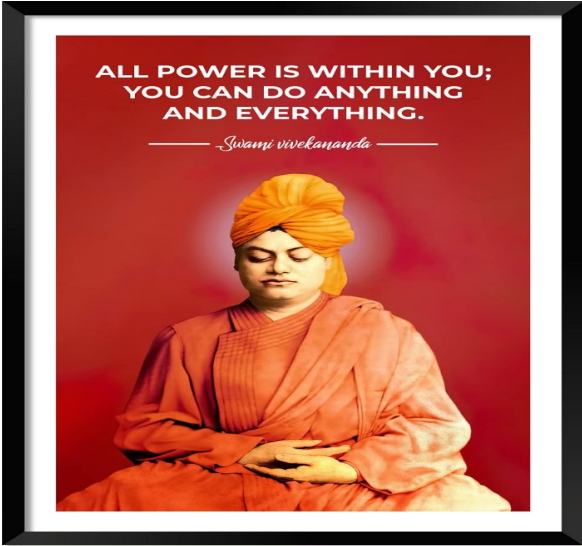
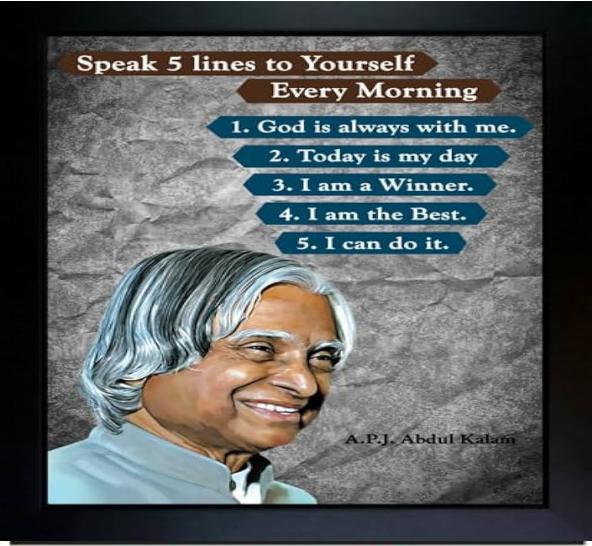




Telangana DGP Launches Dial 112 Emergency Service

Hyderabad: Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand on Wednesday inaugurated the Dial 112 emergency response service at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said the Dial 112 service will provide access to 18 emergency services through a single phone call. Police, fire and medical emergency services will be among the key services



available under this helpline number. He said the initiative has been launched to ensure a faster and more coordinated response during emergencies, making it easier for people to access essential services through a single emergency number.

Lokesh Promises New District Central Library for Vizag at Dandu Bazaar



Visakhapatnam: Education minister Nara Lokesh has pledged to prioritise the development of Visakhapatnam's library system. He promised immediate, including new construction projects, release of pending funds, and filling up of staff. Responding to Visakhapatnam District Library chairman Van nemreddy Satish Kumar's appeal, Lokesh announced that the foundation stone for a new District Central

Library building at Dandu Bazaar will be laid without delay. He agreed to establish a City Central Library in Visakhapatnam to cater to the growing demands of the metropolis, with the city becoming a centre for IT and artificial intelligence companies. Inflows Continue The minister mentioned that digital library systems meeting international standards will be introduced to benefit students and unemployed youth

preparing for competitive examinations. He underlined that the state government is committed to transform Andhra Pradesh into a "Knowledge Hub." The District Library chairman highlighted the urgent need for modern facilities, including free Wi-Fi, updated study materials, and improved infrastructure. He sought creation of 10 digital libraries in agency areas and a national-level Telugu Digital Library to consolidate educational and knowledge resources across the state. To Curb Deepfakes, Osed is the shortage of staff, with 87 of the 132 sanctioned posts remaining vacant. The chairman requested permission to appoint at least 30 outsourced staff to ensure uninterrupted services.

PM Modi Hails J&K's Progress on Article 370 Anniversary

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the lives of people in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have witnessed wide-ranging transformation, with expansion of infrastructure and growth in opportunities in education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports sectors. On the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, Modi said the Centre remains committed to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and to ensuring that every citizen has the opportunity to "dream big, achieve and contribute" to the making of a Viksit Bharat. Also Read - Google



Emerges As India's Most Attractive Employer Brand, Followed by Tata Group, Amazon: Report He said infrastructure in the two Union Territories has expanded, while opportunities in areas such as education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports =women or marginalised communities, those who were denied their basic

constitutional rights for decades have been empowered thanks to the full application of the Constitution of India, Modi added. In a post on X, the prime minister said, "Seven years ago, on this day, Articles 370 and 35(A) became history, marking a decisive new chapter in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh..."

Revanth Reddy Seeks Centre's Help to Resolve

New Delhi: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday met Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil and urged him to facilitate talks with the Maharashtra government to resolve the long-standing inter-state dispute over the height of the Tummidihetti barrage on the Pranahita river. The barrage, part of the Pranahita-Chevella irrigation scheme, is proposed at Tummidihetti village in Kouthala mandal of the erstwhile Adilabad district, near the confluence of the Wardha and



Wainganga rivers. Also Read - Telangana DCA Cracks Down on Mislabelled Gabazen Tablets Telangana wants the barrage height raised to 150 metres, arguing that the earlier agreed height of 148 metres is insufficient for gravity-based utilisation of the state's allotted Godavari waters. "The Chief Minister urged the Union Minister to persuade Maharashtra to accept construction of the barrage at 15ty-based utilisation of 0

metres height," a statement issued by the state government said. Reddy told Patil that even at the increased height, the submergence area would remain under 1,000 hectares. He said the project holds significance for Telangana since it would enable water supply through gravity flow, sparing the sty-based utilisation of tate the substantial cost of developing lift irrigation systems. The chief minister was accompanied by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and a few MPs from the state.

President to Honour 2 AP Handloom Aawardees

VISAKHAPATNAM: Two handloom artisans from Andhra Pradesh will receive the National Handloom Awards from the President Droupadi Murmu at the National Handloom Day celebrations in New Delhi on August 7, bringing national recognition to the state's rich weaving tradition. Among the 22 awardees



this year is Murakala Nataraju of Alikam in

Srikakulam district. Renowned for weaving cotton, tussar, half-and-half and Jamdani sarees, Nataraju has been recognised for preserving traditional weaving techniques while adapting them to contemporary designs. Also Read - Srisailem Water Level Nears FRL as Heavy Inflows Continue The second awardee is N.

Venkateswara Rao, associated with the Andhra Pradesh Marketing of Handloom Products at Venkatagiri in Tirupati district. His contribution to promoting and marketing Venkatagiri handloom products has helped sustain the town's long-standing reputation as a centre of fine weaving. The awards will be presented

in the presence of Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh, senior officials, master weavers, designers, exporters and artisans. This year's honours comprise three Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards, recognising innovation, marketing and other contributions to the handloom sector.

HYDRAA Like Wing To Deal With Food Adulterators in Telangana



Hyderabad: Taking a serious note of adulteration of food items, the State government is seriously contemplating to enact a law to contain the menace and ensure stern punishment to those involved in it. A detailed exercise is on to finalize the modalities to be adopted for making the law, which is expected to take a final shape within a few weeks. Deliberations are also on to set up a separate wing akin to HYDRAA or EAGLE with required staff to work effectively. Also Read - Be Alert Against Cyber Frauds, Says CP On their part, the Hyderabad police are not only intensifying food safety raids but also invoking serious provisions against the accused. Plans are also afoot to invoke Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the accused. Usually, Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveil-

lance Team (H-FAST) registers a case under Section 318 (4) (Cheating) of BNS against those caught in food adulteration. But, the accused are managing to secure bail easily. Also Read - Telangana DCA Cracks Down on Mislabelled Gabazen Tablets Given the seriousness of the crime committed by the three persons - Rahul Bhati of Katedan, and Vishal Panwar and Dulichand Kachhawar, both residents of Begum Bazar, the police booked the case under Section 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) of BNS against them ensuring imprisonment for three to seven years, or fine or both and arrested them on Tuesday. Knowing that lacing spices with dangerous chemicals puts the lives of people at risk, the trio continued to indulge in adulteration prompting the police to

invoke Section 110 of BNS, said Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar. Also Read - SHE Teams Nab 678 Harassers during Bonalu in Hyderabad The police said a total of 25 tonnes of various spices found to be containing certain dangerous chemicals and hazardous substances were seized during the raids. Consequently, three criminal cases were registered across three police stations against them. Two cases were booked against them in Mailardevpally and one in Balapur police station limits. Police source said that the trio was maintaining a strong network and were involved in supplying adulterated spice in Andhra Pradesh and other south States. Task Force and H-FAST Deputy Commissioner of Police, Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath explained that Rahul Bhati, Vishal Panwar and Dulichand Kachhawar were indulging in adulteration in spite of knowing that it would cause serious health problems. "It's nothing but playing with lives of innocent people," he added.

Sanjay Jaju Calls for Extensive Arrangements for Telangana Rising-2026



Hyderabad: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju here on Wednesday asked officials concerned to ensure coordination among all government departments and make extensive arrangements for the successful conduct of the "Telangana Rising-2026" Global Summit, scheduled for December. Speaking at a review meeting regarding arrangements for the Global Summit—held on Wednesday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat under the directions of the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Chief Secretary stated that the cooperation of national and international organizations is crucial for attracting massive investments to the state, as part of achieving the 'Telangana Rising-2047' goal. Also Read - Be Alert Against Cyber Frauds, Says CP He noted that the Global Summit

would serve as a pivotal platform for boosting the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Against this backdrop, he urged all government departments to work in coordination to ensure the event's success. It was stated that the government is implementing the "Telangana Rising" initiative with the aim of positioning the state at the forefront of the country across all sectors including development, investments, industrial growth, infrastructure, skill development, innovation, employment generation, and welfare. Also Read - Telangana DCA Cracks Down on Mislabelled Gabazen Tablets A suggestion was made to utilize the Young India Skill University complex currently under construction at Bharat Future City for hosting the global summit. Additionally, the concerned depart-

ments were directed to ensure the timely readiness of infrastructure facilities such as roads, electricity and drinking water supply. Officials held extensive discussions at the meeting on matters such as attracting investments to the state, further accelerating industrial development, expanding skill development opportunities for the youth, boosting employment generation, and delivering digital services more efficiently. Chief Minister's Advisor and Ex-officio Special Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, TGIIC MD Shashanka, Invest Telangana CEO Ajith Reddy, Industries Department Special Secretary Krishna Aditya, Director Nikhil Chakravarthy, IT Department Joint Secretary Anudeep Durishetty, and others participated in this meeting.

