

PM Modi's Words Motivates: Mirabai Chanu



New Delhi: Commonwealth Games gold medalist Mirabai Chanu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words of encouragement during his interaction with India's Glasgow 2026 medallists will motivate her to work harder in future competitions, as she reflected on the emotional journey behind her triumphant return to the top of the podium.

"Thank you Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodiji for your constant support and motivation in our journey. Your words of encouragement to each and every medalist during our precious interaction yesterday will definitely motivate us to work hard in our next competitions," Chanu posted on X after meeting PM Narendra Modi.

Jharkhand Exam Row:

Police Use Lathis, Water Cannons As Students March To Assembly Demanding CBI Probe

Ranchi: Police resorted to lathi charge and used water cannons to stop job aspirants and students from entering the assembly premises. Police took action against protesters at the barricade, close to the assembly. Protesters reached there after breaking six rounds as police re-



BJP's Organisational Reset In Punjab Faces Another Challenge: Alliance Buzz



New Delhi: The BJP's organisational overhaul in Punjab has run into a problem. The attempt to build a new team has triggered resistance from the old one, and this is happening even

before the party has formally taken a call on its alliance strategy for the 2027 assembly elections. The Central leadership has now stepped in. Party observer Satish Poonia has been sent

to meet the disgruntled leaders. Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon was also summoned to Delhi. The Central leadership is learnt to have conveyed a clear message: Contain the rebellion, avoid arbitrary decisions and take everyone along. The timing is important because organisational dissent is emerging as the buzz about a renewed BJP Akali Dal alliance is growing. The buzz could become another challenge for the Punjab BJP - especially as the party spent the past several months telling its workers that it is preparing to fight the 2027 election on its own strength. Union Home Minister Amit Shah

had made that pitch explicitly at the BJP rally in Moga in March, telling party workers that the BJP will contest the Punjab Assembly elections on its own. That message was important for a cadre that had spent years functioning as the junior partner in an alliance with the Akali Dal. Sections of its cadre have been mobilised around the idea that the party is finally seeking an independent political space in Punjab. Speculation about alliance is now creating a potentially awkward situation. If an alliance is eventually announced, the existing organisational resentment could intensify. Leaders who have been promised greater political space, work-

ers who have been told that the BJP is building an independent base and those who have invested in the party's expansion may question why they should now make room for the Akali Dal. That makes the current infighting more than a routine organisational dispute. The trigger was a series of controversial appointments. Six district presidents were replaced within 12 days of their appointment. The composition of Dhillon's core team has left sections of the old guard questioning the decision-making process. The appointment of Anuj Khosla as Punjab BJP Yuva Morcha president has further aggravated the situation, particularly among leaders in Patiala.

frained from using force against them until they reached close to the assembly. Besides protesters taking the main route, they also took the alternative route to reach near the assembly premises. Interestingly, a protester also showed a placard, congratulating chief minister Hemant Soren on his birthday, falling on Monday. Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha leader Devendra Nath Mahto, who has been on a hunger strike for nine days in protest against exam irregularities, also joined the march, despite losing 10.5 kg. He was seen carrying a portrait of former Jharkhand Chief Minister

Shibu Soren. The Jharkhand government on Sunday (August 9, 2026) agreed to cancel the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) preliminary examination and the JPSC backlog examinations held in 2023 and 2025 following six hours of discussions with protesting student groups. However, the students remained firm on their demand for a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the JPSC-CGL examination and said the agitation would continue. The announcement came even as all three JPSC members resigned and Chief Minister Hemant Soren assured protesters that jus-

tice would be delivered with full transparency. Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM) and JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch, said they want cancellation of JPSC-CGL and all exams connected to the TSR Data Processing Private Limited Agency, a blacklisted entity. The protest gained further political traction earlier in the day when former chief minister and BJP leader Babul Marandi and party leader Aditya Sahu were detained during a sit-in outside Chief Minister Hemant Soren's residence. They were seeking a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in government recruitment examinations.

AP Extends Ban on Transfers of Key Officials

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 10: The Andhra Pradesh government has extended the ban on transfers of key officials in the state. The decision has been taken in view of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The government has issued orders extending the ban on transfers and postings of key government officials until October 3. As a result, transfers of key officials will remain on hold until the completion of the SIR process.

July 1, 2026 has been fixed as the qualifying date for the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh. The Election Commission (EC) has revised the



schedule for the SIR process in the state. According to the revised schedule, claims and objections will be received from July 31 to August 30. The process of disposing of claims and objections will continue until September 28. The final electoral roll will be published on October 3. In view of the revised schedule issued by the

Election Commission, the Andhra Pradesh government has extended the ban on transfers. Under the decision, key officials associated with the electoral roll revision process will continue in their existing positions until October 3. Accordingly, G.O.Rt.No. 1545 has been issued in the name of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer.

Good News for Tobacco Farmers: Rs.50,000 Interest-Free Loans

From Our Staff Reporter Guntur District, August 10: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinzarapu Atchannaidu announced that Rs.50,000 would be provided as a loan to each tobacco farmer. He said the amount would be given interest-free for two years. He also announced that the government would provide Rs.1,000 per quintal to tobacco farmers.

The Minister said steps would be taken to ensure that the money is credited to farmers' bank accounts within nine days of tobacco purchases. He said the government had decided to restrict tobacco cultivation to 80 million kg next year. Atchannaidu alleged that some people were trying to politicise the issue. He criticised the leader of the

"hatchet party," who had previously served as Chief Minister, for making unwarranted allegations. Minister Atchannaidu conducted a review meeting on Monday at the Tobacco Board office in Guntur district. The meeting discussed the problems faced by tobacco farmers, prices and the procurement process. Ministers Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Dola Bala Veeranjanyulu, MLAs from Prakasam district, Tobacco Board officials and farmers attended the meeting. The Minister issued several instructions to the officials and later addressed the gathering. **Nothing Was Done Despite Falling Tobacco Prices During Jagan's Regime**



Minister Atchannaidu criticised YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that nothing was done for tobacco farmers despite a decline in tobacco prices during his tenure as Chief Minister.

He said only 11 million kg of tobacco had been procured through MARKFED during Jagan's tenure. He asserted that tobacco farmers benefited when Nara Chandrababu Naidu was in power and urged farmers to remember this and un-

derstand the facts. The Minister said a five-member committee had been constituted to assess tobacco quality. He made it clear that traders would not be allowed to act arbitrarily by citing low grades as a reason.

Noose Tightens Around YSRCP Leader Chintada Ravi Kumar

From Our Staff Reporter Srikakulam, August 10: YSRCP leader Chintada Ravi Kumar, who is currently in remand in connection with a case involving alleged indecent behaviour towards a woman SI, was arrested by the police nine days after the incident. Police registered an FIR alleging that Ravi Kumar behaved inappropriately with and assaulted a woman SI during YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent visit to Srikakulam. Fearing arrest, Ravi Kumar allegedly went into hiding. Police have preliminarily identified that he travelled to eight different locations over a period of about nine days. According to the police, he used 24 SIM cards and 21 mobile phones during this period.

He reportedly stayed in Vizianagaram, Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Odisha and



Araku. While travelling by car from Araku towards Srikakulam, Ravi Kumar was taken into custody by the Task Force police near Chilakapalem in Etcherla mandal. During questioning, police reportedly asked him why he had absconded. Ravi Kumar allegedly replied that he had been at home. However, when the police showed him videos and other evidence indicating that he had fled, he reportedly remained silent.

Financial Assistance Under 'Nethannala Sevalo' Scheme for All Eligible Beneficiaries: Minister Savitha

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 10: Minister Savitha said the 'Nethannala Sevalo' (Serving the Weavers) scheme was recently launched by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. On Monday, the Minister conducted a review meeting on the scheme at the State Secretariat. During the meeting, she directed officials to identify all eligible weavers who were left out and provide each of them with financial assistance of Rs.25,000.

Speaking to the media later, Minister Savitha said financial assistance of Rs.25,000 each had already been provided to 71,536 weavers. She said the remaining eligible weavers would also receive the financial assistance. She revealed that 13,678 weavers had applied under the 'Nethannala Sevalo'



scheme and said eligible beneficiaries among them would be identified and covered under the 'Nethannala Nestham' scheme. The Minister said the remaining eligible beneficiaries would also receive Rs.25,000 financial assistance within a week. She said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's objective was to ensure financial benefits for weavers. She added that NTR Bharosa pensions were being provided to 85,678

handloom weavers aged above 50 years. Minister Savitha said 62,541 weaver families were being provided free electricity. The review meeting was attended by Handlooms and Textiles Department Commissioner Rekha Rani and other officials.

POCSO Case in Krishna District: Two Accused Arrested

Krishna District, August 10: An incident involving the rape of girls from a residential school in Pedana has caused a major stir in the district. Police have arrested two individuals in connection with the incident and registered cases against them under the POCSO Act and other relevant sections. On Monday, SP Vidyasagar Naidu presented the accused before the media. Speaking on the occasion, the SP stated that two female students had gone missing from the Balliparru residential school in Pedana Mandal on the 6th of this month. The SP revealed that the rape of the girls took place near the TIDCO houses in Rudravaram, Machilipatnam. He stated that two auto-rickshaw drivers had raped the girls. The accused were identified as Maddala Shyam Kiran (20) and Kokkiligadda Sidhu (20), both residents of Sarada Nagar. He confirmed that both accused had been arrested and remanded to custody. SP Vidyasagar announced that the investigation would be completed and the charge sheet filed in court within 40 days.

Minister Narayana's Team in London for Key Talks on Amaravati's Iconic Buildings

London/Amaravati, August 10: The visit of Andhra Pradesh Minister P. Narayana and his team to London is continuing. The Minister travelled to London to discuss the final designs of the iconic buildings being constructed in Amaravati. The Minister and senior officials arrived in London on Sunday night as part of their official visit. During the visit, Narayana

will hold discussions with architects and representatives of consultancy firms on the exterior designs of the Assembly, High Court and Secretariat towers. The Minister will participate in meetings with representatives of Norman Foster & Partners, Hafeez Contractor, Buro Happold Consultancy and L&T, which have been involved in providing designs and

consultancy services for the iconic buildings. The main focus of the discussions will be the design of the high-rise tower proposed above the Assembly building. The Andhra Pradesh government is developing the tower as a tourist attraction, enabling visitors to get a panoramic view of the Amaravati capital region from the top.



