kuki organisations disputed such claims. The point here is not to declare the allegation proved. The point is that the controversy exposed the depth of anxiety in Manipur over citizenship, indigeneity, and legal belonging.

That anxiety has only grown. Many in Manipur believe that doubtful citizens have managed to secure documents and benefits while genuine refugees who remain transparent face restrictions. Whether every allegation is correct or not, the perception itself has become politically explosive. The state cannot allow such questions to remain unresolved.

# Not Just Jets, China Is Developing A '5-Piece' Carrier Set, And India Should Worry

In June 2026, imagery from China showed a carrier-configured J-35 jet bearing the serial number 350030. It confirms that at least 30 airframes of this new naval stealth fighter have left the defence manufacturer Shenyang Aircraft Corporation (SAC)'s production lines. The news of the industrial architecture underpinning this capacity emerged in August 2023, when a company notice from SAC announced its ambitions to invest a whopping USD 1.2 billion in a new aeronautical complex, likely the size of six football fields - roughly 370,000 square metres - with its own flight-test runway. With such a complex and massive new warplane production capability in place, Beijing gets to experiment with what its officials are now referring to as the new frontier of sea-based naval power: a 'carrier five-piece set' involving a stealth carrier fighter jet, a carrier-based fixed wing early warning aircraft, a carrier-based fixed wing electronic warfare aircraft, a multirole catapult-launched carrier-based fighter jet, and a carrier-based anti-submarine warfare helicopter.

As China's Defence Ministry spokesperson Jiang Bin framed it, the induction of this five-part combination completes a Chinese carrier strike group's system-of-strikes combat capability. Of the PLA Navy's three carriers - Liaoning, Shandong and Fujian - only the Fujian, commissioned in late 2025 with three electromagnetic catapults (CATOBAR) proven at sea, can operate the full set as designed. CATOBAR enables the

carrier to have more airpower by allowing electromagnetically powered, catapult-assisted take-off for heavyweight aircraft on a short deck - a much better alternative than both steam-powered catapults and ski-jump ramp-based take-off (STOBAR) that relies on the aircraft's own engine. Till such a time, the matter of concern is not so much the J-35's active deployment, but the exports of its widely-produced variants, especially to Pakistan.

### Why China Went For A 5/5

Understood piece by piece, the set is hugely inspired by a US carrier's air power wing. The J-35 is pitched as the competitor to the F-35C in terms of roles and capabilities, though the merits remain debatable. The J-15T heavy fighter, with its payload and combat radius built for a saturation attack, is the answer to the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. The KJ-600 - China's first fixed-wing carrier AEW aircraft, nicknamed the "air-sea command centre" in state media for its added warning time and interception efficiency - is framed as a counterpart to the E-2D Hawkeye. The J-15DT/DH electronic attack variants track the EA-18G Growler. The Z-20F, replacing the Z-18F for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations, has been acknowledged by the Pentagon itself in its 2024 'China Military Power Report' to be similar to the US Navy's SH-60 family, and a "significant ASW improvement". These aircraft have become popular since they flew in formation at the September 3 military parade last year, even as new naval power elements such as the GJ-21 "Sharp



Sword" Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) have subsequently joined the team.

All of these elements of sea-based aerial power are manufactured by industry groups and complexes, which are all subsidies of one massive defence State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) - the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). It is the entity Beijing relies on to build modernised carrier combat power, even as various other AVIC-affiliated manufacturers help integrate capabilities such as sensing, jamming, striking and screening into a single system operating from a deck. Completing the set is thus a statement about what kind of navy China intends to field - one built to fight the way American carrier aviation fights, from catapults, with stealth, and at range. Not surprisingly, many of AVIC's subsidies are featured on the US's 1260H List, which restricts operations of "Chinese Military

Companies," impacting AVIC's international standing across markets. But, not with Pakistan. China is now the only state serially producing two distinct stealth fighter families simultaneously, with some estimates projecting that advanced-fighter output across all jet programmes could reach 300-400 aircraft annually by 2027. At the same time, the market is refining itself for China to leverage. Pakistan, reportedly seeking the J-35AE and a package including KJ-500 AEW&C aircraft and HQ-19 air defences, is potentially the first foreign operator of a Chinese fifth-generation fighter. The five-piece set is thus a defence-industrial story as much as an indigenous military-power story. The proficiency of China's air wing is yet to be tested. Not to mention, the US Navy's advantage was never just the CATOBAR capability but over 70 years of continuous catapult operations. Parades are not nearly enough to replace or compress the results

of actual operationalisation, which are derived from deck-based operations by aircraft at sea, as well as their sorties, and the creation of a pool of both first-tour and experienced naval aviators. Hence, the actual capabilities of the J-35 must be analysed based on how they fare in training drills to begin with, but also, in large-scale military exercises, or, at the extreme, high-stakes maritime conflicts, in the near future. For India, there are three takeaways. The first is that SAC's production lines may potentially soon be feeding even further into Pakistan's air force, making any skirmishes with Rawalpindi a proxy contest with many more Chinese aircraft. The second is that, given the kind of edge quantitative output grants China, we may soon see the PLA Navy operate for prolonged periods in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) - to the extent that quantity supplements blue water capabilities.



# 175 Students Honoured with Shining Stars Awards

**Vijayawada, July 20:**

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the State Government is encouraging meritorious students by honouring their academic excellence through the Shining Stars Awards. At a programme held at Maris Stella College Auditorium on Monday, 135 Class 10 toppers and 40 Intermediate toppers were honoured with ₹20,000 cash awards, medals and certificates. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector urged the students to make the most of the encouragement and strive for greater achievements in the future. MLA Gadde Ramamohan and other public representatives also congratulated the awardees and called upon them to pursue their goals with dedication and contribute to the development of the nation.



# Speed Up SIR-2026 Voter List Revision: Collector

**Paderu, July 20:** Alluri Sitharama Raju District Collector and District Election Officer Nishanthi T. directed officials to speed up the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls and complete the process within the prescribed schedule. She said the house-to-house survey and polling station rationalisation must be completed by July 24. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 31, claims and objections will be accepted till August 30, and the final electoral roll will be published on October 3. The Collector expressed concern over pending work, including the mapping of 4,99,752 enumeration forms and correction of 11,933 technical and logical errors in the voter list. She directed officials to complete all pending tasks within two days and warned of strict action against those showing negligence or causing delays.



# Prompt Justice to Victims: Prakasam SP V. Harshavardhan Raju



**Ongole, July 20:**

Prakasam District Superintendent of Police V. Harshavardhan Raju directed police officials to take prompt steps to ensure justice for victims. As part of the 'Public Grievance Redressal (Meekosam)' programme held at the District Police Office on Monday, the SP personally interacted with complainants from various parts of the district and heard their grievances. He assured them that their complaints would be thoroughly examined and justice provided as per law. A total of 90 complaints were received during the programme. The SP directed the concerned police station officials to conduct field-level inquiries, take appropriate action and submit action-taken reports.

# Transparent Fertiliser Distribution Ensured: Collector



**Vijayawada, July 20:** District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said foolproof arrangements had been made to ensure transparent distribution of quality fertilisers to farmers as per their crop acreage. During an inspection of the PACS fertiliser supply centre at Vissannapeta on Monday, the Collector reviewed distribution records and said modern technology was being used to prevent diversion and irregularities. He urged farmers to make use of the AP agricultural information management system app and contact local agriculture officials for assistance. The Collector also advised farmers to take up horticultural crops, short-duration paddy varieties and intercropping in view of weather conditions, and inspected a natural farming field.

# Six-Day PCB Design and Fabrication Workshop Begins at Vignan

**Visakhapatnam, July 20:** A six-day workshop on PCB Design and Fabrication was inaugurated at Vignan Institute of Information Technology on Monday. Organised by the Electronics and Computer Engineering Department in association with Sarvajna Innovation Pvt. Ltd. and IEEE student organisations, the workshop will be held from July 20 to 25. It aims to provide students with industry-oriented skills in PCB design, fabrication, soldering techniques and modern software tools. Sarvajna Innovation founder and Managing Director Gana Rupesh Kotha, who attended as chief guest, urged students to develop technical skills in line with industry requirements. College principal Dr. J. Sudhakar, Rector Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao and department head Dr. H. Devanna were present.