BJP Protests Delay in Kazipet Flyover Project Works

Warangal: The BJP staged a protest at the Kazipet Fatimanagar flyover on Tuesday, demanding the early completion of the long-pending project. The protest was led by Hanamkonda BJP district president Kolanu Santosh Reddy and attended by the party's state leader and former Warangal West Assembly candidate Rao Padma Reddy and former MLA Martineni Dharma Rao. Rao Padma Reddy alleged that the flyover project was progressing at snail's pace for the past five years, causing persistent traffic congestion. She claimed that the assurance to complete the project before the Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Jatra had not been fulfilled. Also Read - Toddler Dies After Falling from Second Floor in Vikarabad She also alleged that although the project was



launched by the BRS government, construction made little progress under the present Congress government. Referring to reports that pending Railway approvals had delayed the project, she claimed that non-payment of contractors' bills had also contributed to the slowdown. She said the BJP would facilitate the required Railway clear-

ances through Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Ashwini Vaishnaw if the works were resumed. Also Read - Case Booked against 8 Colleges for Forging HYDRAA Chief's Signature Former MLA Martineni Dharma Rao alleged that the prolonged delay in completing the flyover had caused inconvenience to the public and

urged the government to expedite the project. The BJP leaders warned that they would intensify their agitation if the works were not expedited. The protest led to disruption of traffic on the highway. Warangal-Hyderabad NH for about 30 minutes before police dispersed the protesters and restored normal traffic.

Grand Bonalu Celebrations Held in Sangareddy

Sangareddy: Bonalu celebrations organised by the Goud community were held with traditional fervour in Sadashivpet and Sangareddy towns on Tuesday. District Congress Committee president T. Nirmala Jaggareddy attended the festivities as the chief guest and offered special prayers to the presiding deities. She first visited the Durgamma temple in Sadashivpet, where she performed special rituals, and later participated in the Bonalu celebrations organised by the Goud community. TPCC general secretary Topaji Ananth Kishan, CDC chairman Ram Reddy, municipal vice-chairperson Renuka Chiru, councillor NagBonalu cele-



brations organised by the Goud community were held with traditional fervour in Sadashivpet and Sangareddy towns on Tuesday. District Congress Committee president T. Nirmala Jaggareddy participated

in the Bonalu celebrations in Sangareddy town. The procession featured traditional performances. Bonalu celebrations organised by the Goud community were held with traditional fervour in Sadashivpet and Sangareddy towns

on Tuesday by Potharajus, while a decorated offering cart adorned with sheep attracted devotees and visitors. Prominent Jogini Nisha Kranti also participated in the celebrations, carrying a traditional ritual.

SC to hear PILs over alleged financial irregularities in Ayodhya Ram Temple

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a batch of public interest litigations (PILs) seeking a court-monitored investigation into alleged financial irregularities in the management of donations and offerings received by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya. As per the causelist published on the apex court's official website, a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana is scheduled to take up the petitions for hearing on Monday. The matters include a writ petition filed by advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami in person, a criminal writ petition filed by Ajay Kumar Rai and another against the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and others, and a separate petition moved by RJD MP Sudhakar Singh. The Supreme Court had declined an urgent hearing on Goswami's plea when it was mentioned before a Bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Sheel Nagu. The petitioner had



pressed for an immediate listing, contending that the allegations raised were "very serious". Questioning the urgency, the Justice Sundresh-led Bench had directed that the matter be listed after the top court reopened following the summer vacation. Goswami's petition seeks directions for preservation of records and evidence relating to donations made at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple and greater transparency in the administration of temple offerings. According to the plea, offerings made to a deity in a public temple constitute "sacred trust property" vesting in the deity as a juristic person,

and persons handling such offerings are fiduciaries bound by duties of transparency, accountability, and preservation. The petition has sought immediate preservation of all records, CCTV footage and digital logs relating to donations and offerings at the temple, besides seeking a sealed status report of the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe and an independent forensic audit of all donations, offerings and valuable items received by the Trust since its inception.

It had also urged the apex court to direct the formulation of minimum constitutional safeguards

for transparent handling of public temple donations and offerings in temples of national importance. Referring to recent developments, the plea said the cause of action arose after public reports and the constitution of a three-member SIT by the Uttar Pradesh government allegedly revealed irregularities, misappropriation, and mishandling of donations at the temple. Meanwhile, MP Sudhakar Singh has sought transfer of the ongoing probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the direct monitoring of the Supreme Court. His petition also seeks the appointment of a temporary court-monitored oversight committee of retired judicial officers and financial experts to oversee the Trust's secular financial affairs, preservation of all financial records, restrictions on major financial decisions pending investigation, a comprehensive forensic audit, and publication of audited financial statements and donation logs on the Trust's official website.

Jagan Alleges Political Vendetta, Slams TDP Government over Arrests

Amaravati: YSRCP president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday alleged that lawlessness was prevailing in the State under the TDP-led government and accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of misusing the police machinery to target opposition leaders through politically motivated cases. In a strongly worded statement, Jagan questioned the arrest of Alur MLA Virupakshi, alleging that the police raided the legislator's residence at around 2.45 a.m. and arrested him and his son after breaking open the doors. He claimed that despite the MLA being attacked by TDP workers while responding to a distress call from a YSRCP leader in Nemakallu village of Chippagiri mandal, cases were instead registered against the MLA and YSRCP workers. Also Read - ED Raids Premises Linked to Former YSRCP MLA Malla Vijay Prasad The former Chief Minister

also questioned the action of police who seized CCTV hard disks from the MLA's residence, alleging that it was done to prevent footage of the late-night police operation from coming into the public domain. Jagan further alleged that similar instances of political vendetta were taking place in Srikakulam district, referring to the arrest of former minister Seediri Appalaraju. He claimed that a road accident had been converted into a murder case for political reasons and alleged that cases were subsequently filed against several YSRCP leaders, including Chintada Ravikumar, after he visited Appalaraju's family. Also Read - GVMC Cracks Down on Illegal Borewells in Health City Hospitals He also accused the government of targeting former Guntur East MLA Shaik Mohammed Mustafa through what he



described as a false kidnapping case arising out of a business dispute. The YSRCP chief alleged that opposition leaders and party workers were being booked whenever they questioned the government. He claimed that the State was witnessing a "police state" where dissent was being suppressed criminal cases. Also Read - Nellore Polytechnic Students Protest Over Lack of Basic Amenities Raising issues concerning the education sector, Jagan sought a CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the DSC-2025 recruitment process and demanded

the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. He also questioned the delay in releasing pending Vidya Deevena and Vasathi Deevena funds and accused the government of failing to fulfil its promise of providing unemployment assistance to youth. Stating that power and police authority were temporary, Jagan asserted that the YSRCP would continue to stand by those it claimed were victims of political persecution and would continue to oppose what he described as "lawless governance" in the State.

Case Booked against 8 Colleges for Forging HYDRAA Chief's Signature

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police booked a case against eight educational institutions in twin cities for forging the signature of H Y D R A A Commissioner AV Ranganath to get fire NoC. The HYDRAA is authorized to issue fire NoCs. These fake NoCs were submitted to the Board of Intermediate for obtaining academic affiliations and operational permissions. Of the 76 education institutions, eight of them were found to have submitted fake NoCs. Also Read - Two Youths Rescued After Being Swept Away at Manair Dam Causeway Based on a complaint lodged by HYDRAA Additional Director, the Lake police

booked a case under Sections 337, 336(3), 340(2), 318(4) read with 3(5) of BNS. The colleges that submitted the fake NoCs were located in Tellapur, Chikkadpally, SR Nagar, Mehdiapatnam and Barkatpura. The forgery came to light when the District Intermediate Education Officers of Hyderabad, Ranganath, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy districts forwarded a total number of 76 Fire NOCs to HYDRAA officer-intermediate Education Officers concerned with a request to cancel the e for verification of gen-



uineness which are submitted by the different junior colleges. Upon verification, the HYDRAA found eight NOCs forged and a letter was addressed to the

District Intermediate Education Officers concerned with a request to cancel the permission or affiliation of Junior Colleges which submitted forged fire NOCs.

Nellore Polytechnic Students Protest Over Lack of Basic Amenities

Nellore: Hundreds of students of the Government Polytechnic College at Venkateswarapuram staged a protest on Tuesday, alleging inadequate basic amenities and unsafe conditions on the campus. The students complained of contaminated drinking water, dilapidated classrooms with peeling ceilings, poor-quality hostel food and the absence of a compound wall or fencing. Women students alleged that outsiders were entering the campus and engaging in anti-social activities, raising safety concerns. Students also claimed that snakes frequently entered the hostel premises after dark. Also Read - Jagan Alleges Political Vendetta, Slams TDP Government over Arrests MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy visited the college, interacted with the students

and expressed support coalition government in Nellore, had reached a



for their demands. He later met the principal and urged that the issues be brought to the notice of higher authorities for immediate resolution. The MLC in Nellore, had reached a stage where students were forced to protest for basic amenities such as alleged that the

and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana had neglected government educational institutions while highlighting the development of a few schools through CSR funds. He said the Government Polytechnic College, once regarded as a premier institution

stage where students were forced to protest for basic amenities such as safe drinking water. Chandrasekhar Reddy assured the students that he would continue to pursue the matter until their grievances were addressed.

UP Cabinet Approves Amendment After SC Verdict On Madrassa Board Awarding Kamil, Fazil Degrees

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved an amendment in compliance with the Supreme Court's order declaring the award of Kamil (bachelor-equivalent) and Fazil (master-equivalent) degrees by the UP Madrassa Education Board unconstitutional.

Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari said the apex court, in its November 2024 judgment, had held that the UP Madrassa Education Board could not award Kamil and Fazil degrees as they were contrary to the provisions of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act.

"In view of the Supreme Court's order, it was necessary to amend the madrassa rules. The Cabinet has now approved the required amendments," Ansari told PTI. He said only Munshi, Maulvi and Alim courses



would now continue as higher secondary-level programmes in madrassas.