EDITORIAL

Is Suppressing Protests the Solution?

In a democracy, protest is the most powerful weapon available to the people to make their voices heard. Even after casting their votes, citizens have the constitutional right to express their dissatisfaction, grievances and demands before the government through peaceful protests. However, a look at India's political history shows a similar trend regardless of which government is in power: rather than listening to protests, governments often try to weaken them by allowing time to pass. The administration tends to believe that eventually the movement will lose momentum, people will disperse and the leadership will weaken. This issue has once again come into focus across the country in the wake of social activist Sonam Wangchuk's recent hunger strike and student movements organised under the banner of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). There has been little change in the approach of governments that have faced protests throughout the history of Indian democracy. Irrespective of which political party is in power, there has generally been a tendency to deal with public agitations through legal action and administrative restrictions rather than immediately coming forward to address their concerns. Irom Sharmila of Manipur went on a hunger strike for 16 years demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), yet the government did not immediately respond positively to her demands. Instead, attempts were made to control her protest through measures such as arrests and force-feeding. Today, similar questions are being raised about the government's response to the movement led by Ladakh-based social activist Sonam Wangchuk. Is the responsibility of a government in a democracy merely to suppress dissent? Or should it engage with the people, understand the substance of their concerns and explore ways to resolve them? This fundamental question has once again become the centre of national debate. Recent developments have reinforced the fact that democracy is strengthened not through the use of force, but through mutual trust, dialogue and constitutionally established discussions. For the government, maintaining law and order is a responsibility. At the same time, it also has a responsibility to respect the right to peaceful protest. When the balance between these two responsibilities is lost, democracy becomes weaker. Suppressing movements through force may produce temporary results, but it can deepen dissatisfaction among the people. The farmers' movement in India is a major example of this. Initially, the Central Government did not pay much attention to the agitation. Over time, however, the movement gained strength. After protests continued for a year, the government eventually had to withdraw the three farm laws. History therefore shows that prolonged and peaceful movements can have a significant impact in a democracy.

However, another aspect cannot be ignored. Is every protest justified? Should the government immediately accept every demand? These are also important questions. In a democracy, the government must listen to public opinion. At the same time, policy decisions must be taken through legal and constitutional processes. Therefore, dialogue is the right path—not neglect and not suppression. Another important factor in the current situation is the influence of social media. In the past, a movement was largely confined to a particular locality. Today, it can spread across the country within minutes. Videos, live broadcasts and public reactions provide new energy to movements. As a result, it has become more difficult than ever before to stop a movement merely through police action. Governments often follow the strategy that “if time passes, the movement will die down.” But this does not always work. If the people's grievance is genuine and the leadership is credible, the movement may become even stronger. That is why dialogue, consultation and transparency are extremely important in a democracy. The opposition too has an important responsibility in this regard. Public issues should be taken forward with the aim of finding solutions rather than viewing them solely through the prism of political gains and losses. Turning protests merely into platforms for anti-government propaganda is also not good for democracy. Likewise, portraying every criticism as sedition or a foreign conspiracy is harmful to democratic culture. From Irom Sharmila to Sonam Wangchuk, every movement carries the same message: power is not permanent, but the aspirations of the people are. Suppressing protests does not make problems disappear. Democracy becomes stronger only by listening to the people, understanding their concerns and providing solutions.

Pakistan's Kashmir 'Story' Is Now Collapsing Under The Weight Of Its Own Contradictions



Pakistan's central narrative framed the Kashmir dispute with India essentially through the language of self-determination, making a case for international attention. The ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) over the last two months, however, inform an uncomfortable contradiction. What began as an anti-government civil society mobilisation in early July over inflated prices and political representation has, by early August, resulted in weeks of internet blackout, dozens of state-led killings, the proscription of a political coalition, and a flawed election process. The escalation rapidly turned deadly with clashes between security forces and protesters. The violence coincided with local polls being conducted in three phases between late July and early August. In fact, on June 9, a British national who was not even participating in the demonstrations was struck by a stray bullet and died, though his death has been reported only now.

The 1974 Interim Constitution provided a blueprint for PoK's political framework, while concurrently institutionalising Islamabad's control. The 2018 constitutional reforms devolved some of the financial and legislative authority to the elected representation in the region; Islamabad continued to retain substantial influence through the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs, fiscal dependence, and oversight.

The JAAC and the Reserved-Seats Dispute

At the center of the current movement is the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a coalition body of traders, lawyers, students, and transporters. The coalition first consolidated in 2023 over bread-and-butter grievances involving flour subsidies, electricity tariffs, and the high cost of living. These campaigns gained concessions in 2024 and

2025. However, the JAAC broadened its demands into a 38-point charter, with the central issue of 12 reserved seats in PoK's 45-seat Legislative Assembly for refugees from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K); these refugees, however, are based in mainland Pakistan. The JAAC has long argued that this arrangement has enabled Islamabad, with no local stake in the region, to divert funds from the region. For the Pakistani government, the dispute is tied to the state's broader diplomatic position on Kashmir. Mirroring its own constitutional claims, India reserves 24 seats out of 114 for the territories across the Line of Control (LoC), under the legal provision of Section 14(4) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Therefore, an alteration in this arrangement will likely open a Pandora's box, potentially suggesting a shift in Pakistan's constitutional understanding of Kashmir's status. Negotiations between JAAC and the

Pakistani government collapsed in May. Subsequently, Islamabad banned the group under anti-terrorism laws on June 5 and arrested several leaders. Dozens of protesters have been killed since then. Under the 1974 interim constitution, PoK has a semi-autonomous system, which includes its own Legislative Assembly, Prime Minister, President, and Supreme Court. However, the candidates holding these offices must remain loyal to the Pakistani state, thereby narrowing the field of permissible politics. In July, JAAC reportedly wrote directly to Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, potentially with the knowledge that Rawalpindi holds the real authority in the state rather than any civilian institution. The state's response was securitised. A tough-handed approach towards protesters and a harsh crackdown deepened these pre-existing anti-government grievances.

While the rhetoric around Kashmir has been that of sepa-

ratism, the movement has remained devoid of any secessionist sentiments and emphasised the lack of governance, violation of constitutional rights, fiscal transparency, political representation, and accountability within the administration. The greatest burden on Pakistan's narrative of Kashmir, therefore, is emerging not from New Delhi but from its own governance failures at home. This information remains crucial in the reading of the recent developments.

Information Control

The government's restrictions on foreign media further reflect Pakistan's approach to its peripheral provinces and occupied regions - Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and PoK - where careful management of information is paramount to its administration. In early August, Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued the Foreign Media Facilitation Guidelines, 2026, obligating all journalists to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) with

the ministry's External Publicity Wing to operate outside Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. The rules extend to freelancers, translators, fixers, and local collaborators. The government further warned of suspending accreditation on grounds of national security, public order, and sovereignty. Foreign correspondents have always faced bureaucratic hiccups in reporting from sensitive regions, with NOCs being delayed or withheld. International publications thus rely on local journalists for work. However, locals also now fall under the new regulatory framework. Media censorship was also imposed on an international platform on accusations of engaging in "yellow journalism" through reporting from polling stations in Muzaffarabad. The media environment is so dire that journalists across Pakistan live under the threat of being "picked up", also known as enforced disappearances, for crossing 'red-lines' against the military establishment.

86 Votes, 1 Warning: Is India Turning Into Collateral Damage In US' War On Russia?

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 was approved by the United States Senate with 86 votes against 11. The bill will now be sent to the House, which resumes sessions on August 31. New Delhi must act before then to shape the final legislation.

The bill grants the President authority to impose tariffs up to 100% on imports from third countries to build pressure on Russia. The July version limits this secondary-tariff provision to the five largest importers of Russian crude oil and natural gas. India is a prime member of that category.

The Real Target

If regarded merely as another American trade threat, the measure will be misunderstood. Moscow is the target. Washington wants to sever Russian energy income and has decided to use access to the American market to achieve this. India is seriously affected by this.

The arrangement indicates India's standing in America's strategic calculations. Washington sees defence and technology cooperation with New Delhi as tied to the economic pressure over the latter's commercial ties with Russia. As long as Indian interests align with American priorities, the partnership protects them; where they differ, protection disappears.

Tariff Power Becomes Statute

A 100% tariff would severely impact Indian exports, but the President can still impose a much lower one. This flexibility is part of the intended design, not a compromise. The bill gives the executive a graduated tool

that can be adjusted based on compliance abroad.

The importance lies in the institutional change rather than the rate. Until now, this tariff power had been exercised through unilateral executive action and challenged in courts and Congress each time. Congress is now making it law, turning an improvisation into a permanent part of American foreign policy, backed by a legislative majority. This changes the power from one needing justification each time to one easily implemented.

The issue facing India no longer depends on any individual President's character. It concerns the coercive economic power the American political system grants its executive branch, as statutory power continues beyond administrations.

Eighty-Six Votes

The Democratic sponsors, including Senator Richard Blumenthal, presented the bill as a way to undermine the Russian war effort and support Ukraine. They accepted the secondary-tariff mechanism as the price for that objective.

The vote was directed at Moscow, with India suffering the effects as a byproduct. The impact on India was not a significant concern to the Democratic senators when the Russian factor was calculated.

It was that calculation, not any hostility on the part of the United States, that accounts for India's vulnerability.

The Cost And The Ask

Ongoing economic pressure has weakened Indian domestic support that underpins the strategic

partnership with the United States. This coercive legislation will further damage Indian public opinion and affect cooperation. Soon, sectors previously separate from bilateral tensions, such as defence, intelligence, and critical technology, will suffer negative consequences. These areas took the longest to develop. After that, it will be hard to predict how disagreements will escalate.

This is the paradox that has arisen from India's foreign policy over the last 20 years. To counter China, India has strengthened its economic, technological, and defence links with the United States, and each level of integration has increased the scope of American influence.

