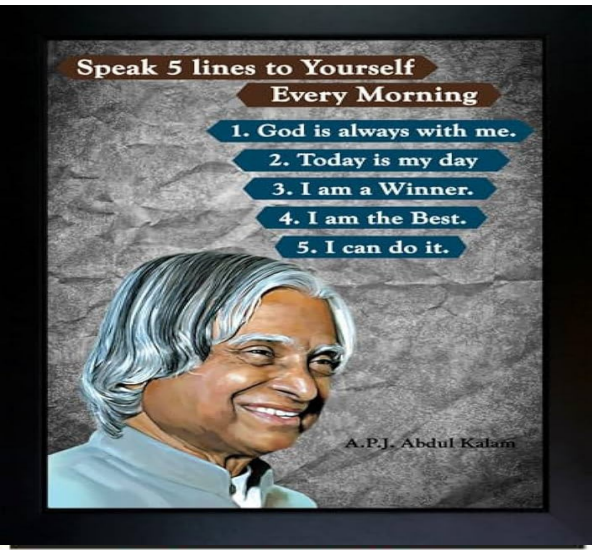




Ramchander Rao Slams Congress-INDI Alliance over Jharkhand Students' Protest



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP President Ramchander Rao on Saturday slammed Congress and the INDI alliance over students' protest in Jharkhand, saying that they are playing a "dubious and hypocritical role" and they want the students to be used only for their "political intentions" and "political bene-

Congress and the INDI alliance were trying to exploit the situation in Delhi, but they don't speak about Jharkhand. Congress's stand exposes that they want the students to be used only for their political intentions and political benefits, he said. The remark comes amid the Jharkhand protests demanding the cancellation of the Preliminary Test (PT) for the Indian Service Commission (JPSC) Combined Civil Services Examination and a review of examinations conducted through TDPL agencies.

fits." The Congress and the INDI alliance were playing a dubious and hypocritical role. The students were fighting even in Kerala. But Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi doesn't see all these things, he said. Also Read - Sajjanar Cautions Young Women Over Rent Boyfriend Offers on Social Media The

KCR extends Rs.2.25 crore aid to late Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's family

Hyderabad: BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao will visit Nallabelli village near Narsampet on Sunday to console the family of former MLA late Peddi Sudarshan Reddy. The BRS Chief described Sudarshan Reddy as his key aide, who had worked with dedication for the party since its inception. During his visit to Nallabelli, he will meet Sudarshan Reddy's family members and offer his condolences to them. He will also reassure the family and convey his support during the difficult time. The BRS chief is also expected to meet BRS leaders, activists and followers of Sudarshan Reddy in the Narsampet constituency and instil confidence among them. Chandrashekhara Rao has also



announced financial assistance of Rs 2.25 crore to the family of Sudarshan Reddy. The BRS chief took the decision after consulting senior party leaders and key leaders of the party's Warangal district unit. He said the BRS would stand by the family of the former MLA. As part of the assistance, Rs 1 crore each would be provided to Sudarshan Reddy's two children. Another Rs 25 lakh would be deposited in a bank account in the name of his mother, Amrutamma, consid-

ering her advanced age and to support her care and well-being. The BRS chief also said the party would continue to monitor the family's welfare, particularly the children's future and education, and extend support as required. Following the completion of Sudarshan Reddy's post-funeral rituals, key district party leaders would meet to finalise further welfare measures for the K Chandrashekhara Rao said, reiterating that the party would continue to support them in the long run.

Ponnam Launches Monsoon Drive to Curb Mosquito

Hyderabad: BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar here on Saturday stated that extensive measures are being taken to prevent mosquito-borne diseases in Hyderabad. As part of the Special Monsoon Drive to be conducted from August 11 to 21, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programme on measures to be taken to prevent mosquitoes was launched by Prabhakar at the Minister's Quarters here. Media Speaking on the occasion, Entomology department officials explained to the Minister the programmes being undertaken to create awareness among the public about mosquito prevention. The Minister inspected various equipment being used for mosquito prevention and



enquired with the officials about their usage, functioning and other details. Several programmes are being undertaken as part of preventive measures to control mosquito-borne diseases. Prabhakar stated that as part of protecting the health of Hyderabad residents, the GHMC is conducting door-to-door programmes to create awareness among people about cleanliness of their surroundings. Also Read - Malkajgiri Police Cracks Down on Belt Shops, Seizes Liquor worth Rs.2.76 Lakh

He advised everyone to keep their homes and surroundings clean with a sense of personal responsibility. He urged their homes every Friday as part of the 'Friday-Dryday' programme and take precautions to prevent mosquito larvae from breeding. The Minister said that the government is taking preventive measures to prevent diseases such as dengue, and that people should also cooperate with the government and ensure that water does not stagnate around their homes.

Kishan Reddy Seeks 50 % of Hyderabad Revenue for City's Development

Hyderabad: Alleging that the Congress government in Telangana is "neglecting" several areas of Hyderabad while focusing on the IT hub, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Saturday demanded that at least 50 per cent of the city's revenue be spent on its development. Though Hyderabad contributes 70 per cent of the revenue to the Telangana government, not even five per cent of it is being spent on the city's development, Kishan Reddy, Lok Sabha member from Secunderabad, claimed. Also Read - Malkajgiri Police Cracks Down on Belt Shops, Seizes Liquor worth Rs.2.76 Lakh Both the



previous BRS regime and the present Congress government have focused on IT hub areas like Hitech City, Kondapur, and Madhapur, while neglecting the "original" Hyderabad areas, such as Sanathnagar, Secunder-

abad, Musheerabad, Amberpet, and Khairatabad, he alleged. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and Hyderabad Water Works, the main agencies responsible for the city's development, are facing financial problems and are unable to pay their employees' salaries, he told reporters here. "The government is spending Hyderabad's revenue on Hitech City. Therefore, I urge Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Municipal portfolio, to spend at least 50 per cent of Hyderabad's revenue on the city's development," Kishan Reddy said.

Komatireddy Urges Farmers to Avoid Paddy Due to Low Water Levels in NSP

Hyderabad: Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday instructed officials to create awareness among farmers informing that the water in the Nagarjunasagar Project (NSP) is only sufficient for drinking due to El Nino, and since there is no possibility of water coming from it, they should cultivate wet crops instead of paddy under any circumstances. He said that even if Nagarjunasagar is filled, there is no way to fill the ponds, and since



ground water is already decreasing in boreholes, there is a need for officials and public representatives to stand by farmers in these difficult times and ensure that they cultivate wet crops. Also Read - Malkajgiri Police Cracks Down on Belt Shops, Seizes Liquor worth Rs.2.76 Lakh The Minister attended the District Irrigation Advisory Council meeting held at the Nalgonda District Collectorate meeting hall on Saturday as the

chief guest. He said that currently the water in the Nagarjunasagar project is in dead storage, that even though water comes from Srisailem, there is no situation to irrigate crops, and that the existing water is sufficient. Irrigation Council meeting held at the Nalgonda District Collectorate meeting hall on Saturday as the for drinking water till June 2027, kCouncil meeting held at eeping all this in mind, he urged farmers to sow wet crops.

NCB Uncovers Drug Syndicates' Use of Digital Platforms for Trafficking



Hyderabad: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which is probing the drug trafficking case, found the instances of the use of digital platforms by drug traffickers. The NCB's investigations have revealed use of digital platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Snapchat, Zangi, Signal and social media platforms by organised drug trafficking syndicates for coordinating procurement, transportation, concealment and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Also Read - 18-Year-Old Swept Away in Delhi Drain Amid Heavy Rain, Search

Underway This was stated by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, while responding to a question raised by Telangana Rajya Sabha member M Anil Kumar Yadav on smuggling of narcotic drugs in Rajya Sabha a few days ago. The Union Minister further stated that to curb technology enabled drug trafficking and other related criminal activities, the Central government has taken various steps through NCB. Also Read - Polish Delegation Reviews WWII Polish Refugees Museum Progress In Kolhapur

It engaged cyber experts to enhance capability to investigate dark net enabled drug trafficking and cryptocurrency-based transactions. Capacity building programmes are being conducted on regular basis in collaboration with the United States-Drug Enforcement Administration (US-DEA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar for officers of NCB and other Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (DLEAs). The move is aimed at strengthening capabilities the Central government has taken various steps through NCB. Also Read - Polish Delegation Reviews WWII Polish Refugees Museum Progress In Kolhapur

Rahul Gandhi's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' Gets Conditional Clearance in Prayagraj



Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar on Saturday cautioned young women over commercial offers of "rent boyfriend" services appearing on social media. The rent boyfriend offers, promising confidential and professional companionship, is an attempt by cyber criminals to cheat and blackmail the victims with personal photos, he said in a post on 'X'. He said cyber criminals try to lure women with attractive offers of companionship from handsome young men for coffee, a movie or shopping. Such a service is a new "dating trap" aimed at

girls and young women, he added. Police Cracks Down on Belt Shops, Seizes Liquor worth Rs.2.76 Lakh Sajjanar, who tagged a poster of a typical offer, said cyber criminals are trying to induce women with discount offers like "1st August Special - 50% off". Cyber criminals try to lure women with photos of handsome young men that are either AI-generated or downloaded from the internet, he said. After charging money in the name of security deposit, advance payment and booking confirmation, cyber criminals block the accounts of women who approached them, he

said. The fraudsters may resort to blackmail after collecting phone numbers and personal photos, he said. Also Read - MCR TMS Ready to Offer Advanced Healthcare: Raja Narsimha The Hyderabad cyber crime police are focused on such deceitful offers and will take action against the offenders as per law, he said. The police commissioner said parents of young women should observe their social media posts and smartphone usage to prevent them from falling prey to cyber crimes. He urged the victims of such frauds to approach the city cyber crime police.

Maheshwaram DCP Reviews Crime Control Measures at Monthly Meeting

Hyderabad: Maheshwaram Zone DCP K. Narayana Reddy, IPS, conducted a monthly crime review meeting at the Maheshwaram DCP Office on Friday to review crime control measures, law and order, and visible policing. During the meeting, the DCP reviewed pending cases, including grave undetected cases, SC/ST cases, PD Act cases, POCSO cases, NDPS cases and cybercrime cases. He also reviewed the status of charge sheets, rowdy sheeters, CCTV coverage, Call Detail Record (CDR) analysis and other investigation-related cases. Also Read - Jupally Calls BJP's Water Issue a Political Stunt The DCP directed Station House Officers (SHOs) to speed up investiga-



tions and ensure timely filing of charge sheets. He also instructed them to closely monitor habitual offenders, strengthen CCTV surveillance and intensify visible policing. He stressed the need to improve the case detection rate and adopt

a professional and result-oriented approach to investigations while ensuring strict maintenance of law and order. Maheshwaram ACP S. Janaki Reddy and all SHOs of the Maheshwaram Zone attended the meeting.

