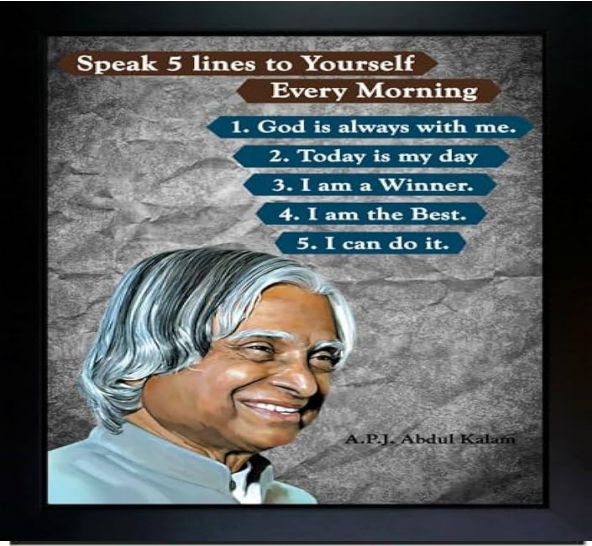
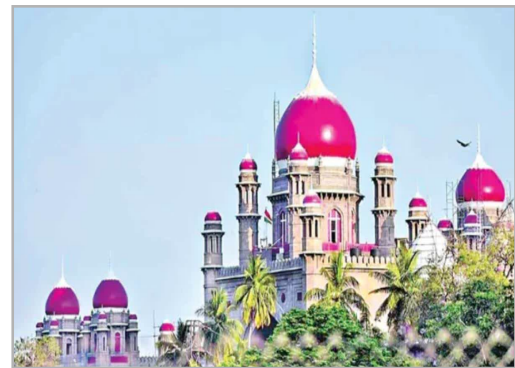




Telangana HC Stays 'Kalyana Lakshmi'



Hyderabad: Telangana High Court on Wednesday issued interim orders to stay the eight government orders (GOs) related to 'Kalyana Lakshmi' and 'Shadi Mubarak' schemes issued since 2014. It clarified that no payments should be made to the beneficiaries based on these

GOs. Advocate Vijay Gopal filed a petition in the high court in his personal capacity, challenging these GOs. After hearing the petitioner, Justice N V Shrivani Kumar said that the GOs issued for the implementation of these schemes are not constitutional. The petition challenged the

validity of these schemes introduced in 2014 to provide financial assistance to unmarried women belonging to SC, ST and minority communities. Later, the schemes were extended to Backward Classes and Economically Backward Classes. It claimed that the schemes are being implemented without any legal provision. There is no clarity on what basis the eligibility criteria, including income limit, were decided, the petition added. Spending huge amounts of government funds for the implementation of these schemes is unconstitutional.

Jagan Asks YSRC Legislators to Raise Public Issues in Assembly



Vijayawada: Former chief minister and YSRC president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed party legislators to raise issues of public interest and highlight the government's failures during the ensuing Assembly sessions. Addressing the YSRC legislative party members here on Wednesday, Jagan Mohan Reddy said

the government was unwilling to grant the Leader of the Opposition status to the YSRC, the principal opposition party, in an attempt to gag its voice. Jagan Mohan Reddy said he would raise issues through the media and called upon legislators to raise issues including fee reimbursement. Meanwhile, Jagan Mohan

Reddy announced Thumati Madhava Rao as the party's nominee for the vacant post of Deputy Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council and dirincluding fee reimbursement. Meanwhile, Jagan M eanwhile, Jagan ected party to extend their full to his candidature.

Rahul Gandhi Moves SC Against Allahabad HC Order in Asset Probe Case

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has moved the Supreme Court against orders passed by the Allahabad High Court in a case concerning allegations of disproportionate assets made against him by Karnataka-based BJP worker S Vignesh Shishir. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana to hear the plea on August 17. The High Court in May had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate to examine and verify the allegations and apprise it of the progress in the matter. Also Read - 16 Candidates Shortlisted For



Ayodhya Ram Mandir Trust CEO Post Gandhi has challenged the High Court's directions before the apex court, questioning the process initiated on the basis of Shishir's complaint alleging that he possessed assets beyond his known sources of income. He has also separately sought

transfer of the proceedings from the Allahabad High Court to the Delhi High Court. While considering the case on July 20, the High Court found the CBI's affidavit unsatisfactory and asked it to file a fresh affidavit detailing the status of its inquiry. The High Court had noted that the ED had taken the steps required of it and clarified that the agency would be at liberty to initiate appropriate legal proceedings if its investigation yielded any actionable information. The matter was thereafter listed for further hearing on August 20 by the High Court.

