

Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi Detained From Protest Outside PM Modi's House



New Delhi: One of the most dramatic days in post-Independence Indian politics unfolded in New Delhi on Tuesday when Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi led a Congress protest against paper leaks and the "attack" on students to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence, only to be dragged away hours later. Seeking to pile on the pressure on the Centre a day after the Cockroach Janta Party-led march to Parliament, Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra gathered outside the Congress President's house at 10, Rajaji Marg on Tuesday afternoon and marched to the PM's residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, just over a kilometre away. In an unprecedented development, Union Minister Jitendra Singh later visited the protest site and spoke to Rahul Gandhi, but the protest was broken up hours later and Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others were detained and taken away in a bus. Rahul

Gandhi was surrounded by at least 10 police personnel as he sat on the road and refused to budge. He was eventually dragged away and was seen bleeding from his nose. Speaking to reporters after the police action, the Congress MP, who was lying on the road, declared, "Democracy in India is happening right now." Before the protesters were dispersed, sources had said Gandhi had intended to continue the sit-in overnight. He had also made an appeal for people to join him

outside the PM's residence. "An attack on students is an attack on every Indian family. PM Modi believes he can get away without answers, without consequences. He cannot. Not this time. I ask every patriotic Indian who believes our students deserve justice - join us in dharna in front of the Prime Minister's residence. The voice of India's students will not be ignored," he said in a post. After the meeting between Singh, who is the Minister of State in the PMO, and Gandhi, Congress leaders said the talks were inconclusive. "They wanted us to withdraw the protest and we did not agree because our demands were not met. We want Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign and a discussion in Parliament on the paper leaks. More MPs, more Congress workers and more common people will join our protest," said Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain. Singh later alleged Gandhi had assured him the Congress would call off the protest if the government agreed to discuss all issues related to NEET and paper leaks in Parliament, and then went back on his word.

PM Modi says strict action taken in NEET paper leak, urges Centre-state cooperation

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that strong action was taken against those involved in the NEET paper leaks so that no one plays with the future of the youth, and said states should join hands with the Centre to tackle the menace in national interest. Modi made the remarks at a meeting of the NDA MPs here, a day after thousands of students led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) took part in the 'Sansad Chalo' march against irregularities in the NEET exam and to demand Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Briefing journalists after the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, which was named 'Mangal Milan' since it is held mostly on Tuesdays, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the prime minister told the MPs that the government acted immediately after reports of the paper leak surfaced, and 13 people were arrested and sent to jail.

"At the same time, the prime minister said, to ensure that students' future

was not affected, the NEET re-examination was given priority, conducted successfully, and the results were declared without delay," Rijiju said after the hour-long meeting.

He said the prime minister also said that strict steps have been taken to prevent such paper leaks in the future. Modi told the NDA MPs that those found involved in the paper leak racket have been arrested and jailed.

The prime minister also told the ruling alliance's MPs that those guilty in paper leaks should be given the strictest possible punishment, with the support of the country's top lawyers, so that those involved in such a grave offence face exemplary action and such incidents do not recur.

"The prime minister said strong action has been taken to ensure that no one plays with the future of youth. The prime minister also said that to ensure that no future paper leaks take place, all state governments and the Centre must join hands irrespective of party. This is not a matter of party politics but matter of national interests," Rijiju said.



Modi also stressed the need to punish the guilty and collaboratively establish a foolproof system. The parliamentary affairs minister said the prime minister gave guidance to everyone present at the meeting.

He said at the outset the newly elected Rajya Sabha members, including BJP president Nitin Nabin, who was elected to the Upper House recently, was congratulated and wished success in Parliament. Rijiju said the meeting was very

productive as the prime minister spoke on several important issues. The prime minister spoke about the achievements the country has made over the past few months and also briefed the NDA MPs on the free trade agreements (FTA) signed with several countries.

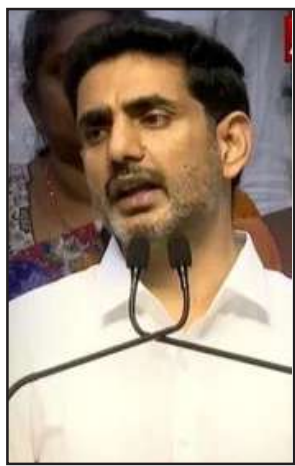
On the FTAs, Rijiju said, Modi assured the NDA members that the interests of farmers would be prioritised and emphasised that no harm would come to them.

Minister Lokesh Distributes House Ownership Pattas to 3,000 Families

From Our Staff Reporter Guntur District, July 21: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and Information Technology Nara Lokesh said that his government is committed to fulfilling the dream of home ownership for poor families. On Tuesday, under the program "Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh", house site ownership pattas were distributed in Mangalagiri. Minister Lokesh personally handed over house pattas to 3,000 beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said the distribution of house

pattas was part of the promises made during the 2024 Assembly elections. He stated that assets worth ?1,000 crore had been provided to poor families in the form of house ownership pattas. Lokesh explained that when the coalition government assumed office, the state's income was Rs.1 while expenditure stood at Rs.1.60. He said that due to developmental measures undertaken over the last two years, expenditure had been brought down to Rs.1.40. The minister emphasized that the per-

manent land ownership documents being issued would ensure that no one could take away the property rights of poor families. Lokesh underlined that the government is advancing development and welfare simultaneously, like two wheels moving together. He also recalled that after his defeat in the 2019 elections, some people even mocked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He said that determination born out of that experience is driving efforts to transform Mangalagiri into a model constituency of development. Lokesh as-



serted that he would make Mangalagiri the number one constituency in the country.

We Revived the Polavaram Project That Was Left in Doubt During the Previous Regime: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 21 : Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said that the importance of water has been recognized by leaders from N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) to N. Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking to the media on Tuesday about the achievements of the government over the past two years and the progress of Polavaram and other irrigation projects, the minister strongly criticized the YSRCP government.

He alleged that the present government inherited an economy on ventilator support on one hand and a devastated irrigation sector on the other. He said that the Irrigation Department has now prepared a proper action calendar. De-

scribing Polavaram as a boon and lifeline for the state, he stated that 72 percent of the project had already been completed during the previous TDP government. Had the TDP remained in power, he claimed, the project would have been completed by 2021-22.

The minister criticized the government that came to power in 2019, alleging that it neglected the Polavaram Project for 17 months. He said the previous administration failed to fulfill even a single promise made to Polavaram project evacuees and displaced families. He further alleged that even the funds released by the Central Government for Polavaram were diverted. According to him, reimbursement funds



related to the project were also misused by the previous government. Ramanaidu said that the ECRF Dam is a crucial component of the Polavaram Project and revealed that 31 percent of the dam work has been completed. He added that officials and workers are working round the clock to complete both the right and left connectivity com-

ponents of the project. The minister stated that the government has paid ?2,250 crore to Polavaram displaced families during the last two years alone. He asserted that the present government has successfully revived and protected a project that had become questionable during the previous five years of YSRCP rule.

CM Chandrababu Positive About Restoration of G.O. No. 3: Minister Sandhya Rani



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 21 : Andhra Pradesh Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani directed officials to conduct a meeting on July 22 to discuss and resolve issues concerning tribal communities, as per the instructions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The minister called for a collective decision keeping the future of tribal communities in mind. She stated that the Chief Minister is positive about the restoration of G.O. No. 3. According to her,

Chandrababu Naidu has a thorough understanding of all tribal issues, including the 1/70 Land Transfer Regulation Act.

Sandhya Rani said that several rounds of consultations have been held with legal experts and leaders of tribal organizations regarding the restoration of G.O. No. 3. She added that the government has gathered opinions from tribal representatives and organizations across all Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) areas. The

minister stated that the coalition government is committed to providing pensions for tribals from the age of 50, as well as improving education, healthcare, and the development of ITDAs.

She emphasized that the 1/70 Act is a fundamental right of tribal communities and that both the Central and State Governments are implementing it strictly. Sandhya Rani alleged that the previous YSRCP government had granted permissions for bauxite mining

in agency areas. She said that the present coalition government has halted permissions for bauxite mining in order to safeguard tribal interests. The minister added that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is continuously giving special attention to the welfare and future of tribal children. Appealing to people not to believe false propaganda, Sandhya Rani asserted that Chandrababu Naidu and the coalition government stand firmly with tribal communities.

Action Will Be Taken Over Tammineeni Sitaram's Alleged Land Irregularities: Minister Anagani

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 21 : Andhra Pradesh Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad stated that action will certainly be taken regarding the alleged land irregularities involving YSRCP leader and former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Tammineeni Sitaram. He also clarified that action would be taken against those who allegedly acted illegally in matters relating to land belonging to

Ashok Gajapathi Raju, the Governor of Goa. The minister warned that the government would act against all alleged irregularities that took place during the five-year tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media in Amaravati on Tuesday, Anagani criticized the YSRCP, referring to it as the "axe party," and accused it of making false allegations for political gain. The minister stated that Registration

Service Kendras (RSKs) are intended to eliminate difficulties faced by common citizens at registration offices. He emphasized that these centers are designed solely for public benefit and would not cause harm to anyone. Anagani said that document writers were consulted on the issue and that they had responded positively to the initiative. He urged people not to fall into what he described as traps being laid by certain individuals and politi-



cal parties for their own interests. The minister added that the introduction of RSKs is a new technological initiative being implemented as part of broader revenue administration reforms in Andhra Pradesh.

Sitaram is the mastermind behind the land grab, his son is the executor: MLA Kuna Ravikumar

Srikakulam, July 21: TDP MLA Kuna Ravikumar strongly criticized YSRCP leaders. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, he remarked that the YSRCP is a "party of the axe" and that its president is Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He alleged that during the YSRCP re-

gime, illegal activities and atrocities were committed from the party president down to grassroots leaders. He described the YSRCP as one of the most lawless political parties in India and said that between 2019 and 2024, the state witnessed faction-based governance.

According to him, land grabbing and abuse of power became rampant during the YSRCP administration. He further alleged that Tammineeni Sitaram, who served six terms as an MLA and also as Speaker of the Assembly, manipulated records to declare a living

person dead and illegally seize that person's property. The MLA also accused Tammineeni Sitaram of insulting the then Opposition Leader in the Assembly. He said he had already stated at that time that Sitaram was unfit for the Speaker's post. Ravikumar called the

YSRCP a party of thieves and questioned why Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was remaining silent on the allegations against Tammineeni.

He alleged that an attempt was made to grab a common man's land through forged documents.