Ansari clarified that teachers already appointed in madrassas based on Kamil and Fazil qualifications would not be affected, as the changes would be implemented prospectively following the top court's judgment. Asked why the amendment took

several months after the court's order, the minister said such matters involve procedural formalities and take time to complete.

Meanwhile, Minority Welfare Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar told reporters that madrassas offering Kamil and Fazil courses without UGC recognition would be treated as unauthorised.

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Meanwhile, Minority Welfare Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar told reporters that madrassas offering Kamil and Fazil

courses without UGC recognition would be treated as unauthorised. Ansari, however, said madrassas are required to obtain affiliation from a university to run Kamil and Fazil courses, but the UP government has not yet framed any rules governing such affiliations.

In its November 2024 judgement, the Supreme Court held that the Uttar Pradesh State Madrassa Education Board's practice to run Kamil and Fazil courses, but the UP government has not yet framed any rules governing such affiliations. In its November 2024 judgement, the Supreme Court held that the Uttar Pradesh State Madrassa Education Board's practice of awarding Kamil and Fazil degrees was contrary to the UGC Act and therefore unconstitutional. It held that madrassas can impart education only till Class 12.

TVK's First Budget In Tamil Nadu Today: Can Vijay's Government Deliver on Poll Promises?



Chennai: Marie Wilson, the finance minister of Tamil Nadu, will present the first budget of the Tamil Nadu government led by C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday in the Legislative Assembly in Chennai. The budget is being presented on the floor of the Assembly amid government claims that the state is reeling under a financial constraint caused by the previous DMK regime. Where does the financial situation stand? Wilson had released a white paper on the financial situation in the state during the DMK regime last month. Releasing a statement, he said, "Tamil Nadu's debt, which was Rs. 5 lakh crore in 2021, has now increased to Rs. 10 lakh crore. That is, the state's debt has doubled in the last five years." He also said that with the

addition of Rs 3,18,176 crore in the debt of public sector undertakings, Tamil Nadu's total debt has increased to Rs 13.18 lakh crore. This means that each individual in the state has a debt of Rs 1.28 lakh, as stated in the TMC government's white paper. He had stated that interest payments on loans have increased by 61 per cent in the last five years, and the revenue deficit is Rs. 78,324 crore. The share of total revenue receipts in the state's GDP has declined from around 10 per cent in 2021-2022 to 8.32 per cent in 2025-2026. He had also said that the state's own tax revenue has declined by 0.48 points. The white paper had stated that the revenue deficit in 2026-27 could reach around Rs 90,500 crore instead of Rs 48,696 crore mentioned in the interim budget, and the fiscal

deficit could approach Rs 1.64 lakh crore instead of Rs 1.22 lakh crore. According to government sources, one of the major announcements will be the setting up of the Tamil Nadu Strategic Investment Authority and a state investment fund of Rs. 50,000 crore will be created to invest in sectors including semiconductors, electric vehicles, space technology, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing. The budget is also expected to include an announcement on the No-Application Governance system, which will automatically identify eligible beneficiaries by integrating government databases, including Aadhaar, ration card, and family details, and provide welfare assistance without them having to apply. Government sources have also revealed that

'Education Must Go Beyond Classrooms': Jammu Kashmir L-G Manoj Sinha Flags Off 'Reading Marathon'

Trichy: DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin, who was released on bail Tuesday night hours after being arrested over his alleged crass remarks during a party protest in Thanjavur, has denied making any objectionable comments and maintained that his statements were misrepresented. Hitting back at the TVK-led state government, Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Leader of Opposition, said he had spoken only in support of farmers and that parts of his speech were edited and presented in a different way. Udhayanidhi was arrested by Thanjavur Police in Chennai on Tuesday over his alleged derogatory remarks about Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and his actor friend during the DMK protest in Thanjavur over Cauvery issue. He was taken by road from Chennai to Thanjavur Chengipatti Police Station at around 7 PM and questioned for nearly one-and-a-half hours. After his release on bail, Udhayanidhi returned to Chennai via Trichy airport. Speaking to reporters after his release, Udhayanidhi said, "I did not speak badly of anyone; I only spoke in support of the farmers. I did not speak in a double sense; I

only spoke in a single sense." He said his remarks at the DMK protest held in Thanjavur on Monday were edited. "They edited something I didn't say at the DMK protest held in Thanjavur and added some things. I didn't say anything wrong about anyone. I spoke entirely in support of the farmers," he said. Udhayanidhi also rejected allegations that he intended to make derogatory remarks about women. "I have no intention of speaking badly of anyone especially women. My parents and my family did not raise me that way. I am married and have a wife. I live with her. I have a daughter. I have a younger sister. I have a family of my own. I consider every family in Tamil Nadu as my mother and father," he said. "Govt Has No Courage To Ask Karnataka For Cauvery Water" Explaining the context of his remarks, Udhayanidhi said his comments were related to the Cauvery water issue and farmers. "During the DMK regime, water was continuously released from the Mettur dam. The Tamil Nadu government does not have the courage to ask the Karnataka gov-



ernment for Cauvery water," he said. Udhayanidhi alleged that the controversy was deliberately amplified ahead of the Assembly session beginning on Wednesday. 'Will Face This Matter Legally' Speaking about his arrest, Udhayanidhi said he fully cooperated with the police. "This (Tuesday) morning, police came and arrested me. I extended full cooperation. I told them that I am Karunanidhi's grandson and will not be afraid of anyone. But they said they would take me to court and take me for questioning," he said. He questioned the manner in which he was taken from Chennai to Thanjavur.

"They brought me from Chennai as if they were bringing an anti-national. They were supposed to take me to Thanjavur. But they kept me in Chengipatti and asked me many questions in the name of investigation. I will face this matter legally," he said. Udhayanidhi also alleged that the case was filed to "DMK workers and relatives protested at various places condemning my ntimidate him." "They thought they could threaten me by filing a false case," he said. He also thanked DMK workers for coming out in large numbers to protest his arrest and urged the government to release those detained in connection with the protests.

"DMK workers and relatives protested at various places condemning my arrest. I bow my head to the love and affection they have for me. I urge the government to release them," he said. "I Will Say It Again 100 Times" Udhayanidhi also expressed disappointment with leaders who criticised him "without fully hearing or examining" his remarks. "Some leaders have criticised me for speaking incorrectly without fully listening to and examining what I had said. That saddens me. I did not speak incorrectly; this corrupt government arrested me for speaking in support of the farmers," he said. "I will say it again. I will not be intimidated by this arrest. I will speak again 100 times. They say I have spoken in double meaning. I did not speak in double meaning. I spoke in one meaning only," he reiterated. Udhayanidhi further attacked the Tamil Nadu government and Chief Minister Vijay, saying the Chief Minister did not know the history of Tamil Nadu and the DMK. "This Chief Minister does not know the history of Tamil Nadu, the history of DMK. The people are watching and they will answer," he added.

CRPF, CoBRA Recover 6 Maoist Dumps Laden With IED-Making Material In Chhattisgarh Forest

Bijapur: Security forces have recovered six hidden Maoist dumps containing a large cache of IED-making material, explosives and other equipment during a special search operation in the forests of Hiramgunda (Pedia) in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, officials said on Saturday. The joint operation was launched on July 22 based on specific intelligence inputs under the supervision of CRPF Range Bijapur DIG B S Negi. The operation was guided by Commandant Anand Kumar of the 199 Battalion, Commandant Sunil Kumar Rahi of the 85 Battalion and Commandant Alok Awasthi of the 202 CoBRA Battalion, while Second-in-Command Vinod Kumar led the mission.



A joint tea led by Assistant Commandant Rajeev Kumar (B/199 Company), Deputy Commandant T. Umakanta Mitei (A/85

Company) and Deputy Commandant Kamlesh Indora (B/202 CoBRA) carried out an intensive search in the Hiramgunda

forest covering the Pedia and Mutvandi areas. The personnel cordoned off the area and conducted a systematic search with

extreme caution. During the operation, security forces recovered six separate Maoist dumps concealed in the forest. The seized cache included IED-making material, cordex wire, detonators, gunpowder, radio sets, electrical equipment, Maoist uniforms and other daily-use items. In all, around 30 different types of materials were recovered. The CRPF said the 199 Battalion remains committed to ensuring the safety of civilians and promoting peace and development in the region. It added that intelligence-based operations will continue in the coming days.

Pimpri-Chinchwad: For years, Sachin Ghule struggled like thousands of young Indians to get through a government job. The UPSC, the MPSC and police recruitment examinations - he appeared in all the tests hoping one of them would change his life. But in vain. Missing selection by a few marks made Sachin desperate but he did not give up. Instead, his failures paved way for new beginnings.

Today, Sachin, the son of a farming family from Ashti taluka in Maharashtra's Beed district runs a vehicle body fabrication unit in Pimpri-Chinchwad. Every month, around 100 to 150 goods transport vehicles roll out of his workshop after being fitted with custom-built bodies. The business now employs 40 to 50 workers and attracts customers from across Maharashtra as well as neighbouring states. After UPSC, MPSC Setbacks, Sachin Ghule Builds Thriving Vehicle Body Manufacturing Business



After UPSC, MPSC Setbacks, Sachin Ghule Builds Thriving Vehicle Body Manufacturing Business. The early days were difficult and tested his resolve. Funds were limited, skilled workers were difficult to find and customers were reluctant to trust a newcomer. Building credibility in a specialised business took time. "I focused on delivering quality work on schedule rather than chasing quick profits. As satisfied customers returned with more orders and recommended my workshop to others, the business gradually expanded," explains Sachin. The journey had its ups and downs but Sachin never said no. Technical problems, issues with raw materials and even electrical short circuits disrupted work in the beginning. Instead of treating them as failures, he took each setback as a lesson and introduced changes to improve the quality of his products and work processes. After UPSC, MPSC Setbacks, Sachin Ghule Builds Thriving Vehicle Body Manufacturing Business. After UPSC, MPSC Setbacks, Sachin Ghule Builds Thriving Vehicle Body Manufacturing Business. Sachin credit the success of the business to his employees as much as to himself. "A business does not

MEA Condemns Attack On Indian-Flagged Vessel In Red Sea; Confirms 'All Indian Seafarers Have Been Rescued'

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has strongly condemned the attack on the Indian-flagged commercial vessel 'MSV Faize Noore Oliya', which sank in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen on Tuesday, and said all the Indians have been safely rescued. The Ministry reiterated that targeting of commercial shipping in the region must stop. "We condemn the attack on the Indian-flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen on August 4," the MEA said in its official statement on Tuesday. Thanking the Yemeni authorities for their support in rescuing the Indians, MEA said, "All 13 Indian nationals have been rescued. Our Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew."