# Determination is the Foundation of Great Success: Collector P. Rajababu

**Ongole, July 20:** District Collector P. Rajababu said that strong determination is the foundation for achieving remarkable success. He was speaking at the grand 'Shining Stars' awards ceremony held at the GGH Auditorium in Ongole on Monday. Students who excelled in the 2025-26 Class 10 and Intermediate Public Examinations were honoured with ₹20,000 cash incentives, medals and certificates. A total of 191 Class 10 students were selected for the awards, while meritorious Intermediate students were also felicitated. The Collector urged students to make the best use of the opportunities provided by the State Government and

strive for greater achievements. MLA Damacharla Janardhan Rao called upon teachers and students to work



towards securing the top position for Prakasam district in the State in Class 10 results. MLC Kancherla Srikanth, MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar, State Maritime Board Chairman Damacharla Satyanarayana, State Mala Corporation Chairman P. Vijay Kumar and other officials participated in the programme.

# Students Must Play a Key Role in Nation's Development: Minister

**Bapatla, July 20:** State Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations and Bapatla District In-charge Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said that students should play a crucial role in the development of the nation. At a programme held in Bapatla on Monday, four girl students of Pandillapalli ZP High School who excelled in the March 2026 Class 10 examinations were honoured with 'Shining Star' awards.

The awardees were presented with ₹20,000 cash prizes, gold medals and certificates of appreciation. Bapatla MLA Vegesna Narendra Varma Raju, District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar and District Education Officer Srinivas Singh participated in the programme.



# 159 Petitions Received at Grievance Meet



**Rampachodavaram, July 20:** Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that public grievances from remote villages would be examined and resolved promptly wherever possible, while other issues would be referred to the concerned departments for appropriate action. At a grievance redressal programme and Revenue Clinic held at the ITDA meeting hall on Monday, a total of 159 peti-

tions were received at the grievance forum and 20 at the Revenue Clinic.

The petitions included demands for ANMs at tribal residential schools, an RSK centre for paddy procurement, improved facilities at a tribal welfare hostel, drainage works and house sites for poor families. Senior district officials participated in the programme.

# Tribal Maha Garjana Held in Rampachodavaram



**Rampachodavaram, July 20:** Thousands of tribal people participated in the Adivasi Maha Garjana organised by the Adivasi Organisations Joint Forum in Rampachodavaram on Monday, demanding protection of tribal rights and laws. The protesters demanded restoration of GO No. 3, strict implementation of the 1/70 Act, a special DSC for 100 per cent tribal recruitment in Agency areas, settlement of land and Polavaram displaced persons' issues, and distribution of

land titles under the Forest Rights Act. Addressing the gathering, tribal leaders said government restrictions and arrests could not suppress their movements.

They urged the Chief Minister to make a clear statement on tribal demands during his proposed visit to Rampachodavaram on July 24. The leaders warned of intensified protests across the Agency if the government failed to respond to their demands.

# Action Against Officials Neglecting Public Grievances: Collector

**Vijayawada, July 20:** District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha warned that strict action would be taken against officials who show negligence in resolving public grievances. During the PGRS programme held at the District Collector's Office on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, received petitions from the public and reviewed pending and resolved complaints with officials. He directed officials to provide permanent solutions and ensure complete satisfaction of complainants. The Collector said 251 petitions were received during Monday's PGRS programme. He also stated that QR code-based feedback would be introduced at PGRS centres and help desks to improve transparency, accountability and the quality of public services.



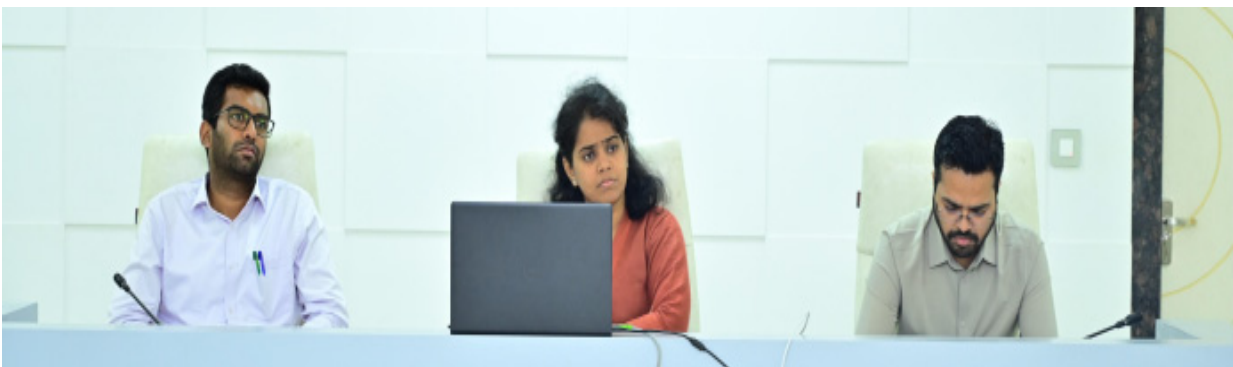


## Public Satisfaction is the Measure of Government Performance: Collector

**Rampachodavaram, July 20:** Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that public satisfaction is the key measure of the performance of government departments. Reviewing departmental performance ahead of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proposed district visit, the Collector directed officials to submit scientific analyses and action plans for areas showing poor performance. He instructed departments to thoroughly analyse IVRS feedback from the public and improve the quality of services. Officials and field-level staff from departments with low performance have been directed to attend the review on July 24 and explain the reasons for the shortfall and the corrective action plan.



## Steps Underway for Eco-Friendly Godavari Pushkarams



**Rajamahendravaram, July 20:** District Collector Keerthi Chekuri said all necessary measures were being taken to conduct the 2027 Godavari Pushkarams in an environmentally friendly manner. Participating in a State-level Environment Protection Committee video conference on Monday, the Collector explained the district's action plan to prevent industrial effluents, sewage and solid waste from

polluting the Godavari. Industries have been directed to ensure 100% treatment of their discharges. She said proposals had been made for sewage treatment facilities, soak pits and a dedicated channel for the permanent diversion of polluted water. Continuous water-quality monitoring would be carried out at all ghats, which would also be maintained as plastic-free zones during the Pushkarams.

## 'Shining Stars-2026' Awards Presented in Anakapalli

**Anakapalli, July 20:** Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu presented the prestigious 'Shining Stars-2026' awards to meritorious students at a programme held in Anakapalli on Monday. A total of 154 Class 10 students and 34 Intermediate students from across Anakapalli district were selected for the awards. Each awardee received ₹20,000 cash, a medal and a certificate of appreciation. The Speaker congratulated the students and appreciated the performance of government school students from the Narsipatnam constituency. He said the coalition government was giving priority to improving education and infrastructure in government schools. District In-charge Minister Kollu Ravindra, Anakapalli MLA Konathala Ramakrishna and District Collector Vijayakrishnan were among those present.



## Collector Inspects EVM Warehouse

**Ongole, July 20:** Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu inspected the EVM warehouse at Bhagyanagar in Ongole on Monday as part of the monthly inspection. He checked the locks and seals on the warehouse shutters and expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements. DRO P.V. Ramana, Election Section Superintendent Srinivasa Rao and other officials accompanied him.



## 39 Complaints Received at District Police PGRS

**Rajamahendravaram, July 20:** East Godavari District Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore conducted the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme at the District Police Office on Monday. The SP received complaints from people across the district, listened to their grievances and spoke directly with the concerned police station officials over the phone. He directed them to resolve the issues within the legal framework and ensure speedy justice. A total of 39 complaints were received, relating to civil and family disputes, cheating, assaults and other issues.



## Char Dham Yatra Suspended Temporarily As Heavy Rain Triggers Landslides In Uttarakhand

**Dehradun:** The Uttarakhand government suspended the Char Dham Yatra until further orders as incessant rainfall, landslides and adverse weather conditions continued to disrupt the pilgrimage routes across the hill state. The decision came after the India Meteorological Department issued Red and Orange alerts for several districts, prompting the administration to put pilgrim safety above all other considerations. Garhwal Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey directed district magistrates and officials along the Yatra route to ensure that pilgrims already travelling are shifted to safe locations. They have also



been instructed not to allow further movement until the affected roads are restored and certified safe for travel. Officials have been asked to keep pilgrims informed through regular advisories

and ensure that only verified information is circulated through the media and official communication channels. The state administration said the suspension was a preventive measure taken in

view of the prevailing weather conditions and repeated landslides on the pilgrimage routes. The Yatra will resume only after authorities are satisfied that travel conditions have returned to normal.