EDITORIAL

‘Cockroaches’ That Woke Up the Sleeping Establishment

The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) has shaken the complacency of Delhi’s rulers. Despite police barricades, baton charges, and tear gas, the protesters marched fearlessly toward Parliament. Parliament Road resembled a battlefield, and the entire city of Delhi was on edge. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation closed five stations, while internet services were suspended. On the opening day of the Parliament session, the Cockroach Janata Party organized a “Chalo Parliament” march from Jantar Mantar, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET-UG paper leak controversy and calling for reforms in the education system. The rally moved forward like a tidal wave, overwhelming security forces and putting the Central Government under intense pressure. While Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held discussions inside Parliament, Union Minister J.P. Nadda met leaders spearheading the march. The protesters submitted three demands to J.P. Nadda: the immediate release of environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk from the hospital, the removal of Dharmendra Pradhan from his post for failing to prevent paper leaks, and compensation of ?1 crore each to the families of students who allegedly died by suicide due to examination irregularities. They warned that protests would continue unless these demands were fulfilled. According to CJP representatives, J.P. Nadda assured them that he would discuss the matter with the Central Government. Meanwhile, tensions remained high at Jantar Mantar. CJP founder Abhijit Deepke ended his hunger strike, and AISA student leaders who had been fasting for 23 days also called off their fast. However, the organization declared that its struggle would continue. Sonam Wangchuk also indicated his willingness to end his hunger strike under certain conditions and issued a letter from the hospital outlining three conditions. The protests received strong support from opposition parties. In the Rajya Sabha, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and in the Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, strongly condemned the police action against students. They criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of being anti-youth. Rahul Gandhi claimed that 152 examination papers had leaked during the Modi government’s tenure, affecting 75 million people. MPs from Kerala also expressed support for the movement. Thousands of students joined the demonstrations, creating significant pressure on the government. From the beginning, the Central Government allegedly dismissed the Cockroach Janata Party as insignificant. Even after the party attracted two crore followers on social media within just two days of its formation, it was underestimated. Critics labeled its supporters as “viruses,” called them the “tukde-tukde gang,” and accused foreign forces of backing them. Various attempts were made to discredit and weaken the movement. Similarly, the government paid little attention to the hunger strike of environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk. Only after he reportedly lost 10 kilograms and his health deteriorated significantly was he admitted to a hospital following directions from the Delhi High Court. Leaders from Left parties, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party (SP), and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal extended support to the fast. Several leaders visited Wangchuk’s protest site at Jantar Mantar to meet and encourage him. According to the article, the government’s approach reflected not only stubbornness but also an attempt to suppress the movement. The Cockroach Janata Party emerged as a response to the NEET paper leak issue, which had generated nationwide outrage. Young people, especially members of Generation Z, created digital platforms called the Cockroach Janata Party and the National Parasitic Front (NPF) to protest unemployment, paper leaks, and systemic corruption. These online movements evolved into collective digital protests representing the frustrations of India’s youth. Within just 48 hours of its formation, the party’s X (formerly Twitter) account reportedly gained around six million followers, demonstrating the strength of the movement. Beyond paper leaks, the party also demanded that retired Chief Justices of High Courts should not receive government appointments, that anti-defection laws should be strictly enforced, that women should receive 50% reservation in legislatures, and that licenses of allegedly illegal media organizations should be cancelled. The article argues that these demands pose a challenge to the Modi government and concludes by questioning how effectively the Cockroach Janata Party can use its growing influence in the future.

Kaveri To J-20, How China Overtook India In A 40-Year-Old Race To Build Fighter Jets

For decades, India and China appeared to be running the same race. Both aspired to build indigenous fighter aircraft. Both launched ambitious military jet engine programmes during the 1980s. Both depended heavily on Soviet and Russian technology. Four decades later, however, the finish line tells two dramatically different stories.

China today fields the fifth-generation J-20 stealth fighter in significant numbers, is preparing the carrier-capable J-35 for service, and has developed indigenous turbofan engines that are increasingly powering its frontline combat aircraft. Satellite imagery and defence assessments indicate that Beijing is producing well over a hundred J-20 fighters annually across multiple assembly lines - an industrial pace that rivals the world's largest aerospace manufacturers.

India, meanwhile, has successfully inducted the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas. Yet, the aircraft still relies on imported General Electric engines, while the indigenous Kaveri engine programme remains unfinished after nearly four decades. The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), India's own fifth-generation fighter, still awaits crucial decisions on engine development.

The contrast raises an uncomfortable but necessary question: what did China do differently?

The answer lies not in a single technological breakthrough but in political patience, industrial persistence, and strategic investment.

From Copying to Creating

s recently as the early 1990s, the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) was hardly considered a formidable force. It operated largely upgraded Soviet-era MiG-19 and MiG-21 derivatives and remained focused on territorial air defence. Compared with the United States Air Force - already flying the F-15, F-16, F/A-18, stealthy F-117, and B-2, while

preparing the F-22 - China lagged by decades.

Recognising this gap, Beijing did not search for shortcuts. Instead, it committed itself to a generational industrial strategy.

The first milestone was the Chengdu J-10, China's first genuinely indigenous fourth-generation fighter comparable to the F-16. That programme laid the foundation for far more ambitious projects. It was followed by the J-20 stealth fighter, and later, the FC-31/J-35 family, making China only the third country to develop multiple fifth-generation combat aircraft.

These aircraft are not perfect. Questions remain regarding aspects of the J-20's stealth characteristics, avionics integration, and engine performance when compared with the American F-22. Yet, perfection was never China's initial objective. Progress was.

Ironically, today's benchmark for American aerospace innovation is no longer Russia but China. Programmes such as the F-47 Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD), Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) autonomous wingmen, and the B-21 Raider are being accelerated largely because Washington recognises the pace of Chinese technological advancement.

The Engine Was Always the Real Battle

Building a fighter aircraft is difficult. Building its engine is exponentially harder. A modern military turbofan demands mastery over metallurgy, aerodynamics, precision manufacturing, computational modelling and materials science. Single-crystal turbine blades must survive temperatures exceeding 2,000 degrees Celsius. Every microscopic flaw can lead to catastrophic failure.

In 1986, India and China both embarked on indigenous fighter engine programmes. China's early efforts were disastrous. The first versions of the WS-10 engine reportedly required overhaul after roughly 30 flight hours. The PLAAF

rejected them. Newly built fighters remained parked because suitable engines simply did not exist.

Many countries would have cancelled the programme. But China doubled down. Between 2010 and 2020, Beijing invested approximately USD 42 billion under its "Two Engines" initiative, pouring unprecedented resources into superalloy metallurgy, manufacturing technologies, testing infrastructure, and specialised research institutes.

Failures were treated not as embarrassments but as engineering data.

Thousands of defects were documented, analysed, and corrected over successive iterations. Over two decades, overhaul life reportedly improved from tens of hours to approximately 3,600 hours - a remarkable transformation, even if Chinese engines still trail the world's best in certain performance parameters.

The lesson is simple: aerospace leadership cannot be purchased. It must be accumulated through failure.

India's Different Path

India faced many of the same technical challenges.

The Kaveri engine programme struggled to achieve the required 90-95 kN thrust necessary for frontline fighter operations. Advanced turbine materials, thermal coatings, high-pressure compressor technologies and BLISK (Bladed Disk) manufacturing all proved formidable obstacles.

Yet India's institutional response differed fundamentally.

Faced with urgent operational requirements, the Indian Air Force understandably prioritised combat readiness. Imported engines - initially the GE F404 and now the F414 - became the practical solution for the Tejas programme.

Operationally, this decision made sense. Strategically, however, it delayed the development of an indigenous propulsion ecosystem. India licensed production, assembled foreign engines and mastered manu-

facturing processes. And, technology transfer has a much narrower gain. Blueprints rarely reveal decades of accumulated manufacturing experience, proprietary materials science, or process engineering. True engine capability cannot simply be transferred; it must be developed.

More Than Reverse Engineering

Critics often reduce China's aerospace success to reverse engineering. Certainly, China benefited from studying imported Russian aircraft such as the Su-27, analysing Western technologies and learning aggressively from foreign systems.

But that explanation is incomplete. Reverse engineering may reveal geometry. It cannot instantly create advanced metallurgy, manufacturing tolerances, testing infrastructure or the industrial culture required to produce reliable engines in large numbers. History offers many parallels.

Japan's aviation industry before the Second World War evolved through licensed European designs before eventually producing world-class indigenous aircraft such as the Mitsubishi A6M Zero. South Korea followed similar learning curves across its fighter programme, KF-21.

China's achievement ultimately rests on something less glamorous but more decisive: decades of uninterrupted state commitment.

Institutional Reform Matters

Beijing also recognised that fragmented institutions were slowing progress. In 2016, China established the Aero Engine Corporation of China (AECC), consolidating engine research, manufacturing, and development under one organisation backed by tens of thousands of engineers and billions in state funding.

The objective was clear: build a Chinese equivalent of General Electric or Rolls-Royce.

India's aerospace ecosystem remains more dispersed across DRDO laboratories, HAL, and

limited private industry. Academia did not contribute much. While each possesses considerable expertise, integration and accountability have often been slower than the pace demanded by technological competition.

India's Window Is Open Now

The Tejas programme has created valuable aerospace capabilities. Indian private industry is increasingly entering defence manufacturing. Missile technologies have matured rapidly. Space achievements demonstrate India's engineering excellence. Take a look at the recent Vikram-1 rocket launch by Skyroot, a homegrown space startup in India.

The challenge now is to apply that same national focus to combat aviation. The AMCA cannot become another programme delayed by indecision. Tejas Mk2 requires sustained momentum. Most importantly, India must treat engine development as a national strategic mission rather than merely another defence procurement project.

The ongoing competition between France's Safran and Britain's Rolls-Royce for co-developing a 120 kN-class engine represents perhaps the most consequential aerospace decision India will make this decade. Both proposals promise far more than supplying an engine. They propose building an indigenous propulsion ecosystem encompassing design, manufacturing, testing, maintenance, repair, overhaul and future upgrades. The reported offer of complete technology transfer and intellectual property generated during development could provide India with capabilities it has pursued for decades. However, technology transfer alone will not guarantee success. The engine has to be co-developed completely, if not alone. India must invest continuously, establish dedicated testing infrastructure, nurture specialised materials research, support private industry participation and, above all, remain committed through inevitable failures.

US Attack On Chabahar, And Why It's Time India Stopped Playing By Others' Whims

The US Central Command on Friday confirmed on a post on X that "on July 16, US forces successfully destroyed the Chah Bahar Shahid Kalantari Port surveillance tower, part of a maritime surveillance network along Iran's Gulf of Oman coastline used for decades by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to track and target commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz".

The Ministry of External Affairs immediately assuaged fears about damage to India's interests at the port site. India has invested in developing the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar port. But the reignition of the conflict once again puts India's plans and ambitions under a cloud.

Ill-Fated From The Beginning

Ever since the Chabahar port project was first mooted, it had been plagued by uncertainties stemming from Western sanctions on Iran. The nuclear deal (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the 'JCPOA') between Iran on one hand and the US, the UK, France, Russia, China, Germany, and the European Union on the other, provided a brief respite. Nonetheless, India went ahead and, in 2016, signed a trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan for the port, earmarking USD 500 million for the development of the Shahid Beheshti terminal. Since 2018, the port's operations have been managed by the New Delhi-backed India Ports Global Limited (IPGL).

However, in his first term, as US President Donald Trump pulled out of the JCPOA, sanc-

tions on Iran came back. Still, given the port's usefulness in sending supplies to Afghanistan from India, bypassing Pakistan, Trump perhaps felt incentivised to waive sanctions on it, and India could continue with its engagement and outreach to Afghanistan. In 2024, India even announced that it was signing a 10-year contract with Iran for the operation of the Chabahar port.

All this alludes to just how critical the port is to India's geo-strategic and geo-economic ambitions. Anodyne analyses, about Chabahar being crucial only because it allows India to bypass Pakistan and access Afghanistan and Central Asia, are lazy at best and ignore the larger picture. Governments change, regimes collapse, wars end, and even borders may change. Geography, however, is a constant. The Chabahar port - and by extension Iran - is important for India because much of India's Eurasian policy hinges on it.

