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"Unconstitutional": P Chidambaram In Debate At 'One Nation One Election' Meet



New Delhi: Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram has opposed the "One Nation, One Election" proposal at a meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the bill today, calling it "unconstitutional". Appearing before the committee-chaired by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, the senior Congress leader strongly opposed the bills related to "One Nation, One Election" -- labelling them "flawed," and "illogical". Conversely, 10 eminent personalities and Padma awardees present at the meeting unanimously supported electoral reform, describing it as aligned with the national resolve of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

A total of four rounds of hearings were conducted at the marathon meeting. Leaders of political parties, civil society representatives, Padma awardees, and prominent legal policy research organizations presented their suggestions and objections. In the first session of the meeting, Chidambaram registered detailed objections regarding the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Sources said he argued that the proposed legislation undermines the basic struc-

ture of the Constitution, particularly the fundamental principles of parliamentary democracy. The tenure of any legislature elected by the people is fixed at five years, and curtailing the term of state assemblies prematurely through legislation is constitutionally inappropriate, he had argued. Chidambaram also noted that the government lacks the requisite two-thirds majority in Parliament to pass this bill. Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose also opposed the initiative, expressing apprehension that it would grant the Election Commission unlimited and unchecked powers. Responding to Chidambaram's arguments, committee chairman PP Chaudhary said it would thoroughly examine his views and suggestions. However, he dismissed the contention that the initiative

for simultaneous elections violates the basic structure of the Constitution. He noted that since Chidambaram represents a different political party, he might hold a different perspective. More than ten Padma awardees from various regions of the country participated in the second session of the meeting; prominent among them were Tarlochan Singh, Naveen Khanna, Meenakshi Jain, and Neeru Kumar. Supporting the 'One Nation, One Election' concept, the Padma awardees described it as a far-reaching step for the nation's development. Renowned historian Meenakshi Jain remarked that the frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct stalls development projects in the states. Simultaneous elections will allow development work to continue without interruption, she argued.

Putin, Xi And Middle East Minefield : India Gears Up For BRICS Summit

New Delhi: India will host one of the most geopolitically complicated BRICS summits yet on September 12 and 13, with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping among the leaders expected in the capital. The expanded BRICS grouping, which now stretches across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, is expected to bring together leaders and senior representatives from across the bloc. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is also expected to attend. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is not expected to attend because of domestic commitments, with Brazil likely to be represented by its foreign minister. According to sources, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will attend instead of his father, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The attendance of Saudi Arabia and Bolivia remains unclear.

On paper, the official agenda will focus on trade, development financing and reform of global institu-

tions. Behind closed doors, however, officials involved in the preparations expect the conflict in the Middle East to cast a shadow over much of the summit. Iran is expected to push for language in the summit declaration reflecting its position on the recent conflict, strikes and sanctions.

That could make the negotiations particularly difficult. BRICS operates on consensus, meaning a single delegation can block agreement on a contentious paragraph. "The language on West Asia is where the pressure is," a diplomat familiar with the preparations said. "Everyone has their own red lines." The wording of any joint statement remains under negotiation.

Why The Middle East Could Dominate The Summit

Any escalation around the Red Sea carries immediate economic implications for Egypt, particularly because of the importance of shipping through the Suez Canal. The Gulf states are closely watching the impact on energy markets and regional investments, while India will be keen to prevent



the Middle East tensions from overwhelming the summit's wider economic and developmental agenda. India has developed a strategic relationship with Israel while maintaining longstanding ties with Iran. Millions of Indians also live and work across the Gulf, giving the region a direct economic and human dimension for India. A major escalation could affect India's energy supplies, shipping routes and broader economic interests.

Then There Is Putin

And Xi
The presence of Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping will add another layer to India's diplomatic balancing act. India continues to maintain close defence and energy ties with Russia despite pressure from Western capitals. At the same time, relations with China have improved after years of military tensions along the Line of Actual Control, although the underlying strategic rivalry between the two countries remains. With Putin and Xi both in Delhi, the

spotlight will inevitably fall on India's relationships with Moscow and Beijing. The expanded BRICS format makes the equation even more complicated. Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto is set to make a significant appearance, bringing Southeast Asia's largest economy and one of the world's most populous countries deeper into the BRICS conversation. Egypt and Ethiopia add to the African representation alongside South Africa.

Amaravati Championship 2026: Ministers Inaugurate Sports Competitions in Tirupati

From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati, August 24: The state-level sports competitions of Amaravati Championship 2026 began in Tirupati. On Monday morning, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and Ministers Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy and Anagani Satya Prasad inaugurated the competitions at the SV University Tarakarama Grounds.

Speaking on the occasion, Home Minister Anitha said discipline was the key factor behind the success of great achievers. She stated that only with discipline can one succeed in life. She said that some of those participating as athletes today could go on to become IAS and IPS officers. She said the Chandrababu government had provided 3 per cent res-



ervation and employment opportunities for sportspersons. Home Minister Anitha thanked the parents and teachers who are working hard to identify and nurture hidden sporting talent.

Golden Era for Sports Under Alliance Govern-

ment: SAAP Chairman
SAAP Chairman Ravinayudu said the YSRCP had looked down upon sportspersons. He alleged that the party had opposed providing jobs to athletes and objected to reservations for sportspersons in govern-

ment employment. He criticized the previous government, saying it had never encouraged or supported sportspersons during its tenure. Ravinayudu stated that the alliance government has ushered in a golden era for sports.

River Linking Will Become a Reality, Even If It Takes Some Time: Vice President Radhakrishnan

From Our Staff Reporter Eluru, August 24: Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan unveiled a non-GMO popcorn hybrid seed at Musunuru in the Nuzvid constituency. On the occasion, he began his speech in Telugu.

"I can understand Telugu, but I cannot speak it. Two months ago, I read the success story of Gourmet company Managing Director Pattabhi in a Tamil newspaper. I congratulate him for bringing global recognition to a single product. On January 14, the entire country celebrates the harvest festival together. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, it is celebrated as Sankranti, in Tamil Nadu as Pongal, in Punjab as Lohri and in

Assam as Bihu," he said. The Vice President appreciated the Central and state governments for implementing various schemes for farmers. He said the Centre had allocated ₹1,200 crore to women's groups under a scheme to provide drones to farmers on a rental basis.

He expressed the hope that India would stop importing popcorn maize from the United States and reach a stage where it could instead export it to the US. He said it was no ordinary achievement that 17,500 farmers across eight states were cultivating popcorn maize on 40,000 acres.

He said that, by God's grace, the state would receive the required rainfall



this year and advised people not to worry about it. The Vice President made it clear that linking the rivers from the Mahanadi to the Cauvery would not remain merely a dream. Although it may take some time, he said, the project would eventually become a

reality. He also said that India need not depend on other countries for its food requirements. The Central and state governments are providing the necessary support and assistance to farmers to meet the country's food needs, Vice President Radhakrishnan said.

Public Grievance Meeting at Mangalagiri TDP Office; Minister Ponguru Narayana Receives Petitions

Guntur, August 24: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana directly received petitions from the public at a grievance meeting held at the TDP office in Mangalagiri, Guntur district, on Monday. The minister said most of the complaints were related to revenue, police and land issues. He noted that people were particularly facing difficulties due to land-related problems and pending mat-

ters in the Revenue Department. He said that through the party's grievance mechanism, people's problems are being brought to the attention of the concerned officials so that they do not have to make repeated visits to government offices. He made it clear that every petition received is being registered and that it is their responsibility to follow up until the issue is resolved.

Resolving Public Issues Is the Alliance

Government's Goal

Speaking on the occasion, Ponguru Narayana said, "Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been paying special attention to resolving public grievances. We have taken the issues raised through the grievance programme to the Chief Minister's attention and directed officials to discuss them with the concerned Revenue Minister and resolve them. The TDP office is not limited merely to



party activities; it is also functioning as a platform to hear and resolve people's problems. The grievance system is continuing in a way that enables ministers and public representatives to directly receive and resolve public issues. Minister Nara Lokesh is also regularly monitoring people's problems and taking steps to resolve them. Wherever there is a problem in any part of the state, bringing it to the government's attention and resolving it is the goal of the alliance government," the minister said.

New Houses and Pensions for Eligible Beneficiaries Soon: Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu

Kurnool, August 24: Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu said irrigation water had been supplied to the LLC and HLC canals to support farmers facing difficulties due to the El Niño effect. He expressed confidence that alliance candidates would achieve a 100 per cent victory in the upcoming local body elections. He said that under the leadership of Nara Lokesh, who is emerging as a rising star, steps had been taken to establish a drone hub along with several industries. He also assured that the government would provide drinking water to the people and extend necessary support.

The minister said that a



total of 10 Gurukul schools had been sanctioned for Kurnool district in two phases. He also said efforts would be made to establish a textile park in the district. He promised that a Gurukul school would be sanctioned for Alur next year. He stated that the

Chandrababu government was giving priority to the welfare of Backward Classes (BCs). He also said that Minister Lokesh was ready to undertake another round of recruitment through the District Selection Committee (DSC). Nimmala criticized the Opposition, saying it had no

right to speak about the Polavaram and Rayalaseema issues. He challenged the Opposition to a debate on how much had been spent on irrigation projects over the past two years. Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu announced that new houses and pensions would soon be provided to eligible beneficiaries.

Drone Falls on Home Minister Anitha; Suffers Minor Injury to Hand

From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati, August 24: An unfortunate incident occurred during the inauguration ceremony of the Amaravati Championship 2026. A drone fell on Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, causing

a minor injury to her right hand. A drone was flown as part of the Amaravati Championship programme. However, it reportedly fell due to low battery power. The drone hit the Home Minister's hand while she was present at the

venue, causing the injury. Medical personnel immediately provided treatment to Anitha. Meanwhile, the state-level Amaravati Championship 2026 sports competitions were inaugurated on Monday morning by Home



Minister Anitha and Ministers Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy and Anagani Satya Prasad. The four-day com-

petitions, which began today, will see the participation of around 10,000 athletes from across the state.

EDITORIAL

Only Unity Can Bring Strength and Success to Communists

Well-wishers, sympathizers and supporters of the Communist movement, along with democratic intellectuals, want all Communist parties to unite. They say that Communist unity can make it possible to resist the alleged fascist policies of the Modi government and the RSS. Conferences are being organized calling for unity, thereby expressing this aspiration.

Only if all Indian Communists come together as a single Marxist-Leninist party will it be possible to build a strong revolutionary movement and transform the present exploitative system. Unity should not be limited merely to opposing the policies of the Modi government and the RSS or combating religious hatred. There must be a common understanding, strategy and programme aimed at fundamentally transforming the existing system, and these must be implemented. Today, the Communist movement in India is divided into several Communist parties. These include revolutionary parties as well as parliamentary parties. They have developed their respective strategies and programmes and are working to implement them. There are serious differences between revolutionary Communist parties and parliamentary Communist parties regarding the nature of the present system, how it should be transformed, the character of the ruling classes, the nature of the feudal system and the character of the big bourgeoisie. Their positions are incompatible with one another. How can unity be achieved without a common understanding of Indian society and how it should be transformed? All those who seek Communist unity should understand this reality. How can unity survive if it is formed without a common understanding of the system and the means of changing it? Revolutionary Communist parties have broadly the same understanding of the existing system and its transformation. (A few revolutionary parties have moved away from their earlier positions.) However, there are differences in the tactics they follow. Some parties adopted extremist approaches, with serious consequences. If revolutionary parties critically review their actions and learn lessons from the results through a process of self-criticism, their differences can be overcome.

Revolutionary parties that speak about the unity of revolutionaries should not allow prejudice or subjective thinking to stand in the way of such unity. If this happens, unity among revolutionary parties can be achieved. Revolutionary parties committed to transforming the system should undertake such reviews both independently and collectively. The lessons learned should be communicated to the revolutionary ranks. The parties following the parliamentary path speak about socialism. While claiming that socialism can be achieved through parliamentary methods, these parties are not following an independent approach even within the parliamentary framework. Their present policies resemble those of social democrats. Electoral alliances with bourgeois parties have become the principal method through which they pursue parliamentary politics, accompanied by explanations that do not adequately correspond to this approach. No country has fundamentally transformed its system through elections alone. Systemic transformation, it is argued, cannot be achieved without dismantling the existing constitutional machinery and establishing a new constitutional framework. Lenin explained this point in his work "The State and Revolution." In the light of Marxism-Leninism, Communists should determine why they participate in elections and formulate tactics for using electoral participation to mobilize people towards the revolutionary movement. Elections should be contested in accordance with such an approach. Otherwise, participation in elections by Communists will serve little purpose. Parliamentary parties should review the policies they have followed so far under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism. They should communicate the lessons of that review to revolutionary cadres and Communist supporters. Two mutually opposed sections are functioning within the Communist movement. Both remain committed to their respective ideological positions. Therefore, immediate unity between these two sections is not possible. The possibility of unity will emerge only when a common understanding is developed between them regarding the present system, the stage of the revolution and the nature of the big bourgeoisie.