The solution is resilience, not retreat. The relationship with Washington still advances Indian interests, and the strategic benefits gained over the last twenty years are genuine. Strategic autonomy now rests on building a diverse export market, a range of energy suppliers, and domestic capacity. Each factor reduces the ability of a single partner to turn interdependence into pressure.

Since Congress is establishing this framework, diplomatic efforts should not be limited to the White House. New Delhi must engage directly with Capitol Hill and do so before the House finalises its legislative approach.

Getting Congress to limit the President's trade powers is beyond India's capacity. The achievable objectives are more worthwhile and limited:

India should request mandatory waivers linked to



national security or proven reductions in its Russian energy purchases. Such waivers should be approved based on objective legal criteria, not executive discretion.

Regarding contract protection, India should advocate for safeguarding existing long-term commercial agreements with transition provisions. This would protect Indian companies from tariffs on contracts concluded before the law took effect.

Regarding amendments: When members of the House propose amendments, India's lobbying should focus on the scope of the secondary-tariff authority. India should have a narrower authority than a wider one, which is merely well implemented.

Time for Alternate Partners? Moreover, it now appears that various parts of the US

system are actively seeking to drive India away: the President is doing so by means of aggressive tariffs and restrictive immigration policies; Elbridge Colby and the Pentagon are pursuing this by making increasing demands for strategic concessions; and now Congress is achieving the same effect by turning tariffs into a form of legal coercion. This heavy-handed approach will probably cause India to shift strategically toward China and Russia, both of which are eager for New Delhi to join them in a more closely aligned multipolar arrangement.

The relationship with India is important in Washington, and American industry places a value on its access to the Indian market. New Delhi has real leverage and retains it until Capitol Hill turns a draft into law.

Public Grievances to be Resolved Swiftly: Prakasam SP



Ongole, August 10 (Pen Power): Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju conducted the 'Meekosam' public grievance programme at Addanki Police Station on

Monday and received 64 complaints from the public. Most complaints were related to family disputes, harassment by in-laws, and land and property issues. The SP directed police officials to conduct transparent investigations and ensure speedy resolution of every grievance. During a review meeting with Darshi Sub-Division police officials, the SP instructed them to focus on crime control, disposal of pending cases and non-bailable warrants, recovery of stolen property and strengthening surveillance through drones. He also directed officials to prevent road accidents, curb the sale and use of ganja and other drugs, bind over habitual offenders, and create awareness among the public on cyber crimes, women's safety and legal issues.

The SP later planted a sapling on the premises of Addanki Police Station. Senior police officials and personnel from the Darshi Sub-Division participated in the programme.

Conduct 'Partners in Nation Building' Programme on a Large Scale: Collector



Guntur, August 10 (Pen Power): District Collector C.M. Sai Kanth Varma called for conducting the 'Partners in Nation Building - Ane Nenu' programme on a large scale as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Addressing district and mandal-level officials through a video conference on Monday, the Collector directed all schools and colleges to conduct pledge programmes and create awareness among students about their role in nation-building. Students were encouraged to voluntarily undertake activities and share short videos highlighting their vision and contribution to the country. The videos were suggested to be shared with hashtags such as #AneNenu,

#PartnersInNationBuilding, #MyIndiaMyVision and #IndependenceDay2026. The Collector also called for participation from public representatives, officials, industries, tourism, sports, self-help groups and other sectors. He directed officials to organise the campaign extensively till August 13. Under 'Har Ghar Tiranga', people were urged to hoist the national flag at every home from August 13 to 15 and share selfies. Officials were also asked to organise plantation drives on August 14 and illuminate major buildings and junctions with tricolour lights on August 14 and 15. Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava also reviewed voter enrolment and SIR-related matters during the meeting.

Efforts Underway to Develop Kakinada as a Green City



Kakinada, August 10 (Pen Power): Joint Collector and District Youth Red Cross Committee Chairman Apoorva Bharat called upon citizens to actively participate in tree plantation and conservation efforts to trans-

form Kakinada into a greener and eco-friendly city. A plantation drive was organised by the Youth Red Cross and Junior Red Cross at Vivekananda Park near Raja Tank on Monday. Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat, Kakinada MLA Vanamadi Kondababu, Municipal Commissioner N.V.V. Satyanarayana and State Red Cross Chairman Rama Rao participated in the programme and planted saplings. The Joint Collector said extensive plantation drives would continue across Kakinada and its surrounding areas over the next three to four weeks. He urged residents and youth to voluntarily participate in the initiative and help achieve the goal of 'Green Kakinada'. MLA Vanamadi Kondababu said protecting the environment and increasing greenery was everyone's responsibility. He stressed that planting saplings alone was not enough and urged youth to take responsibility for their long-term care. Red Cross Secretary Sivakumar, Youth Red Cross members and others participated in the programme.

Velugonda Project Evacuees Storm Collectorate



Markapuram, August 10 (Pen Power): Tension prevailed at the Markapuram District Collectorate on Monday as hundreds of Velugonda Project-affected families entered the premises demanding immediate resolution of their rehabilitation and compensation issues. The evacuees demanded that R&R packages and adequate compensation be provided immediately to eligible displaced youth who have completed 18 years of age. They alleged that despite repeatedly bringing their grievances to the authorities, no concrete action had been taken so far. They demanded that compensation and rehabilitation benefits be extended to every eligible

family and urged the authorities not to force them to vacate their houses until all issues were resolved.

They also sought at least three months' time after settlement of their demands, warning of intensified protests otherwise. MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy and police officials reached the Collectorate and tried to bring the situation under control. The MLA assured the protesters that their grievances would be brought to the notice of higher authorities. Women and youth participated in large numbers, raising slogans and holding flags. Police personnel were deployed to maintain order.

Strict Action for Negligence in PGRS Complaints: Collector Lakshmeesh

Vijayawada, August 10 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh directed officials to handle public grievances responsibly and provide timely and quality solutions. He warned that strict action would be taken against officials who neglect PGRS complaints. During the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at the Pingali Venkaiah Conference Hall in Vijayawada Collectorate on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, received petitions from the public and reviewed pending complaints with departmental officials. He instructed officials to immediately clear petitions pending since the previous week and stressed the need to identify the root cause of complaints and provide permanent solutions. Officials were asked to conduct field inspections and interact directly with complainants wherever necessary.

The Collector also directed agriculture officials to create awareness among farmers on fertiliser availability, crop rotation and intercropping, and asked field-level



officials to regularly visit villages and address farmers' concerns. He warned that merely closing petitions without fully resolving the issues would not be tolerated. A total of 178 petitions were received during Monday's PGRS programme.

Everyone Must Contribute to an HIV/AIDS-Free Society: Collector

Kakinada, August 10 (Pen Power): Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad called upon youth, students, voluntary organisations and the pub-

lic to actively participate in efforts to build an HIV/AIDS-free society. The Collector, along with Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat and health officials, unveiled an awareness poster at the Collectorate on Monday. He said an Intensified IEC Campaign would be conducted across the district for 45 days from August 12

to create awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

As part of the campaign, LED-screen vehicles, awareness programmes and door-to-door surveys will be conducted. Awareness sessions and rallies will be organised in 300 villages, while Red Ribbon Clubs in 471 high schools and 107 junior colleges will conduct programmes.

The campaign will also include street plays, cultural programmes, door-to-door awareness in 9,000 households, a 5-km Red Run marathon, quiz competitions and five special medical camps. Around 45,000 risk-assessment surveys will also be conducted.

The Collector urged everyone to participate in the campaign, dispel misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and promote awareness about prevention and treatment.



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Strong Measures to Control Mosquitoes: Kakinada Collector

Kakinada, August 10 (Pen Power): Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad said strong measures were being taken to control mosquito-borne diseases and urged people to prevent the accumulation of rainwater and stagnant wastewater around their homes. As part of mosquito-control measures, the Health Department released Gambusia fish fingerlings into the water at Kulaicheruvu Park in Kakinada on Monday. The Collector and DM&HO Dr. K. Anitha participated in the programme.

The Collector said Gambusia fish feed on mosquito larvae and help control mosquito breeding naturally. Officials are identifying unused ponds, old wells and other permanent water bodies across the district for releasing the fish.

He said the special anti-larval operation would be carried out regularly during the monsoon to reduce mosquito breeding and protect public health.

The Collector stressed that public participation was essential and urged residents to ensure that rainwater and



wastewater do not remain stagnant in their surroundings and to cooperate with health officials.

Health, Fisheries and Municipal Department officials and medical staff participated in the programme.

Nexora Technical Club Launched at VIIT



Visakhapatnam, August 10 (Pen Power): The Information Technology Department of Vignan's Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous), Duvvada, launched the Nexora Technical Club to promote technical skills, innovation, collaborative learning and problem-solving abilities among students. Around 380 students actively participated in the inaugural programme. The student-driven club will provide opportunities to engage in emerging technologies, technical workshops, coding activities, hackathons, project development and technical competitions. The club aims to help students apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges through

hands-on projects, peer learning, knowledge sharing and interactions with industry experts. It will also focus on developing creativity, teamwork, leadership and industry-oriented skills. Principal Dr. J. Sudhakar, Rector Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao and IT Department Head Dr. G. Neelima congratulated the team and encouraged students to actively explore new technologies and turn their ideas into innovative solutions. The programme was coordinated by Pravathi. The launch was described as an important step towards strengthening the technical culture of the IT Department and preparing students for future academic and professional opportunities.

World Tribal Day Celebrated Grandly in Rampachodavaram



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, August 10: World Tribal Day was celebrated grandly at Rampachodavaram, the headquarters of Polavaram district, under the leadership of District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar. Rampa Chodavaram MLA and ST Legislative Committee Chairperson Miriyala Sirisha Devi, along with State ST Commission Chairman Solla Bojji Reddy and tribal representatives, attended the celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Miriyala Sirisha Devi extended greetings to tribal communities and said tribal people should remain united to protect their rights, culture and traditions. She called for greater awareness among tribal women and youth about laws such as PESA and the Forest Rights Act. Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said the formation of Polavaram district has improved administrative accessibility for tribal communities. He said special initiatives were being taken through ITDA to ensure welfare benefits reach all eight tribal communities,



including PVTGs. Awareness programmes on the 1/70 and PESA Acts and development of the local tribal museum were also highlighted. Tribal representatives, public representatives, officials, students and leaders of various tribal organisations participated in large numbers.