Why Chabahar Matters So Much

Iran's Chabahar Port on the country's east coast is the nearest node for India to reach not just Afghanistan and Central Asia, but also Russia and Europe. In terms of trade and connectivity, its significance has grown exponentially over the past few years and continues to increase with each geopolitical escalation. Just a few years ago, the frailties of the traditional Suez Canal route had been exposed as a stuck megaship completely stopped all traffic in the canal for six days. In this regard, Chabahar

is easily the closest and far more cost-effective alternative.

Beyond Chabahar, Iran is also important for India's access to the Russian Federation as well as to the South Caucasus, the Balkans, and West Europe through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). The INSTC is the shortest trade route between India and Russia, 30% cheaper and 40% shorter than the Suez, significantly reducing transit time for Europe-bound shipments. Iran thus becomes a gateway to India's access to the Black Sea and Mediterranean ports via a route that runs through Iran, Armenia, and Georgia.

Chabahar's role is further bolstered by the setback the India-Middle East-Europe Trade Corridor project has received due to the Iran war. Instead of going through Israel, as originally envisaged, the Saudis are re-routing the IMEC through Syria and India's rival, Turkey. Chabahar can provide an alternative route to Mediterranean and Black Sea ports for India, bypassing Turkey. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz similarly strengthens Chabahar's appeal as the port lies outside the route and can be accessed easily.

The Rise Of China

Geopolitically, too, Chabahar serves an important function. It is a counter to the China-developed Gwadar Port in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan's mediation role notwithstanding, Iran-Pakistan relations have always been complex and complicated, which allows Iran to act as a balancing player on



Pakistan's western borders.

Operation Sindoor revealed the Pakistan-Azerbaijan-Turkiye nexus against India. This has automatically translated to India cooperating more closely with Azerbaijan's rival, Armenia. Iran borders Armenia and provides India a land route to it, which India has utilised to transport defence hardware to the country. India needs to keep this route open, given that with American intervention in the South Caucasus, an overland trade and transport Corridor, the 'Trump Route for Peace and Prosperity' (TRIPP) is being developed, which will give Turkey unfettered access to the Caspian Sea and Central Asia and, consequently, to Pakistan.

Advantage Turkey And Pak

However, Turkey and Pakistan are not the only ones benefiting from the destruction of Chabahar. For instance, the Middle Corridor, or the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, already allows China access to Europe through Eurasia, bypassing the Suez. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) allows China direct access to the Ara-

bian Sea. And China already has a rail route to and from Iran. If India cannot access Chabahar, then she will become just a mute onlooker, unable to exercise any agency in Eurasia and dependent only on longer traditional routes. In geostrategic terms, therefore, Iran is a crucial cog in India's South Caucasian outreach.

Yet, India's options are being constrained while those of its rivals are being enabled. Even when it is not India alone that stands to benefit from Chabahar. Iranians are equally invested in engaging India. This was most recently articulated by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Delhi during the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting, where he pitched Chabahar as a golden gateway. Last year, after the 12-day Iran-Israel war, Iranian strategic thinkers had told this author that Iran did not want to put all its eggs in the Chinese basket. China is majorly involved in Iran's infrastructure development, and Iran would wish to have India's imprint, too, in port and strategic infrastructure development there.

AP Offers Up to 90% Funding for MSME Common Facility Centres Under Cluster Development Programme



Amaravati, pen power July 21: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening Andhra Pradesh's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the State Government has announced financial assistance of up to 90 per cent for establishing Common Facility Centres (CFCs) under the Andhra Pradesh Cluster Development Programme (AP-CDP). The scheme is designed to provide MSME clusters with access to shared infrastructure, advanced machinery and integrated support services, significantly improving their productivity and competitiveness.

Addressing the media, AP MSME Development Corporation Chief Executive Officer Vishwa Manoharan said the programme seeks to bridge the technology gap faced by Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by enabling them to utilise modern manufacturing facilities that may otherwise be beyond the reach of individual units. The Common Facility Centres will support value addition by facilitating the conversion of raw materials into high-quality finished products while promoting Industry 4.0 technologies, green manufacturing practices and sustainable industrial development. Under the AP-CDP guidelines, projects falling under the general category will be eligible for government assistance of up to 80 per cent of the total project cost. Projects classified under the special category, including those where women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) or Sched-

uled Tribes (STs) constitute at least 50 per cent of the participating members, can avail funding of up to 90 per cent. The balance amount will be contributed by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed by the participating enterprises. The scheme covers a wide range of eligible project components, including land and building costs (limited to 30 per cent of the project cost), machinery and equipment, pre-operative expenses, and margin money for working capital. The initiative is expected to help MSMEs adopt advanced production technologies, improve operational efficiency, expand market access and enhance product quality. According to Vishwa Manoharan, projects with an outlay of up to ₹25 crore are expected to be completed within 12 to 15 months, while projects costing between ₹25 crore and ₹10 crore will have an implementation period of 15 to 18 months. He further announced that all eligible applications submitted on or before August 15, 2026, will be processed within 60 days, ensuring faster project approvals. The programme is open to registered societies, cooperative societies, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Mandal Samakhya, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and registered industry associations. Industry associations must have a minimum of 200 members, with at least 100 members holding valid Udyam Registration. To qualify, applicants must constitute an SPV comprising at least 10 Udyam-registered Micro and Small Enterprises, secure land or a building with a minimum lease or ownership tenure of 15 years, prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR), submit the application through the online portal and obtain the necessary approvals. Calling upon MSMEs, industry associations and eligible organisations to take advantage of the scheme, Vishwa Manoharan said the AP-CDP would play a pivotal role in accelerating technology adoption, strengthening industrial clusters, improving productivity, enhancing competitiveness and promoting sustainable industrial growth across Andhra Pradesh. The AP-CDP Operational Guidelines are available on the AP MSME ONE Portal, and eligible organisations can submit their applications online through www.apmsmeone.ap.gov.in. Applicants may also approach their respective District Industries Centres (DICs) for technical guidance and assistance during the application process.

Officials Must Ensure Effective Delivery of Government Services and Welfare Schemes: Collector



Guntur, July 21: District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma directed officials to ensure that government services and welfare schemes reach the public effectively. At a review meeting held at the Collectorate, he reviewed PGRS, SIR, Anganwadi services, education and health-related issues. The Collector instructed officials to create awareness among mothers about services provided at

Anganwadi centres and directed Mandal Special Officers to regularly inspect schools, Primary Health Centres and Anganwadi centres. Under the SIR programme, he ordered officials to thoroughly verify details of absent, shifted, dead and duplicate voters, along with unmapped and anomaly cases, and complete the process in a foolproof manner by July 24. He also called for regular meetings with political parties to provide necessary information.

Officials were directed to focus on increasing beneficiaries under the VBG Ramji scheme, developing model ponds and completing the final seniority list of employees within the stipulated deadlines. As part of the Green Guntur initiative, 1.25 lakh saplings should be planted by August 15 and each plant geo-tagged.

The Collector also directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for the Mega PTM on July 24 and stated that financial assistance under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme would be credited to the bank accounts of mothers of eligible students on July 22. Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava stressed the need for transparency in re-survey, e-KYC and the resolution of PGRS petitions.

Government Services Under One Roof for Newlywed Couples, Apply Within 60 Days: Collector Dinesh Kumar



Rampachodavaram, July 21: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said steps were being taken to provide various government services and certificates to newly married couples within a stipulated time under the Nava Janta Kanuka initiative. The poster related to the programme was unveiled at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram on Tuesday by the Collector, Rampachodavaram MLA and Legislative Committee Chairperson Miriyala Sirisha Devi, Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, State ST Commission Member Gorle Sunitha and District Revenue Officer P. Ambedkar.

The Collector said newlywed couples would be pro-

vided services including marriage certificates, Aadhaar cards, new ration cards, voter ID cards and health services, including medical kits containing iron and folic acid tablets, under the initiative.

He urged eligible couples to make use of the government services and advised newly married couples to contact the concerned officials and submit their applications within 60 days of marriage. Couples can approach the officials at their nearest village secretariat to avail themselves of the services and certificates.

For further details, people may contact the toll-free number 18004254225. Local public representatives, officials and others attended the programme.

Petitions Must Be Resolved Quickly: Collector P. Rajababu



Ongole, July 21: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials to focus on the speedy resolution of petitions received through the Meekosam public grievance platform. During a video conference with district collectors, issues related to RoR, land assignments, re-survey and distribution of pattadar passbooks were reviewed. The Collector instructed officials to forward petitions to the concerned RDO/Sub-Collector offices and resolve them through field-level action. He also directed officials to speed up the re-survey process, address RoR issues, improve the distribution of pattadar passbooks and take prompt action on revenue, land and family-related grievances. Officials were advised not to simply direct petitioners to approach courts, but to take necessary steps themselves to resolve their problems.

Students Should Set Goals and Study Hard: Collector Dinesh Kumar

Sining Star Students Honoured with Rs 20,000 Prize Money, Medals and Certificates



Rampachodavaram, July 21: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar advised students to work hard, secure good marks and set clear goals to achieve success in life. He was speaking at a programme held at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram on Tuesday to honour Sining Star students who excelled at the district and state levels in the Class 10 and Intermediate public examinations. The programme was inaugurated by Collector K. Dinesh Kumar, Rampachodavaram MLA and Legislative Committee Chairperson Miriyala Sirisha Devi, Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, State ST Commission Member Gorle Sunitha and other dignitaries.

The Collector said education would play a key role in the development of the newly formed Polavaram district. He urged students to focus on their studies from an early age and set clear career goals after completing Class 10 and Intermediate. Students should aim for careers in various fields such as civil services, medicine, engineering, science, law and politics, he said. He also urged parents to

encourage girls to pursue higher education.

A total of 67 students, including 52 Class 10 students and 15 Intermediate students who excelled at the district and state levels, were presented with ₹20,000 prize money each, medals and certificates.

MLA Miriyala Sirisha Devi said the government was implementing several programmes to promote education and urged students to listen carefully to their teachers and work hard to secure good marks. She also stressed the importance of preventing child marriages and urged girls to complete their education before marriage.

Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar and State ST Commission Member Gorle Sunitha said education was the key to achieving success in life and encouraged students to follow the advice of their parents and teachers.

The awards were presented to the students in the presence of their parents. Officials from the Tribal Welfare and Education departments, students and parents attended the programme.

Government Stands by Persons with Disabilities: Collector Dinesh Kumar

33 Beneficiaries Receive Assistive Devices and Tricycles



Rampachodavaram, July 21: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said the government would always stand by persons with disabilities and take steps to support their welfare and development. He was speaking at a programme held at the local ITDA premises on Tuesday, where assistive devices, artificial limbs and tricycles were distributed to persons with disabilities. The Collector said 33 persons, including children with special needs and those unable to walk, were provided with artificial limbs and other assistive equipment under government welfare initiatives.

Rampachodavaram MLA and Legislative Committee Chairperson Miriyala Sirisha Devi said the State Govern-

ment was committed to supporting persons with disabilities. She stated that steps would be taken to promote the educational and intellectual development of children with disabilities. She also assured that efforts would be made, in coordination with the concerned officials, to issue disability certificates to eligible persons.

The assistive devices, tricycles, artificial limbs and other equipment were distributed to beneficiaries by the dignitaries. Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, State ST Commission member Gorle Sunitha, ITDA and Tribal Welfare officials, education department officials, students, parents and others participated in the programme.