Different Communist organizations should continue united action on issues where they have a common understanding, while retaining their respective ideological positions. Joint action is already being undertaken on certain issues, mainly against the anti-people policies of the Central and state governments. This scope should be expanded. Joint action should continue to build public movements around issues such as opposing US imperialist domination in India's agricultural and industrial sectors; distributing land among the rural poor; increasing subsidies on fertilizers and seeds; opposing corporate agriculture; resisting attacks by landlords and local dominant groups on the rural poor; opposing exploitation by imperialist and multinational corporations; and opposing government repression of people's movements. Based on the experience of such united action, Communist organizations should work towards developing a common understanding of Indian society, the stage of the Indian revolutionary movement and a common programme. Such united action can pave the way for Communist unity. This is the issue that all those who seek Communist unity should seriously consider.

China Is Expanding Its Carrier Programme, But Does It Have Enough People?

China's naval transformation is increasingly becoming a story not merely of ships and aircraft, but of the human capital required to operate them. The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has moved beyond its earlier dependence on a small pool of experienced pilots who could be converted for carrier operations. It is now constructing a permanent, multi-source recruitment and training system designed to generate carrier aviators at scale. This is an important indicator of the seriousness with which Beijing views carrier power. The change is fundamentally about institutionalising carrier warfare. When China acquired Liaoning, its immediate challenge was learning how to operate a carrier. With Shandong, the emphasis shifted towards developing greater proficiency. The arrival of Fujian, with electromagnetic catapults and a much more sophisticated air wing, has altered the equation again. China now needs not just pilots who can land on a carrier, but sufficient numbers of experienced aviators, instructors, and specialist crews to sustain complex carrier operations.

A Permanent Pipeline
The PLAN has developed a dual-track model. The earlier approach involved taking experienced naval aviators and re-training them for carrier operations. Alongside this, China has since 2019 increasingly recruited young people directly for carrier aviation, allowing them to be trained from the beginning for the demands of shipborne flying. Chinese officials have explicitly described this as a dual-track system combining experienced pilots with high-school recruits.

The recruitment pool has subsequently widened. It now includes high-school graduates, students from naval aviation schools, university graduates in science and engineering, and other military and civilian candidates. The logic is

clear. Carrier aviation cannot remain dependent on a handful of pioneers. A growing carrier fleet requires a predictable manpower pipeline that can produce pilots, instructors, and, eventually, commanders in sufficient numbers.

China has also begun recruiting university graduates directly for naval aviation and has introduced female carrier-pilot cadets. The latter is symbolically important, but its broader significance is the widening of the recruitment base at a time when demographic pressures make access to technically capable young people increasingly important.

Hardware, And A Manpower Problem

China's carrier fleet is expanding in both size and sophistication. This creates a qualitatively different manpower requirement. A carrier does not need one pilot for every aircraft. Pilots require training, rest, and rotation, while operational readiness demands reserves. Specialised aircraft also require specialised personnel. The emergence of airborne early warning, electronic warfare, and other missions thus increases the demand for personnel beyond the headline number of fighters aboard a carrier.

The result is that China's hardware expansion is generating a human-capital bottleneck. Beijing can build ships and aircraft considerably faster than it can produce experienced carrier aviators. Quantity, however, cannot substitute indefinitely for experience. The training infrastructure must thus expand alongside the fleet. Simulators, specialised trainers, land-based facilities, and access to carriers for qualification all have to be available in sufficient quantities. The training problem becomes particularly acute when the same limited carriers must simultaneously perform operational, testing, and training functions.

China's recruitment drive also reflects a wider demographic



challenge. The pool of young people entering the workforce is shrinking, while the military competes with the civilian aviation sector and technologically sophisticated industries for scientifically trained talent.

India Can't Look Away

For India, the significance of this development lies less in the number of Chinese pilots than in what it says about the trajectory of Chinese naval power. New Chinese carriers have often been discussed primarily in terms of displacement, aircraft numbers, and weapons. The more consequential development may be the creation of institutions capable of sustaining carrier operations over decades. A permanent pilot pipeline suggests that Beijing is preparing for carrier aviation as a core component of Chinese maritime power rather than just an elite experiment. This has direct implications for the Indian Ocean. The PLAN's ability to deploy carriers beyond the western Pacific will ultimately depend on more than ships. It will require trained pilots, deck crews, maintainers, commanders, and logistical networks capable of sustaining operations far from the Chinese mainland. The recent emphasis on recruitment and training thus strengthens the credibility of China's longer-term far-seas ambitions.

India should consequently avoid measuring the China challenge solely through fleet numbers. The more important question is whether China can generate the operational proficiency required to translate its growing fleet into sustained combat power.

This should encourage India to focus on its own human-capital deficit. India has decades of carrier experience, but that advantage cannot be taken for granted. The Indian Navy must ensure a sufficiently deep pool of carrier pilots, instructors, and deck crews, while improving training infrastructure and maintaining high sortie-generation rates. India also needs to address the absence of a dedicated indigenous carrier-capable trainer and the continuing limitations surrounding the availability and operational proficiency of its carrier fighter fleet. More broadly, India needs to think of carrier capability as an ecosystem rather than a procurement programme. Aircraft, carriers, and missiles matter, but so do pilots, maintenance personnel, command structures, airborne early warning, logistics, and training cycles. The Chinese experience offers an important lesson: ships can be acquired relatively quickly; institutional competence cannot.

It's Not About Carriers

Along

China's carrier programme is entering a new phase. The central challenge is no longer whether the PLAN can operate aircraft from a carrier. It is whether it can generate enough trained and experienced personnel to operate several increasingly sophisticated carrier wings at sustained tempo. Beijing's answer has been to institutionalise the manpower pipeline - recruiting younger candidates, widening educational sources, introducing new demographic pools, and integrating carrier training earlier into the pilot's career. This suggests that China understands the difference between possessing carriers and possessing effective carrier power. For India, the lesson is equally clear. The strategic competition in the Indian Ocean will not be determined simply by who launches more carriers. It will be shaped by who can build the deeper ecosystem of people, training, doctrine and operational experience needed to make those carriers combat-effective. China is now investing in that ecosystem. India's response should be to strengthen its own-not through a numbers race alone, but by ensuring that its accumulated experience in carrier operations translates into a durable institutional advantage.

The Gulf's New Defence Agreement Has A 'Credibility' Problem

The tripartite Saudi-Pakistan-Turkey defence pact follows the Saudi-Pakistan defence pact. The latter came as a surprise, even though Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have had known security links. Pakistani troop contingents have reputedly provided security protection to the Saudi monarchy. The former Pakistani Army Chief, Raheel Sharif, is heading the grouping, which again points to security-related understandings between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. It is also believed that the Saudis had played a role in financing Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Formalising a defence pact between the two countries is, of course, a major step. Especially if it contains a provision that the attack against one country will be considered an attack on both. The timing of the pact was politically very sensitive as it came during an armed conflict in the region involving US-Israel and Iran, with Iran attacking several Gulf countries hosting US bases and threatening to cause havoc to the energy and water desalination infrastructures of these countries should the US begin destroying the energy and other vital infrastructure of Iran. This continues to be a nightmare scenario for Saudi Arabia. In addition to the Iranian threat, Saudi Arabia faces a threat also from the Houthis with which it has been engaged in a conflict for some years now, but without success. The Houthis threaten maritime shipping in the Bab el Mandab Strait. This, coupled with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, constitutes a vice-like grip on the movement of oil from the region internationally, including that of Saudi Arabia, whose oil terminals on the Red Sea are also vulnerable to

Houthi attacks.

Why Saudi Arabia calculates that Pakistan can join hands with it to counter the threat from Iran or Houthis is not clear. Even the US and Israel have not been able to deal with Iran successfully, or with the Houthi threat to maritime shipping. Can Saudi Arabia count on Pakistan to treat an Iranian attack on it as an attack against Pakistan itself? What capacity does Pakistan have to deal with the Houthi threat?

Turkey has been lobbying for some time to join the Saudi-Pakistan defence pact to convert it into a tripartite one. It appears that Saudi Arabia has been resisting this but has finally yielded. The details of the tripartite pact have not been divulged, but it has been made known that it has the same provision as the bilateral Saudi-Pakistan defence pact, viz., an attack against any of the three parties will be considered an attack against all three. The Turkish President and the country's Foreign Minister have likened this to Article 5 of the NATO pact. This hype surpasses reality. Will Turkey attack Iran if it attacks Saudi targets? If US bases in the region have proved so vulnerable to Iranian missile and drone attacks, and Israel too has suffered extensive damage from Iranian counter-attacks, can Turkey protect itself from Iranian retaliation? As it is, Turkey seems to be aware of its own vulnerabilities and seems to have strongly opposed US/Israeli plans to mobilise a land attack against Iran by Kurdish forces, knowing that arming the Kurds for such an adventure would recoil on Turkey itself, as it has been battling the Kurds for decades now. In terms of military capabilities,

Saudi Arabia is well supplied with advanced US weaponry. Turkey and Pakistan could bring to the table their military assets by way of drones and missiles, but would that match the military assets that the US and Israel have deployed against Iran, including B2 and B-52 bombers and Tomahawk missiles, etc., without success?

If the argument is that this tripartite defence pact is meant to deter Iran, the question arises why the combined military power of the US and Israel has failed to deter Iran. The inability of the US to force open the Strait of Hormuz despite often-repeated doomsday threats by Trump against Iran shows that deterrence has not worked against a country fighting for its life. Pakistan's nuclear capacity brings no additional force to this pact in security terms. The US is a very formidable nuclear power, and Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons. Their nuclear capacities have not deterred Iran. Beyond all this, drawing an analogy with Article 5 of NATO is political rhetoric, and unwise at that. The text of the NATO pact is a public document, unlike in the case of this tripartite pact. The garrulous Pakistani Foreign Minister has said that the text should be made public, but he is wont to express his personal opinions loosely. NATO has an integrated military command, with a US General heading it. The weapons are NATO standard to allow interoperability. NATO troops are stationed in different member countries.

Does the tripartite pact envisage an integrated military command? Without such a command and interoperability, how will this Article 5-like pact work? Pakistan is largely

equipped with Chinese weapons, while Turkey and Saudi Arabia are equipped with US weaponry. Will China permit its weapons to operate alongside US weapons in a joint operation? There is much talk of this pact bringing peace and stability to the region. For this, the three countries involved must be stable and peaceful themselves. Turkey is in permanent confrontation with Greece. It periodically bombs the Kurds in Iraq in violation of international law. It is illegally occupying a part of Iraq as well Syria, where it has physically intervened. It has intervened in Libya. It has violated UNCLOS in the eastern Mediterranean. It is now arming Ukraine. Turkey has intervened in India-Pakistan issues, including militarily during Operation Sindoor. Erdogan's ties with the Muslim Brotherhood are a source of concern to the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan is facing internal liberation movements and insurgencies. It is engaged in a conflict with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which it helped propel to power there. The Pakistani Taliban are operating against Pakistan from Afghan soil. Pakistan's relations with Iran are not tension-free, having exchanged limited missile attacks against each other not too long ago. Pakistan is locked in permanent hostility towards India, which would limit its capacity to deploy sizeable troops for security in the Gulf region. Other than this, the Pakistani economy is in shambles. The Turkish economy is in a bad shape with 32% inflation. The Saudi economy, despite the country's oil earnings, is under budgetary strain. Any calculation that Turkey and

Pakistan, in particular, can milk Saudi Arabia for funds and find a lucrative arms market in the kingdom may prove mistaken. This tripartite pact is likely to create more divisions within the GCC. The UAE, which has already walked out of OPEC, is a geopolitical rival of Saudi Arabia. Oman, which is careful in preserving a neutral position, is likely to be uncomfortable with a move that further weakens GCC unity. Qatar may believe that this pact will erode its mediatory role. Iraq will be wary of the role Turkey is acquiring in the region. The Shia-Sunni angle will be present in the mind of the leaders of this region, given the earlier effort by Turkey, along with Pakistan and Malaysia, to seek the leadership of the Islamic world because of the reformist impulses of the Saudi Crown Prince.