"The continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region are deeply worrisome," it added. "The targeting of commercial shipping in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest," the MEA said in its

statement. Union shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal has also condemned the "unprovoked attack" on the defenceless mechanised sailing vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya. In a social media post, he said, "The safety of our people is our supreme priority & I am relieved to inform that ALL 14 seafarers (including 13 Indians) have been safely rescued

by the Yemeni Coast Guard and brought to the Port of Mokha." Sonowal said he has instructed the Director General Maritime Administration (DGMA) to take immediate steps in coordination with all agencies to ensure the security of Indian seafarers in the region and provide all necessary assistance to the rescued crew.

J&K Police Warn Of Action For Protests On Article 370 Abrogation Anniversary

Srinagar: Authorities have denied permission for protests or gatherings in Kashmir on the seventh anniversary of the August 5 move, marking the abrogation of Article 370 and the demotion of the state into two union territories. In an advisory, J&K Police warned of action under law for taking out a protest, march and rally without prior permission.



"The general public is informed that no protest, rally, procession, demonstration or any other public gathering shall be held without prior permission from the competent authority," the police said. The prescribed legal provisions shall be dealt with strictly in accordance with law," police said, urging people to cooperate and maintain peace and communal harmony. "Refrain from spreading rumours or unverified information and immediately report any suspicious activity to the nearest Police Station."

Political parties including National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP), J&K Apni Party had announced to hold peaceful protests across Jammu and Kashmir. PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti sprang up at party headquarters late night on the eve of the anniversary. Accompanied by her party leaders and workers, she tried to take out a candlelight march towards Srinagar's city centre. But she was stopped by police, following which she staged a sit-in outside the party office. "This is the darkest night for Jammu and Kashmir. A conspiracy was hatched on this night, and the Articles 370 and 35A were snatched from

us. These constitutional provisions were not given to us by Pakistan or China but by the Constitution of India," she added. The ruling National Conference has planned a protest march from the party's Nawai subah headquarters in Srinagar, said NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar.

He said MLAs, leaders and workers will gather at the party offices in Srinagar to protest against the August 5 move. The party has scheduled similar protests in district headquarters and Jammu. National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta said

the party will observe August 5 as 'Black Day' to mark the unconstitutional and unilateral abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional guarantees.

"We will register a strong protest against the BJP-led Central Government's persistent refusal to restore statehood despite repeated assurances," he added. Altaf Bukhari's Apni Party has also announced a protest march in Srinagar. Corresponding to the previous years, this is the first time ever since the August 2019 constitutional changes that political parties have announced a protest march on this day. This comes at a time when NC has upped the ante for J&K's statehood and held a protest in Delhi's Jantar Mantar on July 20, coinciding with the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament. On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has hailed the abrogation of Article 370 as a historic step, with party leaders in J&K crediting the

SC Grants Interim Bail To Businessman Anwar Dhebar In Manpower Commission 'Scam' Case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to businessman Anwar Dhebar in a case involving alleged corruption and an illegal commission racket linked to the Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana directed Dhebar to remain outside Chhattisgarh as a bail condition and to appear in court during the trial. The top court also directed the businessman to provide details of his address where he would be staying after grant of interim bail. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared for Dhebar, while senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani appeared for



Chhattisgarh. The Chhattisgarh High Court on May 13 had rejected Dhebar's bail plea, saying the allegations indicated a "deep-rooted and systematic corruption network" within the state-run corporation. The HC held that economic offences involv-

ing public funds must be treated with greater seriousness. The high court had observed that economic offences involving deep-rooted conspiracies and large-scale loss of public money are grave crimes that affect the country's economy as a whole. It had noted

that material collected during the investigation prima facie suggested that manpower supply agencies were allegedly compelled to pay illegal commissions to secure clearance of their legitimate bills and dues. The case was registered by the Wing / Anti-Corruption Bureau under provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act. According to the prosecution, a structured mechanism allegedly operated within CSMCL in which manpower agencies were forced to pay commissions for bill clearances, with the proceeds allegedly routed through intermediaries.

Complaint Against Noida Teen Over Abusive Remarks Against PM Withdrawn, Family Not At Home

Noida: The complainant in the case against a 15-year-old girl over her abusive remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the CJP protest has withdrawn the complaint, saying that she no longer wished to pursue it as the teenager had apologised and the PM had forgiven her.

Supreme Court lawyer Smriti Singh, who lives in Ghaziabad's Vasundhara and had lodged the complaint, told PTI on Tuesday evening that the FIR was initially filed against eight girls, with the Noida teen being the first among them. She said the zero FIR was registered on July 29 based on a complaint lodged by her at the Expressway police station in Noida.

The case was registered under sections 352 (insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 353(1) (statements conducing to public mischief) and 356(1) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), she said.

"After the prime minister appealed for forgiveness, the girls, including

the Noida girl, uploaded apology videos. I had also posted a video saying that if the girls apologised, I would withdraw my complaint," Singh said. She said the remaining girls also apologised subsequently and that she has withdrawn her complaints in all eight cases. "Since the prime minister forgave them, I also do not want to pursue the matter further. I have communicated my decision to Delhi Police and Crime Branch," Singh told PTI. At a housing society in Sector 168 where the teenager and her mother lived, security guards and maintenance staff told PTI that the two were not home.

"The family had remained withdrawn since the video surfaced. Personnel from Delhi and Noida police had visited their residence on a few occasions," a security guard told PTI. The security and maintenance staff said they did not know the family's current whereabouts.

On the family's allegation of "harassment and hounding", an official at Noida's Expressway



police station told PTI that no information had been received about the family facing harassment either inside the housing society or elsewhere within its jurisdiction. The official said Noida Police had registered a zero FIR on the day it received the complaint and transferred it to Delhi Police, as the alleged incident took place in the national capital. "The family has not been in contact with us since then and has not shared any information or complaint with the local police," the officer said, adding that the family may have temporarily shifted to Faridabad in neighbouring Haryana.

Days ago, the girl's mother had appealed to Prime Minister Modi to forgive her daughter, saying the family had repeatedly apologised and that the minor had been influenced during the protest. In an interaction with PTI Videos on August 1, the mother said that she was grateful to the prime minister for publicly forgiving her daughter.

She urged Modi to consider restricting access to social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook for children aged between 10 and 20, saying "minors should be kept away from protests and political activities as they can be easily influenced".

Uttarakhand Constable Who Spoke At Delhi CJP Protest Dismissed From Service After Departmental Inquiry



Pithoragarh: Days after issuing suspension orders, the Uttarakhand Police has dismissed Constable Sher Singh from service after a departmental inquiry found his participation in the recent Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest and conduct during the demonstration in Delhi to be "serious misconduct". Sher Singh of the Uttarakhand Police, posted in Pithoragarh, was earlier placed under suspension after he appeared on stage in uniform and delivered a speech in support of the CJP during the protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Following a departmental inquiry, Pithoragarh Superintendent of Police (SP) Akshay Prahlad Konde issued orders for his immediate dismissal, after finding him guilty of violating the Uttarakhand Police Act, 2007, and the State Government Employees' Conduct Rules, 2002. Notably, She Singh had appeared on the CJP stage in police uniform at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, where he

announced his resignation while speaking in support of the movement. The matter subsequently gained attention, and the department intensified action against him. After the video surfaced, Kumaon Range IG Nivedita Kukreti issued a statement, saying Sher Singh has been absent from duty in Pithoragarh since June 28, 2026, without any permission. SP Konde had issued a notice to Sher Singh, but when no response was received, the department decided to suspend him. The IG remarked that the statement made by Sher Singh during the student protest was "irresponsible and provocative." In the dismissal order, Pithoragarh SP Konde stated that, based on the departmental inquiry and available records, Sher Singh's conduct was classified as "serious misconduct". "This constituted a violation of the provisions of the Uttarakhand Police Act, 2007, and the Uttarakhand State Government Employees' Conduct Rules, 2002.

He has been dismissed from service to uphold the disciplinary integrity of the police organization and maintain public trust," the official statement mentioned. The Uttarakhand Police has stated that no compromise regarding standards of discipline, integrity, and service conduct within the department will be tolerated. The department has also clarified that Sher Singh is no longer an employee of the Uttarakhand Police. "If he participates in any protests, political events, or other illegal activities in the future, the Uttarakhand Police will bear no responsibility for his actions," the department added. "Discipline is paramount in the Uttarakhand Police. Any activity contrary to departmental conduct or the law will not be tolerated. Strict action will continue to be taken against personnel who violate the rules," Pithoragarh SP Akshay Prahlad Konde has stated. Officials said

Sher Singh also has a criminal history and that he is an accused in a land-grabbing case linked to the notorious Praveen Valmiki gang. After a case was registered at Gangnagar police station in Haridwar, Uttarakhand STF took over investigation, during the course of which it was found that the gang used intimidation to seize control of land and parking contracts worth crores of rupees and engaged in illegal sale and purchase of properties using forged powers of attorney and fabricated documents. The investigation also revealed serious charges, -attempted murder, extortion, and land grabbing. According to the IG, Sher Singh was arrested and jailed in connection with this case on September 15, 2025. He was released on bail after spending several months in prison, even as dismissal proceedings against him were already underway within the department, the IG added.