Transparent and Error-Free Voter List Preparation, Political parties' cooperation essential: Collector Harendra Prasad



The district currently has 16,50,811 voters across 1,640 polling stations. The Collector said rationalisation of polling stations would be taken up after July 24, with 184 new polling stations proposed to ensure around 1,200 voters per station. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 31, objections will be accepted till August 30, and the final voter list will be published on October 3.

Complaints on 'Thalliki Vandanam' Lists to Be Accepted from July 22

Vijayawada, July 21: District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha said the eligible, ineligible and under-verification beneficiary lists under the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme will be displayed at all Swarna Gram and Swarna Ward offices from July 22. Beneficiaries can submit complaints from the afternoon of July 22 if their names are missing, details are incorrect or their names are included in the ineligible list. The complaints will be thoroughly verified as per government guidelines and necessary corrections will be made. The district currently has 1,59,812 eligible mothers and 2,44,614 children under the scheme.



Kakinada, July 21: District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad urged recognised political parties to extend full cooperation in preparing a transparent, error-free and impartial electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision-2026 (SIR). He said 100% distribution of enumeration forms had been completed in all seven Assembly constituencies, while 88.05% of the forms had been

Action Plan for Better Services to Children with Autism

Dr. Dasari Chandrasekhar suggests expansion of AYUSH services

Bapatla, July 21: An action plan was discussed at the Swarna Bhavitha (Autism Plus) Centre in Bapatla to improve services for children with autism. Dr. Dasari Chandrasekhar, Nodal Officer of the AYUSH Cell and Government Homoeopathic Medical Officer, explained the medical services that can be provided through AYUSH and future plans. He suggested creat-

ing wider awareness about the centre's services through print and electronic media and conducting one-day autism awareness programmes at government offices across the district. District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar, along with Dr. Chandrasekhar, inspected the various sections of the centre and reviewed the services being provided.



Officials Must Play Key Role in Solid and Liquid Waste Management: Collector Harendra Prasad



Kakinada, July 21: District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad directed officials to

strengthen door-to-door garbage collection and ensure scientific management of solid and liquid

waste. Addressing a workshop on the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules-

2026, he instructed officials to prepare schedules for garbage collection vehicles, promote segregation of wet and dry waste, and ensure daily collection from residential and commercial areas. He ordered the full utilisation of Solid Waste Management Centres in every gram panchayat and called for measures to prevent sewage from entering water bodies and the Godavari River. Strict action would be taken against commercial establishments dumping waste indiscriminately, he warned.

Strict Action if Negligence Leads to Spread of Diseases: Collector Rajababu

Ongole, July 21: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu warned that strict action would be taken against officials who neglect measures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. At a Joint Inspection Committee meeting, he reviewed cases of diarrhoea, viral fever and food poisoning and di-

rected officials to ensure that such cases decrease every year. He stressed special attention to children in welfare hostels and instructed departments to ensure food safety, drinking water quality and proper sanitation. The Collector directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination.



State Ministers, MPs Seek GST Cut on Raw Tobacco



Ongole, July 21: Following Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's directions, State Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu, along with other ministers and MPs, met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament and submitted a memorandum seeking a reduction in GST on raw tobacco (HSN 2401) from 40% to

28%. They said the high GST was adversely affecting the value of FCV tobacco produced in the state and urged the Centre to protect the interests of tobacco farmers. The proposed reduction would also provide relief to farmers, dealers and exporters and improve the competitiveness of Indian tobacco in the international market.

Govt Wasted Our Time, Alleges CJP Founder Abhijeet Dipke After Talks With Union Minister JP Nadra



New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday accused the Centre of wasting his party's time by initiating talks while simultaneously cracking down on protesters demanding action over the alleged NEET paper leak. Addressing supporters at Jantar Mantar, where the protest entered its 32nd day, Dipke claimed the government's actions during Monday's meeting

with Union Health Minister JP Nadra raised questions about its intentions. He alleged that while the government invited a CJP delegation for discussions, police were taking action against protesters on the streets.

Dialogue or distraction? "The government wasted our time. They invited our delegation. They seized their mobiles. Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das were, in a way, under house

arrest at JP Nadra's residence," Dipke alleged. He claimed the delegation was deliberately kept waiting for five hours so that key leaders would remain away from the protest site during the police action. "The whole plan was to scatter the team. You call for talks on one hand and unleash batons on students on the other," he alleged. The Centre has not responded to these allegations.

Monday's meeting marked the first direct contact between the Centre and the agitating CJP. According to the party, Nadra met spokespersons Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das twice within two hours at his residence, where they submitted a memorandum demanding, among other things, the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

Protest continues despite crackdown

After the meeting, Ranka said the only assurance given by Nadra was that he would discuss the demands with the government leadership and communicate the outcome. On Tuesday, the protest continued at Jantar Mantar under heavy security, PTI reports. Dipke also expressed concern over activist Sonam Wangchuk's health.

Assam Flood Crisis Deepens: 3.1 Lakh Affected, Brahmaputra Above Danger Mark

Guwahati: Assam's flood situation remained grim with 11 districts reeling under inundation, affecting more than 3.1 lakh people, even as rescue teams intensified evacuation efforts in the worst-hit areas, according to an official flood report, officials said. The preliminary flood situation report issued today said 11 districts and 36 revenue circles have been affected by the deluge. The worst-hit districts include Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Golaghat, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dhemaji, Tinsukia, Nagaon, Biswanath, Kamrup and Karbi Anglong. A total of 758 villages have been submerged, while 3,10,807 people have been affected by the floods. The inundation has also damaged 14,411.267 hectares of crop area, raising concerns over agricultural losses. Authorities have set up 52 relief camps where 12,720 displaced people are currently taking shelter, the official



mentioned. The official media release confirmed one flood-related death from Charaideo district. Rescue agencies have so far evacuated 9,160 people using boats from inundated localities. Urban flooding continued to disrupt normal life in Guwahati, with several localities in Kamrup (Metro), including Satgaon, Sawkuchi, Notboma, Boragaon, Maligaon and Chandmari remaining waterlogged. Although no fresh land-

slide incidents were reported on Tuesday morning, authorities said landslides had occurred on Monday evening in parts of Kamrup (Metro), including Gotanagar, Kamakhya, Gor Pandu Kumarpara Gaon and Maligaon. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed six teams from its 12th Battalion in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts and two teams from the 1st Battalion in Jorhat. State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF) teams, equipped with 62 boats, have also been deployed across the affected districts to strengthen rescue operations. Meanwhile, the Central Water Commission reported that the Brahmaputra at Neamatighat and rivers Buridihing, Dikhou, Disang and Dhansiri were flowing above the danger level, indicating the possibility of further deterioration in the flood situation.

Pune Metro Line 3 To Offer WhatsApp QR Tickets, NCMC Cards & UPI Payments: Here's How You'll Travel

Pune: Commuters traveling on Purneri Metro Line 3 will be able to use multiple ticketing options, including the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), mobile app tickets, WhatsApp QR tickets, ticket vending machines and manual ticket counters, when passenger services begin. The metro corridor will have an advanced Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) system at all stations to ensure faster entry and exit for passengers. In the first phase, the system is already installed at the 12 stations set to

open. Each station will have five AFC gates, including a wider gate for differently abled passengers. Metro Line 3 will support the National Common Mobility Card under the Centre's 'One Nation One Card' initiative. The card will allow commuters to travel on Metro Line 3, Pune Metro Lines 1 and 2, and metro networks in other cities using a single card. Passengers will also be able to book tickets through the existing Pune Metro mobile app. Initially, the app will provide separate booking options

for Maha Metro Lines 1 and 2 and Metro Line 3. After the planned integration of the three lines at the District Court station, commuters will be able to book end-to-end journeys across the entire Pune Metro network through the same platform. To make travel more convenient, passengers can also generate QR-based tickets through WhatsApp without visiting ticket counters. Those who prefer conventional ticketing can buy tickets from ticket vending machines or manual counters at every station. The vend-

ing machines have been installed at accessible heights for differently abled passengers. The metro will support multiple payment methods, including cash, UPI, debit cards and other digital payment options. Every station will also have QR and card scanning devices for quick ticket validation and smoother passenger movement. A spokesperson for Purneri Metro Line 3 said the ticketing system has been designed with a focus on technology, accessibility and commuter convenience.

Sikkim Tunnel Tragedy: Death Toll Reaches 8, Rescue Ops Intensify

Namchi: The death toll in the under-construction tunnel of the NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydro-electric Project at Samardung in Sikkim's Namchi district has risen to eight, according to the District Administration, as rescue operations continue to evacuate the workers trapped inside. The Namchi District Administration, in coordination with NHPC officials, SDRF, NDRF, Sikkim Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Health Department and other line departments, is continuously carrying out the rescue operation. The situation is being closely monitored by the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA). Meanwhile, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang said Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to him over the phone to enquire about the situation and review the ongoing rescue operations following the tragic incident.

In a post shared on X, Tamang said, "Following the tragic incident at the under-construction tunnel of the NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydro-electric Project at Samardung, Jholungey, in Namchi District, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji spoke with me to enquire about the situation and the ongoing rescue operations." He said the Prime Minister's "words of concern and compassion for the affected workers and their families", along with his assurance of every possible assistance from



the Government of India, had provided "immense strength and reassurance" to the people of Sikkim. The Chief Minister said the NDRF, SDRF, SSDMA, District Administration, local police, medical teams from Rangpo PHC and the local community were working tirelessly and in close coordination to support the rescue efforts.

"On behalf of the people of Sikkim, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his unwavering support, thoughtful concern, and steadfast solidarity with our State in this moment of grief," Tamang said. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), PM Modi spoke with Chief Minister Tamang over the phone to enquire about the situation and review the ongoing rescue operations. During the conversation, the Prime Minister expressed "deep concern and compassion" for the affected workers and their families and assured the State Government of "every possible assistance" from the Centre.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for his "timely intervention, unwavering support, and solidarity with the people of Sikkim", saying the assurance had brought "immense strength and reassurance" to the State as rescue operations continued.

The government said rescue operations were being carried out on a "war footing" by multiple agencies, including the NDRF, SDRF, SSDMA, District Administration, Sikkim Police, Fire and Emergency Services, medical teams from Rangpo PHC and local volunteers. Specialised teams from Pakyong and Siliguri are also assisting in the operation.

The teams are working to evacuate the bodies of the remaining workers trapped inside the tunnel, the government said. Expressing profound sorrow over the incident, the Chief Minister conveyed his condolences to the families of the workers who lost their lives and

assured them of the government's unwavering support, the CMO stated. Tamang said he was closely monitoring the rescue operation and had directed all concerned departments and agencies to expedite the rescue efforts, provide all possible assistance to affected families and ensure the highest standards of safety throughout the operation. He also acknowledged the "dedication, courage, and professionalism" of the rescue personnel engaged in the challenging operation under difficult conditions. The Chief Minister appealed to the public to remain calm, refrain from spreading unverified information and keep the affected workers and their families in their prayers. The Government of Sikkim reiterated its commitment to making every possible effort to ensure that the rescue operation is carried out safely and efficiently while extending all necessary support to the families affected by the tragedy, the CMO added.

IICA Inaugurates Eighth Batch of its Flagship Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP 2026–28)



New Delhi, July, 21 (PIB): The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, today inaugurated the Eighth Batch (2026–28) of its flagship Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP). The programme welcomed participants from diverse professional backgrounds and was attended by distinguished members of the insolvency ecosystem, faculty members, senior officers of IICA. Delivering the Inaugural Address, Justice Ashok Bhushan, Former Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, underscored the transformative impact of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, describing it as one of India's most significant economic reforms. He noted that the Code replaced a fragmented legal framework with a comprehensive insolvency re-

game that has evolved through seven legislative amendments and numerous regulatory reforms. Justice Bhushan encouraged the participants to develop the habit of studying landmark judgments and undertaking continuous legal research, emphasizing that judicial precedents are indispensable learning tools for every insolvency professional.