Trump has welcomed this tripartite pact as providing meaningful security to the region, admitting, whether it was his intention to do so or not, that the US itself could not provide "meaningful security" to the region despite numerous bases and arms supplies. The US is not going to walk away from this region that is massively rich in energy, especially because of President Trump's ambition to control the global oil market. The US companies are heavily invested in the energy infrastructure of the region. If, as the protagonists of this pact claim, it is not directed against anyone, then why create it? Even if deterrence is the objective, it has to be deterrence against a perceived threat. Iran knows the reality, as this pact has surfaced after the emergence of Iran as a dominant power in the region. Iran is diplomatically willing to go along with the narrative that it is not the target of this pact.

Indian Railways Launches Special Drive to Ensure Safe Drinking Water

New Delhi, pen power August 24: Indian Railways has launched a special cleanliness and disinfection drive across its network to ensure the availability of safe and hygienic drinking water for passengers at railway stations.

Under the initiative, Zonal Railways have been directed to inspect drinking-water sources, filtration plants, underground and overhead tanks, water coolers, taps, water booths and dispensing points. Drinking-water tanks will be drained, cleaned, scrubbed and disinfected, while proper covers and protection of vents and overflow

points will be ensured. Damaged tanks, pipelines and filters will be repaired or replaced wherever necessary. Officials will also check pipelines for leakages and ensure that potable and non-potable water systems do not have any cross-connections.

Special attention will be given to hand pumps and borewells used for drinking water to prevent contamination. Water coolers and purification systems, including UV and RO units, will also be inspected and serviced. Filter candles and other components will be replaced wherever required.

Water Quality Testing

Railway officials will conduct physical, chemical and bacteriological tests of water samples from sources, treatment outlets, tanks, coolers, vending machines and selected taps and booths. Daily residual-chlorine levels will also be monitored, with corrective measures taken wherever necessary. The Railway Board has further directed Zonal Railways to expedite sanctioned works for the construction and replacement of overhead and underground water tanks. Suitable filtration and purification systems will also be identified to prevent contamination at different

stages of the water supply chain.

Zonal Railways will submit station-wise details of deficiencies identified and corrective action taken, enabling the Railway Board to monitor the progress and ensure timely rectification.

The cleanliness and water-quality measures will also be extended to drinking-water facilities in railway colonies and workplaces. The initiative aims to strengthen preventive maintenance and water-quality monitoring and provide safe, clean and hygienic drinking water to passengers and Railway personnel.

Steps to Resolve Public Grievances Promptly

185 Grievance Petitions and 35 Revenue Clinic Applications Received



District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar Gangavaram / Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, August 24: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that applications related to

public and individual problems from remote villages are being received and that issues which can be resolved immediately are being addressed, while other grievances are being referred to the concerned de-

partments after exploring appropriate solutions.

On Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar and RDO K. Swathi, conducted a Public Grievance Redressal and Revenue

Clinic at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram.

The Collector said that 185 applications were received through the Grievance Redressal Forum and 35 applications through the Revenue Clinic this week. He directed officials to examine every application and resolve the issues as per eligibility and government guidelines.

He instructed officials of the concerned departments to take prompt action on all petitions submitted by the public. Senior officials from various government departments, Tahsildars, MPDOs, revenue and engineering officials attended the programme.

PGRS Complaints Must Be Resolved Within the Stipulated Time

Rampachodavaram, August 24: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to thoroughly examine grievances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and resolve them as per government rules within the stipulated time. The Collector, along with Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar and RDO K. Swathi, reviewed pending grievances at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram on Monday. He instructed



officials to contact applicants directly, prepare action plans for each complaint and upload updates online.

He also directed officials to expedite development works, complete houses sanctioned under various schemes and ensure 100%

installation of solar systems in Polavaram Project R&R colonies. Officials from various departments attended the meeting.

'Not Trying To Make Our Hindi-Speaking Brothers Experts In Marathi': CM Fadnavis Amid Ongoing Language Row

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday, reacting to the ongoing state-wide drive to assess the Marathi language proficiency of autorickshaw and taxi drivers, said that the state government has no intention of making Hindi-speaking people experts in Marathi. Speaking to reporters, Fadnavis said, "We are not trying to make our Hindi-speaking brothers experts in the Marathi language, but they should have working knowledge of the language. Efforts are being made to make them learn the language. The deadline to learn the language has been extended three times now." Fadnavis also assured that the Mahayuti government would not allow anyone to face injustice on the basis of language in the state. Meanwhile, following the directives of Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, the officials are conducting a statewide drive to assess the practical Marathi knowledge of autorickshaw and taxi drivers. However, following the assessment, several autorickshaw drivers in



Mumbai launched a three-day strike to protest the Marathi language requirement for autorickshaw, taxi and cab drivers. Speaking about the strike, one autorickshaw driver said, "There is a three-day autorickshaw strike. This has been called over the Marathi language directive. Nobody is listening to us. If you ask a 60-year-old person to suddenly speak Marathi, how will they do it? We want justice."

Earlier in the morning, traffic movement on Kandivali Link Road was disrupted after a group of autorickshaw drivers allegedly stopped their vehicles on the road to protest the state

government's Marathi language requirement. The protest reportedly caused a traffic jam on Link Road, with vehicle movement slowing for around 20 minutes and inconveniencing commuters and motorists. Amid the ongoing Marathi language row, Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik posted a video on X, saying that the Mahayuti government aims to create employment and provide opportunities to people. "We do not snatch someone's employment from someone," Sarnaik said, adding that Maharashtra welcomes people from outside the state and encourages them to work in the state. However, he said the

government only expects them to meet the Marathi language requirement. Sarnaik further said he would personally request the government not to take immediate action against autorickshaw, cab and taxi drivers who fail to meet the language requirement and instead give them additional time to learn Marathi. "But even after three months, if they fail to learn the language, then according to the rules, we will have to cancel their licences and take away their badges," he said.

According to data dated August 21, RTO teams tested 9,233 drivers across Maharashtra on the second day of the drive. Of these, 1,499 were found to lack practical Marathi knowledge and were subsequently served notices. In the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), 3,942 vehicle owners and drivers underwent the assessment on the second day. Of these, 722 were found to lack practical Marathi knowledge, and notices were issued to all of them. Outside the MMR, authorities tested 5,291 drivers, with 777 failing the practical language assessment and receiving notices.

'Who Is The Mole Among Us?' Champat Rai Questions Leak Of Ram Temple Donation Theft Information

Ayodhya: 'Who is the mole among us?' This question, recorded in former Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai's communication with close confidante, raises concern inside the temple management over how Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav came to know about the Ram temple donation theft while an internal inquiry was still underway. Rai asks who passed the information to Yadav and how details of the sensitive case travelled outside the temple premises. The question emerged as the temple management was simultaneously tracing the missing money, questioning counting staff and recovering cash from their homes.

The sequence began on June 4 when Rai was travelling to Ayodhya by train number 14206 Delhi-Ayodhya Express. At around 9.30 pm, he received a WhatsApp message from worker Anand Chaudhary informing him that a bundle of currency notes had been found in the toilet of the hundi counting room. When Rai reached Ayodhya the next day, the temple management began examining CCTV footage to find out how the money had reached the toilet and who had handled it. Suspicion fell on three employees who



had worked in the second shift in the counting room. On the night of June 5, the three men were stopped while leaving for home and questioned. The inquiry soon moved to their houses, with the employees being asked to bring money from their homes. Separate amounts were subsequently recovered.

Gopal Rao informed Rai that the suspects had been caught and suggested that an FIR be registered. Rai, however, decided against filing an FIR at that stage. He directed that the police personnel deployed inside the Ram Janmabhoomi complex be informed about the incident. The following day, the inquiry intensified. Rai was scheduled to travel to Etawah on June 6 but cancelled his programme and reached the Yatri

Suvidha Kendra building inside the temple complex. Dr Anil Mishra, the SP Security, the RMO and the in-charge of the complex police post were present there. The three youths were brought back for questioning at night. According to Rai's diary, they were told that police action could damage their future. They then began arranging for money to be brought from their homes. As questioning continued, names of other people emerged. They too were called in. Those against whom the evidence was not considered sufficient were handed over to their fathers. By around 9 pm, the recovered money had been placed in separate bags. Each bag was marked with the name of the person concerned, the name of the person who brought the

money, the date and the amount recovered.

The probe widened further on June 7 after CCTV footage allegedly showed some other people taking money from the counting area. They were called for questioning and asked to bring money from their homes. In one case, a team was sent to a village near Rudauli. The person under suspicion took out a bag containing money from his house and handed it over to the team. Another suspect was not found at his home. Police traced his mobile location and, according to the diary, located him in a village near the Nepal border in Bahraich district. He was subsequently caught at the level of the SP Security. All the recovered money was eventually kept in a large safe.

Anshuman Jhingran Becomes Youngest Male To Complete Oceans Seven, Earns Second Guinness World Records Title

Navi Mumbai-based open-water swimmer Anshuman Jhingran has secured his second Guinness World Records title after being officially recognised as the youngest male to complete the Oceans Seven, one of the most challenging achievements in international marathon swimming. Jhingran completed the seventh and final Oceans Seven crossing, the Tsugaru Strait in Japan, on June 30, 2026, at the age of 21 years and 109 days. The achievement came exactly three years after he began his record-breaking journey with the North Channel crossing.

The 21-year-old has now completed all seven Oceans Seven crossings between July 2023 and June 2026. His journey began with the North Channel on July 17, 2023, which he completed in 11 hours, 28 minutes and 52 seconds. He followed it with the Catalina Channel in August 2023, Cook Strait in January 2024, Molokai/Ka'iwi Channel in October 2024, Strait of Gibraltar in May 2025, English Channel in August 2025 and finally the Tsugaru Strait in June



2026. Jhingran trained at the Fr. Agnel Sports Centre in Vashi under coach Gokul Kamath. His preparation involved years of intensive conditioning and open-water training to cope with strong currents, tides, cold water, changing weather and prolonged physical and mental exertion. "Receiving my first Guinness World Records title after crossing the North Channel at 18 was an unforgettable moment, but it also became the beginning of a much bigger dream. The Oceans Seven has shaped the last three years of my life. Every channel brought a different challenge and taught

me something about resilience, patience and determination," Jhingran said. He added, "To complete this journey and now receive my second Guinness World Records title is incredibly special. I am deeply grateful to my coach Gokul Kamath, my family, pilots, support teams and everyone who stood by me throughout this journey."

The Oceans Seven is widely regarded as the open-water swimming equivalent of mountaineering's Seven Summits. Its seven crossings span some of the world's most demanding waters and require swimmers to endure difficult currents,

tides, marine conditions and hours of sustained exertion. Jhingran's latest recognition adds to his first Guinness World Records title, which he earned in July 2023 after becoming the youngest male to swim the North Channel at 18 years and 126 days. His North Channel crossing took 11 hours, 28 minutes and 52 seconds. With two Guinness World Records titles to his name, Jhingran has emerged as one of India's leading young marathon open-water swimmers and has brought international attention to the country's growing presence in the sport.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath Speaks In English At India-Japan Conclave, Video Goes Viral

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called for deeper collaboration between India and Japan, urging the two sides to move beyond traditional manufacturing and work together to build industries of the future in Uttar Pradesh. Addressing a Japanese gathering in English, Adityanath highlighted the complementary strengths of Japan and Uttar Pradesh and pitched the state as a potential hub for next-generation manufacturing and industrial development. "From the land of the rising sun to the heartland of India, let us not just build factories, let us build the indus-

tries of the future," the Uttar Pradesh chief minister said. Emphasising Japan's technological precision and Uttar Pradesh's economic and industrial potential, Adityanath said the partnership could contribute to a new chapter in global manufacturing.

"Let the precision of Japan and the potential of UP together build the next global manufacturing story from Uttar Pradesh," he said. The chief minister concluded his address with a message of friendship and cooperation, saying, "Arigatou Gozaimasu, Dhanyavad, Jai Hind." Adityanath's remarks underline Uttar Pradesh's ef-



forts to attract Japanese investment and strengthen industrial ties with Japan,

particularly in emerging and future-oriented manufacturing sectors.