He also instructed them to closely monitor habitual offenders, strengthen CCTV surveillance and intensify visible policing. He stressed the need to improve the case detection rate and adopt

Three villages in Narayankhed area taps rainwater to tackle El Nino effect much before Telangana government comes up with plan

Sangareddy: While the Telangana government was still discussing how to tap rainwater amid the threat of the El Nino pattern, three villages in remote Narayankhed area had initiated measures way ahead of the government to tackle the issue. Villagers of Peerltha Thanda, Mukthapur and Pusalpad are now ready to taste the fruits of their efforts now. As the IMD predicted that the El Nino effect would create serious drought conditions in the country during the 2026-27 year, the prediction had left the farmers of Narayankhed area worried since the drought prone area will bear the brunt more than any other part of the State. Most of the Narayankhed area was deprived of irrigation facilities and there were no minor irrigation tanks at all. Narayankhed Community pond in May When IRS officer Dr Sudhakar Nayak



came to these villages during the last summer and educated them on the need of digging the community ponds and soak pits to tap the rainwater to tackle drought, these villages utilised the opportunity effectively. The villagers joined hands, and dug up four community soak pits and two community ponds across a stream between these three villages during May. While the Sangareddy district administration was discussing on the need to tap the rain under "Jala

Siri" programme by digging farm ponds, soak pits and borewell recharging structures on last Monday during a review meeting held by Minister G Vivekananda, the rainwater harvesting structures in these villages received their first water inflow as the area received considerable rain on the same day. During the last three days, the rains have brought considerable amounts of water into these rainwater harvesting structures which would not only benefit

them and also multiple other villages located close-by. Speaking to Telangana Today, Paladugu Gnaneshwar, who hails from the area, said that the rainwater used to go waste every year into local streams which would eventually flow down into Godavari and Bay of Bengal. But, they have stored the water for the first time this year. Since there were no minor irrigation tanks in these parts of the district, he hoped that the rainwater structures would replenish the groundwater table besides quenching the thirst of animals and birds. After tasting their first success within months after their effort, the villagers were preparing to take up digging of multiple such structures in the coming days. Dr Nayak observed that the rest of the district must draw inspiration from these villages to tap the rainwater.

Jupally Calls BJP's Water Issue a Political Stunt

Hyderabad: Tourism Minister Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has called the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) water issue a political drama and a stunt. He assured that the Congress government will complete all the pending irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. The Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme will be completed 100 per to provide irrigation water to farmers. Rao spoke at the Secretariat Media Center on Friday along with MLAs Madhusudhan Reddy, Veerlapalli Shankar and irrigation department officials. Also Read - Maheshwaram DCP Reviews Crime Control Measures at Monthly Meeting According to Rao, there is a shortage of rain across the country due to the effect of El Nino. Water management for Jurala,



Nettempadu, Bhima and Koilasagar projects is being done as per the plan of irrigation department officials. Due to rains in upper areas, the inflows to Jurala project and other produce to their pressure. The BJP, for ten years, has neglected

these projects is increasing. Accordingly, the officials are releasing water as per the plan. The BJP leaders, who are aware of this in advance, are creating a ruckus at the projects and are trying to spread the word that the offi-

cials are releasing water due to their pressure. The BJP, which has been in power for ten years, has neglected these projects that provide irrigation water to lakhs of acres. It ignored the Palamuru irrigation projects, h alleged.

Aadhaar Holders Can Buy Subsidised Rice

VIJAYAWADA: Civil supplies minister Nadendla Manohar on Friday said all Aadhaar card holders, irrespective of whether they possess ration cards, are eligible to purchase subsidised rice from government-backed outlets in Andhra Pradesh. Reviewing the functioning of the outlets through a video conference from Kakinada with civil supplies commissioner Kannababu, district officials and rice millers, the minister said the initiative would continue until rice prices in the open market become affordable. Also Read - Use Of Mobile Phones Causing Nearly 2% Of Fatal Road Accidents In India He directed officials to ensure that people without white ration cards in major cities,



including Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Rajamahendravaram, Guntur, Nellore, Tirupati and Kurnool, also benefit from the scheme. Each Aadhaar card holder should be supplied 10 kg of rice, he said. Expressing concern over

inadequate publicity in some districts, Manohar instructed officials to step up awareness campaigns through all media platforms, particularly in rural areas. Also Read - Man Gets Three-Year Jail Term In Pcsco Case He said the government's intervention had

already helped reduce market prices, but the subsidised rice counters should continue to operate. He also directed officials to coordinate with rice millers and improve sales in Tirupati, Anakapalli and Annamayya districts. The minister said consumers had responded positively to the quality of the two rice varieties being sold. Besides Rhythu Bazaars, dedicated sales counters should be opened at suitable locations under the supervision of rice millers. Officials were also instructed to inspect rice mills, verify stocks and submit field reports regularly.

Old City Gears Up for Colourful Bonalu Celebrations amid Tight Security

Hyderabad: The stage is set for the two-day colourful Bonalu celebrations in the old city on Sunday, amid tight security. A galaxy of celebrities including popular film star Vijay Devarakonda and his family will participate in the celebrations. The lanes and bylanes in the old city especially in Lal Darwaza, Sultan Shahi, Hari Bowli, Bela and Uppuguda among others areas wore a festive look as the temple committees decked up with colourful lights and colour. Also Read - Maheshwaram DCP Reviews Crime Control Measures at Monthly Meeting A large number of devotees are expected to turn up at Sri Simhavahini Mahankali temple in Lal Darwaza, Sri Akkanna Madanna Mahankali temple in Hari Bowli and Sri



Mahankali temple in Uppuguda. The committees in coordination with the police department already made necessary arrangements to ensure proper queue enabling devotees to have a hassle-free dhasanam at the temples. Separate queues are also provided for the women carrying 'Bonam' Also Read - Jupally Calls BJP's Water Issue a Political Stunt Vijay Devarakonda and his family will offer prayers at Simhavahini

Mahankali temple, while Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampallabharathi will offer silk clothes to the goddess Mahankali at 10 am. Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and his family will also offer prayers at the temple. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle on Saturday, Sri Simhavahini Temple Committee Sri Simhavahini Temple Maruthi Yadav said all the arrangements were made for the smooth

conduct of the festival. The celebrations would be conducted with 'ghatam' processions from all the temples in the old city starting from Lal Darwaza to Musi River near Afzalgunj on Monday, he said. Also Read - Ramchander Rao Slams Congress-INDI Alliance over Jharkhand Students' Protest On its part, the police department has made elaborate security arrangements for the successful conduct of the celebrations. Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar already visited the temple and reviewed arrangements. Add itional police forces were deployed at the strategic locations in the old city and a constant vigil is being maintained through surveillance cameras to keep a tab on those moving suspiciously, officials said.

Revanth Reddy Assures Rs.5,000 Cr for Land Acquisition

Hyderabad: In a major push to accelerate irrigation projects held up by land acquisition, rehabilitation and statutory clearances, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday said the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had assured Rs 5,000 crore on priority for Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement works linked to irrigation projects across Telangana. He said about Rs 2,000 crore had already been released, while the remaining Rs 3,000 crore was under process. He made it clear that shortage of funds would not become a reason for delaying irrigation works that were otherwise nearing completion. Also Read - Sajjanar Cautions Young Women Over Rent Boyfriend Offers on Social Media Addressing a comprehensive review of irrigation projects under implementation in the



districts of Karimnagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli and Rajanna Sircilla (erstwhile Karimnagar district), Uttam Kumar Reddy directed District Collectors and Irrigation officials to treat land acquisition, R&R, forest clearances and environmental appble. The Minister said rovals as priority issues and resolve them on a war footing. Also Read - Malkajigiri Police Cracks Down on Belt Shops, Seizes Liquor worth Rs.2.76 Lakh He participated in the review along with elected repre-

sentatives. He asked Collectors to raise financial requirements and obtain the necessary tokens without delay. Compensation to landowners and rehabilitation of project-affected families, he said, should proceed in parallel with engineering works wherever feasible. The Minister said the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was giving special attention to irrigation projects so that investments already made in major projects could be converted quickly into irrigation benefits for farmers. Also Read - MCR TIMS the land-related issues and restart the balance works Mid Manair Left Canal. He stressed that revised estimates, land acquisition, tenders and statutory clearances should be pursued simultaneously.

ers. Also Read - MCR TIMS Ready to Offer Advanced Healthcare: Raja Narasimha A major focus of the review was the, where works have remained stalled for about four-and-a-half years. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to immediately resolve affected families, he said, should proceed in parallel with engineering works wherever feasible. The Minister said the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was giving special attention to irrigation projects so that investments already made in major projects could be converted quickly into irrigation benefits for farmers. Also Read - MCR TIMS the land-related issues and restart the balance works Mid Manair Left Canal. He stressed that revised estimates, land acquisition, tenders and statutory clearances should be pursued simultaneously.

Dipke Seeks Removal Of 'Rude' Cop From Security Duty At His Home

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convenor Abhijeet Dipke confronted a police sub-inspector (PSI) deployed as part of the security detail at his home in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar for allegedly preventing people from meeting him and sought his removal from duty there. He accused the officer of being "rude" to visitors and trying to restrict and monitor people entering his residence in the Waluj MIDC area of the central Maharashtra city. Dipke, who was provided security following threats and to manage the crowd at his home, also alleged that state CID personnel in plainclothes were roaming near his residence and then reporting in a social media group named 'Hit Spray'. A couple of videos



showing the CJP founder speaking to a senior police official over the phone and a PSI at his residence went viral on social media platforms on Friday. During the conversations, Dipke is heard reprimanding the PSI and also seeking his removal from the security

staff deployed at his home. "What is the problem in allowing people to come into my home when I am asking them to come in? Why are you behaving like the Delhi police? No problem has occurred till today. I am seeing you for the first time. You (police)

the PSI. "A PSI named Suresh has come here, and he is very rude to people coming to meet me. He is telling people to go out. Is this being done deliberately? I don't want him; remove him from here," the CJP founder is heard telling the police official.