In his Keynote Address, Shri Ravi Mittal, Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), reminded the participants that the programme is not merely intended to create employment opportunities but to produce competent Insolvency Professionals and Resolution Professionals capable of leading complex corporate restructuring assignments. He highlighted the importance of adhering to statutory timelines prescribed under the IBC and maintaining the sanctity of the law. Explaining the growing importance

of the Corporate Insolvency and Individual Insolvency Resolution Processes (CIIRP), he encouraged the participants to understand their practical implementation and prepare themselves to lead distressed enterprises as effective turnaround professionals.

Welcoming the participants, Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA, described PGIP as the Institute's flagship capacity-building initiative that has played a pioneering role in developing India's insolvency ecosystem since its launch in 2019. He highlighted several innovations introduced in the programme, including an enhanced focus on research, analytical skills, AI-enabled learning, financial modelling, structured finance and ethics. Stressing that ethics remains the foundation of the insolvency profession, he encouraged the participants to continuously upgrade their knowl-

edge and remain responsive to technological advancements while recognising that no technology can substitute integrity, sound judgment and hard work. He also announced institutional recognition for excellence in research to foster a culture of academic inquiry among the participants.

Shri Sudhaker Shukla, Head, Centre for Insolvency and Bankruptcy (CIB), IICA, welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP). He highlighted the programme's evolution since its inception and its emergence as India's premier residential programme for developing a new generation of insolvency professionals. He outlined the programme's multidisciplinary curriculum, which integrates law, finance, management, valuation, technology and practical learning to prepare participants for the evolving insolvency and restructuring landscape. Shri Shukla also familiarised the participants with the programme structure, academic framework, industry immersion, internship opportunities, mentorship initiatives and the high standards of professional excellence expected throughout the two-year residential programme.

The Post Graduate Insol-

veny Programme (PGIP) is IICA's flagship two-year residential programme aimed at creating a highly skilled cadre of insolvency and restructuring professionals. Designed in close collaboration with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and leading industry stakeholders, the programme combines rigorous academic learning with practical exposure, research, internships and industry engagement. Since its launch in 2019, PGIP has established itself as a benchmark in insolvency education, producing professionals who are making significant contributions to India's insolvency and restructuring ecosystem through their expertise, ethical standards and leadership. The inaugural programme was attended by faculty members of IICA, senior officers and distinguished guests. The formal session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Col. Amandeep Singh Puri, Chief Administrative Officer, IICA, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, faculty members and participants for their presence and support. The event concluded with the introduction of the participants of the Eighth Batch, followed by an interactive session, group photographs.

“Progress achieved under digital initiative”

New Delhi, July, 21 (PIB): The Ayush Grid project serves as the IT backbone of the Ayush sector, driving digital transformation across healthcare, research & development, Ayush drug administration, medicinal plants, education & awareness, capacity building and global/media outreach. Under this initiative, twenty four e-governance platforms have been developed and made accessible across the country. The My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP), the master portal of the Ministry of Ayush, integrates all Ayush-related applications and services into a unified digital ecosystem. An AI-enabled chatbot (Beta version) has also been deployed to assist visitors and enhance user experience. The portal facilitates citizen-centric access to various services and schemes and enables real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making. (Details available at: maisp.ayush.gov.in)

Similarly, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)-compliant Ayush Hospital Management Information System (AHMIS) has been deployed to digitize healthcare delivery and improve the management of Ayush health facilities. The

Ayush Anudan Portal has streamlined the submission, processing, approval, and monitoring of funding proposals under various Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry. The Ayush Research Portal serves as a centralized digital repository of over 43,000 curated Ayush research publications, facilitating easy access for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. The Ayush Nivesh Saarthi Portal serves as a dedicated gateway for domestic and international investors in the Ayush sector, providing comprehensive information to promote investment opportunities. The e-Charak portal functions as a virtual marketplace and information platform for the medicinal plants sector, connecting farmers, collectors, buyers, manufacturers, and exporters. The Y-Break Pro mobile application promotes holistic well-being in workplaces through short yoga sessions. The mYoga application encourages regular yoga practice by providing learning modules and guided sessions that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. The Yoga Portal serves as a dedicated digital platform for promoting yoga as a holistic lifestyle practice and enhancing its accessibility to all. It provides authentic and structured information on yoga protocols, training modules, certified institutions, events, and research studies, ensuring credibility and ease of access for learners and practitioners.

Further, Yoga Sangam, hosted on the Yoga Portal during the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, witnessed the registration of over 7.6 lakh organizations, which uploaded over 8 lakh photographs of people performing yoga simultaneously across the country. Collectively, all e-governance tools developed under the Ayush Grid are accessible to everyone and have strengthened service delivery, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced transparency and accountability. The Ayush Grid has improved access to Ayush-based primary healthcare, including in rural and aspirational districts, by strengthening digital infrastructure and standardizing service delivery.

Through platforms such as the Ayush Hospital

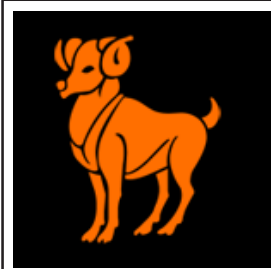
Management Information System (A-HMIS), patient registration, electronic health records, referrals and continuity of care are enabled digitally. As on 15 July 2026, a total of 5,386 Ayush health facilities across the country have been onboarded onto AHMIS. Real-time dashboards and standardized reporting further support monitoring, planning and targeted interventions by State and District authorities, thereby enhancing availability and accessibility of Ayush services in such areas. The Swasthya Assessment Scale (SAS) facilitates holistic health assessment based on health parameters described in classical Ayurvedic literature and promotes awareness regarding healthy diet and lifestyle practices. As on 15 July 2026, a total of 1,335 doctors from 221 facilities have been onboarded onto the platform and are carrying out health assessments.

Further, the PM GatiShakti portal has enabled GIS mapping of Ayush health facilities using PM Gatishakti Ayush Asset Mapping Tool to support planning and decision-making. As on 15 July 2026, a total of 6,002 facilities have been mapped on the portal. The adoption of these digital platforms by Ayush healthcare institutions across States and Union Territories has enhanced the accessibility, quality, and continuity of Ayush services, especially in rural and aspirational districts. The Ministry of Ayush is strengthening the Ayush Grid as a comprehensive digital ecosystem for the Ayush sector by enhancing digital platforms, promoting interoperability, adopting emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, and enabling data-driven governance. These efforts are aimed at improving service delivery, facilitating evidence-based policymaking, providing multilingual support in convergence with Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and ensuring seamless integration with national health programmes and digital health initiatives, including the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Digital market access and quality assurance framework for AYUSH products

New Delhi, July, 21 (PIB): The Government has undertaken several measures to strengthen quality assurance and regulatory compliance of Ayush drugs, including those made available through digital commerce platforms. The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs Rules, 1945 have exclusive regulatory provisions for Ayurvedic, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani, and Homoeopathy (ASSU&H) drugs. It is mandatory for the manufacturers to adhere to the prescribed requirements for license to manufacture for sale including proof of safety & effectiveness, compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as per Schedule T & Schedule M-I of the Drugs Rules, 1945 for Ayurvedic, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani & Homeopathy drugs respectively and also to follow the quality standards of drugs as prescribed in the respective pharmacopoeia. Drug Inspectors of the concerned State/UTs collect medicine samples regularly from manufacturing firms or retail shops within their jurisdiction and send them to Drug Testing Laboratory for quality testing and if any sample is found to be ‘Not of Standard Quality’, appropriate action is initiated such as preventing the sale of Ayush drugs from the market and appropriate legal actions as per Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. An Ayush vertical has been created in Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to strengthen regulatory measures ensuring safety and quality of Ayush drugs. Further, CDSCO issues WHO Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (WHO-CoPP) to Ayush drugs having compliance with Global standards. Drug Inspectors posted in Ayush vertical, regularly conduct joint inspections of manufacturing units along with drug inspectors of State/UTs and CDSCO to ensure the safety and quality of Ayush medicines. Quality Certifications Scheme implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI) for grant of Ayush Standard and Ayush Premium mark to ASU drugs on the basis of third-party evaluation of quality in compliance with domestic and international standards respectively.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Don't exert yourself beyond a point and remember to take proper rest. Today, avoid lending your money to those relatives who have not yet returned the previous amount. Give proper time to your family. Let them feel that you care for them. Sped your quality time with them. Don't give any chance to complain. Secret affairs can ruin your reputation. You have the ability to achieve lots- so go after the opportunities that come your way. Your communication techniques and working skills will be impressive. Some of your works might get hampered today due to the disturbed health of your spouse. Remedy :- Make your love life interesting by gifting your lover white flowers such as roses, carnations, jasmine etc.



Taurus

Children will brighten your evening. Plan a nice dinner to adieu a dull and hectic day. Their company would recharge your body. All the money you had invested in the past to make your future prosperous will reap fruitful results today. Get everybody to your big party- You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group. Your smile is best antidote for your beloved's unhappiness. Your ability to do extra work will dazzle those who are slow in their performance. Today, you will have free time on your hands, and you can use it to meditate. Therefore, you'll remain mentally at peace today. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again. Remedy :- Use Red carpet or bedsheet



Gemini

Your sense of humour would help someone to encourage himself to develop this skill as you make him understand that happiness does not lie in possession of thing but is inside of us. Today, seek the blessings of your elders before going out of the house, as it will benefit you. Entertainment will be fun if it includes the whole family. Likely to experience a different kind of romance. Take advantage of new moneymaking ideas that strike your mind today. Today you will get lot of interesting invitations- and a surprise gift could also be coming your way. Your spouse looks quite romantic today. Remedy :- Memorable love life can be achieved by eating honey before meeting your girlfriend/boyfriend.



Cancer

Your kind nature will bring many happy moments today. Those who were going through financial crisis for a long time can attain money from anywhere today, which will eliminate several life problems in an instant. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Today, your lover will not be able to share his/her feelings openly in front of you, which can upset you. If you should be going on a days leave then do not worry- as things will run smoothly in your absence- If- for some strange reason- there's a problem- you'll fix it easily when you return. Remedy :- Gift perfumes or scented accessories to your lover and ensure that your love life runs smoothly.



Leo

Don't lose your patience especially at the time of crisis. Today, your money can be spent on many things. Hence, you need to plan a proficient budget today so as to tackle all the challenges and money-related problems. Festive atmosphere at home would ease your tension. Make sure you also participate in this and not remain like a silent spectator. Your beloved today would like to say his/her mind rather than listening to you. This can make you upset. Those who are still unemployed need to work harder today to get a good job. Only by working hard will you get the desired result. Your competitive nature will enable you to win any contest you enter. Looks like your spouse is feeling lucky to have you. Utilize the best of this moment today. Remedy :- Sunbathe daily for 15 - 20 minutes (early morning) to get rid of diseases and deficiencies



Virgo

Sort out your tension for mental peace. Today, you can face money-related issues, and ask your father or a father-like individual you cherish for suggestions. Your stubborn nature could mar the peace of your parents. You need to give heed to their advice. Better to be obedient to save all from offending. Despite a lot of conflicts, your love life will be good today and you will be able to keep your partner happy. You'll soon have a new and a better public image if you show your skills and talents to the right people. Today, you'll plan to reorganize your house and clean the mess, but will not get any free time today. Today, your partner might show a wonderful side of him/her. Remedy :- Make donations in iron vessels to poor and needy people and cherish happy family moments.