## 'Maintain Peace, Exercise Restraint': Delhi Police Urges Calm As 'Chalo Sansad' Protest Turns Violent

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police appealed to protesters participating in the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) "Chalo Sansad" march to maintain peace and cooperate with security personnel, amid reports of clashes that left several protesters and police personnel injured. In a video message shared on X, Additional Commissioner of Police (PRO) Rajeev Ranjan urged demonstrators to exercise restraint and follow the directions issued by police officers deployed on duty. "Delhi Police appeals to all protesters to maintain peace, exercise restraint and cooperate with the police in ensuring peace and public order. All participants are requested to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner, refrain from indulging in any unlawful or violent activities and comply with the lawful directions issued by police officers/personnel

deployed on duty," Ranjan said. He also cautioned the public against spreading or believing unverified information related to the protest. "The public is advised not to believe or circulate rumours, misinformation or unverified content through any platform. Citizens are requested to rely only on authentic sources of information and extend their co-operation to Delhi Police in maintaining peace, harmony and public order," he added.

The appeal came as tensions escalated during the CJP's "Chalo Sansad" march, with reports indicating that clashes broke out between protesters and police personnel in central Delhi. According to reports, police resorted to a lathi-charge and fired tear gas shells to disperse demonstrators after the situation turned volatile. ANI reported that several police personnel sustained



injuries during the confrontation with protesters. Protest organisers, however, alleged that police used excessive force against peaceful demonstrators, claiming that several participants, including women and children, were injured in the crackdown. Delhi Police has not

responded to these specific allegations. Security was intensified across central Delhi in view of the march, with heavy police deployment and traffic restrictions imposed around key locations, including Parliament and Jantar Mantar, to maintain law and order.

## DMK MLA G R Markendiyar Arrested For Making Defamatory, Threatening Remarks Against CM Vijay

**Chennai:** Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MLA G R Markendiyar was on Monday arrested over his alleged defamatory and threatening remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay. Police registered an FIR against Markendiyar under Sections 351(3) (aggravated criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult intended to provoke a breach of peace), and 353(2) (statements or false information promoting enmity, hatred, or ill will among groups) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), according to India Today. DMK MP Kanimozhi strongly condemned the arrest, alleging that the ruling TVK government was misusing the police to target opposition

leaders. "The act of the TVK government, which has arrested Mr. @mlavilathikulam, the MLA of Vilathikulam, in a barbaric manner, is strongly condemnable. Unable to face criticisms, the TVK government, which continues to sic the police on DMK members to suppress them, will be taught a fitting lesson through democratic means. Markendiyar must be released immediately." The action comes after a complaint alleged that he made defamatory and threatening remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay during a recent public meeting. After the arrest, DMK supporters staged a protest and raised slogans condemning the arrest. The three-time MLA was taken into custody by

police from his residence in Thoothukudi district and was later formally arrested, according to India Today. The lawmaker is being questioned at the Tuticorin SP office. The row stems from a complaint filed by a functionary of the TVK, who alleged that the MLA made derogatory and threatening remarks against the Chief Minister while addressing a public gathering in Kovilpatti on July 18. During a public meeting, Markendiyar responded to the Chief Minister's remarks about his "search for father", which were widely seen as a veiled dig at former CM and DMK chief M K Stalin after the poll defeat from the Kolathur seat. "In the Assembly, the Chief Minister says he is searching for the father. Shameless Chief Minister.



We will take care of you in the Assembly. He says he will lock the doors of the Assembly. If he locks them, his bones will be crushed. Let him lock the Assembly and see," Markendiyar allegedly said during his speech. Earlier this month, Tiruchendur DMK MLA Anitha Radhakrishnan was also arrested in connection with remarks against CM Vijay. He was later released on bail the same day.

## 'Kicked, Punched': Youth Brutally Beaten On Andheri-Virar Local Train, Hospitalised



**Mumbai:** A violent fight broke out inside a Western Railway local train. The incident occurred on an Andheri-Virar train between Borivali and Dahisar, where a young man was allegedly beaten mercilessly with kicks and punches by a group of 10-12 youths on the moving train. The video of the incident has gone viral on the internet. The visuals further show the attackers holding the train's handrails, standing on seats and assaulting the victim repeatedly.

Mumbai - A shocking video of a violent fight inside a Western Railway local train has gone viral on

social media, once again highlighting safety concerns in Mumbai's suburban rail network. The incident occurred on an Andheri-Virar train between Borivali and Dahisar. Following the severity of the assault, the injured youth has been admitted to a private hospital. However, the exact reason behind the brutal assault is still unclear. The incident has once again highlighted safety concerns in Mumbai's suburban rail network.

In another similar incident, a video shared on the internet shows two transgender women beating a man inside a moving Mumbai local train. How-

ever, the exact reason behind that altercation is also not yet clear. Mumbai - Yet another incident of brawl has come to light inside a Mumbai local train, with commuters and transgender persons allegedly involved in a free-style fight late at night. The clash occurred in a moving train, and a video of the altercation has gone viral on social media.

**Concerns over rail safety** Meanwhile, the murder of Mayank Lohar in a Nalasopara-bound local train has not yet faded from public memory yet and several such local train incidents continue to be reported across the city, rais-

ing concerns about safety and discipline inside Mumbai's crowded suburban rail network. Lohar, who was allegedly stabbed to death by 30-year-old Roshan Ramesh Suvarna. The shocking murder reportedly took place after a late-night altercation broke out between commuters over whether the train door should remain open or closed amid heavy rains and overcrowding. The accused allegedly fled the scene near Borivali station after stabbing Lohar. However, he was eventually traced and detained in the Panvel area of Navi Mumbai on June 24 and remains in custody.



## Get 10-Year Tax Waiver In Delhi By Scrapping Old Commercial Vehicle



**New Delhi:** Owners of ageing commercial vehicles in Delhi could receive a motor vehicle tax exemption for up to 10 years if they replace them with eligible electric or BS-VI vehicles under a new scheme approved by the Delhi Cabinet. The Delhi government on Monday approved the implementation of the Centre's PARIVARTAN scheme, aimed at replacing older trucks, buses and goods carriers operating across Delhi-NCR. According to the government, around 2.07 lakh truck and bus owners could be covered by the programme. The benefits offered will depend on the type of old vehicle being replaced and whether the owner purchases a new or used replacement vehicle. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said, "PARIVARTAN will be a milestone in promoting clean transport and reducing pollution in Delhi."

### What Owners Of Old Light Goods Vehicles Will Get

Owners of BS-IV or older light goods vehicles, or

LGVs, will have to scrap their vehicle and purchase a new electric LGV to receive the full set of benefits announced by the Delhi government.

#### These include:

A 100 per cent motor vehicle tax exemption for 10 years

A full waiver of the registration fee

A 5 per cent interest subvention on the vehicle loan

An 8 per cent discount from the vehicle manufacturer

Fuel vouchers or a one-time payment equivalent to their discounted value

The scheme does not allow a new diesel or CNG light goods vehicle as a replacement. All new LGVs purchased in Delhi under the programme will have to be electric.

Owners who purchase a used electric LGV instead of a new one will get a 50 per cent motor vehicle tax exemption for 10 years, a 5 per cent interest subvention and a one-time benefit linked to the value of the fuel vouchers.

#### Benefits For Medium

#### And Heavy Goods Vehicles

The scheme also covers BS-IV and older medium and heavy goods vehicles. Owners who scrap these vehicles and purchase a new BS-VI, higher-emission-standard or electric goods vehicle will be eligible for a 100 per cent motor vehicle tax exemption for 10 years and a full registration-fee waiver. They will also qualify for the 5 per cent interest subvention, 8 per cent manufacturer discount and fuel-voucher benefit. Those purchasing an eligible used BS-VI or electric goods vehicle will receive a 50 per cent motor vehicle tax exemption for 10 years, along with interest support and the one-time fuel-voucher benefit.

#### Old Buses Also Included

Owners of BS-IV and older buses will also be covered. However, replacement buses must either be BS-VI CNG or electric. The government said these owners will receive benefits similar to those offered for medium and heavy goods vehicles. Vehicles scrapped under the scheme may also re-

ceive relief from unpaid road tax and fitness penalties that have been pending for more than a year.

#### Is Scrapping Compulsory?

Not in every case. The government said eligible BS-IV vehicles may also be sold outside the National Capital Region in cities that are not covered by the National Clean Air Programme, or NCAP. This means some owners may be able to transfer their vehicles instead of sending them to a registered scrapping facility. The detailed eligibility conditions for such transfers are yet to be announced.