Naidu Inaugurates Seed Access Road, Bridge Connecting Amaravati

Amaravati: Marking a major development of providing better connectivity to Amaravati capital Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu today inaugurated Amaravati Seed Access Road and steel bridges connecting Vijayawada-Guntur old highway. With the inauguration of Seed access road connecting bridges, direct access to Amaravati capital city will turn more easier and comfortable for motorists. Later addressing a public meeting at the venue, the Chief Minister said Amaravati will be developed as world class capital following five principles including electric poles-



free city, blue city with abundant water bodies, green city with greenery everywhere, Green energy heads," he remarked. The

city and deep tech knowledge city with emerging quantum valley. Also Read - 2018 Andhra Group-I Exam Riddled with Irregularities: SIT P r o b e C h a n d r a b a b u Naidu said some people had mocked Amaravati's plans as mere "graphics", added that those designs were now becoming reality. "When the graphics are turning into reality, those who mocked them should bow their

Chief Minister said the government had planned development not only for Amaravati but also for all regions of the State through decentralised growth. He recalled the farmers' movement between 2019 and 2024, saying history would not forget their struggle and that he and his party had supported the farmers during the movement. He said water and soil had been brought from sacred rivers and important regions across the country and mixed in Amaravati as a symbol of blessings for the capital. He said Lord Venkateswara temple was constructed in Amaravati.

FIR Against 300 Unnamed People Over Assembly March

Ranchi: The police on Thursday registered an FIR against 300 unnamed people in connection with the August 10 march to the Jharkhand assembly over alleged recruitment examination irregularities in the state, a senior officer said. The case was registered for violating prohibitory orders, causing damage to government property and attacking police personnel. "An FIR has been lodged against 300 unknown miscreants at the Vidhan Sabha police station for disrupting the peaceful



march to the assembly on August 10," Ranchi SP Paras Rana told PTI. Also Read - Red Fort Attack 'Officially Attributed' to Al-Qaeda's AQIS: UNSC Report The process to identify these miscreants is underway through video footage, said DSP (Hatia), Neeraj Kumar. He said the case was lodged based on the complaint of a magistrate, who was

deployed near the Assembly during the students' march. "No detention or arrest was made in connection with the case. Video clips are being scanned to identify miscreants and take further action," Kumar added. Earlier, Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri and SP Rakesh Ranjan had said that the administration will analyse CCTV footage to identify miscreants who disrupted the "peaceful" students' protests on August 10.

Ramchander Rao Hails EC Clarification on FRC Use in SIR



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Thursday welcomed the EC's clarification that the FRC introduced by the state government cannot be used as identity proof during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls. He alleged that the Congress was attempting to facilitate the inclusion of "illegal aliens" in the electoral rolls through the Family Register Certificate. "Congress, BRS and MIM must at least now stop sheltering illegal vote banks Register and introand stop finding new ways to legitimise illegals," he claimed, in a post on X. Also Read - Woman

Alleges Harassment, Threats by Man after Engagement Called Off Election Commission authorities on Wednesday said the Telangana government's Family Register Certificate would not be accepted as identity proof during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls. A senior official told PTI that the EC had informed the office of the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer that the FRC would not be accepted as valid identity proof for the SIR. Last month, the state government constituted a statewide electronic Telangana Family Register and introduced a facility to obtain a Family Register Certificate

through the MeeSeva platform. It is a flagship e-governance initiative of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments. According to a government order, the FRC would not be accepted as valid identity proof for the SIR. Last month, the state government constituted a statewide electronic Telangana Family Register and introduced a facility to obtain a Family Register Certificate

BRS opposes Government decision to auction land near Durgam Cheruvu

Hyderabad: After failing to sell the lands in Hyderabad Central University due to stiff opposition from the student community and public, the Telangana Government has now set its eyes on a land parcel in the prime locality near Durgam Cheruvu. The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) has now decided to auction 10.63 acres of land at Panmaktha village in Raidurg. The land parcel is next to Durgam Cheruvu. This decision to auction the land is opposed by the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), which demanded that the auctions proposed to be held on August 17 and 21 be cancelled immediately. The BRS deputy floor leader and former minister T Harish Rao has come down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's decision to auction 10.63 acres of land at Panmaktha village in Raidurg. He charged the government with attempting to create third-party rights over disputed heritage land. He demanded that the proposed TGIIC auc-



tions on August 17 and 21 be withdrawn immediately. He warned prospective buyers that purchasing the land could lead to legal complications in the future. In an open letter to the Chief Minister on Thursday, Harish Rao said the land in Survey No. 83/1 had been identified as a heritage site under G.O.Ms.No.4. He questioned the government's decision to alleged ownership, heritage, Waqf and legal disputes. He pointed out that then TPCC president Revanth Reddy had approached the court in 2020 seeking protection for the same land. "How can you now allow an auction that creates third-party rights?" he asked, accusing Revanth of adopting different positions in