Libra

Friends supportive and will keep you happy. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well. Your interesting attitude would brighten up the atmosphere at home and fill it up with good vibes. Chances of someone proposing on the cards. Those associated with foreign trade are expected to get the desired results today. With this, the working natives of this zodiac sign can make full use of their talent at the workplace today. In your free time today, you can play any game. However, there is a possibility of an accident taking place, which is why you must remain alert all the time. The day is really great for your married life. Let your partner know how much you love him/her. Remedy :- To have blissful family life, make moderate use of saffron in food.



Scorpio

A day when you will be able to relax. Massage your body with oil to give relief to your muscles. Your dedication and hard work will get noticed and will bring some financial rewards for you today. Organize an evening with friends as well as family members. Today chances of meeting someone who would appeal to your heart would be very strong. You will be perfect in what ever you do- Prove your worth to those around you by showing how efficient you are. Travelling will not bring immediate results but will lay down good foundation for future benefits. Today, you will realize that all the vows taken on your marriage were true. Your spouse is your soulmate. Remedy :- Wearing silver jewellery more often will ensure blissful and peaceful family life.



Sagittarius

Quit smoking as it would help you to remain physically sound. Today will prove to be economically better than the rest of the days and you will earn enough money. Someone close to you will be in a highly unpredictable mood. Romantic feelings will be reciprocated today. Some of your best opportunities will come through new people you meet. Be careful not to make harsh comments incase you are pushed into an argument. Today, you will get to spend the best evening of your life with your spouse. Remedy :- Flowing empty mud pot in flowing water along with lid will increase career prospects.



Capricorn

Take special care of other's feelings when as you pass a judgement. Any wrong decision made by you will not only affect them adversely but also give you mental tension. Today, seek the blessings of your elders before going out of the house, as it will benefit you. A family together will see you occupy the center stage. Relations with your sweetheart might get strained because of the interference of someone. Concentrate on your work and your priorities. Learn to use your time well. If you have free time, try to do something creative. It is not a good thing to waste time. Interference of people might harm your relationship with your spouse today. Remedy :- Relationship with lovers will become strong by taking good care of pet dogs.



Aquarius

You are likely to spend your time in sports to maintain your physical stamina. You will like to overspend on others. Try not to offend others and adapt to your family needs. Mental turmoil and turbulence as work pressure builds up. Relax towards the later half of the day. Today your artistic and creative ability will attract lot of appreciation and bring you unexpected rewards. Your ability to act swiftly to problems will bring you recognition. Laziness of your partner might disturb many of your tasks today. Remedy :- For a memorable family life, offer water on white marble stone after applying mark of white sandalwood paste.



Pisces

Children would not act to your liking-which would make you frenzy. You should restrain yourself as uncontrolled anger usually hits everyone and the angry person most because it wastes energy and retards judgement faculty. It only makes things more difficult. Today, seek the blessings of your elders before going out of the house, as it will benefit you. Great day when you would receive all the attention you want- you would have many things lined up and you would have problems in deciding which ones to follow. Today you will miss true love in your life. Don't worry everything changes with time so will your romantic life. Banking sector professionals will receive a good news. Remedy :- Offer green chilli to parrot

Why Ladakh Is Facing Extreme Wet And Dry Spells



For decades, Ladakh's cold desert sat in the comfort of the shadow of the Himalayas. The vast mountain range acted as a natural barrier, taking away moisture from the monsoon winds long before they could reach the high-altitude plateau. Recent rainfall data, however, paints a different image. Over the past five years, Ladakh, the cold

desert has seen a dramatic shift in its summer precipitation. Marked by intense wet spells, less winter snowfall and record-breaking seasonal totals.

Five Consecutive Years of Excess Rain

Ladakh's rain has been in the spotlight for the past five years. In 2021, Ladakh received 21.9 mm of actual rainfall, which was 42 per

cent below the then-normal level of 37.7 mm. In 2022, the IMD revised its long-period average for all-India rainfall, changing the reference period from 1961-2010 to 1971-2020. This brought Ladakh's normal monsoon rainfall down from 37.7 mm to 22.3 mm. The revision came alongside a period of increased monsoon rain in the region. In 2022, Ladakh

received 37.6 mm of rainfall against the revised normal of 22.3 mm, an excess of 69 per cent. In 2023, the excess increased to 103 per cent with the region receiving 45.2 mm of rainfall. 2024 was the only year in this period when rainfall was not in the large-excess category with Ladakh receiving 17 per cent more rain than normal. The starkest difference came in 2025, when Ladakh recorded 98.6 mm of monsoon rainfall, 342 per cent above normal. August 2025 also saw the Union Territory's highest monthly rainfall on record since 1973, at 80.2 mm.

The Atmospheric Shift: Less Snow, Warmer Air

The question that the rainfall data triggers is: how are the moisture winds breaking through the walls of the world's highest mountain? A portion of the response lies in thermodynamics triggered by global warming: warmer air holds more moisture. Dr Avijit Sahay, assistant professor, Department of Geography,

Doon University, explains this phenomenon. "To understand the rainfall in Ladakh, we must first understand that the total precipitation in Ladakh (rain plus snow) has not changed drastically. Or at least there is no long-term study currently showing such a change." However, in line with the rest of India, precipitation in Ladakh has become more erratic with occasional intense spells of rainfall and a long dry spell afterwards. In winter, because of the changing pattern of western disturbances, snowfall has become less frequent."

This shift in winter precipitation directly mirrors what is now happening during the summer months. Professor Sahay explains, "In summer, it is an entirely different story. Earlier, Himalayas used to act as an insurmountable barrier to monsoon winds and so all rainfall used to happen in the Himalayan belts of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. How-

ever, because of increasing temperature during summers caused by global warming, the capacity of the air to hold moisture has increased. This means that while earlier rainfall used to be shed in the Himalayas, now the air is able to carry forward the moisture beyond Greater Himalayas and into Ladakh plateau. Therefore, we are now witnessing summer rain in Ladakh. He concludes that in recent years, we are seeing a decreasing trend of snowfall in winter and increasing trend of rainfall in summer.

Erratic Spells and Colliding Weather Systems

The heightened moisture capacity doesn't translate to gentle, spread across rain. Instead, it changes how and when precipitation hits the ground. Dr Sahay explains, "People in the plains are feeling another aspect of the same phenomenon in their daily lives. While earlier the rainfall was distributed across the summer

now it happens in a few intense spells only causing flash floods, waterlogging, etc. This also happens because air is holding onto moisture for a longer period of time and then shedding it in a few erratic spells." Professor Ankit Agarwal, Department of Hydrology, IIT Roorkee & Joint Faculty at the International Centre for Excellence in Dams elucidates. "Ladakh's repeated above-average monsoon rainfall should not automatically be interpreted as a uniformly stronger monsoon. The more important concern may be that a few intense wet spells are contributing disproportionately to the seasonal total." Professor Agarwal explains, "A plausible mechanism is the interaction of monsoon moisture with western disturbances or upper-level westerly troughs, combined with strong moisture convergence and Himalayan orographic lifting. Our research at HydroClimX lab shows that

such interactions can organize extreme rainfall over northern India."

A Warning Signal
While five consecutive years of high summer rainfall feel like a fundamental shift, researchers emphasise the need for rigorous, event-by-event long-term tracking before declaring a new permanent climate baseline. Professor Agarwal adds, "This remains a mechanism-based interpretation: event-wise analysis is required before attributing Ladakh's recent rainfall directly to western disturbances. Five consecutive above-average seasons are a warning signal, not yet proof of a permanent trend." Whether a permanent trend or an extended climate event, these erratic wet spells present immediate challenges. Ladakh's fragile environment, traditional housing, and valleys are prepped for cold dryness making adaptation to erratic rainfall an urgent priority in the region.

CJP Sacks Spokesperson Over Burger Video. "I'm Not Accountable," He Says



New Delhi: The satirical Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has removed Vijeta Dahiya from his post as spokesperson, relieving him of "all the official duties" on Tuesday, after videos allegedly showing him eating a burger during the party's protest march to parliament went viral. The CJP said in a statement that it "strongly condemns the deeply insensitive actions" of Dahiya, whose videos surfaced on social media during Monday's march. The party added, "Such conduct is unacceptable, shows a complete lack of judgment, and is wholly inconsistent with the values and principles of our movement." Dahiya had faced criticism online after clips allegedly showed him eating a burger while CJP protesters, mostly young students, marched towards

parliament and faced police action. Defending himself, Dahiya posted a video on Tuesday insisting he answers to no one. "Why did I eat a burger? This is a big issue today. So, why does any human eat a burger? Either they are hungry, or they feel like eating a burger. That's it," he said, taking bites from a burger as he spoke. He went on to question why he was being held to account at all. "Anyways, you guys hold me so accountable... I mean, is being a protester a job? Huh? Did you elect me to this position? Go hold the government accountable! So this nonsense thinking of yours... I don't want to get caught up in this, I don't want to get into politics just to appease fools like you," he said. He added, "Whatever I am doing, I am doing it for the country, doing it

by my own choice, and I am not accountable to anyone. And I will eat a burger." The Delhi Police fired tear gas and baton-charged protesters on Monday as they attempted to march on parliament demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over irregularities in major examinations, including question paper leaks and technical glitches. At least 178 people were injured in the clashes, Delhi Police said, including 118 police personnel. The police criticised what it called "unruly, aggressive and violent behaviour" by a "violent mob". In a statement issued late Monday, it said, "During the scuffle, around 60 protesters were also reported to get injured." The march came days after activist Sonam Wangchuk was forcibly taken to hos-

pital on Saturday, bringing an abrupt end to his 21-day hunger strike in support of youths and the CJP movement. Later on Monday, Wangchuk said he would resume his hunger strike in hospital after witnessing the "brutality with which peacefully protesting students are being dealt with." The CJP said two of its leaders met Union Minister JP Nadda and submitted a letter outlining their demands, after the government reached out to them on Tuesday morning. Nadda confirmed the meeting took place, describing the atmosphere as "cordial", but said the proposal for talks had come from the protesters. The political atmosphere in Central Delhi remained charged on Tuesday as Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi led a protest march to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence, a day after the CJP-led march to Parliament. Congress workers gathered outside Kharge's residence at 10, Rajaji Marg on Tuesday afternoon before marching to the Prime Minister's residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg. Later, Union Minister Jitendra Singh visited the protest site and spoke with Rahul Gandhi. Congress leaders said the talks between Gandhi and Singh were inconclusive.

10 Arrested for Attacking Civic Officials During Bengaluru Eviction Drive

Bengaluru: Violence erupted during an anti-footpath encroachment drive in Bengaluru's Shivajinagar after street vendors allegedly attacked Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials who had arrived to clear encroachments from public footpaths. The anti-encroachment drive has been underway across Bengaluru since July 1. However, this is the first major incident of violence reported against officials involved in the exercise.