#### How To Apply

The scheme will operate through a dedicated digital portal being developed by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Delhi government has not yet announced when applications will open, which documents owners will need to submit or how the tax and registration benefits will be processed. Since PARIVARTAN applies across Delhi-NCR, the specific concession will be provided by the government of the state in which the commercial vehicle is registered. This means the incentives offered to a Delhi-registered vehicle may differ from those available for vehicles registered in Haryana or Uttar Pradesh. The programme is expected to operate alongside the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2026.

## A Time Bomb": Residents Fear Ghazipur-Like Landfill In Faridabad

"What was once a green cover in the Charmwood Village in Faridabad's Sector 39 has now turned into a looming environmental and public health crisis. For the past couple of years, residents of surrounding residential buildings have quickly watched a piece of land turn into a huge landfill. They say that this is not the view they negotiated for, but have to live with every day. Residents say that the land where the dump is being created is owned by the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) and was originally designated as a municipal buffer zone opposite the Surajkund Mela ground and transformed into an open dumping site. NDTV visited the site in Charmwood village which is right adjacent to dozens of residential houses. From construction debris to household waste, plastic trash and human waste now cover the area. A piece of land that residents thought would turn into a public park now threatens their survival as many of them gasp for air, battle illness, foul odour, and contaminated water. The biggest fear that clouds the minds of the citizens is whether this would mark the inauguration of Faridabad's version of a Ghazipur landfill.

### "This Is A Time Bomb, Not Just Garbage Dump"

The constant stench of the dump makes it hard for the citizens to forget that they have a garbage dump near them. Dr Mahendra Kumar Gupta, president of RWA Woodbury Tower and convener of Charmwood Village RWAs, reflects on the battle the residents have been fighting. "We have been facing this since 2023, but it has gotten too much now. Round the clock, we are facing lung problems, inhaling the toxic air, bad smell. About 20,000 people in the area are facing the problem." 79-year-old Dr Gupta argues that people around



his age are significantly impacted. "Most of the people in this area are senior citizens. They have stopped walking because of impure air. Breathing in such poor air weakens the metabolism of the body." Resident Pankaj Mathur terms the issue as an administrative failure: "This garbage dump is just the beginning. It is a time bomb, not just a garbage dump. We didn't ask for this life. It's coming to us as a gift from the administration. And the administration has to wake up. We paid so much to live here, but this is not the price we wanted to pay for living here." The proximity to homes means basic daily comforts have disappeared. Bhairav Hazarika and Ranjna Bakaya Hazarika, a couple, stand on the balcony of their house which overlooks the landfill. Ranjna describes how the stench dominates their everyday life. "It is difficult for us to open the balcony and sit over here. During Surajkund Mela, which takes place in February, they clear it entirely, once the Mela is over, the dumping happens again." Bhairav Hazarika highlights the hypocrisy of dumping waste in an eco-sensitive belt, pointing out that the community's most vulnerable are paying the highest price. "In Surajkund and the Aravalli, which are eco-sensitive zones, dumping garbage is definitely not the order of the day. And

the proximity to the residential area is such that it violates guidelines." The health consequences are already manifesting in surrounding households. Local resident Salil Malhotra notes that the contamination is taking a direct toll on community wellbeing. "We are getting contaminated water. This is a major health hazard for all the citizens staying out here. We have seen umpteen number of cases of water contamination problems and gastric problems, and people being hospitalized recently." The residents also reflect on the sense of psychological distress the dump creates. They argue that waking up at the sight of a dump is not what they paid for or suits their mind well. Yet, they are forced to live with this reality.

### The Ecological Toll: How Unchecked Dumps Pollute

The civic crisis unfolding in Faridabad is a part of a broader systemic environmental hazard typical of unmanaged landfills. There are many ways in which such a crisis contributes to the environment:

#### Groundwater Contamination

One of the key pathways is groundwater contamination. Rainwater percolates through toxic waste, generating leachate - a toxic liquid containing pathogens and dissolved pollutants. This toxic runoff then seeps into underground aquifers, contaminating drinking

water sources and posing serious risks of gastrointestinal and other health problems.

### Severe Air and Atmospheric Pollution

Decomposing waste releases toxic and foul-smelling gases, like methane and hydrogen sulphide. Beyond causing persistent nausea and headaches, methane is highly combustible and acts as a potent greenhouse gas.

### Soil Degradation

Toxins and non-biodegradable microplastics seep into topsoil, destroying beneficial soil microbes and killing local vegetation which earlier served as a natural pollution shield.

### The Shadow of Ghazipur: A Regional Warning

The situation in Faridabad becomes even more frightening when viewed in context of the wider situation in the National Capital Region (NCR). Situated just 25 to 30 kilometres south of East Delhi's Ghazipur landfill, the site in Surajkund appears to be following an eerily similar trajectory. Ghazipur too did not become a massive heap, a toxic mountain overnight, it started as an unmanaged neighbourhood dumping spot. Without immediate action, cleaning up of accumulated waste and strict enforcement from the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad, this eco-sensitive pocket in the Aravalli risks repeating the same tragic cycle.

## 60,000 People Duped Of Rs 100 Crore In Job Scam, 6 Arrested In UP



**Kanpur:** The Kanpur Police on Monday claimed to have busted an inter-state multi-level marketing (MLM) racket that allegedly duped more than 60,000 people of nearly Rs 100 crore with fake job offers and selling unregistered Ayurvedic products. The police have also arrested six people. A joint team of the Cyber Cell, Crime Branch and Hanumant Vihar police arrested six alleged members of the syndicate during a raid at Mangalam garden on Arra Road in Barra, police said. The accused have been identified as Ravindra Yadav, Kamlesh Kumar and Mantosh Paswan, all from Bihar; Rohit Shaw from West Bengal; Mangal Shakya from Madhya Pradesh; and Raju Kumar from Deoria in Uttar Pradesh. However, the alleged kingpins, including the company's two managing directors, are still absconding. Raghubir Lal, Commissioner of Police, told PTI that the accused operated under the names Win Maker Ayurveda and Win Maker Wellness Pvt Ltd, targeting unemployed youth in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and several other states with promises of well-paying jobs and quick financial success. "The job seekers were invited to seminars at hotels and offered salaries of Rs

25,000 to Rs 50,000 a month. Instead, they were persuaded to buy unregistered Ayurvedic medicine kits and pay Rs 12,000 to Rs 30,000 to join the network," Lal added. According to the police, recruits were then trained to enrol more people, creating a pyramid chain. To lend credibility to the scheme, the organisers allegedly staged promotional events featuring fake success stories, award cer-

emonies and promises of motorcycles and rapid promotions. Around 2,000 people in Kanpur alone had fallen victim to the fraud, while more than 60 thousand people across several states were cheated, Lal told PTI. Additional DCP (Operations) Sumit Sudhakar Ramteke said the company was registered in Noida and Delhi's Lajpat Nagar and had been operating since 2021. The alleged master-

minds, Inamul Haq and Vijay Kushwaha, both from Bihar, are on the run, he added. Ramteke said another key accused, Manish Sinha, had been arrested in a similar fraud case registered in Muzaffarpur in 2024. The police said the racket had set up five centres in UP, including Kanpur, Jhansi, Gorakhpur and Basti, besides several others in Bihar and other states, where recruits were trained to expand the network. Six Android mobile phones, digital records, WhatsApp chats, audio clips and other electronic evidence were seized during the operation. Investigators are analysing the material to identify more victims and trace the money trail. A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act. Efforts are underway to freeze the accused's bank accounts and arrest the remaining members of the syndicate, the police said.

## Class 12 Student Shot Dead On Way To School In Bihar's Samastipur

**Samastipur:** A Class 12 student was shot dead on the way to school in Bihar's Samastipur, a day after she received a threat. The incident took place in the village of Kaijiya in the state. The police have recovered four bullets from the crime spot. The police said bike-borne criminals shot dead Umesh Thakur's daughter, Sonam Kumari. She was a student of Kasturba Vidyalaya, Pusa Road. The incident took place on Monday morning while she was walking to her school. The murder sparked a spontaneous protest by her family members and villagers. The police reached the spot and started an investigation, and also controlled



the spiralling situation. The family has alleged that a young man from the village shot and killed the student. The victim's mother, Sangeeta Devi, stated that her daughter had been in contact with a young man from the village, and he shot and killed her. Devi said that a

day before her murder, the accused had asked to marry her. Superintendent of Police Arvind Pratap Singh and Sadar SDPO-1 and ASP Sanjay Kumar Pandey also arrived at Sadar Hospital and questioned the police. The accused will be arrested soon, said Pandey.