Food Commission Chairman Conducts Surprise Inspections in Tuni



Kakinada, August 10 (Pen Power): Food Commission Chairman Prathap Reddy conducted surprise inspections at Anganwadi centres, ration shops and hostels in Tuni and expressed displeasure over several irregularities. During the inspection of Anganwadi centres, he reportedly found children absent and stock registers not properly maintained. He directed officials to initiate action against two Anganwadi workers for alleged negligence. At ration shops, the Chairman expressed serious concern over the distribution of essential commodities without following the biometric authentication system. He warned dealers that violations or neg-

ligence in the distribution of ration supplies would invite strict action. The Chairman further warned that if dealers, PDS officials or other responsible personnel were found involved in irregularities or dereliction of duty, suo motu cases would be registered and referred to the court.

He urged the public to record and report irregularities noticed at hostels, ration shops or Anganwadi centres by sending videos to the Food Commission's WhatsApp number 9490551117. Officials were directed to maintain continuous supervision to ensure that food items and ration commodities reach beneficiaries properly.

Ensure 100% Proposals for Donka Roads: Collector Sai Kanth Varma



Guntur, August 10 (Pen Power): District Collector C.M. Sai Kanth Varma directed officials to ensure 100 per cent proposals for Donka roads, which are essential for farmers to access their agricultural fields. Reviewing various issues with district and mandal-level officials through a video conference on Monday, the Collector also directed officials to ensure maximum participation of workers in VB-GRAM-G works, achieve 100 per cent crop insurance coverage and complete farmer registrations for eligibility under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme. He stressed the need to improve public satisfaction

by providing quality government services. **Special Aadhaar Camps from August 11** The Collector said special Aadhaar camps would be conducted at schools and colleges from August 11 to 14 and August 17 to 20, with priority given to clearing pending biometric updates. He said around 64,067 biometric update cases were pending and directed headmasters and principals to take special interest in completing the process. Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava, DRO N.S.K. Khazavali, RDO K. Srinivasa Rao and other district officials participated in the review meeting.

Citizens Urged to Join “Partners in Nation Building” Campaign

Rampa Chodavaram, Pen Power, August 10: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to conduct the “Partners in Nation Building” and “Desh Ke Liye... Ane Nenu” campaigns on a large scale from August 10 to 15 as part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations. He urged public representatives, officials, youth, students, sportspersons, artists and NGOs to record 30-second videos highlighting their contribution to nation-building and share them on social media. The Collector also directed officials to organise Har Ghar Tiranga from August 13 to 15, conduct plantation drives on August 14, and illuminate government buildings and key public places with tricolour lights on August 14 and 15. He called upon citizens to actively participate in the celebrations and strengthen the spirit of patriotism and national responsibility.



Collector, SP Inspect Independence Day Arrangements



Guntur, August 10 (Pen Power): District Collector C.M. Sai Kanth Varma inspected the arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations at the Capital Parade Grounds on Monday and directed officials to complete all works at the earliest. The Collector instructed officials to make all arrangements for the full-dress rehearsal on August 13. He inspected the routes and designated areas for the Chief Minister, Ministers, judicial officers and All India Services officials. As thousands of people are expected to attend the celebrations, officials were directed to ensure adequate seating, drinking water and sanitation

facilities. A proper traffic and parking plan was also emphasised.

The Collector directed government departments to complete the preparation of exhibition tableaux showcasing their achievements and ensure a full-scale presentation during the final rehearsal.

He instructed all departments to coordinate closely to ensure the successful conduct of the Independence Day celebrations. SP Vakul Jindal, senior CRDA officials, Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok, Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava and other officials participated in the inspection.

National Flag at Every Home, National Spirit in Every Heart: Collector Lakshmeesh

Vijayawada, August 10 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh called upon people to actively participate in nation-building and celebrate Independence Day with a strong sense of patriotism and social responsibility. He said the ‘Partners in National Building’ campaign would be conducted from August 10 to 15, encouraging every citizen to contribute towards the goal of building a developed India by 2047. The Collector urged citizens, youth, students, officials, sportspersons, artists and others to create 30-second ‘Ane Nenu’ (I Pledge) videos highlighting their patriotism, future goals and contribution to nation-building, and share them on social media. He also directed officials to encourage people to participate in the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign from August 13 to 15 by hoisting the national flag at every home.

The Collector said Independence Day celebrations should go beyond festivities and promote patriotism, national unity, social responsibility and public participation.



Jury Selects 27 Best Photographs in Three Categories



Vijayawada, August 10 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh said the photography competition organised by the district administration to mark World

Photography Day received an enthusiastic response from photographers. A total of 221 photographs were submitted for the competition, out of which a jury selected 27 best photographs across three categories based on creativity, merit, relevance of the theme and technical quality. The jury comprised experienced photographers and officials, including Photography Academy of India founder-chairman T. Srinivasa Reddy, retired photojournalist C.H.V.S. Vijayabhaskar Rao, Vijayawada Studio Photographers Association president K. Ravikumar and senior photographer S. Rama Rao. The Collector said the competition was organised to encourage and promote talented photographers in the district. Cash prizes and certificates of appreciation will be presented to the winners on August 19 as part of the World Photography Day celebrations. Photographers from the district will also be felicitated on the occasion.

Time to Support Tobacco Farmers: Minister Gottipati

Amaravati, August 10 (Pen Power): Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar directed tobacco traders and buying companies to purchase tobacco from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and ensure that farmers do not suffer losses. Addressing a review meeting with tobacco traders, farmers and Tobacco Board officials at Guntur on Monday, the Minister warned that strict action would be taken against companies violating the agreed MSP terms.

He said traders had earned substantial profits over the past four years and should support farmers during the current difficult season. He questioned why purchases were not being made at the prices fixed by the Centre and State governments.

The Minister said the State government was providing an incentive of ₹10 per kg of tobacco, while the Centre was offering interest-free loans of up to ₹50,000 per farmer



for two years. He assured that the government would continue its efforts and take firm measures to protect tobacco farmers until they receive a fair price.

Resolve Petitions Within the Stipulated Time: Collector P. Raja Babu

Ongele, August 10 (Pen Power): District Collector P.



Raja Babu directed officials to resolve public grievances within the stipulated time and in accordance with rules

and regulations. He warned that negligence in addressing petitions would not be tolerated. During the ‘Mee Kosam’ public grievance programme held at the Ongele Collectorate on Monday, the Collector personally received petitions from people across the district and issued clear instructions to the concerned officials.

He directed officials to reduce the number of cases currently under process and clear all pending petitions at the earliest. Every petition should be thoroughly examined before taking action, ensuring that the complainant receives a satisfactory and permanent solution. The Collector also said that from August 15 onwards, the administration would directly collect public feedback on government welfare schemes and discuss the matter with officials. A total of 286 petitions were received during the programme. Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, DRO Venkataramana and other district-level officials participated.

Public Grievance Redressal is the Priority: Collector Vijaya Sunitha



Markapuram, August 19 (Pen Power): District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha said resolving public grievances at the grassroots level was the government's top priority. She directed officials to ensure that welfare and development benefits reach people without delay. The Collector received 222 petitions during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at the Markapuram Collectorate on Monday. She instructed officials to examine every petition thoroughly

and take prompt action within the stipulated time. Of the 222 petitions, 170 were related to the Revenue Department and 52 to other departments. The Collector directed the concerned officials to conduct field-level inspections wherever necessary and ensure permanent solutions to public grievances. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, RDOs Venkata Sivaramireddy and Ajay Kumar, along with other district officials, participated in the programme.

Funds for Weaker Sections Must Be Spent Only for Their Welfare: Collector



Ongele, Pen Power, August 10:Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials

to ensure that funds allocated for the development of weaker sections are utilised strictly for their intended purpose. Reviewing the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) at a district-level coordination committee meeting, the Collector instructed officials to utilise the funds efficiently and upload related bills on the concerned website within two weeks to facilitate the release of the second instalment. He directed officials to focus on drinking water, drainage and other basic infrastructure in weaker-section habitations and asked MPDOs to play a proactive role in implementing the works. District officials and MPDOs from various departments attended the meeting.

Special Aadhaar Service Camps in NTR District

Vijayawada, August 10 (Pen Power): NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh announced that special Aadhaar service camps will be conducted across the district to provide quick and convenient services to the public. The camps will be held from August 11 to 14 and August 17 to 29 at selected Swarna Gram and Swarna Ward offices, government schools and colleges. Services including new Aadhaar enrolment and updates to name, address, date of birth, mobile number and biometric details will be available. Children aged 5 to 15 years have been advised to complete their mandatory biometric update. The Collector said arrangements were being made at nearby government schools and colleges so that students and parents would not have to travel long distances. He urged the public to make use of the camps and update their Aadhaar details wherever necessary. Officials were directed to ensure adequate infrastructure and staff coordination for the smooth conduct of the camps.



Maharashtra CM Fadnavis Joins Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, Credits PM Modi For India's Economic Rise

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis participated in the Tiranga Yatra rally in Mumbai. Ahead of Independence Day on August 15, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has organised Tricolour rallies at the national level as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Participating in the rally, Fadnavis delivered a patriotic speech at the Nation First Tiranga Fest. Addressing the gathering, he asserted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed significant development and is emerging as a major global economic power. "As long as there are the moon and the sun, the Tricolour will not come down. India has become the world's fourth-largest economic power and currently competes with countries across the world in IT and AI. India has also become the country with the largest youth population. However, some foreign powers are trying to stop India because they fear that India will become a global superpower," Fadnavis said. He further alleged that some people are trying to interfere in India's internal affairs. "I also want to tell them that this is the



youth who have come out with the Tricolour in their hands. You do not have the power to stop them. You do not have the power to stop India. India will continue to move forward. Now, with two decades left, we will see a developed India in the world by 2047," Fadnavis said. Fadnavis urged citizens to adopt a single vision of walking together with the Tricolour and serving the nation until their last breath. Wishing citizens a Happy Independence Day, he further said, "The revolution of August 9, 1942, was 'Quit

India'. The current revolution is 'Do or Die' for a developed India. The current revolution is to tell anti-India forces to 'Quit India'." Assembly Speaker Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar, MLA Ravindra Chavan, MLA Ameet Satam, Padma Shri. According to reports, the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being celebrated nationwide to foster patriotism among citizens, strengthen national unity and promote India's cultural heritage. The campaign marks the fifth

year of the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative, which began in 2022 and has since evolved into one of the country's largest public participation movements. Several ministers and public representatives were also present at the event, including Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister Adv. Ashish Shelar, MLA Ravindra Chavan, MLA Ameet Satam, Padma Shri awardee Bhikya Ladakya Dhinda, members of the state legislature and Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde.