opposition and in power. He suspected it was another attempt to hand over valuable land to the Chief Minister's kith and kin. He slammed the Chief Minister over a series of attempts to auction and monetise lands at Kancha Gachibowli, Lagacherla, Maulana Azad National Urdu University and now Raidurg heritage land. The former Minister alleged that 6.2 acres in the same survey number had earlier been put up for auction at around Rs 237 crore an acre, prompting SBI to approach the court. He said the matter was currently before the High Court and questioned the move to auction another 10.63 acres from the same survey number, without any regard for the judiciary.

Mareshwaram DCP Reviews Crime Control Measures at Monthly Meeting

Hyderabad: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. The proverb aptly describes the situation of students in government colleges. While the Telangana Congress government has been making tall claims of promoting sports to produce international-level athletes, the ground reality is different. From government polytechnics and government junior colleges to government degree colleges, all the institutions are facing a severe shortage of physical directors. Of the 45 physical director posts sanctioned in government polytechnics, only three are working, leaving 42 vacant. Similarly, one out of three physical director posts is vacant. The situation is worst in government junior colleges. Only 10 out of the



total 332 sanctioned physical director posts are currently filled. As for government degree colleges, only 21 physical directors are working against the total sanctioned strength of 132 posts. Despite such a large number of vacancies, the State govern-

ment has not initiated any steps to fill them through direct recruitment. This lack of physical directors is hitting the students. The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education had earlier directed all colleges to mandatorily implement sports, Yoga,

and meditation classes regularly, and integrate them into their official timetable, with at least one class per week. However, the government junior colleges hardly have physical directors to conduct any physical activity among students. K Suresh, general secretary, Telangana Gazetted Junior Lecturers Association 475, says they have made several representations to the government seeking recruitment of physical directors, but there is no headway. "Due to a shortage of physical directors, we junior lecturers have been conducting physical activity sessions once every Saturday. But to nurture sports talent from a young age, the colleges need physical directors," he adds.

Telangana Govt, Foundit Ink MoU to Boost Youth Skilling, Jobs

Hyderabad: Telangana government, through Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) on Thursday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foundit, the jobs and talent platform, to strengthen employability, skilling, and access to career opportunities for youth across the state. TASK, a not-for-profit organisation established by the Telangana government, works to bring together government, industry, and academia to build a future-ready workforce. Its initiatives are focused on enhancing the employability quotient of youth by strengthening personal, technical, and organisational skills while supporting industry with quality talent and workforce development services. Also Read - Food Safety Raids Expose Hygiene Violations in Hyderabad The MoU establishes a strategic collaboration aimed at



improving employability, expanding access to career services, promoting industry-relevant upskilling, and enabling greater employment opportunities for students and job seekers registered within the TASK ecosystem. By combining TASK's extensive academic network with foundit's technology-enabled career solutions and labour market intelligence, the partnership seeks to create stronger pathways from education to employment. Also Read - 2 Held for Killing

Woman in Nagarkurnool K. Nitin Kumar Reddy, Chief Executive Officer, Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), said "Preparing our youth for the future of work requires more than building technical skills- it requires connecting them with the right career guidance, industry insights, and opportunities." "Our collaboration with foundit brings together TASK's strong academic network with foundit's technology-enabled career solutions and labour market intelli-

gence to create more meaningful pathways from education to employment. Through this partnership, we aim to empower students and job seekers across Telangana with the skills, confidence, and career resources they need to navigate an evolving job market and build successful, sustainable careers," he said. Also Read - YSRCP Names Madhava Rao for Council Deputy Chairman Post Tarun Sinha, Chief Executive Officer, foundit, commented, "Talent is one of India's greatest strengths, but unlocking its potential requires the right ecosystem. We are excited to work with the Government of Telangana and TASK to help young people build careers that are aligned with the needs of a rapidly evolving job market, while enabling employers to access , future-ready talent."

Food Safety Raids Expose Hygiene Violations in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The food safety teams from Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations conducted separate raids and found several hygiene and food safety deficiencies. The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) food safety officers conducted an inspection at Varnam near Genpact Lane, Hafeezpet to review food hygiene and safety practices. They observed water stagnation and food waste in drains, iron knives and no pallets in use, required medical, food testing, water testing and packaging records were unavailable. Also Read - Telangana Govt, Foundit Ink MoU to Boost Youth Skilling, Jobs Refrigerator was not properly cleaned or sorted, with water leakage observed, semi-prepared and prepared foods were not labeled and dust was noticed on the ceiling and greasy exhausts in addition to fungus on



cauliflower and spoiled cabbage and potatoes were not sorted. Meanwhile, the food safety officers of Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation carried out raids at Landmark restaurant in Ramanthapur Also Read - 2 Held for Killing Woman in Nagarkurnool They found that the FSSAI licence was not displayed at a prominent location, adequate lighting was not provided on the premises and walls and ceilings were found to be smoky and greasy.