## Tear-Gassing, Lathicharging Students Not India's Way": Rahul Gandhi On CJP March

"Underscoring that the protesting students in the national capital are 'demanding their rights', Rahul Gandhi disagreed with the way the protest was handled by the Centre, saying 'tear-gassing and lathicharging' them is neither 'democratic' nor 'India's way'. The Delhi Police fired tear gas and baton-charged protesters on Monday as they tried to march on parliament to demand the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over irregularities in major examinations, including question paper leaks and technical glitches. "There's absolutely nothing wrong in what they (youth) are doing and it is disgusting what the government is doing, what the police are doing. This is absolutely no way to behave, tear-gassing students, lathicharging students is not democratic, is not India's way and it's not the way it should be done," Rahul Gandhi, late in the evening, said in a video message labelling PM Modi as "the most anti-youth prime minister". Along with his message, the Leader of Opposition also posted a video depicting the alleged police crackdown and the students' protest. "Boys and girls who are



walking the streets of Delhi are not criminals, they are demanding their rights. Their rights are to have an education system that respects them, to have an education system that's fair, to have an education system that's working," Gandhi said, pointing out that this country "has a majority of young people". The protest comes after activist Sonam Wangchuk was forcibly taken to hospital Saturday, bringing an abrupt end to his 21-day hunger strike in support of youths and the satirical Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement. The CJP has won millions of followers on social media since its launch in May, tapping into widespread anger over the country's education system and unemployment. "Is this a war zone? Why

is the police resorting to tear gas assault on peaceful protesters?" CJP said in a post on X. The internet was cut in parts of central New Delhi, with police saying they had not given their permission for the protest. "They have legitimate demands, the PM should accept these demands and do something about it. Everybody is sick and tired of the way our education system is running, everybody is sick and tired of how the RSS has captured our education system and how all our institutions are being run by one organisation. This is a natural response that young people are raising and it should be respected," Rahul Gandhi said. The CJP said two of its leaders met Union Minister JP Nadda and submitted a letter spell-

ing out their demands after the government reached out to them in the morning. The Minister confirmed the development, saying the meeting was held in a "cordial atmosphere" but said the proposal came from the protesters. "This morning, for the first time, a proposal came from the protesters to hold talks with the government, and our discussions have been ongoing since 11:50 am. The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere. An initial verbal discussion was held in detail with their delegation, and they submitted a written petition to me around 4 PM. I have requested all the protesters to end their sit-in and assist the administration in restoring normalcy," Nadda posted on X.



# 'Waiting For Their Arrival': Iran's Big Warning Against US Ground Invasion



**Tehran:**US President Donald Trump's renewed threats of broader escalation, Tehran has warned Washington of "consequences of any adventure" to seize Kharg Island, a crucial oil depot. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmacil Baghaei warned that there are people in Iran who are "counting down the minutes to welcome" US forces in any ground invasion. "They will face the repercussions. There are numerous people in those very regions who are eagerly awaiting their ar-

rival," he said during a media address. Positioned 55 kilometers off the coast of Iran in Bushehr province, Kharg is the heart of Iran's oil industry. Kharg, which handles 90 per cent of Iran's oil exports, lies close to the mainland with deep waters that allow even the largest crude tankers to dock and load. Baghaei also reiterated Tehran's position on the interim deal signed with the United States, maintaining that the document features absolute clarity. He emphasised that "there is no ambiguity" within the

framework of the agreement. Providing details on the structure of the accord, Baghaei stated, "The text of the memorandum of understanding is a short text and has 14 clauses." He further re-established Tehran's geopolitical stance regarding the strategic maritime trade route, adding, "We had said from the very beginning that the responsibility for the future management of the Strait of Hormuz lies with Iran, and this issue will be pursued in consultation with Oman and through dialogue with re-

gional countries." Warning Washington against reneging on its diplomatic commitments, the spokesperson stressed, "The text is completely clear, and there is no excuse for America to break the treaty."

**Trump's Threats**

US President Trump has repeatedly mused about ramping up American efforts, including potentially attempting to seize Kharg Island. According to a recent report by The Wall Street Journal, the US leader is considering expanding American military operations against Iran, with options ranging from intensified airstrikes to possible ground operations targeting key Iranian locations, including the seizure of Kharg Island and strikes on the heavily fortified Pickaxe Mountain complex, a site believed to be linked to Iran's nuclear programme. If the US does seize Kharg Island, its military would gain military control over a strategically important location for Iran's oil exports, which could eventually put pressure on Tehran's

economy. However, any such move will also make American forces vulnerable to attacks from Iranian missiles and drones.

**Could US Seize Kharg?**

Talking to Al Jazeera, Andreas Krieg, associate professor in security studies at King's College London, noted that there is a "narrow tactical sense" that the US has the military capability to grab Iranian islands. "With enough air, naval, and amphibious power – and a willingness to absorb the escalation that would follow – the US could seize a small Iranian island," he said. America is estimated to have around 50,000 soldiers stationed across the Middle East, including personnel at large and permanent bases and smaller forward sites. The experts believe the seizure and the occupation of the island could come with a cost for the US. "Temporarily capturing an island is very different from holding it, supplying it and deriving strategic benefit from it," Krieg said.

# Pakistan Turns To Terror Playbook Amid Taliban Troubles, Crisis In PoK



From insurgency in Balochistan and uprising in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to relentless attacks by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Islamabad is battling security threats on multiple fronts. And to deal with the brewing crisis, the security apparatus under Defence Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, seems to have turned to its old playbook of cultivating terror proxies, deploying them selectively, and then performing just enough counterterrorism theatre to retain international legitimacy. Recent reports have suggested that Islamabad is extending patronage to Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), also known as ISIS-K or Daesh Khorasan, to tackle Taliban and Baloch rebels. And evidence of this was seen on June 30, with reports claiming cross-border activity between Afghanistan and Pakistan, centred on the alleged hideouts of the ISKP. "Such incidents have occurred repeatedly in recent years as Pakistan has created a plan to counter the Taliban through the other terror proxies in the region," according to the report in Tanzania-based The Citizen.

**Pak's Solution To Security Concerns**

Over the past year, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has launched over a thousand attacks in Pakistan, killing hundreds of Pakistani security personnel across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. All efforts of

mediation by Qatar, Turkey, and China have borne no fruit so far. At the same time, Baloch rebels have stepped up attacks against security forces and major infrastructure projects in Balochistan, including the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Per The Citizen report, Beijing has shared its concerns about the vulnerability of their personnel and projects at the highest levels in Pakistan, putting Army Chief Munir under serious pressure to deliver results. "His answer has been a "hard state" policy of coercion in both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, which has further alienated Pashtun and Baloch populations and deepened the crisis rather than resolving it. Facing these converging pressures, the Pakistan security establishment resorted to the old playbook by ignoring legitimate political grievances and counterbalancing through new ties with international terrorist outfits like the Islamic State," the report said.

**Wave Of Unrest In PoK**

Meanwhile, the United Nations human rights agency has voiced concern over the "wave of unrest" in PoK, calling for investigations into killings of protesters as well as members of security forces. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk last week appealed for calm in PoK amid a wave of unrest ahead of regional elections at the end of the month. A statement issued in Geneva noted that dozens of people,

mostly protesters but also law enforcement personnel, have reportedly been killed since June ahead of the vote for the legislative assembly on July 27. The high commissioner called for prompt, thorough, and impartial investigations into all deaths that have occurred due to the unrest, both amongst protesters and members of security forces.

**The Pattern**

Strategic affairs expert Brahma Chellaney, in a post on X, pointed to the widening crisis of Pakistani authority in its frontier regions and noted that it reflects a common pattern -- "economically marginalised and politically disenfranchised populations demanding autonomy and accountability while the Pakistani state responds with iron-fisted security crackdowns rather than political accommodation." He noted that in PoK, protests that began over economic grievances have evolved into a broader movement for autonomy. In Balochistan, the separatist insurgency is no longer merely a security challenge and is threatening Pakistan's economic lifelines by jeopardising Chinese mining projects and investor confidence. "Together, the dual-front crisis exposes the limits of Pakistan's security-first approach and underscores a deeper structural problem: a weakening ability to govern its frontier regions through consent rather than brute force," he added.