Inside The World's Oldest Operational Nuclear Power Station



India's nuclear nursery tucked on the coast of the Arabian Sea is 57 years old, but going strong, showing no signs of ageing or retiring. Standing inside the control room of Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1 and 2 is like stepping into a living chapter of India's scientific history. The blinking panels, humming systems and vigilant operators are not merely running a power plant. They are keeping alive the facility that laid the foundation of India's commercial nuclear power programme nearly six decades ago. The newly refurbished control room looks in mint condition, smelling of fresh paint. Fifty seven years after it first began producing electricity, Tarapur Atomic Power Station Unit 1 continues to operate as the world's oldest commercial nuclear reactor. For India, it is much more than an engineering marvel. It is the place where the country's journey from nuclear novice to a nation with end to end capabilities in atomic energy truly began. Inside the control room, surrounded by decades of

technological evolution, Vinay Thatte, Station Director of Tarapur Atomic Power Station 1 and 2, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) reflects on a journey that has defined much of his professional life. A mechanical engineer who has spent more than 37 years at the station, Thatte speaks about the reactor with unmistakable affection. "It is my family. It is my child. It is a pious place for me," Thatte says very humbly. That emotional connection is understandable. Over the decades, Thatte has witnessed Tarapur evolve from an imported technology dependent on foreign suppliers into a highly indigenised facility sustained by Indian engineering and manufacturing capabilities. The origins of the station date back to the early years of India's nuclear ambitions. Constructed as a turnkey project with equipment supplied by General Electric, and Bechtel of the United States, construction began in 1964. Both reactors achieved criticality in 1968 and entered commer-

cial operation in 1969. At the time, Tarapur stood in what was largely an undeveloped region. Transportation networks were limited. Infrastructure was sparse. Yet the project moved ahead at remarkable speed. Within five years, both units had become commercial power producers. What emerged was India's first large scale commercial nuclear power station, a facility that would become the training ground for generations of engineers and scientists. Today, the station continues to generate electricity at a remarkably competitive tariff. According to Thatte, the plant currently sells power at around Rs 3.31 per unit, making it one of the cheapest sources of electricity available in India. There is a fascinating historical contrast. When the station first began operations, power generated by Tarapur reportedly cost only six paise per unit. Nearly six decades later, despite inflation, technology upgrades and extensive safety enhancements, the plant remains among the country's most eco-

nomical producers of electricity. Equally important, it produces electricity without emitting carbon-dioxide during operation. But longevity does not happen by accident. Keeping a reactor built in the 1960s running safely in the 2020s demands constant vigilance, continuous upgrades and a willingness to learn from global experience. Tarapur's survival story is also a story of adaptation. The station underwent major safety enhancements after each of the world's most significant nuclear accidents. Following the Three Mile Island accident in the United States in 1979, operator training became a major focus. Additional systems were introduced to reduce the possibility of human error affecting reactor operations. After the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, further improvements were implemented to strengthen reactor safety and operational reliability. Later, extensive design reviews conducted during the early 2000s led to another wave of modernisation. Shared systems were separated into independent systems for each reactor unit. Additional emergency diesel generators were installed. Power supplies and safety related equipment were further strengthened. Then came Fukushima. The 2011 accident in Japan transformed safety thinking across the global nuclear industry. Tarapur was no exception. According to Thatte, one of the most significant post Fukushima upgrades involved the installation of a nitrogen inerting system inside the primary contain-

ment. The purpose was straightforward but powerful. By eliminating oxygen from containment structures, conditions that could potentially lead to hydrogen explosions are greatly reduced. Tsunami water protection gates were also installed and additional generators were put in place. The plant also installed containment filtered vent systems. These systems provide operators with additional tools to manage containment pressure safely during extreme situations. The changes required detailed engineering reviews, especially because integrating new systems into a plant built nearly six decades ago is never simple. Yet perhaps the most remarkable chapter in Tarapur's recent history is the massive refurbishment project that has effectively given the reactor a new lease of life. Engineers describe it as one of the most technically demanding upgrades ever undertaken at the facility. Thatte calls it conducting an open heart surgery on an operating nuclear reactor. The comparison is apt. At the heart of the operation was the replacement of critical reactor recirculation piping. This system plays a vital role in moving water through the reactor and helping extract heat from the reactor core. Routine inspections revealed indications in certain weld joints. While these indications did not represent cracks or leaks, engineers decided to proactively replace the system with one made from superior materials. The replacement system uses advanced low carbon

nitrogen steel, a material renowned for its strength and resistance. Executing the replacement, however, was a daunting challenge. The piping was located in areas with significant radiation fields. Accessing it required the removal of ducts, structural supports, cable trays and numerous other components. Only after clearing these obstacles could engineers reach the piping itself. Success depended on preparation. Engineers first built a complete replica of the system outside the reactor area. Every component was recreated millimetre by millimetre. Teams repeatedly practised the operation, developed specialised tools and refined procedures before carrying them into the actual plant. Much of the work made use of both robotic systems and human expertise. Lead shielding blocks were fabricated to quickly isolate active radiation areas. Automated cutting and welding machines were developed locally. Remote handling systems were created for particularly challenging tasks. The effort represented a showcase for Indian engineering innovation. "It requires a lot of planning and a lot of mock ups," Thatte explains. The result is a revitalised reactor ready for decades of continued operation. One of the significant achievements behind Tarapur's longevity has been India's growing ability to replace imported technologies with indigenous alternatives. Then the station began operations, spare parts and component s largely depended on external suppliers. That dependence gradually

became a strategic concern. Beginning in the late 1980s, Indian organisations including Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and domestic industry partners worked together to localise critical components. Today, Thatte says, most systems have been successfully indigenised. The same story can be seen in fuel supply. There was a period when international restrictions created challenges for obtaining fuel. After the 1974 Pokhran atomic explosion, USA decided to stall fuel supplies to Tarapur. To address these pressures, India developed domestic fuel production capabilities through the Nuclear Fuel Complex. According to Thatte, fuel availability is no longer a concern. "There is no shortage of fuel," he says confidently. Spent fuel management has also evolved. Used fuel is initially stored in specially designed pools inside the reactor building before being transferred to larger away from reactor storage facilities. These facilities provide safe long term storage capacity while ensuring stringent safety standards. India is unable to re-process the spent fuel from Tarapur 1 and 2 because of safeguards issues. Looking ahead, perhaps the most remarkable fact about Tarapur is that engineers believe its story is far from over. Based on detailed health assessments of structures, systems and equipment, Thatte believes the reactor can potentially continue operating for at least another twenty years. The station has presently sought a five year life exten-

sion, extendable to ten years after a safety review by the regulator. That would take one of the world's oldest operating reactors well past its sixth decade of service. Taking Tarapur into a senior citizen category of atomic plants, a true rarity. More importantly, it would continue contributing to India's rapidly expanding nuclear ambitions. The Government of India has set a target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047. Achieving that vision will require many new reactors. But it will also require preserving institutional knowledge, engineering expertise and safety culture built over generations. Much of that heritage was born at Tarapur. That is why this station occupies such a unique place in India's scientific landscape. It is not merely a nuclear power plant. It is the birthplace of India's commercial nuclear energy programme, the training ground of thousands of engineers and the proving ground where India learned how to build, maintain and eventually master complex nuclear technologies. As operators monitor reactor systems inside the control room and veteran engineers train the next generation, Tarapur continues writing its new India story. For a facility that began its journey in the 1960s, the future still looks remarkably bright. The world's oldest operational commercial nuclear reactor is not preparing for retirement. After a remarkable refurbishment and decades of continuous modernisation, it is preparing for yet another chapter in India's clean energy journey.

CJP Worker Allegedly Slapped At Jodhpur Event, Clash Breaks Out With ABVP-BJYM Members



Jaipur: Days after a violent confrontation between Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) workers and villagers in Jaipur, a CJP worker was allegedly slapped by a BJP youth wing BJYM worker during a CJP event in Jodhpur on Sunday late in the evening. The incident triggered a confrontation between CJP workers and members of the ABVP and BJYM. The police said that the "Education Save, Country Save" dialogue organised by CJP was underway at the Gandhi Shanti Pratishthan when some people allegedly associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) attempted to enter the premises by jumping over the boundary wall. Worker slapped in Jodhpur; clash breaks out between CJP and ABVP at Cockroach Janta Party event, police detain. The development led to a scuffle between CJP and ABVP-BJYM workers, and a CJP worker was allegedly slapped. The police personnel deployed at the venue intervened to prevent the

confrontation. Following the incident, the police had detained eight ABVP and BJYM workers, who were released after interrogation late at night. The SHO of the concerned police station, Zulfiqar, said that the workers were taken into custody under Section 172 of the BNS and were released after interrogation.

The CJP's co-convener and spokesperson,

Ashutosh Ranka, attended and interacted with participants on education and youth issues; however, police did not grant permission to the CJP for another proposed student dialogue at Shastri Circle Garden, and Ranka was sent back to Jaipur under police protection. Reacting to the incident, Ranka said on social media that CJP's fight for better schools will continue

despite all such incidents. "They will continue to resort to violence and vandalism. The CJP will always maintain peace. And we will not stop our fight for better schools. But our resilience shouldn't be mistaken for being weak. We believe in Gandhi, but we also worship Bhagat Singh," said Ranka on X.

Chandigarh IED Plot Busted: 3 Babbar Khalsa-Linked Accused Sent To 5-Day Remand After 5 Kg Explosives Seized

Chandigarh: A Chandigarh court on Monday sent three accused arrested in connection with the recovery of explosive material in the city to five days of police remand. The police had sought seven days' remand of the accused, but the court granted five days. The three accused will be produced before the court again on August 29. The accused have been identified as Lovepreet Singh (19), a resident of Sarhali village in Tarn Taran district; Jashanpreet Singh alias Jashandeep (21), a resident of Deobath village in Tarn Taran; and Prabhpreet Singh alias Prabh (19), a resident of Tarsikka village in Amritsar district. The three were produced before the court of Dr Parikshit, Civil Judge (Junior Division), earlier today. Chandigarh Police on Saturday registered an FIR under Sections 4(b) and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act at Police Station 36, on the basis of specific intelligence regarding the movement of suspected operatives associated with Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in Chandigarh.

"Resign Within 15 Days": Bar Council Co-Chairman To Chief, Cites 8 Allegations

New Delhi: The co-chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI) has demanded the immediate resignation of the statutory body's chairman Manan Kumar Mishra over allegations of financial irregularities and other charges. BCI co-chairman and senior lawyer YR Sadasiva Reddy made the demand for resignation in a letter to the chairman, alleging eight points including the irregularities charge. Reddy said he wrote it with "considerable anguish," noting that "silence on my part would amount to a dereliction of the trust reposed in me by the advocates of this country". He alleged Mishra has been treating the statutory body like a personal estate rather than a public trust. Reddy also alleged the Bar Council of India Trust was deliberately let to become defunct and a new trust called 'BCI Trust PEARL First' was registered in September 2020 with trustees chosen by Mishra. "Thereafter, a resolution was moved in this Council

for the transfer of a sum of the order of Rs 150 crore of the funds of the Bar Council of India to that newly created trust," Reddy alleged in the letter, adding that objections from him and other members were overridden. The BCI co-chairman said law colleges have been forced to pay large sums for BCI approval or renewal. He said a regulator receiving money from the entities it regulates "has destroyed the very foundation of its own authority". He alleged blatant nepotism in hiring practices across the council and its educational institutions. "A striking proportion of the staff are persons connected to you personally, several of them being members of, or related to, your own family," Reddy said in the letter, adding that not a single advertisement or merit list was placed before the council to justify these staff appointments. The letter comes amid the filing of a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the con-



tinuation of Mishra as BCI chairman, alleging that his tenure has continued for more than a decade in violation of the governing rules. The petition filed by

lawyer Yogamaya MG questioned the legality of Mishra's uninterrupted tenure and cited BCI rules that prescribe a two-year limit for the chairman's term.

On Camera, Punjab Gangster Fleeing In Speeding Thar Rams Coconut Seller, Caught



Ludhiana : A wanted gangster, a speeding Thar, three police vehicles in chase. High drama unfolded on the streets of Ludhiana as a gangster fleeing the police in a Thar rammed

into a coconut seller's cart on a busy road. The coconut seller was flung about 10 feet by the impact. His cart was also thrown to the other side. CCTV footage showed

the speeding Thar ramming the cart and hitting the coconut seller as the gangster tried to flee from the cops who followed in three cars. According to reports, the Faridkot Special Task

Force (STF) received information that wanted gangster Gurpreet Singh was in Ludhiana. Subsequently, three STF vehicles began pursuing him. Realising he was being cornered by the police in the Sundar Nagar area, Gurpreet accelerated his Thar. The video shows the young coconut vendor standing near his cart in the Sundar Nagar area. He was cutting a coconut while talking to a customer. At that moment, the speeding Thar struck the young man and his cart.