'The Show Must Go On,' Trump Says At White House Correspondents' Dinner Rescheduled

Washington: President Donald Trump addressed a huge roomful of journalists Friday night at a correspondents' dinner rescheduled from April after a shooting upended the first edition. Said the president: "As I said three months ago, the show must go on." Trump entered the ballroom to polite applause, and was thanked for his support by White House Correspondents' Association president Weijia Jiang of CBS News. After dinner, he then sat through more than an hour of awards presentations — including many for journalists who had done pointed stories about him and his administration during the previous year. "Let's try this again," Jiang quipped, welcoming the crowd. The White House press corps, she noted, "always has a follow-up." Turning serious, she referred back to the trauma and confusion of the original dinner in April. "Tonight our message is this: We are back," she said. "We will not be intimidated. We refuse to let an act of violence have the final word." The rescheduled dinner was taking place in the ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel, a smaller venue that held only about 700 people. Guests entered via a single entrance, through two ID checks and past a detection dog, armed officers and security guards. There was no red carpet and no separate cocktail receptions pre-



ceding the dinner. He was widely expected to bring the fighting words — "rather nasty," he said — against the press that he'd planned to deliver in April before the event descended into chaos when a gunman stormed a security checkpoint, forcing an evacuation of the room. But early in his speech, Trump signaled that he had scrapped his planned remarks and was going to deliver a mix of things. "This is really the largest group of 'Trump Derangement Syndrome' people put together at one time," the president said. Trump has been coy about what he might say. As for Trump himself, he indicated last month he wasn't sure. "I don't know whether or not I will give the same rather nasty statements, at least as it concerns certain people, but we will soon find out," the Republican president wrote on his Truth Social platform. "In any event, it will be a 'HOT' ticket!" Besides the pared-down approach, there was another change at Friday's dinner: two additional awards. One presented

to Victor Gonzales, the Secret Service agent who was staffing a security checkpoint in April and was struck in his protective vest. "Officer Gonzales ... ran toward danger so that thousands of others could make it home safely," Weijia Jiang, WHCA president, said in a statement. "His courage stemmed from a dedication to service, which we are looking forward to honoring this week." A second award was to be presented to the staff of the Washington Hilton hotel, site of the first dinner. The dress code this time was a looser "black tie optional," and dinner includes grilled peach and burrata salad, lobster and beef Wellington. The evening, as at the last dinner, had entertainment by mentalist Oz Pearlman, along with the awards presentations and Trump's remarks. Jiang and her fellow board members worked hard to bring about this WHCA dinner 2.0, not wanting to let a violent act — or the image of colleagues hiding under tables — remain the final thought.

Announcing the rescheduling, she emphasized the dinner's stated purpose: "a celebration of a free press and the vital role of journalism in our democracy for over a century." "We will not allow an act of violence to have the last word, especially during a year when we are reflecting on the 250th anniversary of America and everything we stand for," Jiang said. There's still lots of criticism of the event. But it's also clear that some people felt the dinner should not be rescheduled at all. Many never thought it was much of a good look in the first place, with the sight of journalists in formal wear cooing up to their sources, or the objects of their reporting. "It undermines the public faith in how the press does its work, and it makes it look like we are pals with the people we cover," Kelly McBride, an ethics expert at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank, said when the deliberations were taking place. The new dinner comes during a time of fast-increasing tension between the media and a president who, in his second term, has tried to exert pressure on media outlets he is unhappy with in a variety of ways. That pressure has ranged from sanctions against members of the White House press corps to regulatory actions through the Federal Communications

'Dirty Foreigners...Monkey': Racism On Rise In UK's National Health Service,

London: "Dirty foreigners" and "monkey" are among the abuses hurled at non-white medical staff in the UK's National Health Service (NHS) due to worsening racism, a new survey has found. The Society of Radiographers (SoR) surveyed its members about their experiences of racism at work and were told that such incidents increased noticeably over the last 18 months amid a rise in anti-immigrant rhetoric. The professional body revealed that NHS workers have also had to deal with some patients refusing to be treated by non-white medics. "The rise in incidents of racism over the last year and a half is unacceptable and unacceptable — and it's a poor reflection on us as a society," said Dean Rogers, SoR's executive director of industrial strategy and member relations. "The NHS has a diverse workforce — which is one of its strengths. We are clear: discrimination, harassment, racism, bullying or intimidation — whether expressed verbally or in behaviour — is



unacceptable and has no place in the NHS," he said. Indians have been consistently logged as the largest cohort of internationally trained medics employed in the NHS, making up around 45,000 of its over 1.5 million staff. A sonographer of Asian descent working in the Midlands region told the SoR survey that several times when she was conducted scans patients have commented along the lines of: "This country isn't the same, with all those people coming over here, taking our jobs." "It's become more prevalent — it's in the media and certain political parties and TV chan-

nels. So people are openly expressing their views," she is quoted as saying. Approximately 21 per cent of the NHS workforce is made up of non-British nationals, and around one in four radiographers who are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council were trained overseas. SoR said it will be placing renewed focus on holding all NHS trusts accountable for incidents of racism, so that they not only record the incident, but also monitor how it is dealt with and work with trade unions as necessary. The British Association of Physicians of Indian

Origin (BAPIO), the UK's largest representative body for doctors and nurses of Indian origin, has repeatedly condemned discriminatory and racist behaviour within NHS ranks. "Ethnic minority doctors and other healthcare professionals have played an irreplaceable role in building the NHS and continue to provide high quality healthcare services every day to patients, irrespective of ethnicity, gender, country of birth or political views. They deserve to be treated with respect and to be able to do their work without being threatened and attacked," it stated.

US, Pakistan Resolve To Confront Terror, Strengthen Border Security



Washington: The US and Pakistan have expressed joint resolve to confront terrorist organisations in the region, including ISIS-Khorasan, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its affiliates, and discussed steps to strengthen border security. The Fourth US-Pakistan Counterterrorism Dialogue, convened on Tuesday, also saw delegations from the two countries exchange views on the current

threat environment and explore avenues to enhance collaboration. The Dialogue was led by US Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Gregory LoGerfo and Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary Ambassador Nabeel Munir. "The dialogue underscored shared interests in the US-Pakistan counterterrorism partnership and the two countries' determination to confront ter-

rorism," a joint statement issued by the US and Pakistan said. It said the delegations exchanged views on the current threat environment, explored avenues to enhance collaboration, and discussed steps to strengthen border security and disrupt terrorist facilitation networks. "The United States and Pakistan affirmed their joint resolve to confront terrorist organisations that endanger the safety of

their citizens and the stability of the region, including ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K), al-Qaeda (AQ), the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its affiliates," the statement said. It committed to ensuring their counterterrorism collaboration to keep both of their nations safe and secure, and as part of an enduring vision of regional peace, prosperity, and stability.

US Student Visas To Indian, Chinese Nationals See Sharp Decline In 2025, Says CIS Report

Washington: The number of US F-1 student visas issued to Indian and Chinese nationals witnessed a significant decline in 2025 compared with previous years, according to a report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), which said the reduction could have implications for American students, the labour market and national security. According to the CIS study, students from India and the People's Republic of China (PRC) accounted for more than half of all international students enrolled at US post-secondary institutions during the 2024-25 academic year. The report compared F-1 visa issuances during the May-August period from 2017 to 2025, while excluding 2020 from the analysis due to the significant decline in visa issuance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Citing data from the Institute of International Education's (IIE) annual census, the report said India had 363,019 students, and China had 265,919 students in the US during the academic year, together representing 53 per cent of the total 1,177,766 foreign students. The study said that F-1 student visa issuances to nationals of both countries declined sharply during the May-August 2025 period, which typically sees the highest number of student visas issued ahead of the academic year. According to CIS data, the US issued 22,149 F-1 visas to Indian nationals between May and August 2025, a decline of 60 per cent from the average number issued during the 2017-19 and 2021-24 periods, when the figure stood at 55,717. The number also marked a 62 per cent decrease from 2024, when 58,694 visas were issued. For Chinese nationals, the number of F-1 visas issued during the same period fell to 40,034 in 2025, down 46 per cent from the 2017-19 and 2021-24 average of 73,853, and 34 per cent lower than the 61,075 visas issued in 2024, the report said. The CIS



report noted that it selected the May-August period for comparison, as most F-1 visas are issued during these months in preparation for the upcoming academic year. It added that in 2024, 77 per cent of all F-1 visas issued to Indian nationals and 76 per cent issued to Chinese nationals were granted during this period. The report highlighted the role of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, under which foreign students who complete their degrees can work in the US. According to IIE data cited by CIS, 294,253 foreign students out of more than one million international students in the US during 2024-25 had completed their degrees and were working under OPT. The report said Indian and Chinese nationals accounted for nearly 70 per cent of these OPT participants, with India representing 143,740 participants and China accounting for 61,981. Citing data from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), CIS said that of the 165,524 foreign students authorised to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) OPT in 2024, 68 per cent were Indian or Chinese nationals. Indian citizens accounted for 79,331 participants, while Chinese citizens accounted for 33,807. The report argued that

reductions in the number of foreign students from India and China could reduce the OPT pipeline and affect the availability of foreign workers entering the US labour market. The CIS report also raised concerns regarding national security, particularly in relation to Chinese students studying in sensitive fields such as STEM. The report alleged that the Chinese government has been pursuing military and technological advancement and said some Chinese students and researchers could face pressure to assist state objectives. It cited remarks by former US officials who have warned about risks related to technology transfer, espionage and intellectual property theft. The report quoted former Trump administration Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Edward Ramotowski as saying in 2018 that "foreign students, often with no nefarious intent in their plan of study in the United States, are later co-opted to work for their government." It also cited former CIA officer Joe Augustyn, who said, "We know without a doubt that anytime a graduate student from China comes to the US, they are briefed when they go, and briefed when they come back." However, the study acknowledged that not all Chinese students come to the US with mali-

6.3-Magnitude Earthquake Hits Off Southern Philippines: USGS

Manila: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck off the southern Philippines on Wednesday, the United States Geological Survey said. The quake, which hit 32 kilometres (about 20 miles) southwest of the small island of Sarangani at 12:14 pm (0414 GMT), according to the USGS, did not trigger a tsunami warning. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Sarangani Island rescuer Harley Sauro told AFP the quake had struck while a large number of people had gathered to receive a government subsidy. "The shaking was quite strong. I saw people in panic. They