Rahul Gandhi Demands Amit Shah Clarify Role In Jantar Mantar Student Protest Crackdown, Says PM Must Apologise

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday, August 10, demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah clarify whether he authorised the alleged use of force against students during protests in Delhi, saying the Opposition's demand was not for a general speech in Parliament but for accountability. Gandhi said the issue was whether Shah had authorised the alleged firing of pellet guns and the use of force against students, including lathi-charges. "The question was Mr. Amit Shah should come clean, did he order it or did he not order it?" Gandhi said.

He alleged that pellet guns were fired and students were beaten with lathis fitted with nails, and said Shah would be responsible if he had ordered the action. If he was unaware of the incident, Gandhi said, it would indicate incompetence on the Home Minister's part. "If he ordered it, he is guilty of getting our children shot and if he didn't know about it



happening, he is incompetent, either way he should go," Gandhi said. Gandhi said the Opposition had raised three key demands. First, it wanted clarity on who was responsible and accountable for the action against students. Second, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise for what had happened. Third, he raised an alleged issue concerning the theft of items from the Ram temple, saying Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had elaborated on the matter.

Responding to Shah's re-

ported willingness to speak in Parliament, Gandhi said the Opposition was not interested in what he described as "fantasy conversations" and wanted the Home Minister to first clarify whether he had authorised the alleged shooting. "First he should make that abundantly clear, after that the question of any discussion arises," Gandhi said, adding that this had been the Opposition's demand for the past 15 days. Gandhi also criticised Prime Minister Modi and Shah for not addressing the issue in Parliament. "For 15 days,

neither of them has had the courage — and I am saying courage and stressing courage — neither of them has had the courage to come to the House," he said. He accused the Prime Minister and Home Minister of failing to take responsibility for what he described as "brutality" against students in Delhi. Gandhi said the conduct of the Prime Minister and Home Minister was something students should "see and understand", alleging that neither had considered the action against them significant enough to address in Parliament.

Supreme Court Seeks Centre, Assam Replies On NRC Identity Cards

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Aug 10 directed the Union Government and the Assam Government to file replies to a batch of petitions concerning the issuance of National Register of Citizens (NRC) identity cards to people whose names were included in the NRC list published in August 2019. The petitions have been filed by Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, the All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) and the Assam Sankhyalaghu Sangram Parishad. The petitioners have raised questions over steps that they say should have followed the publication of the NRC list, Live Law reports. A Bench comprising Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe heard the matter. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, submitted that notices had been issued but the Union Government and the Assam Government were yet to file their replies.

Sibal also sought permis-

sion to file a rejoinder to the reply submitted by the Registrar General of India. The petitions primarily concern what the petitioners describe as the authorities' failure to take mandatory steps after the NRC list was published in 2019. They have sought the issuance of National Identity Cards to the 3.11 crore people found eligible, as required under Rule 13 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. Senior Advocate Manish Goswami mentioned an interlocutory application concerning a petition filed by former NRC Coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma. He told the court that Sarma's prayers were diametrically opposite to those raised in the petitions before it and sought to have his petition tagged with the other matters. Sarma's petition seeks re-certification and re-verification of the NRC list on the ground that it contains several inaccuracies. After briefly hearing Additional



Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union Government, the court directed that Sarma's petition be tagged with the other matters and heard after the replies are filed. The petitioners have also sought the issuance of rejection slips and the initiation of appeals under Paragraph 8 of the Schedule to Rule 4A of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, for the 19 lakh people excluded from the NRC. They argue that the failure to issue identity cards to those included and take the required steps

for those excluded has left the final NRC exercise incomplete. According to the petitioners, this failure is unconstitutional, arbitrary and violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The proceedings bring two sharply contrasting demands before the Supreme Court. While the petitioners seek implementation of steps they say should have followed the 2019 NRC, Sarma has sought re-certification and re-verification of the list itself over alleged inaccuracies. The court will take up the matters after the Union Government and the Assam Government file their replies.

Mumbai-Pune Missing Link Turns Into 'Heaven' Amid Monsoon Rains

Pune: The newly opened Mumbai-Pune Expressway Missing Link has turned into a spectacular monsoon sight, with a viral video showing waterfalls cascading down the green Sahyadri hills along the Pune-bound carriageway. The video, reportedly shot recently, shows the stretch near Lonavala and Khandala covered in mist, clouds and flowing streams of rainwater. Several waterfalls can be seen emerging from the mountains beside the road after continuous monsoon rainfall. The dramatic visuals have left many viewers amazed. The combination of dark clouds, lush green hills, mist and waterfalls makes the stretch appear more like a scenic location outside Maharashtra than a major expressway connecting Mumbai and Pune.

The Missing Link passes through the mountainous Maval region, which is known for its green hills, valleys, waterfalls and scenic monsoon landscape. During the rainy season, the region attracts visitors for



its natural beauty and the many waterfalls that appear across the Sahyadri slopes. The newly opened road has now added another viewpoint to this landscape. Unlike the older Khandala-Lonavala ghat route, the Missing Link takes motorists through a modern corridor consisting of long tunnels, elevated sections and a cable-stayed bridge. The Mumbai-Pune Missing Link, also known as the Khopoli-Kusgaon Connecting Link, was developed to bypass the accident- and landslide-prone Khandala-Lonavala

ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway. The project is 13.3 km long and connects the Khopoli exit in Raigad district with Kusgaon near Lonavala in Pune district. The project cost around Rs 6,695 crore. It includes two major tunnels with a combined length of around 10.55 km, along with viaducts and a 650-metre cable-stayed bridge. The project has also attracted attention during its first monsoon. Heavy rain triggered a landslide near Tunnel II on July 6, temporarily disrupting traffic on the newly opened corridor. The

road was reopened after more than 18 hours following debris clearance and safety checks. However, the latest viral visuals show the other side of the Missing Link. With the monsoon covering the surrounding mountains in dense greenery, rainwater can be seen flowing down the steep slopes at several points. The clouds appear to hang low over the hills, while mist covers parts of the mountain range. Water streams running down the rocky slopes have also turned into temporary waterfalls.

DRI uncovers another clandestine drug manufacturing unit in Maharashtra

- Week-long intelligence-led operation results in seizure of 2 lakh Tramadol Hydrochloride and Tapentadol tablets; along with machinery and raw materials
- Seized tablets were being smuggled to Nigeria; three key accused arrested



New Delhi, August, 10 (PIB): Continuing its sustained crackdown on illicit manufacture and transnational trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has unearthed an organised network involved in the clandestine manufacture, concealment and illegal export of Tramadol Hydrochloride tablets, a scheduled psychotropic substance, to African countries. The week-

long intelligence-led operation resulted in the seizure of 1 lakh Tramadol Hydrochloride tablets, 1 lakh Tapentadol tablets, machinery and raw materials used in the clandestine manufacture of psychotropic substances, and the arrest of three key members of the syndicate. On 02.08.26, in an intelligence led operation, the officers of DRI intercepted an export consignment at the Mumbai Air Cargo Complex destined for Nigeria. The export con-

signment had been declared as containing Pregabalin capsules - 300 mg. Detailed examination, however, resulted in the recovery and seizure of 1 lakh Tramadol Hydrochloride tablets 250 mg (weighing approximately 25 kg) and 1 lakh Tapentadol tablets 200 mg (weighing approximately 20 kg), which had been concealed inside the export consignment. The swift investigations by DRI exposed a well-organised supply chain op-

erating across multiple stages. The Tramadol tablets were clandestinely manufactured at a factory in Ambernath, Maharashtra, and packed in plain cartons to conceal their identity. The consignments were thereafter transported to a warehouse near the Mumbai Air Cargo Complex, where they were repacked in white gunny bags and prepared for illegal export to Nigeria. In a series of coordinated follow-up operations conducted over the week, DRI officers carried out searches at multiple locations linked to the exporter, manufacturer, supplier, transporter and storage warehouse. Searches at the manufacturing facility resulted in the seizure of tablet compression machinery, besides substantial quantities of raw materials, to be used in the clandestine manufacture of psychotropic substances. The operation culminated in the arrest of three key accused persons, including the IEC holder/exporter, the supplier-cum-coordinator and the clandestine manufacturer of the Tramadol tablets.

Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Assumes Charge as Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

New Delhi, August, 10 (PIB): Eminent oceanographer and distinguished scientist Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala officially assumed charge as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India. He takes over from Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, who had been handling the responsibilities of MoES under an additional charge. The position was previously held on a full-time basis by Dr. M. Ravichandran. Dr. Tummala's appointment marks a pivotal and strategic transition for the Ministry of Earth Sciences as India aggressively scales up its flagship Deep Ocean Mission, enhances climate modeling capabilities, and fortifies its multi-hazard early warning infrastructure to protect coastal communities and advance the national Blue Economy agenda.