The driver of the Thar did not stop and fled the scene. The police continued the chase and eventually apprehended the gangster a short distance away. Reports indicate that some of his associates have also been detained. The police are investigating the criminal records of the accused and his associates. The injured coconut seller was taken to the hospital with the help of the Ludhiana police and is currently undergoing treatment.

How Trump Is Using Trade Law To Impose New Tariffs On Over 60 Countries



The Trump administration has imposed double-digit tariffs on more than 60 countries, using a legal justification that permits the president to levy import taxes and other sanctions against countries found to engage in "unjustifiable," "unreasonable" or "discriminatory" trade practices. The new tariffs announced in recent days take effect just as temporary 10 per cent worldwide tariffs expired, and critics say they are less about cracking down on forced labor than they are a way to replace those tariffs. The expired tariffs were themselves a temporary replacement for worldwide tariffs the Supreme Court struck down in February. The tariffs were levied on countries that the US says either don't have or don't effectively enforce a forced-labor import ban. The affected countries, which account for 99 per cent of US imports, were quick to protest, calling the Trump administration's claims unfounded and arbitrary, as nations with vastly different records on forced labor received the same tariff level. The US spent four months investigating but gave few details on how it arrived at the tariff rates, which are either 10 per cent or 12.5 per cent. The tariffs were levied under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 on countries that the US determined had failed "to impose and effectively enforce a prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labor." During President Donald Trump's first term, he cited Section 301 to impose sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports amid a dispute over the sharp-elbowed tactics Beijing was using to challenge America's technological dominance. The US is also using 301 powers to

counter what it calls unfair Chinese practices in the shipbuilding industry. "The 301s allow a permanent tariff without going to Congress to settle the dispute," said Barry Appleton, a law professor and co-director of New York Law School's Center for International Law. "That's what all of this is about. The president doesn't want to knock on the front door of Congress, so he's trying every side door and every unlatched window to get in." The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) said it consulted with all 60 economies under investigation and held two rounds of public hearings, elicited more than 2,100 public comments, and had "engagement" with its trading partners about what they were doing to combat forced labor bans. It didn't detail its talks with the countries, saying those were confidential. Experts say it is fairly straightforward to investigate whether a country has a ban or not, but it is difficult to determine the government's exact rationale for each country's failure to enforce import bans. "There's not a lot of hard evidence there," said Scott Lincicome, vice president for general economics and trade policy at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank. "It's pretty laughable on its face to think that a country like the ones in Europe or in Norway or Switzerland aren't doing enough to police forced labor." And even if countries do enact and enforce the forced-labor import bans the US wants, they would still need to prove that they're enforcing them to Washington's satisfaction before the tariffs would be removed, said lawyer Patrick Childress, a partner at Holland & Knight and a former US trade

official. "This suggests that no short-term path for countrywide relief from the new Section 301 tariffs will be available," he said. Many countries have pushed back against the Trump administration's findings. Brazil, which faces a 12.5 per cent forced-labor tariff, called the US move "arbitrary and unjustified." The US "chose to manipulate an issue of great importance to human rights and the struggles of workers worldwide in order to accuse 59 countries and the European Union of unfair practices," it said in a statement. Australia also questioned the justification for its 12.5 per cent tariff. "We believe that amongst all of the countries in the world, Australia does take the issue of slavery, modern slavery, seriously, and will continue to do that," Trade Minister Don Farrell told reporters in Adelaide. Carve-outs have riled some industries. The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), which describes itself as the voice of the American textile industry, protested a mechanism that exempts the Section 301 tariffs for textile and apparel imports from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia based on those countries' imports of US cotton and textiles. "No other industry has been more disadvantaged by forced labor than the US textile industry, which employs 453,000 workers and has lost 41 plants over the past two plus years," NCTO chief executive Kim Glas said in a statement. "We remain strongly concerned that USTR's textile mechanism will harm the very domestic manufacturers the administration seeks to help." The US has two major pieces of legislation related to forced-labor import bans. The Tar-

iff Act of 1930 gave Customs and Border Protection the authority to seize shipments where forced labor was suspected and to block further imports. But it had a big carve-out: If there was "consumptive demand," meaning there wasn't sufficient supply to meet domestic demand, imports were allowed regardless of how they were produced. The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act that took effect in 2016 eliminated that loophole. In 2021, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act was passed. It blocks imports from China's Xinjiang region unless businesses can prove the items were made without forced labor. But goods made with forced labor can still make it into the US. In 2015, an Associated Press investigation found that slave labor was used in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia. The seafood they caught made its way to supermarkets and pet food providers across the US. An investigation by The Associated Press in 2020 into the \$65 billion palm oil industry found labor abuses among an invisible workforce consisting of millions of men, women and children in Asia. The fruit they harvested made its way into the supply chains of major companies, including Unilever, L'Oreal, Nestle and Procter & Gamble. During hearings on the tariffs this month, National Retail Federation vice president Jonathan Gold, who was representing the business coalition the Joint Association Forced Labor Working Group at the hearing, said that in order for the import bans to work, they would have to be much more extensive. He said there needed to be "clear, measurable benchmarks" tied to tariffs for countries to hit, and that the US should help countries build enforcement programs. Kenya Davis, a partner at the Boies Schiller Flexner law firm, said an effective ban needs a "comprehensive approach" that provides transparency about what the investigations consisted of, along with programs that provide countries aid in enforcing bans.

3 Killed, Multiple Injured In Mass Shooting At Food Festival In Seattle

Washington: At least three people were killed and four others were wounded in a shooting at a food festival in Seattle, United States, just a block from the city's iconic Space Needle, police said. The Seattle Mayor's Office confirmed that police had one suspect in custody. Authorities believe two people were shooting at each other, as two guns have been recovered. According to police, one suspect is still outstanding. "Police are investigating a shooting. Multiple shooting victims. Shots fired at the Seattle Center. More information to come. Please avoid the area," the Seattle Police Department said in a post on X. The gunfire erupted around 6 pm (est) at the Seattle Center during the Bite of Seattle festival. Victims have been trans-



ported to Harborview Medical Center, according to a Seattle Times report. The shooting happened at the time Seattle Centre was hosting its annual Bite of Seattle festival, featuring hundreds of local vendors and live music performances. A video of the incident has emerged on social media, showing the moment shots were heard in the busy arena and the chaos that followed.

Eyewitnesses told CNN affiliate KOMO that at least "seven to eight shots" were heard inside the venue, adding that people were running "everywhere." Another witness told Seattle Times that the event was so packed to begin with that people could barely move between the crowded lines for food. Estan Wakonabo, 25, said when the shots were heard, people began to trample

each other. "It was just pure chaos," he said. Wakonabo told the publication that he returned to the scene later to take photos and saw several gunshot victims on the ground, including a "body covered with a yellow sheet." The annual festival started in 1982 and draws 350,000 attendees over "three days of food, drink, and community celebration," according to its website.

2 Dead After Russian Missiles Hit Ukraine Overnight

Kyiv: Russian ballistic missiles struck the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv early on Sunday, setting off fires and wounding at least three civilians, while attacks on other parts of the country later killed at least two people, local officials said. The strikes came as Ukraine's successful drone attacks have stalled the Russian army's advances in an expanded campaign inside Russia that has been causing fuel shortages and piling pressure on Russian leader Vladimir Putin. In Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine, Kremlin-installed authorities said a Ukrainian drone strike had killed four civilians in the city of Horlivka. According to Ivan Prikhodko, the city's Russian-appointed mayor, the city had been under fire since the early hours of Sunday. According to Russia's defence ministry, Russian forces overnight struck down 133 Ukrainian drones over Russia, the Black Sea and Crimea, the peninsula that Moscow forcibly annexed from Ukraine in 2014. Blasts rocked Kyiv in the early hours of Sunday, with falling debris sparking a blaze in a tower block near the historic centre, according to mayor Vitali Klitschko. Elsewhere in the city, falling debris set fire to buildings, cars and car parks, Klitschko added. He said three people had been wounded, with one needing hospital treatment. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky warned in his evening address on Friday that intelligence assessments indicated that Russia was preparing missiles for a large attack, saying there were indications that this could happen in the next 48 hours. Russia's defence ministry



claimed on Sunday that its latest attack on Kyiv had struck sites linked to drone production. Also on Sunday, a drone strike on Kharkiv - Ukraine's second-largest city in the east - killed one person and wounded at least six others, including two children, mayor Igor Terekhov reported. In the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, a Russian glide bomb killed one man and wounded at least six other people, according to mayor Ivan Fedorov. Both Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia have been frequent targets for Russian attacks, with Zaporizhzhia - just over 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) from the front line - suffering heavy bombardment in recent months. On Friday, a major Russian strike near Kyiv killed at least 10 people and wounded around 100 others, part of a cycle of tit-for-tat attacks that dims the potential of reaching a diplomatic end to Russia's more than 4-year-old invasion of its neighbour. Meanwhile, Finnish President Alexander Stubb claimed on Sunday that "Ukraine's position is stronger than ever since the war began". Following a call with his Ukrainian counterpart - and appearing to allude to Kyiv's recent drone cam-

paign that has struck major Russian energy sites and sought to choke off military supplies - Stubb wrote on X that "continued support from (Ukraine's) partners is critical to keep up the momentum." Putin said Western attempts to seize Russia-linked oil tankers amounted to "piracy," and called on the Russian Navy to fight them. "We must act carefully in line with international maritime law but decisively - just as we must fight piracy and pirates," Putin said Sunday during a speech marking Russia's annual Navy Day. Moscow is believed to be using a fleet of hundreds of ships, many of them sailing under third-country flags, to ship oil in violation of international sanctions that followed its war on Ukraine. Last month, armed British forces boarded and detained a sanctioned tanker suspected of being part of this so-called "shadow fleet." French authorities have also intercepted some of these vessels. Russia has traditionally marked Navy Day with a major naval parade in and near the city of St. Petersburg, with Putin personally reviewing warships. This year was the second time in a row the parade had been called off

entirely, while in 2024, it was scaled down. A British intelligence update published earlier this month linked the cancellations to "force protection" concerns, citing a successful Ukrainian attack on Jun. 3 against a Russian warship docked near St. Petersburg. Romania intercepted a suspected Russian drone in its airspace on Sunday, Romanian President Nicu?or Dan said - the third such incursion in three days above the Eastern European nation that borders Ukraine and is a member of both NATO and the European Union. Dan called the incidents "inadmissible and intolerable" in a post on X and added that authorities found one of the earlier downed drones appears to be "a Shahed type, used by the Russian Federation in the war of aggression against Ukraine." NATO said two Romanian F-16 fighter jets scrambled from Fete?ti airspace, under NATO's operational command, in the morning hours and downed the drone over the Black Sea. A series of drone incursions by Russia and Ukraine have hit Romania and other NATO members since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

How Israel Quietly Armed India's Jets To Win Kargil War Against Pakistan In 1999



Kargil: Twenty-seven years after Indian soldiers scaled the icy heights above the Drass Valley to reclaim territory from Pakistani intruders, a new chapter of the Kargil War has come to light, one that unfolded not on the battlefield but in hangars, workshops, and late-night phone calls between Tel Aviv and New Delhi. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, timed to the Kargil Vijay Diwas, two former Israeli Air Force officers have spoken for the first time on Indian television about a covert defence partnership that helped equip the Indian Air Force during Operation Vijay and Operation Safed Sagar, the joint Army-Air Force campaign that repelled Pakistani forces in 1999. Ami, a former civilian program manager at Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, and Shlomo, a veteran Israeli Air Force fighter pilot and former Mirage squadron commander, described how a project that began years before the war as a routine defence contract turned, almost overnight, into an emergency mission that changed the course of the fighting.

A Contract Years in the Making
The story began in November 1996, when Rafael signed an agreement with India to fit the Mirage 2000 fighter jets with the Litening targeting pod, a system that would allow Indian pilots to identify and strike targets with far greater precision than before. Ami, who calls himself one of Rafael's "pioneers" in India, credited the late David Zeit, his supervisor at the time, with championing the programme years before it was formally signed. Between December 1996 and March 1999, Israeli engineers and Indian officials worked through what Ami described as demanding, highly professional trials with India's Defence Research and Development Organisation and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. By March 1999, the first rounds of aircraft testing were complete, but something, Ami said, was still missing.