Three civic officials were injured in the attack:

Madhav Rao, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE)

Gautham, Assistant Engineer (AE)

Ruchita, Assistant Engineer (AE)

Police have registered a case and arrested 10 people in connection with the assault. Those arrested have been identified as Rangaswamy (49), Kiran (34), Ranjit (19), Muzahid Ahmad (39), Kottresh (26), Raghu (28), Parasuram (27), Parthiban (23), Basavaraj (28), and Barath (24). More arrests are likely as the investigation progresses. Joint Commissioner of Police (East) Ramesh Banoth said the officials were attacked while carrying out



the eviction of illegal encroachments. "They came to evict illegal encroachments and were suddenly attacked. A complaint has been lodged, and we have arrested 10 people. We are examining CCTV footage to identify others involved, and they too will be arrested. We have also provided additional protection to GBA employees," he said. Reacting to the incident, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda strongly condemned the attack and warned of strict action against those involved. "Our officials were carrying out their lawful duties. We cannot and will not tolerate any attempt to obstruct

their work or assault public servants who are enforcing the law," he said. "So far, the police have arrested 10 persons in connection with the incident. The prime accused, Basavaraj Padukote, appears to be involved in such unlawful activities, and I have directed the police to initiate proceedings against him under the Goonda Act.

Anyone who resorts to violence or attempts to intimidate government officials will face strict legal action," the minister added. The incident has triggered a political row, with the BJP targeting the Congress government over the law-and-order situation in the state.

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka condemned the attack, calling it evidence of deteriorating law and order in Karnataka. He questioned why the government remained silent when officials on duty were assaulted, alleging that political considerations were taking precedence over enforcement. He also questioned whether encroachment laws were being implemented uniformly across the state and demanded the immediate arrest of all those involved, strict legal action against the accused, and enhanced security for government officials carrying out enforcement drives.

Rajasthan Man Kills Wife, Hides Body In Trunk After She Refuses To Give Money For Liquor



Jaipur: A man allegedly beat his wife to death and hid her body in an iron trunk after she refused to give him money for liquor in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred in Agwana Khurd village under Surajgarh police station limits on July 18, but came to light four days later after a foul smell started coming from the trunk, they said. Station House Officer Ram Singh Yadav said the accused, Krishna Kumar Jat (40), had a dispute with his wife Sulochana (34) on Saturday over money for alco-

hol. "When the woman refused to give money, the

accused allegedly beat her brutally, leading to her death," he said. The police said the accused then tied the woman's hands, placed the body in an iron trunk inside the house and locked it to hide the crime. After a few days, when a foul smell started emanating, the accused informed an acquaintance, which eventually led to police being alerted. "The body was found inside a locked trunk and has been kept in the mortuary. The accused has been detained and is being questioned," the officer said. The police

said the couple's 16-year-old son was not at home at the time of the incident. When he returned, the accused misled him by saying that his mother had gone somewhere. The accused has confessed to the crime during questioning, but the exact manner and weapon used in the murder are yet to be established, the police said. "The exact cause of death will be confirmed after post-mortem and forensic reports," Yadav said. The couple had married in 2009. Further investigation is underway, the police added. n

7 killed, Several Injured As Bus Bursts Into Flames In Vietnam

Hanoi: At least seven passengers were killed when a bus caught fire in southern Vietnam early on Tuesday, police said. The bus was traveling from Lam Dong province to the nearby business hub Ho Chi Minh City when it caught fire, with flames quickly engulfing the 24-seat vehicle and passengers inside trapped, the police-led Ministry of Public Security said in a statement. Police have launched an investigation into the cause of the fire. State media reports said five other passengers were injured.

Adani Total Gas Q1 Revenue Rises 27% To Rs 1,910 Crore

Ahmedabad: Adani Total Gas Limited (ATGL) on Tuesday reported a 27 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in its standalone revenue at Rs 1,910 crore for the first quarter of FY27, while posting an EBITDA of Rs 281 crore and a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 133 crore. The company said its operational performance remained strong during the quarter, with combined standalone CNG and PNG sales volumes rising 13 per cent year-on-year to 303 million metric standard cubic metres (MMSCM). Commenting on financial performance, Sanjay Pandita, CEO, ATGL said that the company yet again, delivered robust growth in volumes up by 13 per cent YoY and revenue up by 27 per cent during Q1 FY27, driven by strong opera-

tional performance, and increasing consumer preference for cleaner fuels. "The operating environment remained dynamic, with elevated gas prices, higher Brent crude prices, compounded by currency volatility, and geopolitical developments negatively impacting global energy supplies," he stated. "While these factors exerted pressure on gas sourcing strategy for CGD Industry, our focus remained ensuring supply continuity, enhancing operational efficiency, safeguarding CNG and PNG consumers from undue risks and creating long-term value for customers and stakeholders," Pandita mentioned. ATGL continued to expand its distribution network during the quarter by adding five new CNG stations, taking the total num-



ber to 707. The company also added 38,243 new PNG household connections, raising the total to 11.41 lakh. Its industrial and commercial customer base increased by 448 consumers to 10,422, while the cumulative steel pipeline network expanded to nearly 15,987 inch-km. Including its joint venture IndianOil-Adani Gas Pvt Ltd (IOAGPL), the company's pan-India footprint continued to grow. Combined CNG and PNG volumes rose 13

per cent year-on-year to 496 MMSCM, while the total network expanded to 1,167 CNG stations after the addition of six new outlets. Across its combined network, PNG household connections crossed 13.75 lakh, serving more than six million people daily. The industrial and commercial customer base grew to 12,326 with the addition of 788 new consumers, while the cumulative steel pipeline network reached 28,675 inch-km.

Harmanpreet to lead India's squad for Hockey World Cup 2026



Hyderabad: Hockey India announced the 20-member Indian men's squad for the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026 to be held from August 15 to 30, with Chief Coach Craig Fulton expressing confidence that the selected squad has a bright chance to "write its own chapter in Indian hockey history". Ace defender and drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh will lead the side, while veteran midfielder Manpreet Singh, India's most-capped player, brings vast experience to a balanced squad

comprising a blend of seasoned campaigners and exciting young talent. "This is a well-balanced squad, the right mix of tournament experience and in-form youth who have earned their spot through performance, not reputation," Chief Coach Fulton said while sharing his thoughts on the composition of the squad. The goalkeeping department includes Mohith HS and Suraj Karkera, while the defensive unit comprises Jarmanpreet Singh, captain Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay,

Sumit and Yashdeep Siwach. The midfield will be led by the trio of Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad, besides Nilakanta Sharma and promising youngsters Rajinder Singh and Aditya Arjun Lalage. The attacking responsibilities will rest on the shoulders of Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Shilanand Lakra. India, drawn in Pool D alongside England, Pakistan and Wales, will play all their pool-stage matches in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

"Press, counter, perform isn't just our tactical identity, it's how this group trains and thinks together every single day. We are not getting ahead of ourselves. One game at a time, all in, is the mentality we're taking into every match," added Chief Coach Fulton. India will begin their campaign against Wales on August 15 before taking on England on August 17 and arch-rivals Pakistan on August 19, which remains the most sought-after fixture of the pool stage. "Fifty years since 1975 (World Cup win), this group has a chance to write its own chapter in Indian hockey history, and we are really excited about it," Fulton concluded.

Here's the complete squad:
Goalkeepers: Mohith HS, Suraj Karkera
Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh (c), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Yashdeep Siwach
Midfielders: Rajinder Singh, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad
Forwards: Dilpreet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Abhishek.

Rohit Earned Right to Retire on His Own Terms, Says Kaif After Lord's Ton



New Delhi: Strongly backing veteran opener Rohit Sharma as he quashed all speculation over his international future with a sublime 138 at Lord's, former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif on Monday asserted that the 39-year-old has earned the right to decide on his retirement on his own terms. Coming into the

ODI series decider with speculation over his international career ending and him missing out on playing the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup, Rohit was at his vintage best to hit the first ODI century by an Indian batter at Lord's and set aside all speculations emphatically. He also shared stands of 147 and

113 with skipper Shubman Gill (77) and Virat Kohli (74), though it went in vain as India lost by 27 runs and suffered a 2-1 defeat in the ODI series. "Rohit Sharma's retirement will be decided by Rohit Sharma himself. He has the right. He has worked so hard for India. He has the right to retire of his own will. 12,000 runs, 34 centuries – till the time he was the captain, he never let India lose. "Not even today was anyone able to defeat India in the white ball, and what a captain he was. Now, understand, there is so much pressure on him, like, 'Rohit Sharma, brother, you are done, now go take retirement, take retirement.' "Under that pressure, he is the highest run-getter as a batsman at Lord's. No one else scored a century; I am talking about Indian batsmen. The century came from his bat in this match at Lord's," said Kaif in a video posted on his 'X' account on Monday. Kaif further suggested that Rohit is currently battling a perception of isolation, with critics seem-

ingly waiting for a failure to push him out, making his resolute century at Lord's even more remarkable. "Now imagine, suppose Shubman Gill says this, Shubman Gill as a captain, 'Rohit bhai, I need you in the 2027 World Cup'. If he comes and gives such a statement, speaks openly in the media, and if the BCCI says that no one should raise a finger at Rohit Sharma, and that no harm should come to him, we stand with him, and he will play for as long as he wants. "If this statement comes out, then imagine what Rohit Sharma would end up doing. Right now, he is under pressure because no one is standing with him. Everyone is waiting for him to be out. Under that pressure, he has been challenged. "When he realises that his team, captain, and coach are standing with him, he will even scale the Himalayas and give it all his might for India. I think I have got the answer. I hope that from now on, all of you will keep calm and will let Rohit Sharma play in peace for India," concluded Kaif.

India announces shooting squad for ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou

Hyderabad: India has announced their squad for the upcoming ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China, from July 20 to 29, 2026, with a strong contingent set to compete across individual and mixed team events. The squad features several of India's leading shooters, including Olympic medallists Manu Bhaker and Swapnil Kusale, alongside Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Esha Singh, Suruchi, Elavenil Valarivan, Sift Kaur Samra, Sonam Uttam Maskar, Anish Bhanwala, Raiza Dhillon, Ganemat Sekhon and Olympian Anant Jeet Singh Naruka. In the rifle events, Parth Rakesh Mane, Himanshu Dhillon, Shahu Tushar Mane and Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil will compete in the men's 10m Air Rifle, while Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Uttam Maskar and Sakshi Sunil Padekar feature in the women's event. The 50m Rifle 3 Positions line-up includes Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Niraj Kumar and Rudranksh in the men's competition, with Ashi Chouksey, Vidarsa K Vinod and Sift Kaur Samra in the women's event. India's pistol challenge will be led by Suruchi, Sainyam and Esha Singh in the women's 10m

Air Pistol, while Kedarling B. Uchaganve, Kamaljeet and Aakash Bhardwaj will compete in the men's event. Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh and Rahi Sarnobat have been selected for the women's 25m Pistol, while Anish, Omkar Singh and Bhavesh Shekhawat will compete in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol. In shotgun, Udavir Singh Jajee, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Vivaan Kapoor will compete in men's Trap, with Pragati Dubey, Kirti Gupta and Rajeshwari Kumari in the women's competition. Gurjoat Singh Khangura, Parampal Singh Guron and Abhay Singh Sekhon make up the men's Skeet line-up, while Ganemat Sekhon, Darshna Rathore and Yashasvi Rathore will represent India in women's Skeet. India will also field teams in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team, 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team and Trap



Mixed Team events. The competition programme begins on July 22, with the first medals decided in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team and men's 10m Air

Rifle. The World Cup will continue through July 28, when the final medals will be awarded in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team and Trap Mixed Team events.