The drainage system was not properly maintained, and cockroach traps were not provided. The food waste was not removed periodically, resulting in accumulation. The floor was slippery. The floor was slip-control records and documents were not maintained. The inspection highlights the importance of maintaining proper food hygiene, sanitation, pest control, waste management, and safe food storage practices. In a separate raid at Biotic Foods Private Limited in Uppal, the

officials noticed that the cold storage room used for ice cream was unhygienic. Freezers required proper defrosting and maintenance and ice-cream products were stored in an improper and unorganised manner. Also Read - Ugandan National Deported from Hyderabad for Overstaying Visa The raw pressery alphonso mango fruit drink was found with visible fungal growth and cobwebs were observed throughout the premises, indicating inadequate cleaning. Cleaning was not being carried out as per the prescribed schedule and the cold room floor was found to be slippery. Some products had leakage and dust accumulation on their outer packaging. Officials said separate notices will be served for the observed violations, with directions to rectify the deficiencies and improve food safety and hygiene practices.

H-CITI works: Over 30% of flyovers, underpass completed in Gachibowli

Hyderabad: Over 30 per cent of the civil works of three flyovers and an underpass at IIT Junction and Khajaguda junction in Gachibowli have been completed under Hyderabad City and Innovative Transformative (H-CITI) project in the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC). A senior CMC official told 'Telangana Today' that earth excavation works for the three flyovers and an underpass were almost completed and that pillar works were now progressing. There was some delay with the project due to land acquisition issues and permissions for traffic diversions apart from the monsoon, the official said, adding that the works at the site were now at a brisk pace.



The works have for last couple of months badly impacted the traffic movement and added to the hardships of the commuters. The CMC officials acknowledged this while citing deployment of heavy machinery and the transport of construction material

like iron, cement and soil. Nearly 40 per cent of the road stretches on the busy IIT and Khajaguda junctions remain affected by the project works. During peak hours, the traffic has been crawling, with vehicles stranded for an extended period of time

and commuting time getting stretched. Officials said they have widened the road stretches at bottlenecks to reduce commuter hardships and put up barricades at the work sites for safety. Wherever the pillar work is completed, engineering teams are adjusting the barricades to provide more road space to avoid traffic jams, the official said. CMC Commissioner, G Srijana, has announced a deadline of April 2027 for completion of all three flyovers and an underpass. H-CITI Works at a glance in CMC: Project components:

YSRCP Names Madhava Rao for Council Deputy Chairman Post

Tadepalli: YSRCP president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has announced Thumati Madhava Rao as the party's candidate for the vacant post of Deputy Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council. Jagan held a meeting with the party MLCs at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli and gave them directions regarding the election of the Deputy Chairman. He said the post of Deputy Chairman in the Legislative Council is currently vacant and the process to fill the post is expected to begin soon. In this context, the party has decided to propose the candidature of Thumati Madhava Rao. Also Read - Telangana Govt, Foundit Ink MoU to Boost Youth Skilling, Jobs Jagan asked all YSRCP MLCs to extend their full support to Madhava Rao's candidature. He directed them to



work in close coordination to ensure that the election process goes smoothly. He also asked every MLC to act responsibly in accordance with the party's decision and take all necessary steps in coordination for the election of Madhava Rao as Deputy Chairman. Meanwhile, YSRCP spokesperson and MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhara demanded the

resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh and a CBI probe into the DSC paper leaks, recruitment irregularities, and injustice to meritorious candidates. Also Read - Food Safety Raids Expose Hygiene Violations in Hyderabad He said the coalition government turned the District Selection Committee into a "Dining Selection Committee," distributing

jobs to those backed by TDP leaders while more than 32,000 complaints were received over 16,000 recruitments. He said a SCERT employee who secured first rank was denied counselling, while a viral video showed a person demanding Rs.15 lakh for a DSC job. The G.O. Nos. 4 and 47 were brought in to facilitate irregular appointments later withdrawn, he said.