# 'Might Be Last Call To Family': Iran's Araghchi Recalls Talks With Team Trump

**Tehran:**Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, has spoken about the constant danger faced by the Iranian negotiators during peace talks with the United States. Araghchi recounted a conversation with US President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, where he told him about how American and Israeli threats have created a hostile environment for Tehran's negotiators. "I asked Witkoff, have you ever been in a meeting where at any moment you think the whole meeting might be bombed? Have you ever been on the phone while you're talking? You might, as they say, explode or be destroyed. Have you ever, for example, while checking in on your family over the phone, thought to yourself this might be the last time?" the Iranian foreign minister, who is also one of the top negotiators in the Islamic regime, recalled during an interview with Mehr News Agency.

**On Iran's Defiance**

Araghchi said that despite the constant threats, Tehran refused to back

down. "In response to the illegal and unreasonable demand for zero enrichment, we resisted and stood firm. When they saw that they couldn't achieve what they wanted through negotiations, they started the war," he said, in an interview also aired by RT news. "You have to talk. You can't threaten us, and you can't bribe us."The Iranian minister noted that the US first established contact with Tehran for nuclear negotiations last year and has since then continued communicating intermittently. He claimed Tehran's steadfastness at the negotiating table forced the US and Israel to choose the harder path. "They were defeated in the 12-day war," he said, adding Iran wasn't scared of US threats.

**'Iran Is Not Venezuela'**

Araghchi also rejected Washington's claims that Iran could be forced into submission through military pressure. Drawing comparisons with Venezuela, where the US forced regime change with the capture of President Nicolas Maduro during a military operation in January, he stressed that



Tehran doesn't have a single power system and removal of one leader won't force the collapse of the Islamic republic. "This isn't Venezuela where you take one person and everyone else gets scared and backs down," he said, referring to Tehran's mosaic power model, which diversifies the decision-making process under the unified leadership.

**US-Iran War**

The Iranian leader's comments came at a time when the ceasefire brokered between Washington and Tehran has effectively broken down. US forces struck

Iran for a ninth consecutive day on Monday as the number of confirmed American military deaths in the renewed fighting rose to three and concerns grew over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement, US Central Command said it started "a new wave of strikes" aimed at "degrading" Iran's ability to attack commercial vessels in the strait's vital shipping lanes. The Central Command announcement gave no further details. But Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, citing its own reporters, said U.S. missiles struck several Iranian cities

early Monday. Explosions were heard in Tabriz, Chabahar, Konarak, Bandar Mahshahr, and Bandar Imam Khomeini, according to Tasnim. For its part, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced a surprise strike against "the enemy's special operations headquarters in Syria's Al-Tanf area." Iran earlier also conducted a drone attack on US military assets and equipment at Kuwait's Al-Adiri camp and Ali Al Salem Air Base, Iranian state TV reported early on Sunday. Iran had previously hit both bases as part of its attacks against U.S. assets and allies in the Gulf over the past week.

# US Identifies 2 Soldiers Killed In Iran Strike On Jordan. One Of Them Was 19



**Washington:**The US military on Monday identified two soldiers killed in action last week as part of the war with Iran. The Defence Department said in a statement that 1st Lt. Tyler James Feehan, 25, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and Pvt. Isabella Gonzales, 19, of Carrollton, Texas, were killed in Jordan, where they were supporting a US mission against the Islamic State group. It's unclear how they were killed.

On Saturday, the US Central Command said two service members were killed in Jordan while defending against Iranian ballistic missile and drone attacks.

The US military has said the total number of deaths in the war with Iran is 17. The deaths reflect the complicated reality that American soldiers don't need to be on the ground in Iran for there to be lethal risks in a conflict that involves

drones, missiles and aeroplanes. American forces are arrayed across the Middle East, making other nations targets of Iran as the fighting has escalated after a breakdown in peace talks. President Donald Trump, a Republican, has said the war is necessary to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Shortly after the war began on Feb. 28, an Iranian drone strike at a civilian port

in Kuwait killed six American soldiers. The soldiers were part of a supply and logistics unit based in Iowa who were working at a shipping container-style building that had no defences. A seventh soldier died more than a week after being wounded during a March 1 attack by Iran on the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. Later in March, six service members were killed when a KC-135 refuelling aircraft supporting US military operations against Iran crashed in Iraq. The aircraft was in "friendly" airspace when an unspecified incident involving another aircraft took place, according to US Central Command. On Monday, the US military said a Navy pilot died in a helicopter crash in the Arabian Sea. The Navy initially described the July 1 crash as an emergency landing and said there was "no indication the emergency was caused by hostile action." The remaining three sailors

aboard the helicopter were rescued. The latest US military death from the conflict was on Saturday in northern Iraq when an American service member in northern Iraq was killed during a "controlled detonation" of unexploded ordnance from a downed Iranian drone, US Central Command said Sunday. A second service member was wounded and was receiving medical treatment for a minor injury. The military said it was withholding additional information until 24 hours after families had been notified. The deaths in the war are not limited to Americans. Iranian authorities said at least 50 people have been killed and more than 500 wounded in US strikes in the past three weeks, including eight killed in a strike on a bridge Friday. People working on ships, as well as foreign workers and others in Gulf nations, Israel and Lebanon, have also perished in the conflict.

**Washington:**The Donald Trump administration in the United States is tapping into a never-before-used dormant and secretive court to deport so-called "alien terrorists" from the United States. The US Justice Department filed the first-ever petition in the Alien Terrorist Removal Court's history last week, seeking to remove an unnamed noncitizen, the first use of a 30-year-old process that could give Washington a new tool for Trump's deportation agenda. The one-page filing at the court, established in 1996, does not name the person, the alleged crime of the defendant, or the part of the anti-terrorism law the department cited, according to a report by Axios. But during the Thursday hearing, the chief judge of the five-member court, Joan Erickson, questioned the connection between the person's alleged actions and the law. She also ordered the Justice Depart-

ment to provide more information about the case this week.

**About The Court**

The five-judge court was created by US Congress in 1996 for cases where ordinary immigration proceedings could expose classified information and threaten national security. The proceedings under the court are set in two stages: one private and the other public. The law establishing the court allows the attorney general or his deputy to file under seal applications for the deportation of a suspected "alien terrorist." But their application must be backed by a statement of facts describing the reason for the designation and certifying that the person's presence is a threat to national security. If an application is granted, the court must hold a public hearing, where the Justice Department must prove that the defendant meets the law's definition of an "alien ter-

rorist." But even during the public hearing, the law does not permit the defendant or the public to see classified evidence apart from an unclassified summary provided by the DOJ.

**Who Is An Alien Terrorist**

According to law, an 'alien terrorist' is a noncitizen who carried out or is likely to carry out terrorist activity. The definition covers individuals who incite or endorse terrorism, represent or belong to certain terrorist groups, or receive military-type training from them. Under the law, prosecutors are allowed to use illegally obtained evidence, giving them power far beyond federal law. The criteria also include the spouse or child of someone deemed an "alien terrorist."

**Why It Matters**

If the Trump administration wins this case, it could set up a new precedent of removing people it links to terrorism while keeping much of its evidence secret.

# Team Trump Explores New Deportation Path In 'Alien Terrorist Removal' Court





# McCullum Ready to Work Alongside England's New Test Head Coach



**London:** England's white-ball head coach Brendon McCullum has expressed confidence in working collaboratively with the country's next Test head coach so that the side delivers good results in all three formats. McCullum bounced back remarkably from losing his Test coaching job with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)

earlier this month to guide the side to twin white-ball series wins over India. The 2-1 ODI series triumph was sealed with a thrilling 27-run win in a dramatic finale at Lord's, where England posted a record List A total at the venue of 387/3, courtesy Ben Duckett's 141 and half-centuries from Jacob Bethell and Joe Root. With the ECB expected to interview candidates for the Test coach vacancy this week, McCullum said, "Collaboratively, I think once the new coach is put in place, we'll have a good conversation around everything. I think ultimately as long as everyone wants what is right for English cricket, there will be some give and take on certain things. "That is the way it is. There will be situations where you do have to give and there

will be situations where the Test coach will give as well and fundamentally you are trying to get what is right for English cricket. I look forward to those conversations when the time comes," he said in a press conference at the conclusion of the series. McCullum also revealed he will have no involvement in picking his replacement ahead of next month's three-Test series against Pakistan. "No, I have enough on my plate trying to work out the white-ball stuff. I'll respectfully stay in my lane there. "I think we've seen some growth in the side over the last couple of series and there is some more growth to come (with the white-ball teams), which is exciting and where my focus is on. Former Australia head coach Justin Langer and former England batter Jonathan

Trott are among the front-runners for the job after Andy Flower ruled himself out of it. McCullum also confirmed he will stay in England to watch the 100-ball tournament. "I'll be around for The Hundred. It will be great to see some of England's premier white-ball tournaments. If you're white-ball coach, it's good to be around for that! I look forward to seeing not just the guys who are in this (white-ball) squad, but also some of the next talent perform under the bright lights of The Hundred tournament. "It will be good to be able to see that up close over the next four weeks or so. I'll look to try and get around to those games to see that and hopefully we see some more talent," he concluded.