Arjun Erigaisi defeats D Gukesh to take joint lead in Chennai Grand Masters

Hyderabad: India's Arjun Erigaisi pounced on world champion D Gukesh's errors to storm into joint lead after fifth round in the fourth edition of the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2026, India's most prestigious classical chess tournament, in Chennai on Tuesday while GM Nodirbek Abdosattorov also registered a win with black to throw his hat in the title race. With just two rounds left to play, Erigaisi is tied with French GM Alireza Firouzja on 3.5 points while Abdosattorov is half a point behind on 3. Organised by MGD1, the tournament witnesses eight grandmasters face-off in a round robin format and offers a prize purse of Rs 75,00,000 and valuable FIDE Circuit points. After the fourth round ending in all draws, Abdosattorov took the attack to Indian GM Nihal Sarin with black pieces and slowly but surely tightened the noose to force his opponent to resign after 38 moves.

Nathan Smith named ICC Player of the Month for June



Hyderabad: New Zealand seam bowler Nathan Smith was on Monday named the ICC Player of the Month for June following superb performances in a Test series in England, while England opener Danni Wyatt-Hodge won the award for her outstanding efforts in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, according to an ICC media release. The 28-year-old Smith played a key role in New Zealand's 2-1 Test series win in England and won the award ahead of India captain Shubman Gill and Bangladesh all-rounder Mossadek Hossain. Smith finished as the leading wicket-taker with a series haul of 16 wickets at an average of 23.00. His standout performance was a return of six for 70 in the second innings of the first Test at Lord's, where he finished with nine wickets. Smith said: "This is really special. It was a great tour of England for the boys, and this is pretty cool. I don't

usually play for individual awards, but it's nice to receive this recognition and, more importantly, to have contributed to a series win. "Personally, it was really satisfying to contribute to the win. That's all I want to do for New Zealand – try as hard as I can and contribute in whatever way I can. Unfortunately, we had a few injuries during the series, so I had to step up and open the bowling. It's something I've done in domestic cricket and a little bit for New Zealand before, but it was nice to shoulder the responsibility and bowl a few overs with the new ball." Wyatt-Hodge, who edged out Scotland all-rounder Kathryn Bryce and India's left-arm spinner Sree Charani for the award, was in superb touch during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. The 35-year-old finished the league stage as the leading run-scorer of the tournament, boasting an unbeaten 105 off 62 deliveries against Sri Lanka and an un-

beaten 89 off 53 against defending champions New Zealand. She was named Player of the Match in both games. Wyatt-Hodge said: "I'm delighted to win the ICC Player of the Month award, especially as it came for performances at a World Cup on home soil. The ICC Women's T20 World Cup was a fantastic occasion for the game, and having the opportunity to play in the final at Lord's is a memory that my teammates and I will cherish forever. "While we fell short of lifting the trophy, we gave everything we had and were proud to be part of a tournament that captured the imagination of fans. I hope the memories it created will inspire many more young girls and boys to embrace the game in the years ahead. I'm grateful to the ICC for this recognition and look forward to contributing many more match-winning performances for England."

Saba Karim outlines India's priorities after England ODI series defeat, emphasizes fast-bowling depth



New Delhi: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Saba Karim believes India's batting unit emerged with plenty of positives from the ODI series against England, but says the team's immediate priority should be settling on a pace attack capable of delivering in Jasprit Bumrah's absence and fine-tuning combinations ahead of future assignments. Assessing India's performance after England claimed the three-match series 2-1, Karim said the top order had answered several important questions, with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill both making significant contributions. "India have ticked several boxes. Rohit's century put an end to all the speculation surrounding him.

Shubman Gill scored runs, batted with great positivity and showed impressive leadership. So, I don't see any major issues with the batting," Karim told JioStar. While expressing confidence in the batting group, Karim said India's bowling department still requires greater clarity, particularly regarding the pace attack if Bumrah is unavailable. "India's focus now should be on identifying the pace bowling attack if Jasprit Bumrah isn't available. In these conditions, our young and inexperienced pace bowlers struggled a bit. That's why the upcoming five-match ODI tour of New Zealand will be a real test to evaluate these combinations," he added. Karim also stressed the importance of

having a wicket-taking wrist spinner in the side and urged the team management to adopt a more conditions-based approach while selecting the playing XI. "You need a wrist spinner who can provide wickets in the middle overs, whether that's Kuldeep Yadav or someone else is a different discussion. India need to dive deeper into their planning according to the opposition, the conditions and the ground dimensions and then take the field with the right resources and the right combination," he stated. India's bowling attack came under pressure throughout the deciding ODI at Lord's as England amassed 387/5 before defending the total to seal the series.

Sixth YAI Secunderabad Club GMR Sports Youth Open Regatta inaugurated at Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The sixth YAI Secunderabad Club GMR Sports Youth Open Regatta 2026 was formally inaugurated by Mr. Srinivas Kylasa, President, Secunderabad Club, at Hussain Sagar Lake here on Monday with 113 young sailors registered to race in the heart of the city. The regatta carries dual status as a YAI National Ranking Event and National Junior Ranking Event, meaning results here count towards the national standings that shape selection for higher honours. For many of the sailors competing, points earned on Hussain Sagar in July will follow them through the rest of the season. The Organising Authority is the Secunderabad Sailing Club (SSC), in association with the EME Sailing Association (EMESA), under the sanction of the Yachting Association of India (YAI). GMR Sports is the title sponsor, and the event carries the GMR Sports name in its official title. Racing will be held in the Optimist Main Fleet and Optimist Green Fleet (Boys and Girls), ILCA 4 (Boys and Girls), ILCA 6 Open, 420 (Mixed, Boys and Girls) and 29er (Boys and Girls). A separate Optimist Team Racing competition will be held on 23 July. The Green Fleet is the entry-level Optimist division, and its presence alongside the 29er — a fast twin-trapeze skiff — gives the regatta an unusually wide span, from sailors racing their first national event to those already competing at the sharp end of the junior circuit. A maximum of 10 races are scheduled for each event, with up to three races per day and the possibility of one additional race.

Drishyam Girl Nails In Traditional Look

Esther Anil, who played Anumol “Anu” George in the Drishyam movies, recently saw big success with Drishyam 3, directed by Jeethu Joseph. The film also has Mohanlal, Meena, and Ansiba Hassan in main roles. Esther started as a child artist in 2010 and became famous for her role in Drishyam. Before the release, she wrote on social media that Drishyam changed her whole life and gave her audience love across India. Drishyam 3 crossed Rs.241.92 crore worldwide, concluding its theatrical run as a massive blockbuster. In one of her recent pictures, Esther is seen in a white sleeveless anarkali with delicate thread embroidery on the bodice and pretty floral motifs on the flowy skirt. She completed the look with a fresh flower garland in her hair, gold jhumka earrings, and a statement ring, keeping the overall styling soft and traditional. Fans are calling this one of her most graceful looks yet, adding to the excitement around Drishyam 3’s success.



Prithviraj Sukumaran: It was Varanasi’s script that won me over

SS Rajamouli’s ambitious globe-trotting adventure “Varanasi,” starring Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra, is progressing at a brisk pace. The film’s production is expected to be completed by October 2026. Mahesh Babu is reportedly playing dual roles as Rudra and Lord Rama, while Priyanka Chopra essays the role of Mandakini. Malayalam star Prithviraj Sukumaran plays Kumbha, a wealthy quadriplegic character said to have a role as significant as Mahesh Babu’s. Speaking about the project in a recent interview, Prithviraj said it was not Rajamouli’s reputation that convinced him to join the film. “I love Rajamouli’s films, but I didn’t sign Varanasi because of his name,” he said, adding that it was the script that impressed him the most. According to Prithviraj, the film tells a magnificent story, and he believes Rajamouli is the perfect filmmaker to bring such a grand vision to the screen. He said the screenplay and the scale of the narrative excited him more than the opportunity to work with the celebrated director. Calling “Varanasi” a visual masterpiece, Prithviraj expressed confidence that the film will be a spectacular cinematic experience and further enhance Rajamouli’s standing as one of India’s finest filmmakers.



Mamitha Baiju is all set for three big releases in a month

Mamitha Baiju became a popular name after the blockbuster success of “Premalu.” Her popularity grew further with “Dude,” another successful film that showcased both her acting and screen presence. As a result, offers have been pouring in, and the next month could prove to be a game-changer for her career. Mamitha has three major releases lined up within a span of one month. The first is “Jana Nayagan,” releasing this Thursday. In Vijay’s final film, she plays a key role that is said to have more prominence than the heroine, Pooja Hegde. Interestingly, the role was originally played by Sreeleela in the Telugu version, and it is expected to offer Mamitha ample scope to impress. She will next be seen opposite Suriya in “Vishwanath and Sons,” directed by Venky Atluri, which releases on August 14. A week later, her Malayalam film Bethlehem “Bethlehem Kudumba Unit,” co-starring Nivin Pauly, will hit theaters. If these three films click at the box office, Mamitha Baiju could emerge as one of the most sought-after young actresses in South Indian cinema. Her charming screen presence, expressive performance, and natural acting won over audiences despite not fitting the conventional glamorous heroine image.



Manasa Varanasi Keeps It Chic And Classy

Manasa Varanasi, former Femina Miss India World 2020 winner, is once again winning hearts with her latest glamorous pictures that have gone viral on social media.

In her recent shoot, she is seen in a stylish denim ensemble, a fitted peplum jacket with a matching skirt, styled with soft waves, dainty gold earrings, and minimal jewellery, giving off a chic, confident vibe against a striking red backdrop.

On the work front, Manasa made her acting debut in 2024 with Devaki Nandana Vasudeva, which didn’t perform well at the box office. She bounced back with Couple Friendly alongside Santosh Sobhan, a small-budget romantic drama that turned out to be a surprise hit, earning strong profits and positive buzz.

Toxic Team Should Proceed With More Clarity?

Yash’s Toxic is one of the most awaited films and is all set to hit the screens on August 26, 2026. Ever since the project was announced, fans have been expecting a stylish gangster action drama packed with intense and powerful emotions.

The makers initially released promotional content that highlighted the film’s bold tone, action, and violence. These glimpses created strong buzz and gave the impression that Toxic would be a hard-hitting gangster saga.

However, the recent promotional strategy has left some fans confused. The team has been releasing back-to-back romantic songs featuring bold and intimate moments between Yash and the female leads.

While the songs have received attention, they have also raised questions about the film’s actual genre. Movie lovers are now wondering whether Toxic is primarily a gangster action drama or a film with a strong romantic angle.

Some fans feel the promotions are focusing heavily on the female gaze and romance,



while the action elements that initially attracted audiences have taken a backseat off late.

A section of fans believes that the makers should provide more clarity about the film’s core theme in the days

to come to avoid confusion. With huge expectations surrounding the project, every update is being closely watched. Let’s see how the makers deal with this response in the days to come.

Regina’s Bold Avatar In Raj & DK’s Next OTT Show

Raj and DK have become quite famous post their hit show The Family Man. Both the seasons are super hits and now they are making many more OTT projects. One of them is with Shahid Kapoor and Raashi Khanna. If this was not enough, they now introducing Regina with a bold web series that has been locked recently. This web series will be female-centric and will showcase Regina in a very bold manner. Regina is known to do bold roles and has happily accepted to do this series. The shoot will start soon and more details about the backdrop will be out. Regina has not many Telugu films in the offing and that is the reason, she is making her OTT debut now.