YSRCP to Raise Panchadarla Mining Issue in Parliament

New Delhi: Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders declared that the illegal mining at Panchadarla in Anakapalli district will be raised in Parliament if the government fails to issue a permanent Government Order declaring the sacred hill a No-Mining Zone. Rajya Sabha MP Golla Baburao, Araku MP Gumma Thanuja Rani, former Minister Gudivada Amarnath, former MLA Karanam Dharmasri, and Anakapalli district president Boddeti Prasad met Union Ministers and submitted complaints on the mining issue before addressing the media. Also Read - Jagan Asks YSRC Legislators to Raise Public Issues in Assembly Rajya Sabha MP Golla Baburao stated that coalition leaders were exploiting natural resources and destroying hills and temple surroundings across the erstwhile Visakhapatnam district. He said, "YSRCP would take the issue to the



national level and raise the illegal mining in Parliament until Panchadarla receives permanent protection." Thanuja Rani stated that Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy and Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat were briefed on the situation and had assured that a Central team would examine the mining activity and action would be initiated based on its report within 10 days. Also Read - Naidu Inaugurates Seed Access Road, Bridge

Connecting Amaravati She said, "Official inquiries had found that mining and blasting vibrations were affecting the sacred water streams and that nearly two lakh tonnes of gravel had been extracted beyond the approved mining plan." Gudivada Amarnath demanded a CBI inquiry into the role of Anakapalli MP CM Ramesh, stating that responsibility could not end with the suspension of lower-level officials. He said, "penalties of nearly Rs 250 crore were

due under the rules for the illegal excavation and demanded Ramesh's resignation and a comprehensive probe," the press release stated. According to the press release, Karanam Dharmasri said the agitation would continue until a permanent No-Mining Zone GO was issued, while Boddeti Prasad said the movement that began in Panchadarla had now reached Delhi and would intensify until action was taken against those responsible.

Against Federal Principles: Kerala CM Says Will Oppose Mines and Minerals Amends

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Thursday said the state will strongly oppose the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill. Speaking to the media after a cabinet meeting, Satheesan said, "The recent amendment to the central law on mineral mining is against federal principles; Kerala will strongly oppose it." Parliament on Tuesday passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, which aims to liberalise further, modernise, and make India's mineral sector more dynamic, with a focus on critical and strategic minerals. The bill, which seeks to amend the original Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957,



was passed in the Lok Sabha on August 12. Rajya Sabha passed it by voice vote. About 19 members participated in the debate and shared some constructive suggestions.

Replying to the debate on the bill, Union Minister of

Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has taken revolutionary reforms in the coal and mine sector in the last ten years.

In critical minerals, the country is dependent on imports due to fewer

reserves in India. With demand for critical minerals expected to rise further, the government is focusing on enhancing domestic production and exploring overseas markets to secure the supplies, he added.

One of the key amendments in the bill is the renaming of the National Mineral Exploration Trust as the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust, and its scope has been expanded to fund exploration and development both domestically and internationally.

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

Mumbai: Search and rescue operations were underway for the second day on Thursday at the site of a landslide in Mumbai, where two people were still feared trapped under the debris, officials said. The landslide struck a row tenement located near a hillock in the Sakinaka area in the early hours of Wednesday following heavy rains, claiming seven lives and leaving seven others injured. Soil and boulders from the adjoining hillock fell on three shanties in Gaushiya Chawl in Ashok Nagar locality of Chirag Nagar. The deceased have been identified as Mohamad Samir Ansari (14), Sahil Husen Abdul Kazi (19), an unidentified person aged around 45, Aban Arif



Shaikh (2); Manat Arif Shaikh (4); Marjina Arif Shaikh (27), and Viket Ramesh Yadav (27). As per the officials, a couple of people were still

feared trapped in debris, but the rescue operation remained challenging due to the site's narrow access, which also restricted the use of heavy machinery.

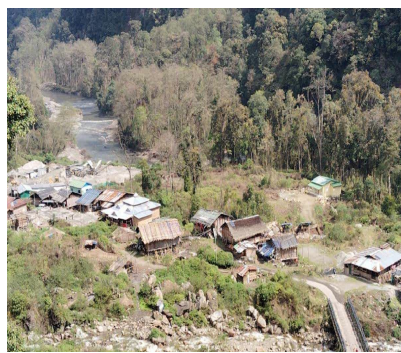
Teams comprising personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire brigade and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

(BMC) continued the search and rescue operation at the site for the second day, a civic official said. Residents of adjoining shanties have been evacuated, and the civic administration has made arrangements for their temporary accommodation. The BMC said it had been issuing warnings and conducting awareness drives in areas vulnerable to landslides and rockfalls, particularly during the monsoon. Meanwhile, Mumbai Mayor Ritu Twade has announced compensation of four lakh rupees for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to each person who sustained injuries in the Kurla incident. (With inputs from agencies).