# CISF to host All India Police Judo Cluster Championship in Hyderabad

**Hyderabad:** The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB), will host the eight-day 11th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship at the Gachibowli GMC Balayogi Indoor Stadium here from July 23, featuring about 1,600 athletes from 36 State Police and Central Armed Police Force organisations. Competitions will be held in judo, wushu, taekwondo, karate and pencak silat. Mrs Harpreet Kaur Sohi, Director/IG, NISA, CISF, Olympian Parupalli Kashyap and renowned rowing coach Shri Ismail Baig were present at the media briefing at Hakimpet here on Monday. Mrs Harpreet said the championship reflected CISF's commitment to promoting sporting excellence among Police and CAPF personnel and provided athletes in uniform an important platform to demonstrate their talent and progress to higher levels of competition. Kashyap and Ismail Baig highlighted the strong connection between sports and uniformed services, where discipline, resilience, teamwork and perseverance are essential attributes.



The championship assumes added significance ahead of the Asian Games 2026, where judo, wushu, taekwondo and karate are medal disciplines. The competition will therefore provide an important platform for athletes from Police and CAPFs to test their skills at a high level and strengthen the talent pool for national and international competitions. At the 2025 World Police & Fire Games, athletes representing AIPSCB won

600 medals, including 280 gold medals, securing third position among participants from 71 countries. Several accomplished international athletes, including Asian Games gold medallist Manjit Singh, Commonwealth Games medallists and Olympians, have emerged from the police sporting ecosystem. The championship's official mascot, "VIRA", is inspired by the Spotted Deer (Chital), the State Animal of

Telangana. The Government of Telangana and partner organisations are extending support for the championship. The Sports Authority of Telangana is providing competition infrastructure, while the Telangana Police Academy is supporting operational and accommodation requirements. AIPSCB has deputed technical officials, and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) will oversee anti-doping protocols.

# Hyderabad volunteer shares unforgettable FIFA World Cup experience



**Hyderabad:** At 60, he had the choice of staying relaxed at home and watching the FIFA World Cup on TV. But Hyderabad Korapati Mahender preferred to be there and grabbed the opportunity to become one of the 60,000 volunteers selected from about one million applicants for the World Cup, which ended on Sunday night with Spain emerging as the winner. Yes, it has been a remarkable journey for Mahender, who dabbled in many sports as a child in the bylanes of Panjagutta Colony in the city, to be part of the FIFA World Cup. "No doubt, it is a different kind of experience to be part of a sporting event of that magnitude. It is a way of giving back to the host country by serving the millions of fans who descended on the US to watch the World Cup," said

Mahender, a pharmaceutical consultant and resident of New Jersey since 1990. "The year-long process of becoming a volunteer for the FIFA World Cup is not easy. There are quite a few stages after you apply online. There are personality tests, language assessments and communication skill evaluations. Interestingly, I was asked which was my favourite position on a football field. When I replied 'goalkeeper', they were pleasantly surprised," said Mahender, who is a frequent visitor to his hometown, in a chat with Telangana Today. "The volunteers are given the option to choose the matches they want to work at, and I chose four, including the World Cup final. I am naturally elated by the unforgettable experience," he said, reflecting the sentiments of thousands of

volunteers at the mega event. "Frankly, it is not about getting any awards or seeking any favours. When we decide to be volunteers, it is purely for the love of the sport and the commitment to contribute in our own way to the success of the World Cup," said Mahender.

## Kushagra Ojha century rescues India U-19 after early wobble on day 1 of 2nd Youth Test vs Sri Lanka

**Colombo:** Kushagra Ojha struck a composed unbeaten century to anchor India U-19's innings and steer the visitors to a position of strength after a horror start against Sri Lanka on a truncated opening day of the second Youth Test here on Monday. India were well-placed at 253 for three in 65 overs when the umpires were forced to call off the day's play due to bad light. The left-handed Ojha remained undefeated on 103 off 177 balls at stumps after negotiating the new ball with assurance before converting his start into a well-crafted hundred, laying the foundation for a big Indian total. Skipper Yashvardhan Chauhan chipped in with a fine 78 off 89 balls, while Manal Chauhan was the other not out batter at stumps, having moved to 55 in 108 deliveries.

"For the smooth conduct of an event of this scale across all the host cities, it is the volunteers who make it happen," he added. Interestingly, most of the volunteers were not able to watch the matches, though some were allowed to briefly catch a glimpse of the action. "I was not keen to breach the norms, though I did get a chance to see the action during the final. I preferred to stick to the rules," said Mahender, who worked in the hospitality segment. "Yes, we did feel the pressure because VVIPs, including US President Donald Trump, were there. We had a really tough time because the whole event was conducted on a massive scale. But things settled down an hour before the final started," he recalled. "Definitely, nothing beats the experience of being at a FIFA World Cup final. We are already getting ready to sign up as volunteers for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics," signed off the articulate sports enthusiast.

# "You can never write a champion off": Saina Nehwal praises P.V. Sindhu's Japan Open triumph

**New Delhi:** Indian badminton great Saina Nehwal is impressed with PV Sindhu's improved attack, and said the Japan Open triumph showed the two-time Olympic medallist still has it in her to win more titles as champions can never be written off. The 31-year-old Sindhu clinched her maiden Super 750 title at the Japan Open after defeating three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in straight games in the women's singles final in Tokyo on Sunday. It was her biggest title since winning the 2019 World Championships. Her previous titles came at the 2022 Singapore Open Super 500 and the 2024 Syed Modi International Super 300. "The last 2-3 years were actually very tough. She was trying to come out of the injuries but the way she has come out of it... the Super Series win that she won yesterday after defeating three or four top players here. And quite comfortably, she has attacked very hard. Her attack has improved a lot," Saina said. "So, that shows that, obviously, there are opportunities to win. But as you age, with injuries, you have to tackle it well. So, it is stressful when you play at that level. So, I am sure she is going through a little bit of stress and pressure. "But I think after winning this, she has got her confidence back. And you can never write a champion off. She is always going to come back and do well. She has played at that level for so many years." The 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist also hoped the younger crop of players would achieve consistency. "I think a lot of youngsters who are playing well, they have to come and win. Because consistency is very important in badminton," she said on the sidelines of a Niva Bupa event. "That's why I think we are the second most loved sport. Because there is a lot of consistency. So, just the juniors have to look forward to the next championship. And doing well there is important." India will host the Badminton World Championships from August 17 to 23, marking the return of the event to the country after 17 years, and Saina said the hosts have players capable of winning medals at



home. She also hoped the tournament would be conducted smoothly. "I am very happy after so many years India is hosting the World Championships. As we see Sindhu is in great form. She won the Japan Open yesterday, played extremely well," said Saina, who won silver and bronze at the 2015 and 2017 World Championships respectively. "And Lakshya is playing extremely well. We have great players who are, I think, capable of winning it in India in front of our home crowd. And at the same time, quite a few youngsters also will be there in participation. "But I just hope that it will be one of the finest championships in the world. And I don't have any complaints about how it was in the India Open. I just want it to go smoothly and perfectly." Saina's comments come in the backdrop of the India Open Super 750 in January, which was marred by complaints over pollution and hygiene, besides incidents of pigeons and monkey sightings inside the venue. India will compete at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow from July 23 and Saina wished the contingent well, though she expressed disappointment over the exclusion of badminton and other popular sports such as hockey and shooting from this edition. "I think a lot of great memories from the Commonwealth Games. I think it's a huge opportunity for a lot of players to win a lot of medals there," said Saina, who won CWG singles gold medals in 2010 and 2018. "And this time quite a few sports which are very popular are not there. I

definitely feel bad about it. As a sports person, I can understand how the players must be feeling. But at the same time, who all are there, who have practiced really hard, I wish them all the best. "I really wish that we would have been number one in the tally. But the number of sports is less this time, so I don't know how it's going to happen. But I still want to wish all of them, that they get all the gold medals." Asked if she was considering taking up coaching, Saina said she would wait before making a decision. "I think I will wait for some time and see how it's going. I think Gopi sir himself is finding it difficult at the moment to tackle the Gen Zs and the younger generation. So, it should not be about just coaching for me. "I have played for so many years. I have to bear a lot of stress. I have to bear stress for the kids as well. So, it is another thing. Teaching is very difficult. Playing is easy. While playing you are focusing on yourself. Coaching, you have to focus on so many other people. I will wait and see. "Because at the moment, I am also with badminton, motivating a lot of youngsters, doing a lot of motivational talks. But coaching is another tough job. I will wait and see how many more champions are coming. Or I can do something extra in that," she said. Asked if she would make a comeback, Saina replied: "It will be difficult to come back once you have arthritis. You can't come back although the scoring system is good from next year."