On the same call, he alleged state CID personnel were moving around his home. "A reporter told me some CID people were spotted near my home. When police tried to remove them, they revealed they were from the CID. The reporter also saw that a WhatsApp group was open on the phone of one of the CID personnel and it was? I don't want him; remove him from here," the CJP founder is heard telling the police official. Dipke claimed. Despite repeated attempts, DCP Pankaj Atulkar, whose jurisdiction covers the Waluj MIDC area, was not available for comments on claims made by the CJP founder.

Day 15 Of Jharkhand Protest: Govt Holds Talks With Student Agitators



Ranchi: The protest against alleged irregularities in Jharkhand recruitment examinations has entered its 15th day on Saturday as the state government began talks with the JPSC-JSSC Nyay Manch led by Devendra Mahato. On Friday night, talks between the state government and another faction of student protestors -- the JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch -- failed to break the deadlock. The students are demanding the cancellation of the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) exam and an independent probe into the alleged irregularities, either by the CBI or by a panel of retired high court judges from outside the state, as well as a comprehensive reforms in the JPSC and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC).

Another faction of students with a similar set of demands is protesting at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium under the banner of the JPSC-JSSC Nyay Manch. Devendra Mahato is leading this faction and has gone on a hunger strike along with several other students. On the invitation of the state government, students from the Devendra Mahato faction are holding talks with a group of ministers, comprising Sudivya Kumar, Dipika Pandey, Chamra Linda, and Sanjay Prasad Yadav, at the State Guest House on Saturday morning in a bid to resolve the impasse. An eight-member group from the JPSC-JSSC Nyay Manch is participating in talks with the government-appointed committee. J H A R K H A N D PROTEST DAY 15 A picture from out-

side the State Guest House (ETV Bharat) Mahato said that today is Nirmal Mahato's Martyrdom Day and if he were alive today, Jharkhand would not have to face this crisis. Prem Kumar, who is on the hunger strike with Mahato, says that their demands are clear: the government should cancel the exam and conduct a CBI inquiry. During the monsoon session of Parliament, a strict law should be enacted, and the matter should be heard by a fast-track court to ensure the guilty are punished, Kumar demanded. Since morning crowd of students has gathered at the protest site JPSC-JSSC students have been protesting at the Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium for the last 15 days so a medical team arrived early in the morning

Unite For Cauvery Issue, Save TN From Becoming Desert: DMK Leader Duraimurugan

Vellore: Senior DMK leader Duraimurugan has urged all political parties in Tamil Nadu to set aside differences and unite over the Cauvery river dispute, warning that inaction could "turn the state into a desert." Duraimurugan lashed out at recent statements made in Parliament by Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary, who claimed that the 2018 Supreme Court verdict did not explicitly require Karnataka to obtain consent from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, or Puducherry before undertaking construction projects like Mokedatu. Terming the union minister's remarks factually incorrect and dangerous, Duraimurugan read excerpts from legal documents and court rulings, emphasising that any construction across the Cauvery requires the consent of the concerned



basin states. "This is not a party issue; Tamil Nadu is turning into a desert," he said, while addressing reporters on Tuesday and demanded that the state government strongly contest the central minister's statements and register a privilege motion in the assembly

against the suppression of facts. Criticising the approach of writing letters to the central government, the DMK leader called for aggressive legal and political action, suggesting that leaders and legal experts should directly challenge such moves in Delhi. He also recalled the legacy

of former chief ministers, noting how leaders like M G Ramachandran and M Karunanidhi historically handled interstate river disputes by taking all parties along. "This is not a party issue; Tamil Nadu is turning into a desert," he said, while addressing reporters on Tuesday and

demanding that the state government strongly contest the central minister's statements and register a privilege motion in the assembly against the suppression of facts. Criticising the approach of writing letters to the central government, the DMK leader called for aggressiveTerming the union minister's remarks factually incorrect and dangerous, Duraimurugan read excerpts from legal documents and court rulings, emphasising that any construction across the Cauvery requires the consent of the concerned legal and political action, suggesting that leaders and legal experts should directly challenge such moves in Delhi. He also recalled the legacy of former chief ministers, noting how leaders like M G Ramachandran and M Karunanidhi historically handled interstate river disputes by taking all parties along.

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Performs Yagna At Jadavpur University To Protest Administrative Irregularities



Kolkata: Members of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) organised a yagna (ritual fire ceremony) outside Aurobindo Bhavan, the administrative building, at Jadavpur University in Kolkata on Friday to pray for the overall well-being of the institution. Participants, including staff members and teaching faculties, said the yagna was a symbolic protest against various administrative irregularities that have plagued the institution for a long time and to invoke a 'return to reason' (or the awakening of good sense) within the administration. The protesters allege that the university's registrar and finance officer have been holding their posts despite the expiry of their tenures. "Individuals above 60 are being reappointed despite government directives, depriving qualified candidates of job opportunities," they said. Asim Mitra, a

member of BMS and an education worker, said the ritual was organised to foster the university's progress, encourage sound judgment, and ensure the administration takes correct decisions. "Various illegal and irregular activities have been ongoing at the university for a long period. This symbolic program was observed with the hope of preventing such incidents in future," he said, adding that a sit-in demonstration demanding an investigation into these allegations has been underway since August 1. Asked if specific permission had been obtained from the university authorities for the yagna, Mitra said, "A prayer ceremony was organised within the campus for the university's well-being. No separate, special permission is required for this." Registrar Salim Box said one cannot light a fire and conduct such activities in an ancient heritage

building like this. "I have informed the vice-chancellor about the entire matter," he added. Earlier on July 2, rooms were allocated to three organisations close to the RSS and BJP to operate their offices at Jadavpur University. Sources claim that this was the first time in several decades that right-wing organisations have been allotted specific office space on the campus. Mitra, also a member of Paschim Banga Viswavidyalaya Karmachari Sangh (PVKS), said they have refused to accept the keys of the office rooms in protest. "The room is located at a remote corner of the university, making access. Furthermore, the union room of an ultra-left student organisation is also situated nearby. We suspect that this was to deliberately incite a conflict. This is a conspiracy of the Trinamool and Leftist organisations," Mitra added.

Many Aspects Of Donation 'Theft' Probe Done, Chargesheet To Be Filed End Of Next Month:

Ayodhya: The investigation team in charge of the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya has completed probing various aspects of the case, Senior Superintendent of Police of Ayodhya Gaurav Grover said. The probe has to be completed in 90 days, and the chargesheet has to be filed in court by the end of next month, the SSP said. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Grover said the SIT is not conducting any separate investigation and is coordinating with the police investigation in the role of a high-level probe adviser. The chairman of the SIT is Lucknow IGP Kiran S, who has five years of experience in the CBI, he added. Grover added that he is continuously keeping a watch on the investigation at the local level and also giving advice. Sources in the temple said no prominent person has so far come under legal



action in the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple. The sources added that previously, the SIT had raised serious questions over the role of Anil Mishra, former member of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. As per the FIR in the donation theft case registered on June 25 at the Ram Janmabhoomi police station in Ayodhya, police had sent eight accused to jail. These included for-

mer temple trust general secretary Champat Rai's close aide Tinnu Yadav, counting in-charge Subhash Srivastava, Ramashankar Mishra, Manish Yadav, Karunesh, Lavkush Mishra, Anukalp and Avinash Shukla. Police took all eight accused on remand and interrogated them. The Supreme Court on July 27 was informed by the Uttar Pradesh government that it has set up a four-member special investigating team

(SIT) headed by IGP Kiran S to probe the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The top court asked the state government to include a forensic auditor as the fifth member of the SIT, which will submit its first status report within two weeks. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, that the SIT was formed through a notification issued on July 25 following the apex court's suggestion. The law officer said that besides the IGP, who was part of the team which had investigated whether an FIR was needed to be

lodged, the SIT will include a DIG-rank officer, a senior superintendent of police and an additional SP. On July 20, the bench had asked the Uttar Pradesh government to apprise it about the possibility of setting up an SIT to probe the alleged embezzlement of donations. Investigating officer Circle Officer Ayodhya Ashutosh Tiwari said that based on facts that emerged during questioning in the investigation, documentation is being updated and the investigation is being taken forward. Kalika Mishra, the president of Faizabad Bar Association, said that the Bar is determined to take action against Champat Rai, Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao. He said that if the names of the three were not included in the FIR, then soon they are going to move to the court to get the registered against them.

Helicopter Battling Utah Wildfire Crashes As Blaze Kills Dozer Operator In Oregon

Richfield: A heavy-lift helicopter with two people on board battling a large Utah wildfire crashed as firefighters worked to corral an uncontained blaze in Oregon that killed a bulldozer operator, officials said Friday. There was no word on the conditions of the people aboard the helicopter as officials said they couldn't immediately reach the crash site. During firefighting operations in Oregon, 47-year-old Jason Ensign died Thursday while operating a dozer for a timber company. The Wrights Spring fire escalated with "unexpected and rapid growth" and cut off Ensign's escape route, the local sheriff's department said. The fire started on Wednesday in south-central Oregon east of the town of Chiloquin. It had burned almost 14 square miles (36 square kilometers) by Friday with no con-



tainment, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Extremely hot and dry weather has caused erratic fire behavior, officials said. The downed helicopter was one of seven working a fire in central Utah that was caused by lightning on July 27. It crashed near Richfield, which is about 160 miles (258 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Conditions were good enough for aircraft to fly when the helicopter

crashed, said Tyler Hecht with the Great Basin Incident Management Team. The Sikorsky S-64 helicopter had been working in an area with steep terrain. It ignited another fire when it crashed. Hecht said at an afternoon press conference he did not know how long the helicopter was flying before it crashed. Response teams had not been able to get to the scene of the accident by Friday evening because of the flames, but hoped to get there in the next

24 hours, officials said. "We didn't want to put them at bigger risk," Sevier County Sheriff Nathan Curtis said. "We'll get them in there as soon as we can." It was unknown if fire had overrun the crash scene, Hecht said. Firefighting efforts were paused after the accident but later resumed, they said. The National Transportation Safety Board and FAA will investigate, but they may not be able to safely reach the scene immediately if the wildfire is burning nearby. Sikorsky S-64 "Skycrane" helicopters are used commercially and by government agencies for fire fighting and other purposes. They can be equipped with tanks to drop water or fire retardant onto blazes. Fire crews were warned Friday morning that there would be erratic winds, dry fuels and hot temperatures as