The Friday Night Phone Call
That missing piece arrived in the form of an urgent phone call, not from New Delhi, but from Tel Aviv, placed by India's then defence attache, Group Captain N.A.K. Browne, who would go on to become Chief of the Indian Air Force. The call came on a Friday night, at the start of the Jewish Shabbat, when normal life in Israel comes to a standstill. By Sunday morning, a team of engineers and specialists, among them Ami, Shlomo, and colleagues remembered only by first name, had assembled boxes of tools and test equipment prepared overnight and boarded a flight to India, uncertain themselves of exactly what awaited them. On arrival, Ami recalled, the commanding officer of the Indian Air Force told the team simply that the situation demanded "much, much more than expected," and the team stayed on, working around the clock for days without knowing when they would return home.

Marrying Three Languages of War
The technical challenge, Shlomo explained, was formidable: an Israeli-made targeting pod, mounted on a French-built aircraft, needed to work seamlessly with American-made laser-guided bombs—three systems, in effect, that needed to "speak" one language a Hebrew-speaking pilot and Indian ground crews could operate under combat pressure. Getting there took what he called dozens of trips to India, endless troubleshooting on the ground, and long stretches where aircraft power or engine faults stalled testing before pilots could even see how the system performed in the air. Both men singled out the contributions of Indian Air Force officers who worked alongside them—Squadron Leader Gershon Arora and a young lieutenant at the time, Rajeev Kumar Dash, who later rose to Group Captain. They reserved particular praise for Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar and Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, whose high-altitude strike sorties over Tiger Hill, Shlomo said, went beyond anything Israeli planners had anticipated, describing the precision achieved as a genuine turning point in the conflict.

A Friendship That Outlasted the War
For Ami, who made more than a hundred trips to India between 1996 and 2004, the collaboration became personal. He said the experience left him, in his words, having "fallen in love" with India and that the bonds formed with Indian officers were less a commercial arrangement than what he called a "brotherhood." Shlomo revealed that his son now works with an Israeli defence firm, Elbit Systems, and travels to India roughly once a month, continuing a relationship now well into its third decade. In a closing, personal moment, Shlomo revealed he will travel to Kargil for the very first time next month to see the war memorial and the terrain where a mission conceived thousands of kilometers away helped alter the outcome of India's war.

Eicher Motors Q1 Preview: Revenue, profit likely to grow in double digits; margins seen flat



New Delhi:Eicher Motors Q1 Preview: Automaker Eicher Motors Ltd is set to announce its June quarter (Q1 FY27) results on July 29. According to estimates by the Zee Business Research team, the company is likely to report healthy growth in revenue and profit, supported by higher Royal Enfield sales volumes. However, rising raw material costs are expected to keep operating margins largely unchanged from a year ago.

likely to grow over 26%
Zee Business Research expects Eicher Motors to post consolidated revenue of Rs 6,390 crore, an increase of 26.7 per cent from Rs 5,042 crore reported in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Operating profit is also expected to move higher. EBITDA is estimated at Rs 1,520 crore, compared with Rs 1,203 crore in Q1 FY26, reflecting a growth of 26.4 per cent.
The EBITDA margin is expected to come in at 23.8

per cent, almost unchanged from 23.9 per cent in the year-ago quarter, indicating that higher costs may offset the gains from stronger sales and better pricing. On the bottom line, the company is expected to report a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 1,378 crore, up 14.4 per cent from Rs 1,205 crore a year earlier.
Domestic demand expected to remain supportive
Royal Enfield is likely to remain the biggest contributor to the company's June

quarter performance. According to Zee Business Research, Royal Enfield dispatches are estimated at around 3.30 lakh units, reflecting a 24.4 per cent year-on-year increase. Healthy demand in the domestic market is expected to support both revenue growth and profitability during the quarter. The company also implemented a 170 basis points price hike during the quarter. Along with a favourable product mix, this is expected to improve average realisations by nearly 2 per cent compared with the same period last year.
Exports remain the weak link
While the domestic business is expected to remain strong, exports are likely to have remained under pressure during the quarter. Shipments to overseas markets are estimated to have declined by nearly 20 per cent, mainly because of weaker demand in the United States and Mexico. The softness in these markets is expected to limit the contribution from exports

during the June quarter. Investors will look for management's comments on whether demand has started improving in these regions and how the company expects exports to perform over the rest of the financial year.
Cost pressures may cap margin expansion
Although revenue and operating profit are expected to register healthy growth, margin expansion is likely to remain limited. Higher raw material costs are expected to absorb a large part of the benefit from increased volumes and better realisations. As a result, the operating margin is projected to remain broadly in line with last year's level.
What investors will watch
Beyond the quarterly numbers, the management's outlook will be closely tracked. The Street will look for updates on demand trends in the domestic market, export recovery, the performance of recently launched motorcycles and any plans for further price revisions.

Indus Towers Q1 Results Preview: Revenue, EBITDA likely to improve; PAT seen flat



New Delhi:Indus Towers Ltd, a passive telecom infrastructure provider, is scheduled to announce its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 (Q1 FY27) on Monday, July 27, 2026.
Following the announcement, the company will upload its quarterly report, media release, stock exchange filing, key performance indicators (KPIs) and conference call transcript on its website. Analysts expect the company to report a largely stable performance during the June quarter, supported by steady tower and tenancy additions. Revenue and operating profit are likely to improve slightly on a sequential basis, while net profit is expected to remain almost unchanged.

Q1 FY27 estimates
According to analysts' estimates, Indus Towers is expected to report consolidated revenue of Rs 8,299 crore for the June quarter, compared with Rs 8,101 crore in the March quarter, reflecting a 2.4 per cent sequential increase. EBITDA is estimated at Rs 4,499 crore, up 0.8 per cent from Rs 4,464 crore reported in the previous quarter. However, EBITDA margin is likely to soften to 54.2 per cent

from 55.1 per cent in Q4 FY26 due to seasonally higher energy costs. Net profit is expected to come in at Rs 1,787 crore, marginally lower than Rs 1,793 crore reported in the March quarter, indicating a 0.3 per cent sequential decline.
Key management commentary in focus
Investors will closely watch the management's commentary on network expansion by Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, as continued expansion by the telecom operators could support further tower and tenancy additions. The market will also look for updates on recurring EBITDA growth, the company's dividend outlook and the impact of higher energy costs on operating margins in the coming quarters. Analysts expect strong tenancy additions to support recurring EBITDA growth, although seasonal energy expenses may keep margins under some pressure during the June quarter.

How the company performed in Q4 FY26
In the January-March quarter (Q4 FY26), Indus Towers reported steady growth in revenue and earnings. The company posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,792.9 crore, up 0.78 per cent from Rs 1,779.1 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue increased 4.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,101 crore from Rs 7,727.1 crore. EBITDA rose 1.6 per cent to Rs 4,464 crore, while EBITDA margin stood at 55.1 per cent. Operationally, the company added 4,892 towers and 6,192 co-locations during the quarter.
This took its total tower count to 264,514, while the closing share price stood at 1.62.
Indus Towers Stock performance
Indus Towers shares were trading at Rs 388.90, down 1.44 per cent, on Monday at 1:30 pm. The stock has fallen Rs 92.60, or around 19.2 per cent, from its 52-week high of Rs 481.50 touched on February 19, 2026. It is, however, above its 52-week low of Rs 312.55, recorded on September 3, 2025. The company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 1,02,519 crore. The stock is part of the Nifty Midcap 50 index and belongs to the telecom infrastructure sector. Over the past one week, the stock has declined 3.3 per cent. It has fallen 1.22 per cent over the last one month and is down 10.8 per cent so far in 2026.

India's Grade A Mall Space Crunch: Retail leasing 4.5x new supply in H1 2026, Delhi-NCR leads

New Delhi:India's Grade A mall space shortage is widening, with retailers leasing nearly 4.5 times the amount of new mall space delivered across the country's top seven cities in the first half of 2026, according to the latest report by property consultant ANAROCK. The top seven cities recorded gross leasing of approximately 4.1 million sq ft. of Grade A mall space in H1 2026, while new completions stood at just 0.9 million sq ft. This highlights a growing shortage of high-quality retail space as brands continue to expand and consumers increasingly seek experience-led shopping destinations.

Retail leasing outpaces new mall supply
The demand-supply imbalance has persisted over the past few years, the report noted. In 2023, the top seven cities added approximately 5.3 million sq ft of new Grade A retail supply against gross leasing of 6.5 million sq ft. In 2024, new supply fell sharply to 1.1 million sq ft, while leasing remained strong at 6.5 million sq ft. Although new mall supply recovered to 5.2 million sq ft in 2025, leasing surged to a record 13 million sq ft. In H1 2026, both leasing and new supply moderated from the exceptionally strong levels seen in 2025. Leasing declined 24 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while new completions fell 57 per cent. However, demand continued to significantly exceed fresh supply. The report attributed the moderation in activity partly to geopolitical uncertainty, which delayed some mall deliveries and prompted certain retailers to defer expansion decisions.
Delhi-NCR only city to add new Grade A mall space
Delhi-NCR was the only major market among the top seven cities to record new Grade A mall completions during the period, adding approximately 0.9 million sq ft of space. Leasing in the



region stood at around 1.26 million sq ft. Meanwhile, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai and Kolkata recorded leasing activity but virtually no new Grade A mall additions in H1 2026. This means retailers in these cities were largely leasing space from existing Grade A malls, further tightening the availability of high-quality retail real estate.
Mall vacancy falls to record low of 6.7%
The supply crunch is also reflected in vacancy levels. Vacancy in Grade A malls across the top seven cities fell to an all-time low of 6.7 per cent in H1 2026, the lowest level recorded since 2010. Post-pandemic, vacancy had peaked at 15.5 per cent in 2021. Pre-pandemic, the highest vacancy level was recorded in 2011 at 21.5 per cent. The property consultant said the tightening market indicates that India does not lack retail real estate in terms of total space, but faces a shortage of well-located, professionally managed and institutionally owned Grade A and A+ mall space. "India's retail market is now chronically supply-constrained, where retailers' biggest challenge is not drawing shoppers but finding the right spaces to serve them in," said Anuj Kejriwal, CEO-Retail and CEO-Europe, Middle East & Africa, ANAROCK Group.

limited?
According to ANAROCK, developing a successful Grade A mall is more complex than delivering several other forms of real estate. Such projects require large and contiguous land parcels in strategic locations, substantial upfront investment, detailed catchment analysis,

anchor tenant commitments and longer development and approval timelines. The availability of suitable land in established urban markets, rising land costs, financing conditions, approvals and construction schedules can all delay project delivery. The challenge is particularly evident in the 57 per cent YoY decline in new completions in H1 2026. The property consultant noted that retail supply cannot be scaled up quickly in response to rising retailer demand. By contrast, Grade B and C malls continue to report significantly higher vacancy levels, ranging from around 8 per cent to as much as 35 per cent across major cities. With vacancy at record lows and demand for experience-led retail continuing to rise, the supply shortage presents a significant opportunity for developers and institutional investors to add high-quality mall space in India's key consumption markets. However, without a meaningful increase in new supply, retailers could face longer waiting periods for prime locations, higher occupancy costs and greater competition for established malls.