STRATEGIC VISION FOR MoES
With over three decades of exceptional experience across remote sensing, satellite oceanography, coastal hazard mitigation, and disaster management, Dr. Tummala brings a wealth of techno-managerial leadership to MoES. His leadership arrives at a vital jun-



ture as India expands its scientific footprint across oceanography, polar research, meteorological disaster prevention, and sustainable marine resource exploitation.
A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP & GLOBAL SERVICE
Prior to taking over as Secretary, MoES, Dr. Tummala held key national and international leadership positions: Head, ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat, UNESCO-IOC (Perth, Aus-

tralia); Directed regional tsunami warning networks across 28 Indian Ocean Member States, leading global standardization of ocean watch operations and championing the implementation of the Tsunami Ready Community Recognition Programme. Director, E S S O - I N C O I S (Hyderabad): Served as Director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services starting August 2020. Under his stewardship, INCOIS significantly advanced its Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, Coral Reef Bleaching Alert systems, and multi-hazard vulnerability mapping. Architect of India's Tsunami Early Warning System: Following the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Dr. Tummala acted as Project Manager to establish the state-of-the-art Indian Tsunami Early Warning System at INCOIS, transforming it into a globally designated Tsunami Service Provider (TSP).

MAJOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION & ACA-

DEMIG CONTRIBUTIONS
National Geoscience Award (2010): Conferred by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, for path-breaking efforts in establishing India's world-class tsunami early warning facilities. Indian National Geospatial Award (2008): Awarded by the Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS) for innovative contributions to geospatial technologies in disaster mitigation and marine resource mapping. Global Academic Footprint: Authored over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications in reputed international journals and served as Vice-Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Coordination Group. Under Dr. Tummala's strategic leadership, the Ministry of Earth Sciences will continue to strengthen India's observational networks, atmospheric modeling, deep-ocean exploration technologies, and societal services to bolster climate resilience and ocean health across the region.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Tooth ache or stomach upset may create some problems for you. Take a physician's advice to get relief immediately. Any of your chronic diseases may bother you today, due to which you may have to go to the hospital and spend a lot of money. Spending time with children will be important. Those who stay away from their lover can miss them deeply today. Because of this, you can talk to your beloved on the phone for hours during the night. Tact will be required while handling colleagues. Someone from your past is likely to contact you and make it a memorable day. Today, you will experience that the love of your partner forgets you about the pains of life. Remedy :- Keep water in a Copper vessel near bedside at night, and next morning, pour this water at the root of a nearest tree, for excellent health benefits.



Taurus

Your energy level will be high. There is a possibility of money loss today, hence you are required to remain alert while making transactions or signing any document. Enjoy a peaceful and quiet day with family members-If people approach you with problems- Ignore them and don't let this bother your mind. Some difference may crop up with your darling-You will have difficulty trying to make your mate understand your position. Your partner will be hard to deal with. While spending free time with your spouse tonight, you will realize how important it is to give them more time. Work pressure had been hampering your married life since long. But today, all the grievances will be vanished. Remedy :- For enhanced financial condition, plant a banana tree, tend to it and worship it.



Gemini

A beneficial day and you may be able to find relief from a prolong illness. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions. Children need to concentrate on studies and plan for the future. You are likely to be dazzled by some natural beauty today. You will make beneficial career changes if you present yourself in a professional manner. You should try to understand the things in the right manner, otherwise you'll waste your free time just thinking about such scenarios continuously. Today, you will realize that all the vows taken on your marriage were true. Your spouse is your soulmate. Remedy :- Financial life will become better by using green vehicles.



Cancer

Misusing personal relations to fulfil your expectations would annoy your wife. You will possess a considerable amount of money today, and with it there will be peace of mind. You will also make important contacts through friends. The ecstasy of entire universe is held between the two who are in love. Yes, you are the lucky one. You need to focus on your way of working to get good results at the workplace, otherwise your negative image can get created in the eyes of your boss. Today, you will be able to spend time with your lover and put forward your feelings in front of him/her. Today, your partner might take you in the realm of a different world of love and sensations. Remedy :- Wear Green Coloured clothes



Leo

Your mind will be disturbed with recent events. Meditation and yoga will prove to be beneficial for spiritual as well as physical gains. At the beginning of the day, you may suffer from any financial loss, which can spoil the whole day. Try to be reasonable especially with people who love and care for you. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. Great day to implement new projects and plans. You have spare time today for socializing and follow up with things that you love doing the most. Your partner might do something fabulous unintentionally, which will be really unforgettable. Remedy :- For a good financial life, keep green stones in flower pots, keep plants in green bottles, and also have green tiles in bathroom.



Virgo

If possible try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel and this could put further weaken you. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse. If possible, try to avoid as she might reveal it to someone else. Be careful your romantic partner may flatter you- don't leave me alone in this lonely world. Bold steps and decisions would bring favourable rewards. The natives of this zodiac sign would like to spend more time alone than meeting people today. Today, your free time can be spent by cleaning the house. Your spouse will be full of energy and love today. Remedy :- Include use of white clothes in your daily wear for good health.



Libra

Work pressure might bring some stress and tension today. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Your work will take a backseat- as you find comfort-pleasure and extreme ecstasy in the arms of your beloved. You will be in a strong position to put together a team and work toward a collective goal. Today, you would like to do all the things that you used to love during your childhood. Romantic songs, aromatic candles, good food, and some drinks; the day is all about this with your spouse. Remedy :- Distribute sweets and savouries made of ground yellow chana dal to needy people for amazing health benefits.



Scorpio

Astrological guidance by a friend will encourage you to improve your health. Try to control your spending- and buy only the essential items today. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Erratic behaviour of your darling might make your mood upset. This is an excellent time for developing professional contacts in other countries. Good day for some recreation and entertainment. Rude behavior of your spouse might take a toll on you today. Remedy :- Offer seven almonds and seven grains of black grams in Shani temple and build a strong love life.



Sagittarius

Outings-parties and pleasure jaunts will keep you in good mood today. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Let family tension not divert your attention. Bad times give us much more. You will be in a loving mood- so be sure to make special plans for you and your beloved. New assignments undertaken would fall short of expectations. Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your awareness. Those who say that marriage is all about sex, they lie. Because today, you will know what true love is. Remedy :- For enhanced career/work life/business, brush your teeth with herbal-based toothpaste such as neem and babool.



Capricorn

Your frank and fearless views could hurt the vanity of your friend. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. You will upset your spouse if you spend money on things that you don't immediately require. Beloved will be in a romantic mood. Daydreaming will bring your downfall- Do not count on others to do your work. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again. Remedy :- Maintain harmony and balance in the family by switching on a white-light zero watt bulb in the Northwest direction.



Aquarius

Health will be perfect today. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Domestic work keeps you busy most of the time. Love will show positive vibes Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results. Today, you can think of spending your free time carrying out religious work. During this time, do not get into unnecessary conflicts. Today, you will forget all the hardships of your life with the love of your spouse. Remedy :- For enhancing positive experiences in the family, offer 28 drops of mustard oil near Peepal or banyan tree or in a pot filled with mud at home.



Pisces

Cheer up as good time ahead and you will have additional energy. You may get into a fight with your spouse today over money-related matters. However, you will fix everything with your calm attitude. A wonderful day to enjoy the company of guests. Plan something special with your relatives. They would also appreciate it. A good communication or a message from your beloved or spouse will enhance your morale today. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. Amidst your busy life, you will get enough time for yourself today and be able to do your favorite things. Marriage had never been so wonderful before than today. Remedy :- Accept rice and silver from your mother and keep it in your home to improve your financial condition.

TRAI initiates phase-wise implementation of 1601-series for service and transactional calls by utilities, courier and logistics sectors entities

New Delhi, August, 10 (PIB): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued the Direction on use of 1601 series numbers for the transactional and service calls by the entities in sectors other than Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI) sector, and Government entities which are using numbers from 1600 series, issued earlier. Considering the critical and sensitive nature of communications made by the entities in BFSI sector and Government, this separate series has been issued for the sectors other than BFSI and Government in order to avoid mixing of important financial voice calls with the service and transactional calls from the other sectors. After widespread adoption of the 1600-series numbers for service and transactional calls by BFSI sector entities, which has provided valuable experience for extending the trusted numbering framework to the other sectors also, TRAI has now initiated phase-wise implementation of the 1601-series allotted by the DoT for similar calls by the entities in sectors other than BFSI sector and Government. Based on consultations with stakeholders, it has been decided to implement the series, covering entities in Utilities, Courier and Logistics sectors under Phase-I. The 1601-series numbers will be allocated directly to eligible entities, and not to intermediaries or aggregators, after due verification by the telecom service providers (TSPs). Their adoption is, therefore, expected to become an important tool in combating impersonation by fraudsters who use normal 10-digit numbers and falsely claim to represent legitimate businesses. Moreover, the distinct numbering identity will enable the consumers to easily identify legitimate service and transactional calls, thereby, strengthening trust in such voice-based communications.

Key Provisions of the Direction

A. Phase-I sectors: The 1601-series shall be initially allocated to the eligible entities in the following sectors:
i. Utilities – Electricity distribution companies, water utilities, city gas distribution companies, LPG distribution entities and such other utility service providers.
ii. Logistics and courier services – Courier companies, express logistics companies, parcel delivery service providers, freight and logistics service providers engaged in delivery of consignments.
B. Time-bound onboarding
The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have been asked to complete migration and onboarding of eligible entities covered under Phase-I within 90 days from the date of issue of the order.
C. Verification and exclusive use
The TSPs shall verify the eligibility of entities before assigning 1601-series numbers, and obtain an undertaking from them regarding exclusive use of these numbers for service and transactional voice calls. The numbers shall not be used for promotional voice calls by any entity.