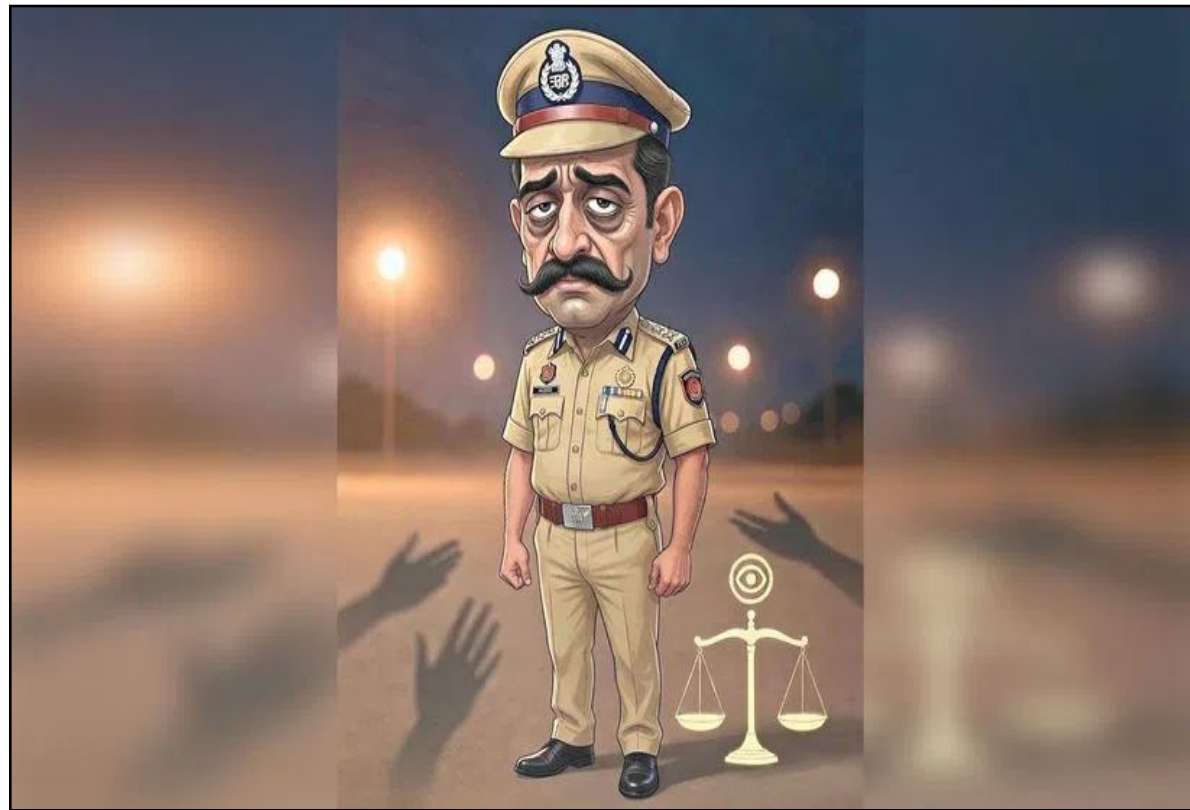
were running and shouting," he said. "The earthquake came while the local government was giving a financial subsidy, so there were many people at the court, but everyone's safe," he added.

"Based on our assessment and experience, we don't think there will be casualties or damage," The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre placed Wednesday's quake at a depth of 62 kilometres. The quake follows a powerful June 8 tremor

that toppled buildings, triggered landslides and killed at least 76 people on the nearby island of Mindanao.

That earthquake, driven by a shifting of the Cotabato trench, raised the seabed by as much as two metres (6.6 feet), exposing coral and harming marine life. Earthquakes are a near-daily occurrence in the Philippines, which is situated on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity stretching from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.

Mental health and policing



The phone rings at 2 am. A police officer quietly leaves home, unsure whether the next few hours will bring a violent crime, a fatal road accident, a missing child, or a family shattered by tragedy. By sunrise, another emergency may already be waiting. Behind the neatly pressed uniform and the badge of authority is not merely an enforcer of the law, but a human being who absorbs conflict, grief, fear, and uncertainty almost every day. Opinion: Encounter killings — when state shoots first, and courts arrive later Opinion: Philosophising police leadership

Yet public conversations about policing usually revolve around crime statistics, law enforcement, discipline, and accountability, while one crucial question is rarely asked: Who cares for those who protect us?

Psychological Pressures Recent events involving senior police officers have once again drawn public attention to the immense psychological pressures associated with policing. While each incident has its own context and deserves to be viewed on its own merits, together they remind us of a larger reality: those entrusted with protecting society also carry invisible emotional burdens that often go unnoticed.

The Invisible Burden support individual officers but also to improve organisational performance, ethical decision-making, and public confidence. India's Roadmap India needs a practical and humane framework that treats police mental well-being as part of professional preparedness. Every police unit should have access to confidential

A police uniform symbolises authority, discipline, and service. Yet beneath it is a person expected to confront situations that most citizens may never experience. Police personnel routinely witness violence, fatal accidents, domestic abuse, child exploitation, disasters, and the darkest moments of human suffering. Their work extends beyond enforcing the law; it demands constant emotional labour—com-

forting victims, calming angry crowds, supporting grieving families, and making critical decisions under immense pressure. The burden does not end with a shift. Long and irregular working hours, night duties, emergency deployments, and staff shortages often disrupt family life, personal relationships, and opportunities for rest. In today's digital age, every action is subject to intense public scrutiny, with decisions made in seconds analysed for days across television and social media. Over time, repeated exposure to trauma, relentless responsibility, and limited recovery can quietly accumulate, leading to chronic stress, affecting both professional performance and personal well-being.

Recognising these realities does not lower expectations of the police; rather, it acknowledges an essential truth: behind every uniform is a human being, not an emotionless machine.

Mental Well-being Mental well-being is not merely a welfare concern; it is fundamental to effective policing. Every sound decision on the street begins with a sound mind behind the badge. Every day, police that can profoundly affect lives, public safety, and the administration of justice.

Sound mental health enhances judgement, strengthens ethical decision-making, improves emotional regulation, and enables officers to remain calm in tense situations. It also helps them de-escalate conflicts with patience and professionalism, reducing the likelihood of unnecessary confrontations. Ultimately, emotionally healthy officers are better equipped to serve communities with fairness, empathy, and integrity, thereby strengthening public trust in law enforcement. Supporting police mental well-being isn't a welfare measure. It's an investment in better judgement, stronger institutions and safer communities.

Recognising this, leading police organisations across the world now regard officer wellness as an operational neces-

sity rather than an optional welfare measure. The United Kingdom's National Police Wellbeing Service (Oscar Kilo) promotes evidence-based initiatives such as confidential counselling, peer support, and early psychological intervention. Likewise, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) identifies officer wellness as a key factor in improving professional performance, ethical leadership, sound decision-making, and positive police-community relationships. Mental well-being, therefore, is not separate from effective policing—it is one of its strongest foundations.

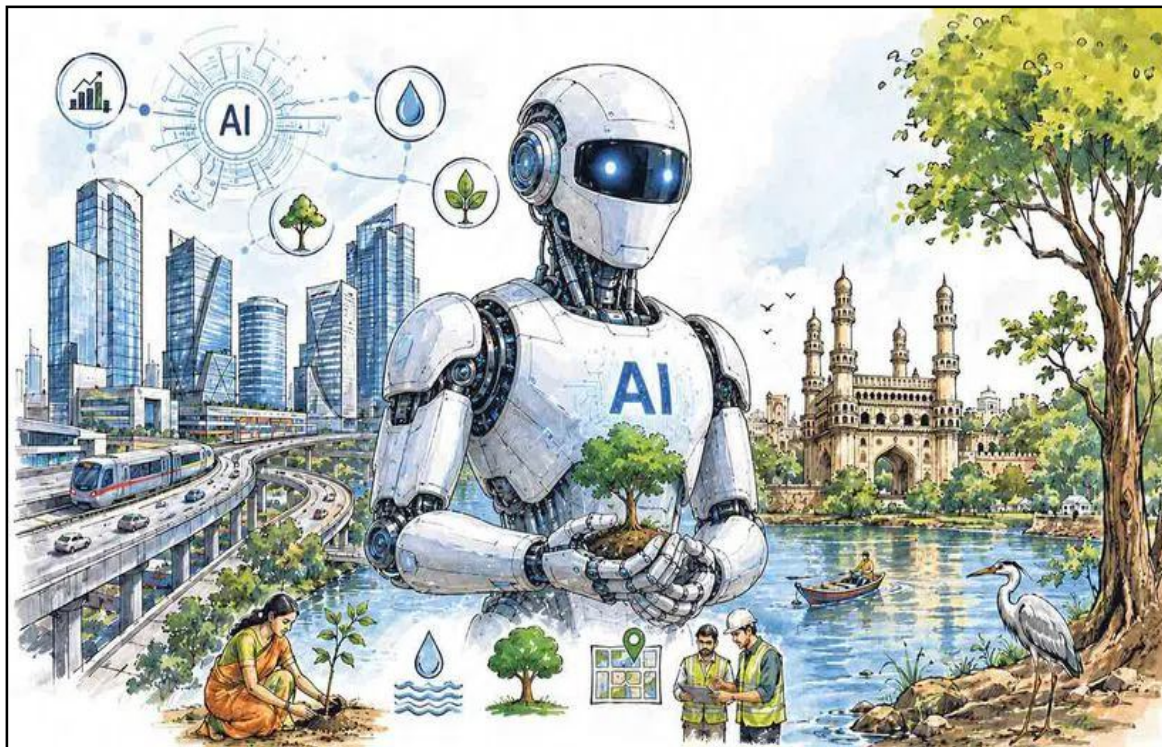
Global Lessons India's Roadmap India needs a practical and humane framework that treats police mental well-being as part of professional preparedness. Every police unit should have access to confidential counselling so that personnel can seek help without fear of stigma. Periodic psychological screening can identify early signs of burnout, trauma, anxiety, or emotional exhaustion. Resilience training should be incorporated into police education, helping officers manage stress, regulate emotions, and recover from disturbing experiences.

Peer-support networks can provide a trusted first line of assistance, especially because officers often feel more comfortable speaking to colleagues who understand the realities of the profession. Leadership training should be incorporated into police education, helping officers manage stress, regulate emotions, and recover from disturbing experiences. Peer-support networks can provide a trusted first line of assistance, especially because officers often feel more comfortable speaking to colleagues who understand the realities of the profession. Leadership training should be incorporated into police education, helping officers manage stress, regulate emotions, and recover from disturbing experiences. Peer-support networks can provide a trusted first line of assistance, especially because officers often feel more comfortable speaking to colleagues who understand the realities of the profession. Leadership training should be incorporated into police education, helping officers manage stress, regulate emotions, and recover from disturbing experiences.