US Job Market Stalled In July As Employers Cut 23,000 Jobs, Delivering Political Setback To Trump

Washington: The U.S. job market stalled unexpectedly last month, delivering a political blow to President Donald Trump three months ahead of midterm elections and complicating decision-making for the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve. Employers cut 23,000 jobs in July. And Labor Department revisions slashed 103,000 jobs from May and June payrolls. The unemployment rate fell but for the wrong reason: Thousands of people dropped out of the labor market so fewer people were competing for work. The July jobs numbers from the Labor Department Friday marked a sharp setback for the American labor market and for Trump less than three months before his Republican party seeks to keep full control of Congress in the midterm election. Forecasters had expected job creation to approach 100,000 last month. Local public schools cut 50,000 jobs in July, restaurants and bars 26,000, retailers 19,000. The 4.1% unemployment rate was the lowest since June 2025 – but it only fell because 264,000 people dropped out of the labor market last month. The share of those working or looking for work fell to 61.4%, the lowest since February 2021. "We can't really put lipstick on a pig here," said Daniel Zhao, chief econ-



omist at the jobs website Glassdoor. "This is not a great report for July." Manufacturing up, but public schools down The Trump administration, which has imposed massive tariffs in an attempt to protect American industry and create manufacturing jobs, noted that jobs were up 22,000 at construction companies and 5,000 at factories. "The Trump industrial resurgence is on schedule," said White House spokesman Kush Desai. "Manufacturing and factory construction jobs grew again in July even as government payrolls continued to significantly shrink." Trump has long bragged that jobs have been increasing for native-born citizens in his economy, but that talking point was undermined by the July numbers. The White House declined to comment on why Friday's report showed that employment for native-born Americans dropped by 720,000 over the past 12 months. Those numbers can be quirky. They're

not adjusted for seasonal changes and are not seen as a reliable measure of total native-born employment. But the administration had latched onto them as evidence that Trump's immigration crackdown was benefiting people born in the United State. To raise or not to raise Policymakers at the Federal Reserve have been divided over whether to start raising interest to combat inflation that has exceeded their 2% target for more than five years. The Fed kept rates unchanged at its meeting last week — but three officials dissented from that decision in favor of a rate hike. Wall Street traders were expecting rate hikes later this year. Friday's report may at least delay higher rates. "The Fed has to consider the health of the job market as they debate whether a hike is justified," said Glassdoor's Zhao. "The softness in today's report is going to have to give the Fed a little bit of pause." July wage gains were

modest. Average hourly pay was up 3.2% last month from July 2025, the smallest year-over-year increase since May 2021. The smaller wage gains are coming at a time when American families are squeezed by the high cost of living. "This is a bleak jobs report," said Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union. "The U.S. labor market is stalling again and that is going to make the Federal Reserve's job harder and life for job seekers rough." Women lost 32,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department reports, accounting for all the job losses in July. But that marked a reversal in women's fortunes: They still gained 321,000 jobs over the past 12 months; men lost 5,000 over that period. Economists noted that private payrolls continued to grow in July and that the big drop in public school payrolls might have been a statistical glitch caused by seasonal adjustments. Rebounding from a miserable 2025 hiring had rebounded this year from a lackluster 2025 in the face of the conflict in the Persian Gulf that has sent energy prices surging and put a strain on family budgets. Job growth had been solid, if unspectacular. Some businesses are having trouble filling vacancies. Others are using technology to do the work humans used to do.

Need For Accountability If People Harmed For Engaging In Peaceful Protest In PoK

United Nations: Expressing concern over the security situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), a spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said there needs to be accountability for action taken against people engaging in peaceful protest. "The Secretary-General supports the work of his High Commissioner, and we certainly hope that the pleas made by Mr Türk will be listened to," Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General Farhan Haq said here on Friday. He was responding to a question by PTI on the situation in PoK and how the Secretary-General views the recent developments there. Last month, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk had expressed con-



cern about the recent developments there, calling for an impartial and thorough investigation into the death of protesters and Pakistan's ban of the Joint Awami Action Committee and arrest of its leaders. Concerns were also raised about restrictions on internet access and public gathering in violation of the right of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. On whether there will be

calls for accountability from the authorities on the crackdown on protesters, Haq said "it's important that all authorities everywhere allow for peaceful protest, and certainly that is the case here. If there have been people harmed for engaging in peaceful protest, there needs to be accountability for that." Türk had appealed for calm in PoK amid a wave of unrest ahead of regional elections at the

end of the month, a statement issued in Geneva last month had said. The statement has specifically said that dozens of people, mostly protesters but also law enforcement personnel, have reportedly been killed since June ahead of the vote for the Legislative Assembly on July 27. The High Commissioner had called for prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all deaths that have occurred due to the unrest, both amongst protesters and members of security forces. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) – a movement behind the protests comprising traders, transporters, students, lawyers, activists and others – has been banned under anti-terrorism laws for allegedly threatening public order

Mark Cruz To Lead Indian Health Service Amid Staffing And Infrastructure Challenges



Albuquerque: The U.S. Senate voted Friday to confirm Mark Cruz, a citizen of the Klamath Tribes, to lead the federal agency that provides healthcare for some 2.8 million Native American and Alaska Native. Cruz was confirmed to serve a four-year term as director of the Indian Health Service, a position that has sat vacant since late 2025. At his July confirmation hearing, Cruz said he would advocate "ferociously" to improve health outcomes in Indian Country and bring lived experience to the role. "My family, my friends and my tribal community will live with the consequences of the work I do for decades to come,"

Cruz told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Cruz was confirmed by a 51-47 vote along with more than 70 other nominees of President Donald Trump — one of the Senate's last actions before taking an August. Cruz is a senior adviser on tribal health to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and will retain that newly created role while leading the IHS. In Trump's first administration, Cruz oversaw the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development under the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. The IHS operates 21 hospitals and 78 smaller health centers nationwide as part of the federal

government's legal responsibility to provide healthcare for Native Americans. The average age of those facilities is around 40 years old and one-third are in "poor" physical condition, according to a 2023 U.S. Government Accountability Office report. Cruz assumes leadership of an agency grappling with stubbornly high provider vacancy rates and a 30-year backlog of facilities in need of replacement. He has pledged to address those challenges, better insulate tribal health programs from federal budget impasses and fund overhead costs tribes take on when they manage their own healthcare systems.

In a statement Friday, the National Congress of American Indians said Cruz's confirmation comes at a "critical time." "We congratulate him on his confirmation and look forward to working together to ensure the federal government fully upholds its trust and treaty obligations," NCAI executive director Larry Wright Jr. said. The National Indian Health Board also applauded Cruz's confirmation. By that nonprofit's most recent estimate, it would take some \$73 billion for the IHS to fully meet the healthcare needs of tribal nations. For fiscal year 2026, Congress appropriated just over \$8 billion to fund the IHS.

SC Rejects Pleas Of ED And State Against Grant Of Bail To Chaitanya Baghel In Liquor Scam Cases

Chhatarpur: Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho Airport has once again been ranked among the country's best airports. However, the recognition has failed to enthuse the residents, who are wondering how an airport with no commercial flights could be declared the best in India. Currently, no commercial flights are operating from Khajuraho Airport during July and August. This has also prompted locals to question the credibility of the airport. The temple town of Khajuraho, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage destination known for its Chandela-era monuments, has once again earned the title of India's best air. According to the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) 2026 National Service and Customer Satisfaction Index Survey, Khajuraho Airport in Chhatarpur district secured the top position nationwide, while Raja



Bhoj Airport in Bhopal ranked third. This is not the first time Khajuraho has achieved the distinction. It also topped the same rankings in December 2025. Khajuraho Airport Director Santosh Singh said, "Securing the number one position once again is the result of the hard work of our staff and the trust of passengers. Khajuraho has earned the top ranking based on passenger facilities, cleanliness, security arrangements and service quality." Flights From Delhi And Varanasi Discontinued At present, Khajuraho

Airport has no scheduled commercial flights. It previously had direct services to Delhi and Varanasi, but those have also been suspended. Flight operations are expected to resume around October. The airport's top ranking despite having no regular flights has surprised many locals. Rajeev Shukla, a resident and hotel operator, said, "Khajuraho Airport had also ranked number one in 2025, and we're happy it has achieved flights last month either. This is something our officials and political leaders need to think

Responding to the criticism, Airport Director Santosh Singh said, "It is a matter of pride that Khajuraho Airport has once again ranked first. Construction work is currently underway at the airport, so there will be no flights for two months. The survey on which this ranking is based was conducted when flights were operating. The survey is old; only the results have been announced now. Our objective is to provide world-class facilities to passengers and continuously improve service quality in the future."

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that was caused by lightning on July 27. It crashed near Richfield, which is about 160 miles (258 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

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of the flames, but hoped to get there in the next 24 hours, officials said. "We didn't want to put them at bigger risk," Sevier County Sheriff Nathan Curtis said. "We'll get them in there as soon as we can." It was unknown if fire had overrun the crash scene, Hecht said.

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S-64 "Skycrane" helicopters are used commercially and by government agencies for fire fighting and other purposes.

They can be equipped with tanks to drop water or fire retardant onto blazes. Fire crews were warned Friday morning that there would be erratic winds, dry fuels and hot temperatures as well as the potential for dry thunderstorms and lightning. Red flag warnings were in effect. The fire on the Fishlake National Forest near small community of Kanosh, Utah had grown to 165 square miles (427 square kilometers) and was 19% contained by Friday morning. More than 600 firefighting personnel are battling the blaze, which has triggered evacuations and destroyed at least six structures as it burns through timber, brush and grass.

Months of dry weather, a record lack of snow in some areas, hot spells and erratic winds have contributed to blazes in Utah and other parts of the West. Four firefighters were killed and a fifth was injured after they were overcome by a fast-moving wildfire in Colorado in June. The firefighters tried to shield themselves by deploying tentlike emergency shelters as flames overran their position.