From Maoist Stronghold To Tourism: New Vision For Infamous Karrigutta In Telangana



Mulugu:For several decades, the rugged and densely forested Karrigutta hills symbolised the reach of Maoist insurgency along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border. On Monday, Telangana DGP CV Anand's visit to the once-inaccessible stronghold of the Maoists showed how the region is now moving from a battlefield to a zone of roads, connectivity, tourism and development. A landmark 21-day Operation Kagar, which became the turning point of left-wing extremism in Telangana and Chhattisgarh's Bastar regions, was launched on April 21, 2025, to flush out Maoist formations from the

Karregutta hills. The operation continued until May 11 and involved a massive mobilisation of central and state forces. Security forces reported 21 encounters, the deaths of 31 Maoists, recovery of 35 weapons and nearly 450 IEDs. Now the hill and surrounding area are under the full control of police and paramilitary forces, while the state government is slowly but steadily developing the area with roads and other facilities. The geography explains why Karrigutta became so important to the Maoists. The hill range stretches nearly 60 km along the interstate border, with a width of roughly 5-

20 km. Its steep slopes, rocky terrain, caves, dense forests and difficult access made it a formidable defensive position. Security agencies estimated that around 300-350 armed cadres had established themselves in the hills, including elements of the PLGA and its technical units. The area had also emerged as a refuge for senior Maoist formations after security forces increased their presence in Bastar. Operation Kagar was followed by a wave of surrenders. Telangana recorded hundreds of Maoist cadres surrendering, including cadres from Chhattisgarh. Telangana Police reported

that 820 underground cadres surrendered between 2024 and 2026, while 2025 alone saw 509 surrenders. In April 2026, Telangana said it had effectively ended armed Maoist activity in the State after another 42 cadres surrendered. In April 2026, 47 Maoists from Chhattisgarh, including members of the South Bastar Division, surrendered before Telangana Police, demonstrating how the weakening of the insurgency was spilling across the interstate border. Against this backdrop, Anand on Monday inspected road works, unfurled the National Flag and released white doves as a symbol of peace. "After 50 years, peace has returned to this region," Anand said, outlining plans to transform Karrigutta into a tourism destination while respecting environmental and legal requirements. The DGP said the Pamuru-Chalamadava road had been completed, with further connectivity works planned. He credited the CRPF, Greyhounds, Telangana Police, CoBRA and Chhattisgarh Police for restoring security and assured surrendered Maoists of rehabilitation through financial assistance, land and livelihood opportunities.

Girl's Choice Of Clothes Is Personal, Can't 'Corrupt Boys': Delhi High Court

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday stated that a girl's choice of clothing is her personal decision and suggesting that her wearing jeans might 'corrupt young boys' reflects a deeply troubling and unacceptable mindset. Justice Chandrasekharan Sudha, while convicting a man of sexually harassing a girl in 2013, observed that instead of controlling the clothes of girls, parents and society must teach their children to control their conduct, respect personal boundaries and treat every human with dignity. The girl alleged that the accused, her neighbour, stalked her, made sexually coloured remarks and touched her inappropriately. Before the high court, the State challenged the acquittal of the accused by the trial court in 2014. In the judgement, the court took exception to the girl's character assassination in the "line of cross-examination and arguments" adopted by the counsel for the accused in the trial, noting that the questions put to her included her "western" dressing, religion of the people in the locality and their objections to her clothing. "What a girl or woman chooses to wear is a matter of her personal choice. Neither her neighbours, nor society, nor the accused,



nor counsel appearing in a court of law has any right to dictate her clothing. It is simply none of their concern. The suggestion that a woman wearing jeans may 'corrupt young boys' reflects a deeply troubling and unacceptable mindset," said the court. "The answer does not lie in controlling the clothes of girls and women. Parents and society must instead teach their children to control their conduct, respect personal boundaries and treat every human with dignity, whether at home or outside," it added. Justice Sudha noted that the cross-examination in the present case was "wholly irrelevant" and "improper", and ought to have been disallowed at the very outset by the trial judge. Asserting that a woman's choice of

attire neither diminishes her dignity nor serves as justification for unlawful conduct directed against her, the court held, "Questions based on a woman's clothing, character, lifestyle, religion or personal choices, unless strictly relevant to an issue arising in the case, must not be permitted." The court emphasised that "even a woman of easy virtue" was entitled to protect her person and the only question in the present case was whether an offence was committed. The religion of the residents of the locality, and the clothes worn by her have no connection with that issue, it said. "PW4 (girl) may be wearing clothes not palatable or approved by the accused or the other residents. That is no ground to disbelieve or discard her

testimony. The grounds on which the trial court disbelieved the case are immaterial, and they do not in any way affect the core prosecution case," the court stated. It held that the trial court's decision to acquit the accused was erroneous, and concluded that the material on record clearly made out an offence contemplated under Section 354A(1)(i) of IPC. "Therefore, I find the appellant/accused guilty of the commission of the offence punishable under Section 354A (1)(i) IPC and hence convict him thereunder," ordered the court. It, however, stated that POCOS cannot be invoked in the case as the prosecution failed to satisfactorily establish that the girl was a minor.

Centre Notifies 11 New International Ports For Foreigners With E-Visas



New Delhi: The Centre has officially notified 11 international ports, nine land ports, including Attari on the India-Pakistan border, and two airports, allowing e-visa holders to enter India, a government statement released on Monday said. With the addition of these new ports, the total number of international ports

where e-visa holders can enter has risen to 88. This includes 37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land ports, aimed at making the e-visa facility more accessible and beneficial for international travellers. The newly added land ports are Darranga, Gede, Ghogadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari (Road), along with the airports in Bhopal and Tirupati. International travellers holding a Pakistani passport or of Pakistani origin must apply for a regular visa at an Indian Mission, as the e-visa facility is not available to them, according to the government website. The e-visa facil-

ity currently available to 17 sub-categories of travellers, including medical, student, mountaineering, cruise, tourist, transit, group travel and business, among others, processes 95 per cent of applications within 72 hours. Introduced in 2014 to liberalise and simplify the Indian visa regime for nationals of 43 countries, this facility now serves nationals from 172 countries. The government has taken several measures in recent years to liberalise, streamline and simplify India's visa regime while strengthening technological infrastructure to support internal security, the statement mentioned. The addition

of these 11 international ports further increases the appeal and utility of the electronic visa, which constitutes 78 per cent of the total visas issued by India. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Government of India has taken a number of significant initiatives over the last few years to liberalise, streamline and simplify the visa regime with a view to facilitate the legitimate foreign travellers while simultaneously ramping up the technological infrastructure to enhance internal security," the statement said.

Bengaluru Techie, Months Away From Wedding, Missing On Solo Trek

Bengaluru: A 31-year-old software professional has gone missing during a solo trek to Shivagange Hill on the outskirts of Bengaluru, with police and multiple rescue agencies continuing an intensive search across the hill's rocky and densely vegetated terrain. Advait Upadhyay, a native of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, works with a finance firm in Whitefield and lives in the Kadugodi area. Police said he rented a motorcycle on Friday and travelled to Shivagange after informing his fiancée about his trekking plans. CCTV footage from the foothills showed Upadhyay arriving at the location and beginning his ascent at around 7.30 am. He was expected to return by the afternoon. However, he did not return and could not be contacted. His fiancée approached the Kadugodi police later that evening and lodged a missing person complaint. The police subsequently alerted personnel in the Nelamangala and Dobbaspeta areas, following which a search operation was launched. Upadhyay's motorcycle was found parked at the foothills. Police said this indicated that he had not left the area on the vehicle. Investigators are also examining the last known location of his mobile phone. According to



police, the phone was switched off after its last signal was recorded near Kuduru on the Kunigal Road, a location that does not correspond with the usual trekking route. A major focus of the search is the Shantala Drop, one of the most dangerous sections of Shivagange, where steep cliffs and rocky surfaces make access extremely difficult. During drone-assisted searches, personnel reportedly noticed an object resembling a human body amid dense vegetation below the Shantala Drop. However, the location is difficult to access, and teams are yet to establish whether the object is connected to the missing techie. Nearly 100 personnel from the police, NDRF, SDRF and forest department are now in-

involved in the search. High-resolution drones are being used to scan areas that are difficult or dangerous for rescuers to reach on foot, while ground teams are covering rocky outcrops, bushes, drops and sections away from the established trekking trail. Investigators are also examining information recovered from Upadhyay's laptop at his residence. Police sources said searches relating to Shivagange Hill, its terrain and the Shantala Drop were found in his browsing history. A search related to suicide locations near Bengaluru was found in his browsing history, leading police to probe a suicide angle in the case, with a close friend also suggesting Upadhyay behaved irrationally in the last few

days. While these findings have raised questions, police have not drawn any conclusions and are examining all possible angles into his disappearance. Upadhyay is an IIT alumnus with a master's degree in cybersecurity and is the son of an Indore-based businessman. He was engaged to be married in January. With continuous rain adding to the difficulty of the operation, rescue personnel are carefully combing the hill in search of any concrete clue that could establish Upadhyay's whereabouts. Authorities are yet to determine whether he is stranded somewhere on the hill, met with an accident in an inaccessible area, or left the trekking route for another reason.

Turbulence Or Something Else? Probe Widens In Air India 300-Foot Plunge Case

New Delhi: The circumstances surrounding the Phuket-Delhi Air India flight that encountered severe turbulence, leaving 17 including the crew and passengers injured, have brought up several bizarre and murky angles. While the incident involving an Airbus A-320 was initially blamed on turbulence, new reports suggest triple hydraulic failure may have caused a sudden altitude drop. Such an incident has never happened with the A-320. The French planemaker has joined the investigation. "In accordance with ICAO Annex 13, Airbus is providing technical assistance to the relevant investigating authorities. We are actively supporting the airline and will provide further information as it becomes available. A team of specialists is being dispatched to assist with the investigation," Airbus said in a statement today. In a note by the Civil Aviation Ministry on the incident that happened while the plane was flying over Odisha, the word "turbulence" was missing. Even after assuming the pilot did encounter a serious situation in the cockpit such as a triple hydraulic failure, it was inexplicable for the pilot to be seen in the back of



the aircraft. Rule No. 1 in aviation is that you continue to fly in such a situation. The biggest question, then, is if a pilot encounters something which would normally trigger a Mayday scenario, there is no reason for the pilot to be at the back of the aircraft despite knowing passengers could be injured. There are various aspects of the Phuket-Delhi Air India flight which are bizarre, if not downright murky. 17 people - crew members and passengers were injured on the flight which was reported to have been caused by severe turbulence over Odisha. Another key question is why did the pilot not land in the first available airport if the plane has just en-

countered a huge technical failure? Instead, the pilot decided to continue the flight to Delhi. The pilot-in-command of the Tata-owned airline had also tested positive for psychoactive substances during the post-flight screening in Delhi. However, it is unlikely for a full-fledged commander of an Airbus aircraft in any airline to be irresponsible enough to get into recreational drug use before flying an aircraft, with the lives of over 100 people in his or her hands. Also, failing the urine test does not necessarily mean the pilot used any kind of recreational substances. But if there is a consistent failure in the urine test, it may mean something. The results of

the final tests are awaited. Some drugs taken as part of prescription medication would remain in the bloodstream, though pilots cannot pop in pills just like that. They have to be cleared in certain cases by the airline's doctors. Air India in a statement said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is looking into the matter. "As the investigative process is ongoing, Air India cannot comment on any findings or observations related to the investigation. We will continue to extend our full cooperation to relevant authorities as required," the airline said. Some of the 17 people who were injured in the Air India incident remain in hospital.