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Protecting the Protectors Society rightly expects police officers to display courage, integrity, and compassion under the most demanding circumstances. Yet those expectations must be matched by an equal commitment to safeguarding their mental and emotional health. Caring for police personnel is neither an act of charity nor sympathy. It is a strategic investment in justice itself. As policing grows more complex, protecting the mental well-being of those who enforce the law must become an integral part of police reform, not an afterthought. A nation is judged not only by how well it protects its citizens, but also by how well it protects those entrusted with that responsibility.

Can AI help Hyderabad grow without losing its ecological soul?



Hyderabad today is almost unrecognisable from what it was two decades ago. Once celebrated mainly for its history, culture, and emerging IT industry, it has evolved into one of India's fastest-growing cities. New residential colonies spread across the outskirts, high-rise towers dominate the skyline, metro lines extend further each year, and large infrastructure projects continue to reshape the city. AI is a remarkable story of ambition and progress. But it also raises an uncomfortable question: Hyderabad continue to grow without placing unbearable pressure on the very resources that sustain it? Why AI?

Rapid urbanisation has undoubtedly brought jobs, investment, and new opportunities to Telangana. Yet, it has also exposed the city to challenges that are becoming harder to ignore. Groundwater levels are falling in many areas. Lakes that once acted as natural buffers and water sources are steadily shrinking. Heavy rains increasingly lead to urban flooding. Summers feel hotter than before, while green spaces struggle to survive amid expanding concrete landscapes. At the same time, demand for water, energy, housing, transport, and waste management continues to rise in a region with natural resources. This is where the growing interest in artificial intelligence, or AI, enters the conversation.

Around the world, AI is being projected as a game-changing technology capable of transforming every aspect of life. But from the perspective of those who study the Earth and its resources, its greatest strength is not its ability to replace people. Its real value lies in helping us make better decisions. AI can detect patterns and predict risks, but it cannot replace field-based evidence, local knowledge, or transparent public decision-making. The Earth does not function in neat, predictable ways. Rivers alter their courses. Rainfall patterns shift. Groundwater declines slowly and often unnoticed. Changes in land use affect ecosystems in ways that may only become apparent years

later. In a rapidly expanding city like Hyderabad, every new road, apartment complex, industrial estate, or commercial hub leaves its environmental footprint. Understanding these connections requires more than advanced computing power. It demands scientific knowledge, local experience, and responsible governance. AI can certainly become an important ally. It can analyse satellite imagery and vast datasets to monitor urban expansion, identify encroachments on lakes and drainage channels, detect emerging heat islands, assess land-use changes, map flood-prone areas, and track groundwater stress. Tasks that once required months of painstaking effort can now be completed much faster.

But technology alone cannot provide all the answers. An AI system may identify unusual patterns in satellite imagery. Yet it takes experienced scientists, planners, and local experts to determine whether those patterns reflect drought conditions, seasonal changes, data errors, or genuine environmental degradation. Algorithms can spot trends, but they cannot replace field observations, community understanding, or accountability in public decision-making.

AI as Interpreter Another obstacle is the perception that AI is too technical for anyone outside computer science. The terminology can be intimidating. In reality, the questions behind AI are familiar to every good scientist and policymaker: What does the evidence tell us? How reliable is it? What uncertainties remain? What might we be missing? Seen this way, learning AI is not necessarily about becoming a programmer. It is about becoming a better interpreter of evidence.

For Telangana, and Hyderabad in particular, the opportunities are immense. AI-supported systems can improve urban planning, optimise water supply networks, strengthen disaster preparedness, manage traffic more efficiently, monitor environmental compliance, and support climate adaptation strategies. Used wisely, these tools can help

decision-makers strike a balance between development and sustainability. At the same time, we cannot ignore the ethical dimension. Hyderabad's future prosperity depends on protecting its natural assets. Its lakes, groundwater reserves, open spaces, and biodiversity cannot be treated as expendable in the pursuit of growth. If AI merely helps us consume resources faster without encouraging better stewardship, it risks becoming just another technological distraction. AI's Promise The true promise of AI lies elsewhere. It lies in helping societies adapt to climate change, conserve scarce resources, build resilience against disasters, and ensure that development benefits both present and future generations.

Hyderabad, often celebrated as the City of Pearls and now recognised globally as a technology hub, faces a unique opportunity. It can demonstrate that technological leadership and environmental responsibility need not be opposing goals. The city can show that growth is most meaningful when it is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. As Telangana looks ahead, one principle deserves to guide us: technology is at its best when it serves the public good. The aim should not simply be to build smarter cities, but better cities—places that respect ecological limits while creating opportunities for all. Ultimately, the question is not whether AI can think like humans. The more important question is whether it can help us think more wisely about the land, water, and on which our shared future depends.

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Gaya Priest Sandeep Pathak Wrestles His Way To International Glory, Wins 200 Medals But Awaits A Govt Job



Every morning, 30-year-old Sandeep Kumar Pathak performs Hindu rituals as a priest for pilgrims visiting Gaya's revered Vishnupad Temple. By evening, he quickly gets into wrestler's gear, training relentlessly in both the traditional mitti ka akhanda (mud wrestling arena) and Greco-Roman wrestling. Despite coming from a middle-class Brahmin family with no wrestling background, Sandeep has overcome numerous challenges to become one of Bihar's recognised international wrestlers. Born into a Brahmin family, Sandeep had little knowledge of wrestling during his childhood. However, his passion for sports began early when he started playing kabaddi in school. His concentration in the game was marked by aggression usually seen in sports like wrestling. Despite repeated warnings from his school sports teacher against throwing fellow players to the ground, he continued to play in the same style.

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One of his teachers, who saw his characteristic signs of wrestling in kabaddi, advised him to consider the sport as a career. "My teacher told me that such aggression was better suited to wrestling, where it could earn me national recognition, whereas in kabaddi it could invite disciplinary action from the federation and jeopardise my sporting career," he recalled.

Hailing from Chakand in Nagar block of Gaya district, he belonged to a family of priests where his father serves as a priest at the Vishnupad Temple in Gaya, conducting the pind daan rituals for pilgrims under senior priest Hira Nath. The family's association with priesthood spans generations. Sandeep says he represents the third generation of priests in his family.

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Although none in his family had ever taken up wrestling, Sandeep's teacher got him enrolled in a district-level wrestling competition before he had even learnt the technical moves of the sport. To

everyone's surprise, he returned with a gold medal. "I started training in a traditional mud wrestling arena to build strength and master wrestling techniques. But my initial training began at Sangat Akhada before gradually shifting to mat wrestling and Greco-Roman wrestling," says the athlete. His consistent performances earned him selection for national-level competitions. He has represented Bihar in several prestigious wrestling championships, competed in the Khelo India Games and performed well in the National Games. Sandeep recalls that his family initially opposed his decision to become a wrestler. "I would secretly attend wrestling practice because my relatives felt a Brahmin boy could not succeed in a sport where many athletes consume any of these," he reveals. **Gaya Priest Sandeep Pathak Wins 200 Medals But Waits For Govt Job**
Gayak Wrestles His Way's 200 Medals But Waits For Govt Job (ETV Bharat)
Sandeep broke that stereotype by proving that determination matters more than diet. Relying on milk, ghee, almonds and a strictly vegetarian diet, he built an impressive body that suited his wrestling career. He first compet-

ed in the 80 kg category before moving to the 98 kg-plus category, where he finished runner-up in an international competition. In 2023, Sandeep won a silver medal at the South Asian Sambo Wrestling Championship held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was India's only wrestler in his weight category, although competitors from the country participated in other divisions as well. Competing in the above-98 kg category, he impressed with his performance and returned home with a silver medal, earning recognition. Gaya Priest Sandeep Pathak Wrestles His Way To International Glory, Wins 200 Medals But Waits For Govt Job Gaya Priest Sandeep Pathak Wrestles His Way To International Glory, Wins 200 Medals But Waits For Govt Job (ETV Bharat) He has won 70 gold medals so far. "Since I started competing in all forms of wrestling, I have won around 200 medals from school, district, state and national competitions combined. I have won seven medals in the National Games, including a gold medal. I also won a silver medal in Bangladesh, where I defeated a wrestler from Sri Lanka during the competition," says Sande

Asian Games Already On Mind As Boxing, Para Stars Return To Grand Welcome



India's Commonwealth Games medallists barely had time to celebrate their success before shifting their focus to next month's Asian Games as they returned to a rousing welcome in the national capital in the early hours of Tuesday. Even as the athletes walked out of the airport to a rousing welcome, they spoke in one voice about the road ahead, saying there was

little time to bask in their Glasgow success with the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya fast approaching.

"Hearing the national anthem on such a big stage is a feeling I will always cherish. But my focus has already shifted to the Asian Games, where I want to win another gold," boxer Priya Ghanghas told PTI moments after walking out of the arrivals gate of

the IGI Airport. Priya was not alone in turning her attention to the Asian Games after Indian boxers capped a m e m o r a b l e Commonwealth Games campaign with a 10-medal haul. The women's team led the charge with six medals, while the men contributed four, as Indian boxing once again underlined its growing stature on the interna-

tional stage. The para athletics contingent, too, scripted history with a record seven-medal haul as India climbed to fourth in the overall medal standings. As the athletes emerged from the terminal around 4 a.m., dhol beats and patriotic tunes filled the air. Family members welcomed the medallists with flower garlands as supporters queued up for photographs.