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

Tezpur/Hyderabad: Government of India introduced the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) in April, 2023 with a target to make our border villages sound in infrastructure and strong from defence perspective. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the programme from remote Kibithoo village in Arunachal Pradesh way back in 2023 and then the second phase on 20 February in 2026 from a border village in Assam. The programme covers all areas located in Indian states bordering international neighbours. The VVP redefines remote frontier settlements by officially calling every border area "the first village of the country" instead of the "last village". Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced this paradigm shift to ensure that border communities receive priority development and are viewed as frontline centres of national pride and growth. The primary motive of the programme was to stop outward migration from the border villages by transforming

isolated areas into self-sustaining, prosperous centres by boosting local infrastructure and turning the frontier settlements into populated security assets. Historically treated as last villages, the areas suffered severe economic neglect leading families to abandon them, now by upgrading infrastructure and creating livelihoods, the government aims to keep those strategic communities/places thriving. However, from the ground of the border villages in Arunachal Pradesh, a contrasting picture is seen. ETV Bharat presents what the residents of border villages in Zemitang (Tawang district) and Limeking and Taksing (Upper Subansiri district) said over telephonic conversation and their preparations for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. Arunachal Pradesh shares a border of 1,080 to 1200 kilometres following the McMahon Line. The Chinese used to create controversies from time to time claiming parts of Arunachal Pradesh, calling it South Tibet as their own. Despite international dispute Indian



Government has been maintaining strong stand on Arunachal Pradesh and warning the Chinese side of no aggression. In Zemitang of Tawang district in western Arunachal Pradesh, roads, electricity, healthcare, clean drinking water, and welfare initiatives by the Army have brought visible changes to daily life. On the other hand, in the Limeking-Taksing region in the east of Upper Subansiri district, despite the presence of schools, community halls, and other government infrastructure, population has been steadily declining. Many youths have left in search of education and employment. Together, these two contrasting realities raise an

important question for border development — is building infrastructure alone enough to strengthen border villages or is employment equally necessary to retain people in their villages? Located very close to the India-China border, Zemitang is one of the most important border settlements in the country. The presence of the Indian Army and ITBP is an integral part of daily life here. According to village head 'Wangshu', travelling in the region used to be extremely difficult as people had to walk long distances, cross streams, and use unsafe bridges. "Earlier, even reaching the Army post was difficult. We had to walk, cross water bodies, and use risky bridges. Now vehicles can reach even remote points. Roads have improved and electricity has also reached the village," he said. According to him, there is a huge difference between the past and the present. Along with road and electricity connectivity, im-

provements in healthcare, drinking water, and other infrastructure have made daily life in this border village much easier, he said. In Zemitang, the role of the Indian Army is not limited to border security. Under the Gajaraj Corps' 'Operation Sadbhavana', several initiatives have been taken in healthcare, clean drinking water, livelihood support, and social development. The village head Wangshu said, the Army plays a crucial role in meeting the medical needs of local people. The ITBP also provides healthcare services and organises medical camps from time to time while providing veterinary services when required, he added. Another important aspect of Zemitang's development is tourism. The natural beauty of 'Gorsam Chorten', the Zemitang valley, and the local cultural heritage have created potential to attract tourists. Tourism has also opened new livelihood opportunities for local people. Home stays, food services, local products, and businesses linked to traditional are creating new sources of income for villagers.

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 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

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 Visva Vidyalaya 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.

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

From 5,585 Applicants To Three Finalists: Ayodhya Ram Mandir CEO Race Enters Final Stage

Ayodhya: The selection process for the first full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya has entered its final stage. The Search Committee has completed the last round of interviews of 16 short-listed candidates and will now pick three names and forward them to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra said in a statement late Wednesday. The Committee will now proceed with the evaluation of the final candidates and share the panel of three names with the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra in due course. The trust will make the final announcement, the statement added.

The interviews were conducted at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra campus in Ayodhya on August 11 and 12, it said. The Search Committee, comprising Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli, Lieutenant General (Retd.) VK Chaturvedi and nuclear scientist Dr Suresh Hawre, evaluated the candidates for the key institutional leadership position.

The decision to appoint a professional CEO comes amid recent row over donation embezzlement case which involved allegations of siphoned cash and mis-



managed offerings at Ram Mandir. At least eight people have been arrested in the case since June when the FIR was lodged. According to the committee, the selection process has involved multiple rounds of screening. A total of 5,585 applications were received initially, of which 3,877 candidates submitted detailed CVs. The applicants were assessed on parameters including management capabilities, experience in handling large-scale events and personnel, personal excellence, language proficiency, vision and strategic planning. In the second round, around 111 candidates were invited for online interactions after a detailed evaluation of submissions. Their communication skills, professional experience, vision, personality, leadership qualities and tech-

nological acumen were assessed. Following the online assessment, 16 candidates were selected for face-to-face interaction in Ayodhya. "The finalists included accomplished professionals from diverse backgrounds, including Army veterans, retired IAS and IPS officers and professionals from government and non-government services," the trust said in its statement. The committee said the final candidates were evaluated on management skills, leadership potential, personality, vision, strategic planning and technology expertise.