Class 11 Student Dies By Suicide After Father Takes Away Phone In Rajasthan

Jaipur: A Class 11 student in Kota committed suicide after his father stopped him from playing games on his mobile phone and took the device away. The 16-year-old student, identified as Mayank Nagar, consumed a poisonous substance at his home in the Hanuman Nagar area under Dadabari police station on Sunday night. Family members rushed him to a private hospital after his condition deteriorated. He died during treatment on Monday morning. Following the death of his only son,

Mayank's father, Chauthmal Nagar, who is a heart patient, also suffered a deterioration in his health. According to the family, Mayank frequently spent time on his mobile phone. His father said the family was at home on Sunday when he found Mayank playing a game. He asked him to stop, but Mayank did not listen. The father then took the phone away. A short while later, Mayank consumed poison. Chauthmal said he had never imagined that taking the mobile phone away would result in such a tragic

outcome. Mayank's uncle, Sant Ram, said the teenager's condition suddenly worsened and he collapsed. When family members asked him what had happened, he reportedly told them he had consumed poison. After Mayank's death, the family initially refused a post-mortem examination. Police officials persuaded them to allow the procedure, which was conducted at the mortuary of New Medical College Hospital on Monday morning. The body was later handed over to the family. Family

members said Chauthmal works as a painter and suffers from a heart condition. His health deteriorated after learning of his son's death. They said Mayank was their only son and his mother was inconsolable. Baldev Ram, SHO of Dadabari Police Station, said the family was initially reluctant to consent to the post-mortem but agreed after persuasion. Police have registered a case and begun an investigation based on the family's complaint. The incident has left the family and local community deeply shocked.

PCB yet to announce central contracts list under new format-based payment system



Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board is yet to take a final call on releasing the list of players who will get central contracts

under a new system of payment and categorisation. The PCB usually releases the list of centrally contracted players by the

first week of August, as contracts run from June to July every fiscal year. However, a reliable source has informed that the board has still not decided whether to make these names public. "The thinking is that it is not necessary to announce the players who are to be given these new contracts, as it is an internal matter of the board," the source said on Monday. Pakistan ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi was on Monday asked about the matter in Multan during a media interaction, but he said was unaware. The PCB had confirmed it would roll out format-based central contracts for 2026-2027, saying that only those male players who have played four Test matches, six ODIs, or as many T20Is, in the last 12 months would be eligible for getting contracts. The

source also added that due to the new contracts framework of categorising players by formats, the board is apparently struggling to assign players to these categories. Last week, the PCB got a stay order from the Islamabad High Court until September 22 on being asked by a government agency to provide them with all financial and other details of the board's accounts. The current PCB set up, under the chairmanship of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, has been unusually secretive about its financial matters. Since 2023, no audited statements of the board have been posted on its website, which used to be a normal practice for the governing body. The PCB has only shared financial details with the media when they have deemed that doing so was beneficial to them.

Mirabai Chanu recalls emotional Glasgow gold after years of setbacks

New Delhi: Commonwealth Games gold medallist Mirabai Chanu opened up on the emotional weight behind her Glasgow triumph during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with India's CWG 2026 medallists, recalling the injuries, family problems and disappointment of missing out on a medal at the Paris Olympics that made her podium moment particularly poignant. Chanu, who won gold in the women's 48kg weightlifting category at the Glasgow Games, said the moment she saw the Indian flag rise and heard the national anthem after years of setbacks proved too overwhelming to contain her emotions. PM Narendra Modi, while interacting with Chanu, acknowledged the emotion behind her gold-medal performance and told her that the tears themselves reflected the magnitude of her achievement. "You have made everyone proud. So many tears were falling. I feel like a gold medal is falling from every drop of tears," he said. "I was very happy and emotional on that day. I was very happy. And I cried because I lost my medal in the Paris Olympics. And a player has to face so many things in life, and I faced so many things in these 4 years," she replied to the Prime Minis-



ter. The Manipuri weightlifter's journey to the top of the podium in Glasgow came after a period marked by repeated physical setbacks and personal difficulties. Chanu said injuries had been a constant concern while she was also dealing with problems within her family. "I was prone to injuries all the time. And I was facing family problems as well. The last four years were very difficult," Chanu added. The significance of finally reclaiming the biggest

stage was evident when Chanu stood on the podium in Glasgow. For an athlete carrying the disappointment of Paris and years of adversity, the ceremony became an intensely personal moment. "When I was standing on the podium, and when our flag was raised, and when our national anthem was played, I couldn't stop myself from crying," she stated. Chanu's Glasgow gold thus carried significance beyond the medal itself, with the 32-year-

old returning to the top at a Commonwealth Games after overcoming a difficult four-year stretch that included the disappointment of the Paris Olympics. The Prime Minister hosted India's Commonwealth Games 2026 medallists at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday and interacted with members of the contingent following their successful campaign in Glasgow. India finished fourth in the overall medal standings at the Games.

Harry Brook, Justin Greaves, Tanzid Hasan shortlisted for ICC Men's Player of the Month



Hyderabad: England captain Harry Brook, West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves and Bangladesh opening batter Tanzid Hasan have been shortlisted for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for July, while England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt, Sri Lanka batter Harshitha Samarawickrama and West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews have been

shortlisted for the women's award, according to ICC Media. Brook led by example during England's successful home series against India particularly in the T20 format where he was named the Player of the Series, Greaves' all-round brilliance in home Tests against Sri Lanka and Pakistan helped the West Indies to victory over both, and Tanzid's

consistency as an opening batter for Bangladesh in their tour of Zimbabwe helped set up their recovery from losses in the one-off Test match and ODI series to win the T20I series 2-1. England's fearless leader, Sciver-Brunt, shrugged off injury concerns and delivered crucial individual performances with the bat that made the difference in her team's ICC

Women's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign, which saw them finish as runners-up to Australia. Meanwhile, Harshitha Samarawickrama's standout batting performances in the second and third matches against Pakistan helped Sri Lanka to a 2-1 ODI series win. West Indies captain Hayley Matthews' remarkable all-round form continued as she produced a career-best 159 during her side's 3-0 ODI

Ritu Varma Nails Breezy Style In Yellow

Ritu Varma, who won hearts with her performance in Pelli Choopulu back in 2016, has been keeping a low profile on the film front this year, though her fashion game continues to keep her in the news. The actress has reportedly signed Gopichand 33, where she will be seen sharing screen space with Gopichand, giving fans another reason to look forward to her return.

Coming to her look, Ritu Varma kept it elegant and breezy in a pastel yellow saree, paired with a contrasting quirky-printed sleeveless blouse in white and yellow. The saree featured delicate mirror work and sequin detailing, along with a scalloped, mirror-embroidered border that added a festive shimmer to the soft pastel base. She rounded off the look with statement earrings, a ring, and strappy heels, keeping her hair open in soft waves, a look that felt fresh, breezy, and perfect for a daytime event. Simple yet stylish, Ritu once again proved her knack for effortless fashion.



History Created: Spider-Man Is First 500 Cr Film In India!



For the first time in the history of global cinema, a Hollywood film has collected more than Rs.500 crore gross in India and it has happened for the latest film from the Spider-Man franchise. Spider-Man Brand New Day is the first Hollywood film to have collected more than Rs.500 crore gross in India. The film released in theatres on July 30, and it has collected a total of Rs.528 crore gross in India till now. Previously, Avatar: Way Of Water and Avengers endgame were in the late 400 crore bracket, but they could never touch the Rs.500 crore mark. This margin was finally broken by the latest film from Spiderman franchise, and this is going to be a historic achievement. The film is mainly powered by the phenomenal performance in crucial pockets like Mumbai, Delhi, and other urban pockets in north. It is reported that the South Indian states have contributed around Rs.200 crore in revenue till now. The growing popularity of the superhero franchises in India was earlier established by the Avengers films, and it is now carried by Spiderman. Considering that the otherwise popular Ironman franchise has been abruptly halted by Marvel, this new Spiderman series is going to be their money spinner and they are very serious about the same. Earlier, we have seen Avatar franchise films and Avengers films, putting a huge revenues in the Indian market, but none have been able to generate the kind of revenues that are being seen by this Spiderman film. Extensive marketing in the Indian social media space has also played a crucial role here.

Kiran Abbavaram Goes Big with Indraputra, Zee & Prerana Producers

Kiran Abbavaram is clearly not interested in playing it safe. The young actor has scored a hat-trick of successes with KA, K-Ramp and Chennai Love Story, and what makes the run more interesting is that each film belongs to a different genre. Kiran is continuing the same strategy with his upcoming films. The actor has now announced KA15 as Indraputra. Produced by Zee Studios and Prerna Arora, the film marks the directorial debut of Srikanth Puppala. The project is being positioned as a large-scale mythological action-fantasy and the first chapter of a planned mythological universe.

The film draws inspiration from Indian mythology and revolves around the timeless conflict between dharma and adharma. With action, fantasy,

mythology and emotion coming together, Indraputra is being mounted as a pan-India spectacle. Kiran Abbavaram will reportedly be seen in a powerful new avatar.

The film is currently in pre-production and will begin shooting in October. For Kiran, the interesting part is not just the scale of Indraputra, but the direction his career is taking. Moving from thrillers and entertainers to emotional dramas and now mythology is a clear indication of that mindset.

With Keerthan providing the story and Tanvi N Dutta handling the screenplay, Indraputra could become another significant milestone in Kiran's evolving career. His next KA13 directed by Kiran is currently in production, KA14 under the Sukumar Writings banner is in the pipeline.