What may support earnings?
The company is expected to report healthy growth on the back of strong execution. Execution may have remained strong as EPC activity picked up before the monsoon season. However, the higher EPC mix may weigh on margins. Analysts expect margin to remain around

Suzlon Energy Q1 Results Preview: Revenue, PAT may rise over 20%; here's what to expect

New Delhi:Suzlon Energy Q1 FY27 Preview: Suzlon Energy is likely to report a strong June-quarter performance, led by healthy project execution. Revenue and net profit are expected to grow more than 20 per cent year-on-year. However, margins may remain under pressure due to a higher share of EPC work.
Suzlon Energy Q1 FY27 Results Date
The company's Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, July 28, to consider and approve the unaudited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 2026 (Q1FY27).
Revenue, PAT seen rising
According to Zee Business estimates, Suzlon Energy's consolidated revenue is expected

to rise 24.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,890 crore. It had reported revenue of Rs 3,132 crore in the year-ago quarter. EBITDA is estimated to increase 15.5 per cent to Rs 692 crore, from Rs 599 crore a year ago. Net profit is likely to grow 22.8 per cent to Rs 398 crore, compared with Rs 324 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. EBITDA margin is expected to fall to 17.8 per cent from 19.1 per cent.
What may support earnings?
The company is expected to report healthy growth on the back of strong execution. Execution may have remained strong as EPC activity picked up before the monsoon season. However, the higher EPC mix may weigh on margins. Analysts expect margin to remain around

18 per cent.
Key Monitorables
Investors will track management commentary on:
Progress towards 3 GW execution target for FY27
Ramp-up in execution in the coming quarters
Margin movement on EPC mix
Impact of deferred tax adjustments
Order inflows and demand outlook
Q4FY26 Highlights
Suzlon Energy reported mixed results in the March quarter.
Consolidated net profit fell 5.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,114 crore, from Rs 1,181 crore. The decline was mainly due to a lower deferred tax benefit. The deferred tax benefit stood at Rs 284.32 crore, compared with Rs 600.75 crore in the year-ago quarter. Revenue from operations, however,



rose sharply to Rs 5,468 crore from Rs 3,774 crore. For FY26, consolidated net profit increased to Rs 3,163 crore, from Rs 2,072 crore in FY25. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 16,679 crore, compared with Rs 10,851 crore in the previous financial year.
Order book remains strong
Suzlon ended FY26 with an order book of 5.9

GW. About 66 per cent of the orders came from the public sector and the commercial and industrial (C&I) segment. The strong order book provides revenue visibility for the coming quarters. The June-quarter results will indicate whether the company remains on track to achieve its 3 GW execution target for FY27 while

maintaining profitability.
Suzlon Energy share price
Suzlon Energy shares closed 1.66 per cent higher at Rs 53.15 on Monday. The stock touched an intraday high of Rs 53.20 and a low of Rs 52.22. The company has a market capitalisation of Rs 72,850 crore. The stock has touched a 52-week high of Rs 66.81 and a 52-week low of Rs 38.19.

Cholamandalam Investment seen securing over 25% PAT & Nil growth in Q1 FY27—What investors can expect

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company -- a Chennai-headquartered non-banking financial company (NBFC) -- is scheduled to report its financial results on Tuesday, July 28. Analysts expect the gold financier to kick off FY27 with a

strong financial performance for the April-June (Q1) period, on the back of strong double-digit growth in interest income and improving asset quality.
According to Zee Business research, the NBFC is expected to register a

standalone net profit of Rs 1,452 crore for the quarter ended June 30, which translates to a jump of 27.9 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. The company had registered a net profit of Rs 1,135 crore for the year-ago period. Its

June-quarter net interest income (NII) -- a key measure of top line for financial institutions -- is estimated to have grown 25.6 per cent to Rs 3,998 crore. Its provisions are estimated to grow to Rs 1,000 crore for the quarter ended June 30, from Rs 846

crore three months ago and Rs 882 crore in the first quarter of FY26, according to the research. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company earns the lion's share of its revenue from its auto finance operations. For the year ended March 31,

Cholamandalam Investment earned 52.5 per cent of its total revenue from its vehicle finance business. Revenue from its loan against property and home loan units contributed 19 per cent and 10.3 per cent to its top line, respectively.



NA-Allocated Talabira II & III Coal Mines Mark Record Production in FY 2025-26



New Delhi, August, 24 (PIB): The Government of India's efforts to strengthen domestic coal production and energy security are being reinforced through coal mines allocated and auctioned under the Nominated Authority (NA) framework. Talabira II & III Open Cast Coal Mine in Odisha, allocated to NLC India Ltd. on 2 May 2016 under Schedule III of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, is among the NA-allocated mines demonstrating strong performance across production, dispatch, technology adoption, safety, environ-

mental management, employment and community development. Located across Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts, the mine has emerged as a significant contributor to domestic coal availability. In FY 2025-26, Talabira II & III achieved its highest-ever annual coal production of 19.14 MT, recording a year-on-year growth of 11.28% over the previous year. The mine also recorded its highest-ever daily production of 1,26,138.07 tonnes on 21 March 2026 and highest-ever monthly production of 3.39 MT in March 2026.

The production performance has been complemented by strong coal dispatch. In FY 2025-26, the mine achieved its highest-ever annual dispatch of 17.69 MT. Of this, approximately 10.72 MT was supplied to the power sector, while 6.97 MT was supplied to the non-regulated sector. Coal from Talabira II & III supports power-generating facilities across several States, including NTPC Darlipali, NTPC Gadarwara, NTPC Khargone, NTPC Kudgi and other power plants in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The mine has maintained a sustained growth trajectory since commencement of production, with cumulative coal production reaching 72.23 MT and cumulative dispatch reaching 70.89 MT up to 14 August 2026. This performance illustrates the tangible outcomes possible through the operationalisation of coal resources allocated under the Government's coal-block allocation framework. Technology has been a key enabler of operational efficiency at Talabira II & III. The Digital Logistics Man-

agement System (DLMS) enables end-to-end digital monitoring of coal transportation and dispatch through RFID-based vehicle verification, AI-enabled cameras and technology-enabled entry and exit gates. Following its implementation, average entry-gate processing time reduced from 1.42 minutes to 0.54 minutes per vehicle, while tare weightment time reduced from 1.34 minutes to 0.48 minutes. The mine also deploys surface miners with dust-suppression systems, GPS-based fleet management and geo-fencing, 3D Terrestrial Laser Scanning with GNSS receivers, drone-based surveying, mechanised truck loading, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations and CCTV surveillance. Implementation of Digital Logistics Management System (DLMS) at Talabira II & III OCP for end-to-end digital monitoring and control of coal transportation and dispatch. The mine's operational performance is complemented by measures aimed at responsible and environmentally sustainable mining. Plantation has been undertaken over 23.43 hectares within the mine lease, covering 64,288

plants, and 29.48 hectares outside the mine lease, covering 65,202 plants. The mine has also installed 11.68 kW of solar power capacity, including solar street lighting in nearby villages and solar lighting within mine infrastructure. Dust-control measures include wet drilling, water sprinkling, fog cannons, fixed sprinkling systems, wind barriers, truck-washing systems and mechanised road sweeping. Safety remains a key component of the mine's performance, with nil fatal accidents since inception. Safety measures include a Safety Management Plan, improved haul-road and traffic management, PPE compliance, strengthened blasting procedures, safety training and near-miss reporting through the ARAN Safety App. The mine has received multiple recognitions under the Annual Mines Safety Fortnight and has secured a Five-Star Rating under the Ministry of Coal's Star Rating Evaluation consecutively from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25. The impact of the mine extends beyond production and energy supply. Talabira II & III supports 3,277 employment opportunities, comprising 1,277 direct and

approximately 2,000 indirect employment opportunities through transportation and allied activities. Five Project Affected Persons have received skill-development training at the Skill Development Institute, Bhubaneswar, while 101 rural youth and women have been trained in sustainable livelihood initiatives through RSETI and PMKVY centres. Community development has also formed an important part of the project's wider impact. CSR expenditure stood at Rs.5.32 crore in FY 2025-26, supporting healthcare, drinking water, education, school transportation, rural infrastructure, sports, cultural activities and solar lighting. Health and blood-donation camps benefited around 1,500 people, while drinking-water supply through tankers benefited approximately 10,000 people. During FY 2026-27 up to July 2026, a further Rs.4.20 crore was spent on initiatives including drinking-water supply, healthcare support, solar lighting, school and Anganwadi infrastructure, rural roads, community facilities and water-body rejuvenation. Mega Medical Camp organized by Talabira II & III OCP, NLC India Ltd.

AIIA Launches "GARBHINI MITRA" Course to Strengthen Ayurveda-Based Maternal Wellness Support

New Delhi, August, 24 (PIB): The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, an autonomous premier institution under the Ministry of Ayush, has introduced the Garbhini Mitra Course for the 2026-2027 academic session. The initiative is a structured healthcare skill-development programme aimed at creating trained personnel to provide appropriate health education, lifestyle guidance, and community-level support to women during pregnancy and the postnatal period. The course is rooted in the traditional Ayurvedic concepts of Garbhini Paricharya (antenatal care), Sutika Paricharya (postnatal care), and Garbhadhana Vidhi (pre-conceptional care). Designed as a six-month offline training programme running from Monday to Friday between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM, it equips participants with practical skills in trimester-specific dietetics, lifestyle modifications, pregnancy-safe yoga, emotional support during labour, newborn massage, and basic life support protocols. The curriculum also emphasizes infection control, sanitization, biomedical waste management, and workplace safety. Offered at the AIIA campus in Sarita Vihar, New Delhi, the course admits 20 students per batch. Candidates who have passed the Senior Secondary (10+2) examination from any recognized board in India and are at least 18 years of age are eligible to apply. Candidates currently awaiting their 12th-grade results may also submit provisional applications. After completing the course, candidates can pursue roles as Garbhini Mitra Assistants, Prenatal/Postnatal Care Assistants, Antenatal Wellness Guides and Maternal Health Support Workers, with opportunities in Ayush centres, maternity clinics, NGOs, community health projects and wellness institutions. The Garbhini Mitra initiative complements, rather than replaces, clinical antenatal care. Routine check-ups, diagnostic tests, and monitoring of blood pressure and haemoglobin remain essential. Trained Garbhini Mitras support pregnant women by identifying warning signs and facilitating timely referral to qualified doctors and healthcare facilities. The last date for submitting applications is August 31, 2026. Refer to the brochure for more details: Academic Brochure- Garbhini Mitra.

Third Meeting of India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI) Held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

India-Cambodia Bilateral Trade Grows Over 36% to USD 406.78 Million in 2025-26



New Delhi, August, 24 (PIB): The Third Meeting of the India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI) was held on 24 August 2026 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Amit Verma, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India, and Mr. Long Kemvichet, Director General of International Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia. Both sides noted the encouraging momentum in bilateral trade, which grew by over 36% to reach USD 406.78 million in 2025-26, up from USD 299 million in the previous financial year, with the April-June 2026 quarter recording a further 63.25% year-on-year growth. Cambodia is currently India's 8th largest trading partner in ASEAN, accounting for 0.31% of India's total trade with the bloc, reflecting significant headroom for growth. The meeting deliberated upon ways to diversify and deepen trade, including through cooperation and collaboration in traditional medicine, e-governance modules, recognition of Indian pharmacopeia, trade statistics reconciliation and the sharing of information on flagship trade fairs and business delegations. The meeting also welcomed the successful launch of UPI acceptance at KHQR-enabled merchants in Phnom Penh on 2 June 2026, and discussed the next phase of enabling Cambodian payment applications to scan UPI QR codes in India, which would allow Cambodian travellers to use UPI-enabled terminals in India seamlessly. The meeting further welcomed the agreement between both sides on the MoU on Custom Cooperation and discussed early signing, which would bring uniformity in custom procedure. The two sides further discussed cooperation in agriculture and market access issues, expanding trade in dyes and pigments, banking and insurance sector cooperation. The two sides also welcomed the discussion for completion of the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Cambodia and agreed for early signature on it. This was the third meeting of the JWGTI since its institutionalisation and the meeting reaffirmed the depth and growing potential of the India-Cambodia trade and economic partnership. The next meeting of the JWGTI will be held in India in 2027.

On the sidelines of the 3rd India-Cambodia JWGTI meeting, Shri Amit Verma had a productive call with H.E. Tith Rithipol, Under Secretary of State, Cambodia. Discussions covered strengthening bilateral trade and investment, cooperation in pharmaceuticals, and the successful UPI-KHQR digital payments linkage. Both sides reiterated their shared commitment for deepening the partnership between the countries. Shri Amit Verma also met with members of the Indian Business Chamber in Cambodia (IBCC). Discussions focused on accelerating bilateral trade agreement discussions, facilitating Indian investment in Cambodia, and identifying 5-7 priority sectors including education, healthcare, IT, agriculture and tourism. The meeting also discussed an "Invest in Cambodia" roadshow in India, positioning Cambodia as a production base for Indian companies seeking access to ASEAN markets, and establishing a mechanism for IBCC/FICCI/JBC to provide private-sector feedback to the JWGTI.