## Ruturaj Gaikwad named West Zone captain for Duleep Trophy 2026; Shams Mulani to be vice-captain



**New Delhi:** India opener Ruturaj Gaikwad has been appointed captain of a star-studded West Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, with seasoned left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Shams Mulani named as his vice-captain. The squad was announced on Monday following a meeting between the zonal selection committee for the competition to be played from August 23 to September 10 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) grounds in Bengaluru. Last year, India's seam-bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur led West Zone, who reached semi-finals of the competition, but didn't go to final as Central Zone grabbed the first-innings lead. Now, for the upcoming competition, the captaincy baton has gone from Thakur to Gaikwad,

who also leads Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the IPL and was recently in India 'A' squad for 50-over tri-series and red-ball games against Sri Lanka 'A'. The team features two specialist wicket-keepers in Harvik Desai and Urvil Patel, ensuring strong options behind the stumps. Apart from Gaikwad, Prithvi Shaw and the prolific Khan brothers – Sarfaraz and Musheer – have been included. They are joined by Jaymeet Patel and Shivalik Sharma to complete a solid batting department. Spin bowling duties will be spearheaded by vice-captain Mulani, off-spin bowling all-rounder Tanush Kotian, and left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai. The fast-bowling department features Thakur, alongside speedsters Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh

Chaudhary, and all-rounder Atit Sheth. The selectors have also named a six-member standby list to cover any injury contingencies. The standby players include Jay Gohil, Aarya Desai, Arshin Kulkarni, Mahesh Pithiya, Vishal Jayswal and Rajvardhan Hangargekar. West Zone squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad (captain), Shams Mulani (vice-captain), Harvik Desai (wk), Urvil Patel (wk), Jaymeet Patel, Prithvi Shaw, Shivalik Sharma, Siddharth Desai, Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Atit Seth, Mukesh Chaudhary, Tanush Kotian, Shardul Thakur, and Tushar Deshpande. Reserve players: Jay Gohil, Aarya Desai, Arshin Kulkarni, Mahesh Pithiya, Vishal Jayswal, and Rajvardhan Hangargekar.



# Chennai Love Story Passes Censor Without Cuts

Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya's Chennai Love Story has successfully completed its censor formalities and has been awarded a U/A certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification. The film has reportedly received the certification without any cuts, reflecting the makers' confidence in presenting the story as intended. Members of the censor board appreciated the film's emotional narrative and described it as a refreshing romantic entertainer that appeals to family audiences. The film, produced by the successful duo SKN and Sai Rajesh under the Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers banners, is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on July 24. Directed by Ravi Namburii from a story by Sai Rajesh, the film features music composed by Melody Brahma Mani Sharma, whose songs have already struck a chord with audiences. After National Award Winning films Colour Photo & Baby, Sai Rajesh bringing this hard hitting love story. Alongside the censor report, the team is actively promoting the film across the Telugu states through city tours, media inter-

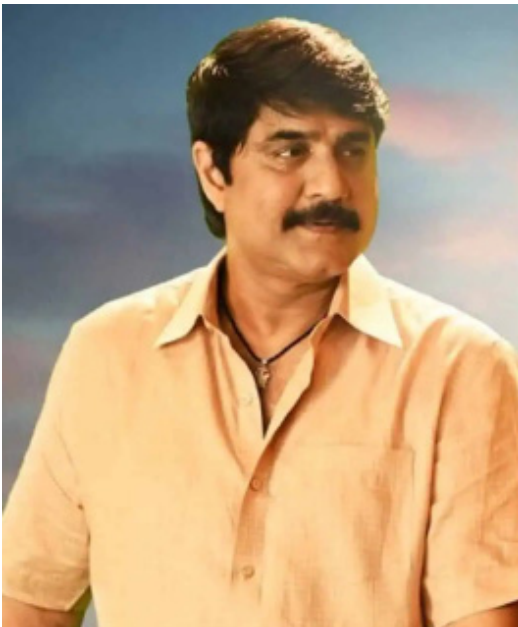


actions, and audience engagement events. The makers are leaving no stone unturned to create awareness ahead of the

release, with the entire cast and crew participating enthusiastically in the promotional campaign. Adding to the momen-

tum, the recently released trailer has received an encouraging response from movie lovers and on social media.

# Senior Heroes Shouldn't Make Films Just for the Sake of It



Jagapathi Babu and Srikanth have entertained audiences for decades with classic films and memorable performances. However, their latest solo re-



leases Vadhala and Mister Middle Class both have ended up as big flops at the box office. Srikanth's Mister Middle Class is based on the greed of

a common man and has a fantasy element woven into the story. On the other hand, Jagapathi Babu's Vadhala revolves around a duo of a

Middle aged man and a Young woman. If you look at the plots, both films had interesting concepts and offered enough scope for engaging storytelling. Even their promos grabbed decent attention. Sadly, neither film managed to make an impact and went unnoticed at the box office. The biggest issue with both projects is the weak execution. What makes the disappointment even bigger is the presence of Jagapathi Babu and Srikanth. Many feel senior actors should be more selective while choosing scripts and ensure that projects they do have novelty. Some even say that instead of signing films for money, audiences would love to see them in well-written roles that suit their age and image. Jagapathi Babu is a very popular character artist but Srikanth still continues to do these small films time and again.

# Rasha Thadani Oozes Glamour In Gold Saree

Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani, who is all set to make her Telugu debut with the action-romance drama Srinivasa Mangapuram, is currently winning hearts among her Tollywood fans with her latest set of pictures. The actress took to social media to share a stunning photoshoot, and the images have quickly gone viral among her growing fanbase in the Telugu states. In the pictures, Rasha looks absolutely resplendent in a shimmering gold metallic saree paired with a matching sequinned blouse, striking elegant poses against an ornate, vintage-tiled backdrop. Her sleek, side-swept hairstyle and minimal jewellery complete the glamorous look, further amplifying the anticipation around her Telugu debut. Srinivasa Mangapuram is directed by Ajay Bhupathi and also stars Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, nephew of superstar Mahesh Babu, in the lead role. The film is currently in its shooting stage, and updates from the sets have been keeping fans excited.



## Pic Talk: Gouri G Kishan, Cute Girl To Glam Diva

Beautiful and talented actress, Gouri G Kishan, is taking the fashion world by storm with her impeccable style and stunning looks. Currently vacationing in the picturesque Maldives, she effortlessly turns heads in a floral tube co-ord set that perfectly accentuates her curves. With a daring thigh-high slit and a tastefully showcased navel, Gouri exudes confidence and radiates undeniable sexiness. Her transformation from a cute actress to an alluring diva is truly captivating. Undoubtedly, she continues to make waves with her sartorial choices and undeniable charm.



# Arijit Singh Comes Out Of Retirement for Cult Sequel?



The makers of Awarapan 2 have given fans a major surprise. Popular singer Arijit Singh has come out of retirement to lend his voice to the film's much-awaited track, Yeh Awarapan, which is set to be released. The announcement has created huge excitement for Arijit's fans and lovers of the cult franchise. Awarapan remains one of Emraan Hashmi's most loved films, and the sequel has already generated strong buzz. The addition of Arijit Singh has taken the anticipation to a whole new level. Going back in time, Arijit Singh had announced retirement from playback singing to make his debut film as a director. Now that he has crooned for the sequel, fans are already calling the track a sure-shot hit even before its release. Many believe that Arijit's emotional voice combined with Amaal Malik's music will create wonders. Also starring Disha Patani in a key role, Awarapan 2 is one of the most talked-about Bollywood projects in recent times. One needs to see if Arijit has made exceptions for only this film or he continues to sing for other projects as well.