Played No Role: India Distances Itself From Sheikh Hasina's Press Conference

New Delhi: India on Friday sought to distance itself from former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's media interaction in New Delhi, saying it neither played a role in it nor endorsed her comments regarding the Bangladesh government. In her virtual news conference on Wednesday, Hasina announced that she is determined to return to Bangladesh in December to put the country on the "right track" by restoring democracy, notwithstanding the risk of imprisonment or a death sentence. The Bangladesh foreign ministry reacted sharply to Hasina's media interaction and said the country is "outraged" as the interaction was permitted to be held despite Dhaka conveying concerns to New Delhi over the likely ramifications of the event on the bilateral relations. Though the former Bangladesh prime minister has given a series of email interviews over the past few months, it was her first media interaction after



taking shelter in India.

Hasina, 78, has been living in India since fleeing Dhaka on August 5, 2024. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, asked about Bangladesh's strong reaction, reiterated the position taken by the Indian side ahead of the news conference.

"Let me say that I have already stated the government's position on the issue before the press conference happened. I'm reiterating it here,"

he said. "The government had no role to play in what was an event by a private media entity, and the government does not endorse anything said at the forum, especially with regard to the duly constituted government of Bangladesh," he said. To a separate question on remarks by Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed at the same news conference that Bangladesh is becoming "another Pakistan" with extremist forces and ter-

ror groups allegedly given a free hand by Dhaka, Jaiswal said India keeps a close eye on any developments that can impact national security. "We continue to closely follow developments that happen in our neighbourhood, keeping in mind our national security interests. And whatever measures have to be taken in that regard, we take those to secure our interests," he said.

Indian Co-Owner Of LPL Franchise Arrested In Sri Lanka In Player Bribery Case

Colombo: A former Indian under-19 cricketer, who is a co-owner of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) franchise Jaffna Kings, was arrested by Sri Lanka's sports anti-corruption investigators on Friday over allegations of attempting to bribe a player. The arrest took place hours before the sixth edition of the tournament kicked off. The suspect, Manjot Kalra, remembered for his match-winning century in the final of the 2018 Under-19 Cricket World Cup, was arrested by the Police Special



Investigation Unit for the Prevention of Offences Relating to Sports and later produced before a magistrate. Kalra, 27, who transitioned into sports entrepreneurship, invested in the Jaffna Kings franchise earlier this

year. According to the Sri Lankan police, Kalra is accused of attempting to induce a player with money in connection with the tournament. Investigators said the player had alerted the authorities after being approached around 10 days earlier, leading to the arrest on Friday. The complaint was lodged by Sri Lanka players Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Avishka Fernando and Dunith Wellalage, the police said. All three of them

play for the Jaffna Kings franchise. The arrest came on the opening day of the LPL 2026 with Jaffna Kings taking on Galle Gallants at the SSC Grounds in Colombo. The five-team tournament features 24 matches and is scheduled to conclude on August 8. The LPL has faced scrutiny over allegations of match fixing, bribery and corruption for a while.

Earlier this year, a Sri Lankan court handed a four-year suspended prison sentence to the owner of another LPL

Japan Plans To Deploy F-2 Fighter Deployment To India Amid Expanding Defence Ties



New Delhi: Japan's reported plan to deploy Air Self-Defence Force (ASDF) F-2 fighter jets to India for the first time would mark a significant milestone in the rapidly expanding defence partnership between the two countries.

Citing sources in the Japanese Defence Ministry, The Asahi Shimbun news website reported that the government plans to dispatch the F-2 fighter jets to India for the first time to participate in a joint exercise. Citing one source, the report stated that the objective of deploying the F-2 fighter jets in India is to "serve as a check on China". According to the report, the issue will come up for discussion when Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi visits India in mid-August.

Coming amid growing concerns over China's increasingly assertive military posture across the Indo-Pacific, the proposed exercise reflects a broader strategic convergence between New Delhi and Tokyo as they deepen operational cooperation, strengthen defence industrial collaboration and seek to uphold a stable regional balance of power.

Still, the expanding defence relationship between Japan and India is being closely tracked by China.

Japan's planned dispatch of the F-

2 fighter jets has already attracted commentary from China.

According to a report in the Chinese government mouthpiece Global Times, Liu Zongyi, Director of the Centre for South Asia Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said that Tokyo is seeking to shed postwar constraints, expand arms exports and become a "normal" military power, while New Delhi wants Japanese technology to modernise its forces and bolster its global standing.

"The partnership is driven less by shared conviction than by mutual utility: each sees the other as a tool to advance its own strategic ambitions," Liu was quoted as saying. The reported decision to send the fighter jets comes close on the heels of New Delhi and Tokyo reaching a broad agreement on exporting the UNICORN communications antenna, which is installed on Maritime SDF Mogami-class frigates, to India.

The agreement was reached during Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to India last month. Coming at a time when China has become increasingly assertive along both the India-China border and in the East and South China Seas, the planned deployment of the F-2 fighter jets carries considerable geopolitical

significance.

Over the past decade, India and Japan have transformed their relationship into one of Asia's most important strategic partnerships.

The partnership has evolved through several milestones. The two sides elevated their relationship to that of a Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014. Both sides signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) in 2020. The two countries also established the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue. Although India and Japan held their first fighter jet exercise in Japan in 2023, deploying Japanese combat aircraft to Indian territory is symbolically and militarily significant. It demonstrates greater political trust, higher levels of interoperability, willingness to operate farther from Japan, and confidence in India's military infrastructure.

Japan has undergone a dramatic change in defence policy over the past five years following China's military expansion, North Korean missile tests, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Tokyo has adopted a far more proactive security strategy. Recent developments include record defence budgets, acquisition of long-range counter-strike missiles, revised National Security Strategy, relaxation of defence export rules, and expansion of overseas military partnerships.

The planned India deployment of the F-2 fighter jets fits squarely within this broader transformation. Perhaps the most significant aspect of The Asahi Shimbun report is the explicit acknowledgement that the deployment is intended to "serve as a check on China". Japanese officials rarely describe military deployments in such direct strategic terms. Although India and Japan confront China in different theatres, both countries face pressure from Beijing.

India faces unresolved boundary disputes, military standoffs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), PLA infrastructure development

US Senate Passes Russia Sanctions Bill That Seeks 100% Tariffs On India, Four



Washington: The US Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve a bill to punish Russia and key buyers of its petroleum products, such as China and India, claiming that such trade helps fuel the Ukraine war. The bill, renamed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, was approved by the Senate by an 86-11 vote. It allows President Donald Trump to impose 100 per cent tariffs on goods from countries that are top five importers of Russian oil and gas. At present, China, India,

Azerbaijan, Hungary and Slovakia are top five importers of oil and gas from Russia.

In addition to Russia sanctions, the bill would extend till 2031 the expiration date of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, which penalises companies that invest in Iran's energy sector.

The bipartisan bill was championed by Republican senator Lindsey Graham, who passed away on July 11, and Democrat Richard Blumenthal. After Graham's sudden death following a trip to Kyiv, leaders across the aisle

moved with renewed vigour to ensure passage of the bill and honour the late Senator's legacy as an ally of Ukraine.

"This bill forces those primary countries keeping Russia's economy afloat to make a simple yet critical choice — a choice between doing business with America or buying cheap Russian energy," said Darline Graham, the late senator's sister who was appointed to his seat after his death.

It also seeks to impose sanctions on Russian leaders and officials, targeting Russian President

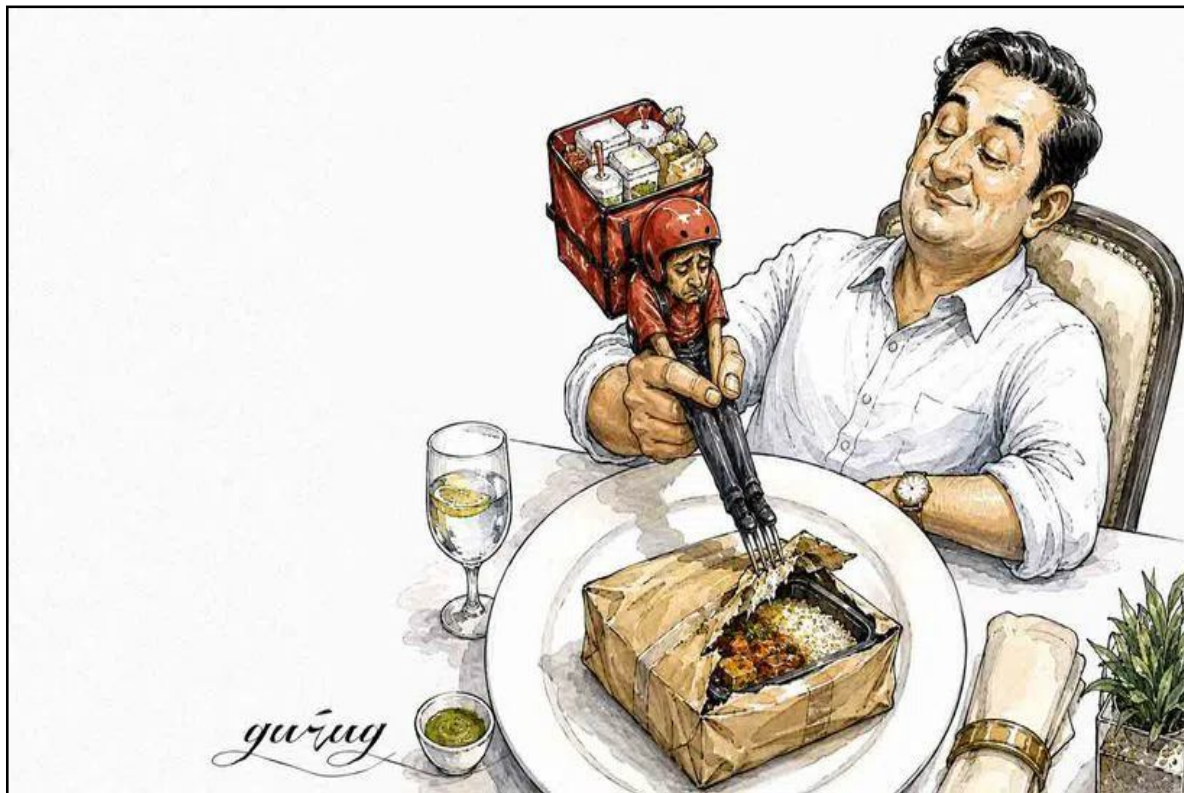
Vladimir Putin, oligarchs and financial institutions.