Maharashtra becomes the first state to become eligible for the second installment of RKVY; Union Agriculture Minister congratulates it for timely utilization of funds



Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today chaired a virtual review meeting to assess the utilization of funds released under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and to consider release of second installment (second mother sanction) to Maharashtra Government. The meeting was at-

tended by Shri Dattatreya Bharane, Agriculture Minister, Government of Maharashtra, senior officials of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and officials of the Government of Maharashtra. During the review, the Union Minister stated that the Central Government had released ₹335

crore to Maharashtra as the first installment under the RKVY scheme. The state has utilized approximately ₹260 crore of this amount, exceeding the prescribed 75 percent utilization standard. With this, Maharashtra has become the first state to become eligible to receive the second installment. The Minister informed that the process of releasing the sec-

ond installment of ₹335 crore is being initiated. Congratulating the Maharashtra government, Mr. Chouhan commended the state for achieving over 75 percent overall utilization of RKVY funds within the stipulated time. He described Maharashtra as the first state to become eligible for the second installment and said this achievement demonstrates the state's commitment to the effective implementation of agricultural development programs. The Union Minister emphasized that timely expenditure must be accompanied by constant monitoring to ensure that public funds are used only for the purposes for which they have been sanctioned. He also commended Maharashtra's performance in creating Kisan Identity Cards and recalled the state's prompt financial assistance to flood-affected farmers, where compensation of approximately ₹14,000 crore was trans-

ferred directly to farmers' bank accounts within five days. Reviewing various components under RKVY, Mr. Chauhan acknowledged the satisfactory progress under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and commended the state's implementation efforts. He also advised Maharashtra to accelerate spending under the Digital Agriculture, Agricultural Extension, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Seeds, Oilseeds, and Agroforestry components. He also suggested that pending liabilities under the Seeds component be paid as soon as possible to improve fund utilization. The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was also discussed separately during the meeting. The Minister emphasized the need for farmers to provide accurate information when applying for crop insurance. He clarified that both Kisan

Credit Card (KCC) and non-KCC farmers are eligible for crop insurance benefits, but concealing KCC status by applying through another account should be avoided. The proposed declaration on the portal is intended only to ensure transparency and accuracy of information, and not to limit the benefits to any eligible farmer. Mr. Chauhan underlined that the central government provides substantial financial support under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme through interest waivers and incentives for timely repayment. Therefore, accurate disclosure of information is essential to ensure transparency and efficient use of public resources. Expressing confidence in Maharashtra's continued performance, the Union Minister said that the state will further improve implementation of the remaining components of RKVY and continue to contribute to the development of the agriculture sector.

Participation of Sikh communities in public institutions and governance structures

The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various schemes aimed at improving the socio-economic status of minority communities, including the Sikh community, and promoting their overall development. These schemes strive to uplift minority communities by ensuring their equal participation in education, employment, and economic activities, with dignity and equal-

ity. The Ministry implements various schemes such as the Prime Minister's Heritage Promotion (PM Vikas), the Prime Minister's Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV), and low-interest loans through the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). Recently, Mr. Harjit Singh Grewal, a Sikh, was appointed as the Chairman of the National Com-

mission for Minorities (NCM). To better understand the challenges faced by the Sikh community, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) conducted a study on "Connecting the Sikh Community." The study aimed to identify gaps in current outreach efforts and recommend strategies to improve support, inclusivity, and participation for the Sikh

community in various social, cultural, and economic sectors. To promote social harmony and mutual understanding among different religious communities, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) regularly organizes Sarva Dharma Samvad (inter-religious dialogue) meetings with representatives of minority communities and celebrates

major festivals of minority religions. The Commission advises all States and Union Territories to institutionalize regular Sarva Dharma Samvad meetings and Sarva Dharma Sadbhav programs involving religious leaders, community representatives, non-governmental organizations, and government officials to promote social harmony, inter-religious

dialogue, and mutual understanding. These initiatives help address minority concerns, create awareness, and ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes for minority communities. This information was given by Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

Manuscript Clusters and Partner Institutions under the Gyan Bharatam Initiative

The Gyan Bharatam Mission (GBM) has been mandated to establish a nationwide network of Cluster Centers (CCs) and Independent Centers (ICs) across the country. These institutions have been selected based on established criteria, including the size and importance of manuscript

collections, institutional capacity, availability of qualified human resources and infrastructure, regional representation, and experience in manuscript-related activities. A list of CCs/ICs included so far is given in the Annex. The National Manuscript Survey was launched in March 2026 to

identify and document manuscripts, collections, and custodians representing diverse languages and scripts across all states and union territories in the country. During the survey, information on over 11.9 million manuscripts has been obtained. The total number of digitized manu-

scripts across the country exceeds 800,000, of which over 390,000 are currently available for public viewing on the Gyan Bharatam portal. Gana Bharatam is a pan-India initiative covering the cataloging, preservation, digitization, and publication of identified manuscripts across the

country. For effective implementation, a framework of cluster centers and independent centers has been developed. These centers are provided financial support in the form of grants to undertake manuscript-related activities, as described above. A list of centers involved in Andhra Pradesh

and Telangana is given in the Annex. Gyan Bharatam envisages the identification, documentation, preservation, digitization, research, publication and dissemination of India's manuscript heritage, irrespective of script, language, dialect, tradition, community or geographical location.

India start favourites at Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships



Hyderabad: Top-seeded India will begin as the favourites in the men's team event when the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships get underway at the Thyagraj Stadium here on Monday, while Singapore's women, seeded No. 1, will be the team to beat in the women's competition, with India close behind as the second seeds. Organised by the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India, the championships will run from July 27 to August 2 with full support from the Government of Delhi, whose backing has been pivotal in staging the event.

The city's enthusiastic support is evident in the championship branding displayed prominently from the airport to key locations across Delhi, and the Delhi Government has also

made all hospitality arrangements for participating teams and officials. The week-long championships, running from July 27 to August 2, will feature 23 men's teams and 18 women's teams, bringing together many of the Commonwealth's leading table tennis nations. Based on the latest team rankings, India's men have earned the top seeding ahead of Australia and England, reflecting their status as the strongest side in the field. In the women's draw, Singapore leads the seedings, followed by India and Australia, setting the stage for what promises to be an intense battle for the title.

India's medal hopes will largely rest on an experienced core led by G Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah and Payas Jain in the men's squad. On the women's side, Sreeja Akula,

Sutirtha Mukherjee, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Syndrela Das and Swastika Ghosh are expected to shoulder the challenge in both the team and individual events.

Despite India's favourable seeding and home advantage, the hosts are unlikely to have it easy. Australia and England remain formidable opponents in the men's competition, while Singapore's women continue to set the benchmark in the Commonwealth. Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand and South Africa also possess enough quality to challenge for podium finishes and spring surprises during the knockout rounds. Adding further prestige to this edition, the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships will offer a record total prize purse of USD 110,000, the highest in the tournament's history. Winners of the men's and women's team

championships and the men's and women's singles titles will each receive USD 10,000, while champions in the men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles events will earn USD 4,000 each. Prize money will also be awarded to runners-up and semifinalists across all categories. The team competitions will each carry a purse of USD 20,000, with the champions receiving USD 10,000, runners-up receiving USD 5,000, and the two losing semifinalists receiving USD 2,500 each. The men's and women's singles events will follow an identical prize-money structure. The team competition will be played under the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation's three-stage format, guaranteeing every team at least six matches before the championship rounds.

Teams progressing from the group phase will move into the knockout stage, while the remaining sides will compete in classification matches to determine their final standings. The official team draw, scheduled for later on Sunday, is expected to provide a clearer picture of the road to the medals. In the individual events, each member association may enter up to eight players in the singles, four pairs each in the men's and women's doubles, and eight pairs in the mixed doubles. As hosts, India will enjoy the additional advantage of fielding double the standard quota of entries in the individual competitions.

3rd T20I: Sooryavanshi stars with 81 as India complete 3-0 sweep over Zimbabwe



Harare: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's remarkably adaptive 81 and an equally solid effort from bowlers led by pacer Mayank Yadav ensured India's smooth 35-run win over Zimbabwe in the third and final T20I here on Sunday. Along with the victory, India also completed a 3-0 sweep, a fine step-up after surrendering the previous two series to England (0-4) and Ireland (0-2).

Zimbabwe had to bat out of their skin to chase down 193 on a rather sluggish pitch.

But they did not have enough patience or nous for it, ending up at 157 for seven despite Ryan Burl making a fine unbeaten 54.

Just like in the previous matches, Zimbabwe lost one too many wickets early as they could not properly use the Power Play segment.

Pacer Yash Thakur (2/45) got rid of Dion Myers and skipper Sikandar Raza off successive balls in the fourth over as the hosts slipped to 34 for three.

Earlier Mayank (3/29), who bowled with heaps of pace and accuracy, had ousted Brian Bennett in the first ball of the innings as Zimbabwe struggled for an early move-on. It became a trend as the innings progressed despite Indians grassing as many as four catches and conceding couple of boundaries in another sloppy

fielding effort.

Burl played a nice innings of assurance and formed a good 60-run alliance with Wesley Madhevere (28) for the fifth wicket. The Zimbabweans played some forceful shots around the park, but the early damage was too big to mitigate.

India too suffered an early jolt, losing a struggling Abhishek Sharma for 2 after opting to bat. But Sooryavanshi showcased another side of his batting during the 49-ball innings on a slightly tacky pitch at the Harare Sports Club, and

The 15-year-old started in a relatively subdued fashion — first 10 balls produced a mere 11 runs, the next 10 saw the arrival of 15 runs, and eventually his second T20I fifty came in 31 balls. There were a few stunning shots as one would expect in a Sooryavanshi innings. A straight punch for a four off Brad Evans' yorker and then a 102-metre six off off-spinner Sikandar Raza showed age-defying power and skills.

There was a moment of innovation too when he reverse swept spinner Madhevere for a boundary. But overall, it was

an innings of restraint on the day from the Bihar boy.

But on the other hand, his opening partner Abhishek got out for his sixth below par score in succession, edging pacer Blessing Muzarabani to stumper Tadi Marumani.

Now, Abhishek's last six innings read: 10, 16, 3, 1, 8, 2, dating back to the third T20I at Nottingham against England last month. But Sooryavanshi showed enough maturity to stitch a 75-run partnership with Ishan Kishan (29) for the second wicket and followed it up with a 50-run stand with Shreyas Iyer (27) for the next wicket. However, the left-hander fell close to a well-deserved hundred with Evans taking a stunning catch at long-off off Madhevere.

Once Sooryavanshi and Shreyas departed, the middle order batters struggled to impart the desired momentum to the innings.

It reflected in the 47 runs they scored off in the last five overs, and Rinku Singh's cameo (25, 14b) was needed for India to move closer to 200.

2026 Commonwealth Games: Jadumani Singh enters boxing quarterfinals with dominant win over Pakistan

Glasgow: India's Mandengbam Jadumani Singh continued his impressive run at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, booking his place in the men's 55kg boxing quarterfinals after a dominant 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Pakistan's Rehman Sumama in the Round of 16 on Sunday. Jadumani outclassed his opponent across all three rounds, earning the nod from all five judges to seal a comprehensive win on points. The Indian boxer maintained control throughout the contest with sharp combinations, effective footwork and disciplined defence, leaving little room for the Pakistani to mount a come-

back. According to the official scorecard, three judges scored the bout 30-27 in Jadumani's favour, while the remaining two judges returned 29-28 verdicts, underlining the Indian's superiority over the three-round contest. The victory follows Jadumani's equally convincing opening-round performance, where he defeated Scotland's Cullen by another 5-0 unanimous decision in the Round of 32, making it two straight clean-sweep wins in Glasgow. With the latest triumph, the Indian pugilist has advanced to the quarterfinals, scheduled for July 28 at 7:45 pm (local time). There, he will face the



winner of the Round of 16 clash between Zambia and South Africa for a place in the semifinals.

Having looked composed and confident in both his

outings so far, Jadumani has emerged as one of India's promising medal contenders in the men's 55kg category as the boxing competition enters its knockout stages.

Nabha Natesh Proves She's More Than Glam



Nabha Natesh is giving fans a peek into her many moods with her latest photoshoot, and it's an absolute delight to watch. In one set of pictures, she keeps it casual yet stylish in a brown bralette paired with oversized denim shorts, white socks, and sneakers, flaunting her toned midriff with an effortlessly cool vibe. In a fun black-and-white grid, Nabha goes all out with playful expressions, winking, sticking her tongue out, making funny faces, and striking cheeky poses, proving she doesn't take herself too seriously.

The mix of casual styling and candid, expressive shots shows a more relaxed and spontaneous side of the actress, something fans have been loving on social media. On the work front, while a couple of Nabha's recent releases haven't performed as expected at the box office, she has an exciting project lined up with Swayambhu, co-starring Nikhil Siddharth and Samyuktha Menon, which fans hope will mark a strong comeback for her.