"It feels like I'm living a dream," said Sakshi Chaudhary, who became the first boxer to defeat England's Ruby White in an international competition. "Every night I visualised winning gold, hearing the national anthem and returning home to such a welcome. It feels like that dream has come true. The next target is the Asian Games, and I want to maintain this level there as well." For Jaismine Lamboria, the gold medal was the reward for overcoming an illness that had

US-Iran Thaw To Provide Tailwinds For Growth: RBI



The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said the interim peace deal between Iran and the US can provide tailwinds to Indian economic growth. In its bi-annual financial stability report released on Tuesday, the central bank also said that the growth in gold imports has decelerated "substantially" in May 2026 over April. It, however, flagged that fiscal deficit can come under pressure because of the higher prices of energy and other commodities, their limited pass through to pump prices, excise duty cuts and higher outgo on subsidies. "... the interim peace deal has laid the foundation for cessation of this conflict and normalisation of supply chains, which could provide tailwinds to growth," the report

said. The country entered the recent bout of global turbulence triggered by the West Asia conflict with stronger macroeconomic fundamentals, it said, conceding that while India's resilience provides an important buffer, some impact is inevitable given the country's substantial dependence on imported energy. The RBI said most of the high-frequency indicators for April-May 2026 point to continued resilience in economic activity which suggests that growth has remained "firm" in Q1FY27. "Nevertheless, elevated oil and other commodity prices and weaker global growth could adversely affect India's domestic growth in 2026-27," it said. Several measures undertaken by the

Government, including support to MSME and export sectors, are expected to help sustain economic activity, while mitigating the impact of external shocks, the central bank said.

On the inflation front, it said a combination of conflict-driven supply Nino can push headline inflation to the higher end of the tolerance band or around 6 per cent in Q3FY27 and also worsen inflation expectations.

The recent decline in net FDI (foreign direct investment) may reflect the tightening of global financial conditions, it said, adding that foreign portfolio flows to India have also been under pressure.

Asserting that India's external sector remains "resilient", the FSR said,

"The recent measures announced by the Government and the RBI are expected to bolster capital inflows. Therefore, even if the CAD widens, stronger capital inflows are likely to mitigate the funding constraint.".

The report also stated that fiscal deficit could come under pressure on higher prices of energy and other commodities, limited pass-through of oil price increase, excise duty cuts, and higher outgo on account of subsidies. Gross non-performing assets of banks reduced to 1.8 per cent at the end of March, a multi-decadal low, the report said, adding that banking system gross NPAs may inch up to 1.9 per cent by March 2028 under the baseline scenario.

Gold, Silver May Stay Under Pressure As US-Iran Tensions, Inflation Data Hold Key: Analy



Gold and silver are expected to remain volatile with a corrective bias in the coming week as investors assess the latest flare-up in the US-Iran conflict, movements in crude oil prices and inflation data that could reshape expectations for global interest rates, analysts said.

Fresh hostilities in West Asia have once again put markets on edge. The latest round of tensions began after Iran said it had struck a vessel travelling on an unapproved route and subsequently announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The US Central Command and later said it carried out strikes on Tehran, following which Iran retaliated by targeting American-linked installations in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait,

and Bahrain. Analysts said any further escalation in the conflict could drive crude oil prices higher, revive inflation concerns and strengthen safe-haven assets such as the US dollar and Treasury yields, limiting the upside for precious metals. "For gold and silver, momentum remains down and corrective. Focus will again turn back on the US-Iran conflict. Any big escalation would again push oil prices higher and will strengthen safe-haven assets like the US dollar and Treasury bond yields," said Pranav Mer, Senior Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd. Besides geopolitical developments, markets

will closely watch inflation data from India, the EU, and the United States for fresh clues on the monetary policy trajectory of major global central banks, he said. On the domestic front, MCX gold futures for August delivery fell Rs 3,900, or 2.65 per cent, during the week to close at Rs 1.43 lakh per 10 grams. Silver for the September contract also plunged Rs 14,746, or 6.2 per cent, to Rs 2.22 lakh per kilogram. "Gold witnessed another subdued week, declining more than 2 per cent, as a combination of a stronger US dollar, firm crude oil prices, and expectations of higher interest rates continued to weigh on investor sentiment," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodities

and Currency, LKP Securities, said. Despite intermittent recovery attempts, bullion failed to sustain gains, with every rally attracting fresh profit booking, he said. "The Indian rupee also witnessed a mild correction, which offered limited support to MCX gold. However, the impact of currency weakness was largely offset by bearish global sentiment, resulting in gold continuing its corrective phase," Trivedi added. In the international markets, Comex gold futures slipped USD 12, or 0.3 per cent, to end at USD 4,113.7 per ounce in New York, while silver fell 1.5 per cent, to USD 60.16 per ounce. Analysts said market participants will closely monitor a series of key



Despite Success, R Madhavan Says He's 'Insecure' About His Bank Balance



R Madhavan has made a surprising confession about money, saying that even after years of success in the film industry, he still feels "insecure" about his bank balance. The actor also revealed

that the most expensive thing he has ever bought is a yacht in Dubai. He said that it was a purchase that helped him achieve a long-time personal goal. In conversation with a

about luxury or status. Instead, it was linked to a dream he had for years. He wanted to become a licensed boat captain and decided to learn the skill during the COVID-19 pandemic.

newswire, Madhavan shared that he has never been someone who keeps checking his finances. Although he has a rough idea of his savings, he avoids paying too much attention to the exact amount. "I am really insecure about my bank account. I really do not know how much I have and how much I can afford to scrutinise it, because I don't know what will come of it. I have a broad understanding of how much I have," he said. Talking about his yacht for years. He wanted to Madhavan said that buying it was not

"I have a captain's license. I want to make every new year significant with a new skill I have learned. During COVID, my new skill was earning my captain's license and learning to navigate a boat," he said. The actor added that the yacht is a "small family boat" that he enjoys using during his free time with his loved ones. Madhavan had earlier spoken about the same purchase during an interview with Ranveer Allahbadia. Looking back at the decision, he called it the best purchase of his life. "The most expensive thing I have bought... Oh, crap. So, I bought a yacht. And I bought it because I always wanted to take a captain's license. So, now I'm a licensed captain, and I enjoy the best purchase of my life. It gives me maximum pleasure. And all my friends come, and they treat it as their own. And the boys are there, and they are like, Maddy yar, you have cracked it," he said. Captain and decided to learn the skill during the COVID-19 pandemic. The actor had moved to Dubai with his family to support his son, Vedaant Madhavan, who trains as a professional swimmer. The relocation gave Vedaant access to world-class training facilities while competing internationally.

Malaika Arora Brings Home Rs 28 Lakh Mahindra Thar Roxx



Malaika Arora is the latest Bollywood actor to bring home the newly launched Mahindra Thar Roxx. The actor recently purchased the SUV, which is said to cost around Rs 28 lakh. A video from the delivery ceremony has surfaced online and is quickly making the rounds on social media. The video shows Malaika receiving the keys to her new vehicle before taking part in a traditional puja. The SUV was decorated with flower garlands as she offered prayers, applied a tilak to the car and sought blessings before driving it away from the showroom. Malaika is seen wearing a blue-and-white striped co-ord outfit with a sleeveless halter-neck top and matching flared pants. She was accompanied by showroom staff and a few people present during the handover of the vehicle. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Filmygalaxy (@filmygalaxy)

Soon after the video surfaced online, social media users shared different opinions. While many fans congratulated the actor on her latest purchase, others criticised her appearance during the puja. Some questioned why she was wearing footwear during the ritual, while others felt she should have chosen traditional clothing for the ceremony. One user wrote, "At least remove your shoes. They do these rituals for the photo-ops." Another commented, "Who does puja while wearing shoes?" A third said, "She is doing puja; can't she wear proper ethnic?" At the same time, several fans defended Malaika and asked people to focus on her achievement rather than her personal choices. One fan commented, "She bought a NEW and EXPENSIVE car... kaafi logon ki dream car hogi... appreciate her success." Malaika has often been at the centre of online discussions,



whether for her fashion, lifestyle or personal life. news wire, she said she was once affected by people's opinions. However, she eventually realised that she did not need to explain or justify every decision she

made, which helped her stop worrying about the negativity. Speaking of Malaika's professional endeavours, she was last seen in the song Poison Baby from the 2025 horror-comedy film Thamma.

Ramayana At San Diego Comic-Con: Yash Reveals Why He Said Yes To Film,



The team behind Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious mythological epic Ramayana grabbed global attention with a special panel discussion at San Diego Comic-Con, where Yash not only defended Ranbir Kapoor's casting as Lord Rama but also revealed what convinced him to become part of the film. Yash, who plays Ravana and is also one of the producers of Ramayana, spoke passionately about the responsibility of bringing one of India's most revered epics to the big screen. According to him, the project was never just about scale or spectacle. It was the team's "right intent" that made all the difference. "I think intent is the most important thing. You have the right intent and the right team. When we started with the right intent, everything else began falling into place," Yash said during the interaction. He added that the journey involved several creative and technical challenges, from designing the characters' looks to achieving authenticity,

but the team remained focused on telling the story with honesty. The actor also came out strongly in support of Ranbir, who has faced scrutiny ever since he was announced as Lord Rama. Yash said no actor can truly claim to have the virtue to portray the revered deity. "Nobody in this world can come and say, 'I have the virtue to play Lord Rama.' The fact that Ranbir himself felt that speaks volumes," Yash said. Calling Ranbir a "fantastic actor," he praised the dedication and sacrifices the actor made for the role. "He has worked with complete dedication. It's not easy to play Lord Rama. Audiences will witness a beautiful Rama with great intent and great sacrifice," Yash added. Interestingly, Ranbir himself admitted that accepting the role initially filled him with fear and self-doubt. Speaking on the sidelines of the Comic-Con event, the actor revealed that his first reaction was to wonder whether he was capable of portraying a

figure worshipped by millions. However, those doubts soon gave way to gratitude. Ranbir described the opportunity as a blessing and a moral responsibility, saying Lord Rama represents courage, compassion, righteousness and forgiveness for generations of people. Preparing for the role went far beyond physical transformation. The actor shared that he spent nearly two years practising yoga and meditation under the guidance of his guru, Suvir. He also read extensively, met scholars and immersed himself in different interpretations of the Ramayana to better understand Lord Rama's philosophy rather than simply focusing on appearance. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana, with Sunny Deol, Ravi Dubey, Rakul Preet Singh, Lara Dutta, Arun Govil, Vivek Oberoi and Kunal Kapoor playing key roles. The music has been composed by



Y. Ratnakumari



P. Bharath Kumar



Happy Birthday

TO

P. Sandhya

.....♥.....

May your birthday be filled with joy, love, laughter and all the happiness you truly deserve. Stay blessed, today and always!

From

Near & Dear

Your kindness, strength and graceful nature make you truly special.

♥ Keep shining always! ♥