Following the vote, Senator Blumenthal told reporters that Graham would be "proud of what we've done". "These sledgehammer sanctions and tariffs will stop all who are complicit in this murderous, criminal war of aggression against brave free people," Blumenthal said.

Some Democrats have warned that the bill would give Trump new tariff powers at a time when he has put such levies at the centre of his trade policy.

The bill will now go to the House of Representatives for approval when it reconvenes on August 31. Democrat Congressmen Gregory Meeks and Don Beyer have criticised the legislation for creating "sweeping new tariff authorities that the president could weaponise with abandon, as he has repeatedly done in the past". "We welcome our Senate colleagues' urgent effort to support Ukraine and punish Russia for its continued illegal war, but this bill

On the clock, off the grid—the hidden health crisis of India's gig workers



On July 3, the Karnataka High Court declined to stay a law that promises the State's app-based workers something no employer ever has: a welfare fund. Yet, in the same order, the court directed platforms like Zomato, Swiggy, Blinkit and Zepto to deposit the disputed welfare fee because, months after the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act came into force, not a single scheme funded by that fee has been rolled out. While platforms and States argue over the paise per ride that needs to be collected, the workers whom the law is supposed to protect continue riding through city traffic across the country, economy. Millions of workers leave their homes every day to work as platform workers without proper, nutritious meals because of how the work is organised. Some skip meals to save time, while others fill up on the same ultra-processed food they spend all day delivering to customers. Skipping lunch to complete one more order is a nutritional deficiency in the akingWorkers and Malnutrition. The same worker can be underweight and micronutrient-deficient one year, and overweight with early signs of hypertension the next. This makes malnutrition a double-edged sword as it inflicts contradictory health consequences. According to the World Health Organisation, malnutrition is broadly defined as deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in energy and nutrient intake, encompassing overweight and obesity as well as hunger. The link between gig workers and malnutrition lies in how these platforms pay and organise labour. Delivery and ride-hailing apps largely pay workers per completed trip or order, not by the hour, while offering incentive slabs that reward finishing a set number of tasks within a shift. This structure turns every non-earning minute, including the few it takes to eat a proper meal, into a cost the worker absorbs personally. There are no

canteens, no mandated lunch breaks, and no HR policy nudging anyone to stay hydrated; there is only the next order ping-pong on the screen.

Under that pressure, workers reach for whatever food is the quickest and cheapest—a packet of biscuits, a sugary drink, a plate from a roadside stall—rather than what their bodies need for hours of physical exertion in the heat. The same economics that keep fares low and deliveries fast also keep a rider's stomach empty or filled with unhealthy food. No Marginal Problem This is not a arginal problem, because the workforce living through it is no longer small. According to NITI Aayog, there were 7.7 million gig workers in 2020-21. This number is projected to increase to 23.5 million by 2029-30, and 6.16 crore by 2047 (VV Giri National Labour Institute). Still, India's labour statistics (the latest being PLFS 2025-26) fail to capture these workers as a distinct category, leaving a growing segment of the workforce statistically invisible even as it becomes economically indispensable.

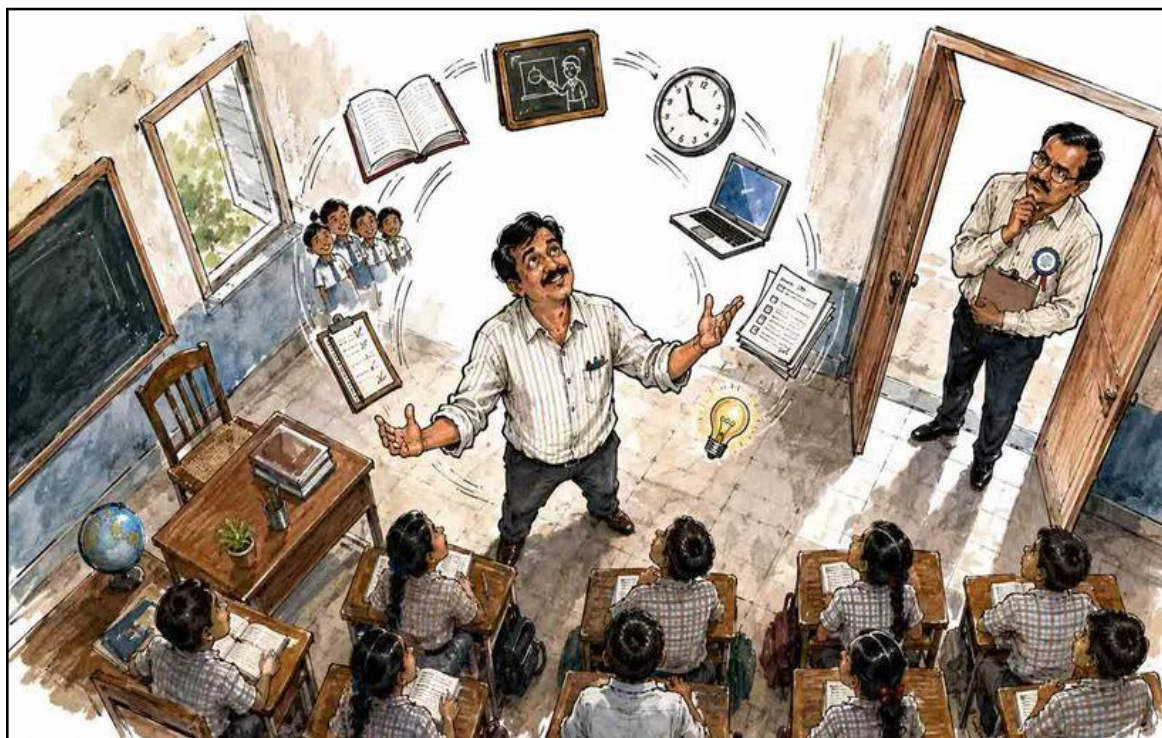
A workforce that will soon number in the tens of millions cannot be left to meet its nutritional needs on the margins of a punishing work schedule—feeding the people who feed the rest of us should not be this difficult. Since gig and platform workers remain statistically invisible, the clearest evidence of what piece-rate pressure does to the body comes from smaller field studies rather than official surveys. A 2024 survey of gig workers by the non-profit Janpahal found that a large majority worked more than eight hours a day, often stretching across meal-times with no fixed break. This clearly shows that gig work is no longer merely a 'gig' for these workers. Research has also documented high levels of anxiety, depression and burnout among food delivery workers due to long working hours. A separate survey of over 5,000 gig workers found that 99% of the respondents cited health

or mental health concerns linked to the job. A proper meal is the first casualty when pay depends on beating an app's countdown clock. Water comes next, as bathroom breaks cost valuable minutes that the algorithm rarely forgives. Extreme weather, particularly heat and rain, makes it even worse. A 2024 survey by the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union and Heat Watch found that 52% of workers had experienced heat exhaustion and 30% had shown symptoms of heatstroke during a single summer, with women reporting worsening menstrual health and infections linked to dehydration and the lack of clean toilets along their routes. The very industry that has normalised instant, on-demand, calorie-dense food for India's urban middle class runs on workers who themselves eat poorly, and often not at all, to deliver it. Public health researchers have already begun flagging the broader link between the explosive growth of food-delivery apps and rising obesity, diabetes, hypertension and other health concerns among customers.

The workers who make that convenience possible face the same risks, compounded by irregular incomes, exhausting hours and no employer to notice, let alone intervene. These risks cannot be offset by the nature of the job itself. Workers often do not earn enough to meet their household needs, have no minimum wage or meal breaks, are controlled by algorithms, are driven by incentive structures, and work overtime without any grievance redressal. Policy on Paper Policy has begun to catch up, but it has yet to address the root of the problem. Although the Code on Social Security, 2025, came into force in November 2025, it has not yet become operational because no central scheme has been notified for them. States such as Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Telangana have moved faster but are not receiving support from platform companies, as seen

in the case of Karnataka. The e-Shram portal and extension of Ayushman Bharat for gig workers are welcome initiatives. But none of them addresses the root causes, such as workers' employment status, algorithmic scheduling, and per-task pay, an incentive-driven structure that makes a rushed, unhealthy meal the rational choice. The welfare boards under this legislation largely remain on paper. Deliberate attempts are therefore needed to close this gap rather than leaving it to broader labour reforms. Aggregator platforms should be required to build genuine, paid meal breaks into algorithmic scheduling, rather than treating every idle minute as lost efficiency. The welfare boards being rolled out under State gig-worker Acts should incorporate basic nutritional counselling and subsidised, healthy meals. Further, welfare funding should not be directed solely towards social security measures such as pensions and accident insurance. A portion should also support workers' daily needs, such as shaded rest points with clean drinking water and toilets at delivery hubs, subsidised meal counters offering an actual balanced plate, and periodic health check-ups that detect anaemia, dehydration and metabolic diseases before they turn into emergencies. National surveys must also recognise gig and platform work as a distinct category so that policies are backed by evidence, not merely projections. Otherwise, we will continue to fix a crisis which has yet to be measured. India's gig economy has been sold to workers and consumers alike as a story of flexibility and opportunity. Less visibly, however, it is also a story of workers paying the price of that flexibility through skipped meals and poor nutrition. A workforce that will soon number in the tens of millions cannot be left to solve its nutritional needs on the margins of a punishing schedule. Feeding the people who feed the rest

A framework to assess teacher quality



The contemporary debate on the education landscape centres on students' learning achievement and the quality of education. Teacher quality is widely recognised as one of the most important school-based factors influencing students' academic achievement. Research has consistently demonstrated that teacher effectiveness not only affects students' academic outcomes but also has broader economic implications through its influence on the quality and productivity of the future workforce. Evidence from natural and quasi-experimental studies using value-added methods indicates that students taught by effective teachers achieve significantly better academic outcomes and experience substantial long-term benefits in adulthood, including higher educational attainment, improved employment prospects, and increased earnings. Furthermore, the 2024 Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), conducted by the OECD, emphasised the importance of effective teacher evaluation systems in enhancing teaching quality and improving student learning outcomes. Measuring Quality

Having recognised its importance, defining and measuring teacher quality remains challenging because it encompasses multiple dimensions, including subject knowledge, pedagogical skills, classroom management, and professionalism. Conceptually, teacher quality refers to the characteristics, competencies, and instructional practices of teachers that positively influence student learning and achievement. Over time, frameworks for assessing teacher quality have evolved from an emphasis on teachers' credentials to a greater focus on their effectiveness in promoting student learning. Traditionally, teacher quality was measured through observable qualifications such as academic degrees, certification status, professional training, and teaching experience. However, empirical evidence has shown that these credentials alone are often weak predictors of teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Consequently,

contemporary approaches increasingly emphasise measures that capture teachers' actual performance and their impact on student learning outcomes. Teacher Effectiveness

The conceptualisation and measurement of teacher quality have subsequently shifted towards teacher effectiveness, focusing on the knowledge, skills, and practices that directly influence student learning. Within this perspective, teacher quality is assessed in terms of teachers' subject-matter knowledge, pedagogical competence, classroom management, professionalism, and ability to address students' diverse learning needs.