The committee said the entire process was aimed at ensuring a merit-based, transparent and comprehensive selection for the leadership of an institution of national and international significance. The CEO will be

appointed on a three-year contract, which may be renewed based on satisfactory performance. The salary and other benefits for the post will be decided through mutual discussion. Working under the direct supervision of the Trust, the CEO will head the management and oversee the Trust's administration and future development. The CEO will ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, maintain financial transparency, coordinate security arrangements with government agencies, supervise religious rituals and festivals, ensure the safety and convenience of devotees, manage arrangements for distinguished guests, and oversee the day-to-day functioning of the Trust in accordance with the powers delegated by the Trust.

CEC, US Envoy Discuss Closer Cooperation on Election Management, Training

New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and US Ambassador to India Sergio Goro on Wednesday discussed ways to deepen cooperation in election management and training of election officials, the poll watchdog said in a statement. Kumar, who is also Chairman of the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), met Goro at Nirvachan Sadan here. According to a statement by the poll body, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening democratic cooperation in line with the vision set out at the International Conference on Inclusive and Accessible Democratic Elections and Management (IIC-



DEM) 2026. They also agreed to work closely to deepen collaboration in election management and the training of election staff. The meeting comes as the ECI has been seeking greater engagement and exchange of best practices with election management bodies and

international institutions on strengthening election management capacity. International IDEA, an intergovernmental organisation that works to advance democracy worldwide, brings together member states and supports countries in developing and strengthening demo-

cratic institutions and electoral processes. The CEC's role as Chairman of the Council of Member States of International IDEA also provides a platform for India to engage with other member countries on issues concerning electoral democracy and election management.

2 US States Proclaim August 15 As 'India Independence Day'

New York: Two US states, New York and New Jersey, have proclaimed August 15 as "India Independence Day", recognising India's journey as an independent nation and the contributions of the Indian-American community. New York Governor Kathy Hochul issued a proclamation declaring August 15, 2026, as "India Independence Day" across the entire state, while New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill made a similar declaration; the Indian Consulate in New York posted on X on Tuesday. The proclamations come ahead of India's 80th Independence Day celebrations and highlight "India's journey of independence and the democratic values shared by India and the United States," the consulate New York and New Jersey, both neighbouring states, are home to some of the largest and most influential Indian-American communities in the United States, with Indian-origin resi-



dents making significant contributions across business, healthcare, technology, education and public service, according to the proclamations made by both. In New York, Hochul's proclamation recognised the Indian-American community's contributions to the state's cultural, economic and civic life. It also highlighted India's struggle against colonial rule and its commitment to self-determination, self-governance and democracy.

In New Jersey, Sherrill's proclamation described the state as home to one

of the "largest and most vibrant Indian-American communities in the US". It recognised their contributions across education, healthcare, research, technology, business, public service and community leadership. The Indian Consulate in New York expressed gratitude to both governors for the proclamations, saying they recognised the enduring India-US friendship and the significant contributions of Indian Americans to the two states. The proclamations are the latest recognition by the US state authorities

of India's Independence Day, which is celebrated by Indian-American communities across the country with cultural programmes, flag-hoisting ceremonies and community events. Earlier this month, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey also declared August 15 as India Day, recognising the contributions made by the Indian diaspora to the state. In a proclamation issued on August 1, Healey recognised the vital role played by community organisations in fostering civic engagement, cultural exchange and

Cauvery Water Dispute: CWMA Wrongly Approved Release Of 12000 Cusecs, Karnataka Tells SC



New Delhi: Opposing Tamil Nadu's plea, Karnataka told the Supreme Court that the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) erred in approving the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) directive to release 12,000 cusecs of water daily for 15 days, arguing that the 2026-27 water year has been a distress year due to the El Niño effect. The Karnataka government filed the response through senior advocate Mohan V Katarki and advocate Nishanth Patil to an application filed by Tamil Nadu. The response said that the Cauvery basin physiographically spread across the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry. "It is a seasonal basin depending on the performance of the South-West monsoon in Karnataka (June to September) and North-West monsoon in Tamil Nadu (August to January) and Puducherry", said the