These dimensions are closely linked to the quality of education as reflected in students' learning outcomes and academic achievement. Beyond subject-matter expertise, emphasis has been placed on pedagogical content knowledge (PCK), which refers to teachers' ability to transform subject knowledge into forms that are understandable and meaningful to learners. India, particularly

Telangana, must develop and implement comprehensive teacher quality assessment frameworks that capture the multiple dimensions of effective teaching and inform evidence-based educational policy and practice. Classroom observation has emerged as one of the most widely used methods for assessing teacher quality. Observation-based frameworks typically evaluate instructional quality, classroom management, student engagement, and teachers' professional conduct. Despite concerns regarding observer subjectivity and bias, classroom observation remains a valuable tool for evaluating teaching effectiveness. Research has further demonstrated that specific instructional practices, including effective feedback, formative assessment, the promotion of critical thinking, and classroom discussion, positively influence students' academic achievement. In this regard, student engagement is increasingly recognised as an important indicator of teaching effectiveness and teacher quality, as engaged students are more likely to participate actively in learning

and achieve better educational outcomes. Value-added Models

Student achievement measures have also become an important component of teacher quality assessment and teacher evaluation systems. In this context, value-added models (VAMs) have been widely used to assess teacher effectiveness by estimating teachers' contributions to students' academic achievement while controlling for prior performance and other background characteristics. VAMs provide a more objective measure of teacher effectiveness by focusing on student learning gains. Critics have raised methodological concerns regarding the reliability and validity of these models, arguing that student achievement is influenced by numerous factors beyond teachers' control, including students' socioeconomic backgrounds, prior learning experiences, family support, peer influences, and school contexts. Consequently, many scholars recommend that student achievement measures be used alongside other indicators of teacher quality rather than as a sole basis for evaluating teacher effectiveness. Research has also examined students' evaluations of teacher quality, particularly with respect to instructional quality, student engagement, communication, and overall classroom effectiveness. Student feedback is often considered a valuable source of information because it reflects learners' direct experiences of teaching and classroom interactions. However, caution is warranted when using student evaluations as indicators of teacher quality, as students' perceptions may be influenced by factors such as personal preferences, expectations, grading practices, and other subjective considerations. Another dimension that has gained increasing attention is teacher assessment literacy (TAL), which refers to teachers' knowledge of and ability to design, implement, interpret, and effectively use assessment processes to support and enhance student learning. As assessment plays a central role in the teaching-learning process, assessment literacy has become an important component of contemporary teacher

quality frameworks. Furthermore, Albert

Bandura's concept of self-efficacy, defined as teachers' beliefs in their capabilities to successfully organise and execute teaching tasks, has been identified as a significant determinant of teacher quality and effectiveness. Teachers with higher levels of self-efficacy are generally more confident in managing classrooms, engaging students, and implementing effective instructional strategies. The importance of continuous professional development has also been emphasised in contemporary frameworks of teacher quality. Recognised as a dynamic and ongoing process, professional development contributes to the enhancement of teachers' knowledge, skills, and instructional practices throughout their careers. In addition, the rapid advancement of digital technologies has led to the inclusion of digital competence as another important dimension of teacher quality, reflecting teachers' ability to effectively teaching and learning. Teacher leadership contributes to organisational learning, instructional improvement, and school effectiveness by enabling teachers to influence educational practices beyond their classrooms. Such leadership capacities can ultimately contribute to improved student learning and achievement. Overall, teacher quality is a multidimensional construct that cannot be adequately captured by focusing on any single dimension. Contemporary teacher quality assessment frameworks increasingly acknowledge this complexity and, therefore, employ multiple dimensions—including teacher knowledge, instructional practices, student outcomes, assessment literacy, self-efficacy, professional development, digital competence, and leadership—to evaluate teacher effectiveness comprehensively.

In this context, there is a need for India, and particularly Telangana, to consider developing and implementing comprehensive teacher quality assessment frameworks that reflect these diverse dimensions and support evidence-based educational policy and practice.

Ajinkya Rahane Returns As Marquee Player Days After Announcing Retirement



Only a few days after bidding adieu to international cricket, former India cricketer Ajinkya Rahane has joined the European T20 Premier League (ETPL). Amsterdam Flames announced his signing as a marquee player for the inaugural edition. The Netherlands-based franchise revealed Rahane's signing on Thursday, adding extensive international experience to the squad for the first edition. Rahane is widely respected for his calm temperament and leadership qualities. He has vast experience of featuring across more than 190 international matches. The 38-year-old drew the curtains on his career last week, putting an end

to a glorious international career. "The reality of life is that everything has a beginning, and everything has an end. When that time comes, you simply have to respect it and move forward. I always relied on timing in my batting, and I've always understood its importance," Rahane said in a video message on his Instagram account. "Today, I feel the timing is right for me to move on and announce my retirement from international cricket, and all formats," he added in the clip that was captioned 'Cap number 278, signing off'. Rahane is still remembered for leading the Men in Blue to a series win by 2-1 in the

Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2020-21. In that historic series, Rahane scored a century in the next Test after India faced a 36-all-out debacle in Adelaide. Sharing his view on joining the ETPL franchise, he said that Europe has the potential to become cricket's most promising frontier. "It's a great opportunity for me. When I announced my retirement... I think the same day this opportunity came up. I took a day to probably think through it. (Flames co-owner) Steve (Waugh), personally, called me I'm interested to play for his team," Rahane told PTI in an interview facilitated by ETPL. "The amount of experience I

have, the amount of cricket I have played for so many years with a certain attitude, certain mindset, I thought it's a great opportunity for me to go out there, probably create an impact. He also added that the league will help the growth of cricket on the continent. "See, if you see European teams, you see Ireland, you see Netherlands... and Ireland recently won the series against India. Netherlands, again, on and off, they've been doing really well," he stated. "I played many Cup games. The passion which they have for cricket is amazing; their hunger to learn, their hunger to get better as a team is amazing."

Amended MSME Act May Ease Payment Woes For Small Businesses

Payment problems faced by small businesses who are typically vendors to larger businesses or the government are set to ease once the changes to the MSME law cleared by Parliament come into effect. The Lok Sabha on Friday passed The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill 2026, without any debate, in the midst of an uproar raised by Opposition parties over other issues. The Bill had earlier been passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 3. It now needs Presidential assent and formal notification to become law. The amended law substantially rewrites the payment, dispute-resolution, registration and penalty mechanisms of the earlier 2006 Act, while keeping the underlying MSME classification structure – micro, small and medium based on specified investment and turnover limits – intact. However, unlike the specific limits under the earlier Act (Rs 1 crore investment cap and Rs 5 crore turnover cap for a firm to qualify as a micro enterprise), the limits will now be periodically notified by the



government. This eliminates the need for seeking amendments to the law every time the limits have to be changed. However, what small businesses will really be cheered by is the clear glide path laid out for payments and dispute resolution. While there is an existing provision that MSME dues need to be settled within 45 days, there was no compulsion attached to it, nor were there any penalties. The significant change for MSMEs supplying the government, central public sector enterprises and other notified public sector enterprises is that their invoices will now have to be mandatorily put on the TReDS platform operated by the

RBI. TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) is a digital platform offered by the RBI, where businesses can upload their invoices for supplies made to buyers. Once these invoices are certified by buyers as genuine – that is the goods have been received and that the bill will be paid when due – it is offered to banks and financiers, who buy it at a discount. The MSME supplier typically gets between 80-90 per cent of the invoice value immediately, while the bank which has bought the invoice collects the full amount from the buyer on the due date. With suppliers typically offering 45 to 60 days credit to buyers, the platform offers the option of

immediate liquidity to the supplier. Under the new law, with all PSUs and government having to go on TReDS, the payment delays faced by small business vendors is likely to ease considerably. The other big change is faster, time-bound dispute resolution. Earlier, the process was there but timelines were open ended. Now, there is a clear 90-day deadline for mediation and arbitration deadlines, a 30-day window for appeals, and a 60-day limit for disposal. Awards given under arbitration or mediation have also been given more legal backing, and can be treated as arrears of land revenue by authorities. Such awards are also to be considered

Glasgow 2026 CWG Medallist Narendra Sets Sights On Asian Games, Olympic Gold



Fresh from winning India's first Commonwealth Games boxing silver medal in the super heavyweight (over 90kg) category in years, boxer Narendra Berwal received a hero's welcome as he returned to his native Saurkhi village in Haryana's Hansi district. Villagers showered him with flower petals, garlanded him and took out a grand victory procession to celebrate his achievement. Speaking after his homecoming, Narendra described winning a medal for India as the proudest moment of his life, even as he vowed to turn the silver into gold at future international events. "I lost the final to a left-handed boxer from England, but my next target is to win gold for India at the Asian Games and the Olympics," he

said. Berwal also expressed pride at being among the medal winners who will be honoured by the Prime Minister on August 10. 'Silver Came After 16 Years of Sacrifice' Reflecting on his journey, Narendra said the Commonwealth silver at Glasgow was the result of 16 years of relentless hard work, discipline and sacrifice. "There is no shortcut to success," he said. Recalling his early struggles, Berwal said there were days when he had to cook for himself after gruelling training sessions. "Many times I was so exhausted that I survived only on juice or an almond shake and went to sleep without eating. My journey began in 2009 with a disciplined routine of milk, curd and halwa.

After completing matriculation, I devoted myself entirely to boxing and trained under coach Devraj at the Bhiwani Boxing Academy," he said. Appeal to Promote Rural Sports Narendra urged youngsters to embrace discipline and perseverance, saying success comes to athletes who combine hard work with proper sleep, a balanced diet and complete faith in their coaches. He also appealed to governments to strengthen sports infrastructure in villages. "If rural talent receives better facilities and support, many more international medal winners will emerge from our villages," he said. Army Career and International Success Narendra joined the Indian Army in 2013, where his performances

earned him promotion to the rank of Subedar. His impressive international medal haul includes silver medals at the 2012 Youth World Championship in the Philippines, the 2013 Youth Asian Championship in Armenia, and the 2015 Military World Games. He later won a bronze medal at the 2023 Asian Games before clinching gold at the European Cup six months later. Narendra's achievement has sparked celebrations across Saurkhi village and Hansi district, with his parents Jagdish Berwal and Roshni Devi expressing confidence that the boxer will soon fulfil his dream of winning gold at the Asian Games at Aichi-Nagoyan Japan from September 19 to October 4 and Los Angeles 2028

SBI Q1 Profit Rises 14 Pc To Rs 24,113 Cr On Better Core Income, Lower Provisions



State Bank of India on Friday reported a 13.73 per cent increase in its June quarter consolidated net profit at Rs 24,113 crore as core income improved and provisions declined. On a standalone basis, the bank's net profit grew 10.23 per cent on-year to Rs 21,121.22 crore as against Rs 19,160.44 crore in April-June 2025, as per an exchange filing. The bank's core net interest income rose nearly 15 per cent to Rs 46,992 crore on the back of a 18.63 per cent increase in gross advances, while the domestic net interest margin contracted to 3 per cent. The bank, however, was able to expand on the NIM when compared on-quarter, with the number widening by 0.07 per cent. Its non-interest income dropped 9 per cent at Rs 15,293 crore, largely because of

a 70 per cent drop in the forex or derivatives income. Its deposit growth came at 9.73 per cent and the share of the low-cost current and saving advances declined by 0.12 per cent on-year to 39.36 per cent. Speaking to reporters, Chairman C S Setty said the bank is targeting a credit growth of 14-15 per cent in FY27, and added that a current and saving deposit growth of 10-11 per cent should be able to fund it. The bank has mobilised USD 6 billion under the FCNR(B) window since the beginning of the scheme and should be able to take the number to up to USD 10 billion by the time the special window closes in September, Setty said. The fresh slippages came at Rs 7,046 crore, which was lower than the Rs 7,945 crore in the

year-ago period, but much higher than the Rs 5,521 crore in the March quarter. Gross non-performing assets ratio improved to 1.47 per cent as on June 30, from 1.49 per cent on March 31 this year and 1.83 per cent in the year-ago period. Advances remaining unpaid for between 31-89 days but not NPA increased to Rs 4,174 crore at the end of June from Rs 3,350 crore in March this year and saving ear. Its provisions for non-performing assets reduced to Rs 3,359 crore in June quarter from Rs 4,934 crore in the year-ago period, but were higher than Rs 3,140 crore in the quarter-ago period. A 70 per cent drop in the forex or derivatives income. Its deposit growth came at 9.73 per cent and the share of the low-cost current and saving advances declined by

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Operation Safed Sagar, The Last House, Idhayam Murali & More



lost home in Sargodha during the 1947 Partition. His grandson Nirvair (Diljit Dosanjh) pieces together this past love story to grant him peace. Operation Safed Sagar: The Highest Air Force Mission

Release Date: August 7
 Streaming On: Netflix
 Cast: Siddharth, Jimmy Shergill, Dia Mirza, Abhay Verma, Adil Hussain
 The Netflix series Operation Safed Sagar: The Highest Air Force Mission tells the true story of the Indian Air Force's brave Golden Arrows Squadron during the 1999 Kargil War. When Pakistani troops capture high mountain peaks, young pilots fly dangerous, high-altitude air strikes in extreme weather to help ground troops reclaim the snowy terrain. Idhayam Murali follows Idhaya (Atharva Murali), a shy man who gets cold feet before his wedding. While travelling, he meets a stranger (Fahadh Faasil) and recounts his lifelong struggles with unspoken, one-sided loves spanning school, college, and adulthood, ultimately finding the courage to face his past and each his bride. The Last House
 Release Date: August 7
 Streaming On: Netflix
 Cast: Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Vedang Raina, Sharvari
 Directed by Imtiaz Ali, Main Vaapas Aaunga follows a 95-year-old bedridden man, Ishar (played by Naseeruddin Shah), whose mind is trapped in memories of a tragic romance and his

: Looking for something new to watch this weekend? Several exciting movies and web series are arriving on OTT platforms on August 7 across Netflix, Prime Video, ZEE5, SonyLIV and JioHotstar. From Main Vaapas Aaunga and Operation Safed Sagar: The Highest Air

Force Mission to The Last House, Lenin and Vadhandhi: The Mystery of Mani Season 2, there's something for every kind of viewer. Here's a look at the biggest OTT releases of the week.
 Main Vaapas Aaunga
 Release Date: August 7

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 Cast: Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Vedang Raina, Sharvari
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Toxic Song Madhosh: Yash And Tara Sutaria Unveil A Softer Side Of Raya & Rebecca's Love Story



: The makers of the upcoming film Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups have released the film's second song, Madhosh, on Tuesday, July 21. It gives fans a glimpse into the love story of Rocking Star Yash's Raya and Tara Sutaria's Rebecca. The song arrives after the success of the film's first track, Tabaahi, which impressed audiences with its visuals and passionate romance. Unlike Tabaahi, which focused on the intensity of love, Madhosh explores the softer side of Raya and Rebecca's relationship. The song highlights their emotional bond, filled with love,

longing and feelings that remain unspoken. While Raya continues to be the strong and fearless man seen in the first song, Madhosh also reveals his caring and vulnerable side when he is with Rebecca. At the same time, the song hints that he is still carrying emotional struggles within him. Yash and Tara Sutaria share effortless chemistry throughout the track, which gives audiences a better understanding of their relationship before the film's release. Madhosh has been composed by Tanishk Bagchi, Arslan Nizami and Faheem Abdullah, while Siddharth Basrur

has lent his voice to all five language versions of the song. The track has been released as Madhosh in Hindi, Manamohaka in Kannada, Manas aagadhe in Telugu, Thad umaarudheyy in Tamil and MadhuMohini in Malayalam. Sharing his thoughts on the song, composer Tanishk Bagchi said, "Madhosh is in again, and it's even more special because it's for a film as massive as Toxic. We also had the pleasure of collaborating with the immensely talented

Siddharth Basrur, who brought so much depth to the song. The track beautifully captures the emotional journey of Raya and Rebecca's characters, expressing love, longing, and the playful ns incredibly close to our hearts since Arslan, Faheem and I have come together once again, and it's even more special because it's for a film as massive as Toxic. We also had the pleasure of collaborating with the immensely talented

Lokesh Kanagaraj's Acting Debut Opens Well, Earns Over Rs 1 Crore So Far



Filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj's first film as a lead actor, DC, has opened on a positive note at the box office. The action drama, co-starring Wamiqa Gabbi, has received good reviews from audiences, with many praising the performances of the lead pair. Despite its intense action and violent scenes, the film has managed to impress moviegoers. The positive word of mouth is now helping its box office performance on the opening day. DC Box Office Collection Day 1 According to live data shared by industry tracker Sacnilk, DC has collected Rs 1.65 crore net in India so far on its opening day. Out of this, the Tamil version has earned Rs 1.14 crore, while the Telugu version has collected Rs 0.51 crore.

The film's India gross collection currently stands at around Rs 1.95 crore. It is running in 1,601 shows across the country. However, these are not the final Day 1 figures, as the collections from the night shows are yet to be added. The total is expected to increase by the end of the day. Occupancy Rates
 The film has recorded an overall occupancy of 28.2% so far. The Tamil version has performed better with an occupancy of 32%, while the Telugu version has registered 23% occupancy. DC Plot In DC, Lokesh Kanagaraj plays Devadas, a man with a violent past who is forced to go on the run after a police officer is killed. While the police search for the killer, Devadas also gets caught in a separate

case. During this journey, he develops a complicated relationship with Chandra, played by Wamiqa Gabbi. Together, they face betrayal, violence and several life-threatening situations as they struggle to survive. The film is loosely inspired by the classic novel Devdas but presents the story in a dark, action-packed setting. DC Cast And Crew
 DC is directed by Arun Matheswaran, while Anirudh Ravichander has composed the music. The film is produced by Kalanithi Maran's Sun Pictures. Apart from Lokesh Kanagaraj and Wamiqa Gabbi, the film also features Sanjana Krishnamoorthy, Thal aivasal Vijay, Kasthuri Raja, Aadukalam Naren, Avinash Raghudevan, Balaji Deviprasad, Sharath Ravi, Jawahar and Pranav Teophine.

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Shilpa Shetty Denies Viral Reservation Post: 'Do Not Fall For This Fake News'



: Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty has strongly denied a viral social media post on caste-based reservation that was falsely attributed to her. The actor took to X (formerly Twitter) to clarify that she never made the statement and urged people not to believe or circulate the fake post. The controversy began after a screenshot, allegedly from Shilpa's Instagram account, started circulating widely on social media. The post contained comments on the reservation system, including the line, "You can't get skill through reservation." As the screenshot gained traction online, many users believed it to be genuine and began sharing it across platforms. Shilpa Shetty clears the air on viral reservation post

Shilpa Shetty clears the air on viral reservation post (Photo: Instagram)
 Putting an end to the speculation, Shilpa issued a clear statement on X. "I am shocked to see fake statements on reservation falsely attached to my name. This is completely fabricated, malicious garbage. Do not fall for this fake news!" she wrote. Her clarification quickly grabbed attention, with fans appreciating the actor for responding promptly and setting the record straight. Several social media users also appealed to others to verify information before sharing screenshots that could spread misinformation. The fake post had surfaced at a time when discussions around the reservation system were once again gaining momentum online.

As debates intensified, the fabricated screenshot was widely circulated, leading many to mistakenly believe that the actor had commented on the issue. However, Shilpa has made it clear that the statement has no connection with her. On the professional front, Shilpa was last seen in the Kannada action thriller KD: The Devil, directed by Prem. The film also featured Dhruva Sarja, Sanjay Dutt, V. Ravichandran, Ramesh Aravind, Jisshu Sengupta, Nora Fatehi and Reeshma Nanaiah. She is currently seen as the host of the cooking reality show Maa Hai Na, where celebrity contestants team up with a parent or an adult child to take part in cooking challenges and light-hearted entertainment segments.