The state government said this water year of 2026-27 has admittedly been a distress year so far, caused by the El Niño effect due to the rise in temperature in the Pacific Ocean. The resulting situation in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka, in terms of inflow into the four major reservoirs, has been lower by about 65.76% on July 28, it said. "However, the CWRC on 28.07.2026 recommended that the State of Karnataka should ensure flows at the rate of 3,500 cusecs per day at the inter-State border Biligundlu for a period of 15 days from 29.07.2026 to 12.08.2026," it said. "However, the State of Karnataka represented against the said recommendation to the CWMA, which by its decision dated 30.07.2026 upheld the recommendation of CWRC erroneously," said the Karnataka gov. The response added, "The hurried and premature decision of the CWRC, upheld by the CWMA, fortunately has

worked out. The State of Karnataka has been able to ensure water from its Kabini reservoir due to large inflows in the reservoir due to the good rainfall in the Wayanad area above the Kabini catchment, which lies in the State of Kerala." The state government also brought on record data showing that releases from the KRS and Kabini reservoirs have already been reflected at the inter-State border at The state said that from 29.07.2026 to 10.08.2026, Karnataka has released 1,64,080 cusecs from its reservoirs, and after a time lag of two days, the flows have reached the inter-State border Biligundlu, as measured by the Central Water Commission gauge. "On 04.08.2026, 05.08.2026, 06.08.2026, 07.08.2026, 08.08.2026, 09.08.2026 and 10.08.2026 the flows of 13,850 cusecs, 19,097 cusecs, 19,393 cusecs, 11,924 cusecs, 6,560 cusecs, 5,976 cusecs and 7,942 cusecs have been measured at the said gauge station respectively," it said. The state said that, in total, from 29.07.2026 to 10.08.2026, Karnataka has ensured 86,797 cusecs at the inter-State border Biligundlu, as against 45,500 cusecs expected to be ensured as per the recommendation of CWRC upheld by the CWMA. Hence, the decision of the CWMA has been undoubtedly

complied with, it added. It said that Tamil Nadu unilaterally calculated distress from 01.06.2026 to 12.08.2026, claiming 26,954 TMC. Based on the unilateral and erroneous calculations, Tamil Nadu, by applying a factor of 46.34% to the inflows of four major reservoirs of the state of Karnataka in the Cauvery basin, has calculated its share of water to be ensured at the inter-State border, Biligundlu, it added. "However, this ignores that the catchment up to these four reservoirs constitutes only 15.72% of the total Cauvery basin catchment or 34.79% of the catchment of the Cauvery basin up to the inter-State border, Biligundlu. No directions can be issued by this court on the wholly erroneous and unilateral determination by the State of Tamil Nadu," said the state's response. The state said the CWRC has recorded that the deficit in the cumulative inflows received in the 4 designated reservoirs in the state of Karnataka, a realized at Biligundlu and giving due cognizance to the more challenging period ahead due to worsening El Niño of the Tamil Nadu government and others, including the DMK, seeking directions to the Karnataka government to immediately release Cauvery to it will be taken for hearing on August 17.

Ex-Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, Architect Of Growth, Dies Of Illness At 97

Beijing: Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji has died, according to state media. The impatient, sharp-tongued reformer helped ignite China's explosive economic boom by forcing wrenching change on state industry in the 1990s and leading the country into the World Trade Organization.

The official Xinhua news agency reported that Zhu died of illness in Beijing at around 11 a.m. on Wednesday. He was 97 years old. Once sent into rural exile to do manual labor for praising reforms in other communist countries, Zhu pushed through a dizzying array of changes as premier, China's top economic post, from 1998 to 2003. Zhu clashed with Communist Party conservatives and state industry bosses as he pushed state-owned companies to become efficient and profitable. That cost millions of layoffs, but helped propel China to overtake Japan as the second-largest economy behind the United States in 2010. Building on former leader Deng Xiaoping's 1979 reforms, Zhu is credited with supplying



the resourcefulness and tenacity to push through history-making changes such as China's WTO membership, which helped to transform China into the world's biggest exporter. Those changes helped to keep economic growth above 8% a year from 2000-2010, peaking at 14.2% in 2007. Named premier in 1998 at age 69, Zhu became a popular figure by criticizing official bungling and graft and accepting blame when the government fell short. His demanding style earned him the nicknames Boss and Zhu Fengzi, or Madman Zhu. "I have prepared 100 coffins here — 99 for corrupt officials and one for myself," Zhu said in 1998, according to the

party newspaper People's Daily. Zhu ranked No. 3 in the party hierarchy behind President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, chairman of the ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress. But he was a technician without his own power base. Zhu complained that allowed officials to ignore his orders. Zhu made his name as a deputy premier in the 1990s by crushing inflation. He enforced price controls and cut off loans to money-losing state companies, rebuffing resistance by local leaders — a pattern Zhu would repeat as he fought conservatives over the pace of reform. Zhu led efforts to secure WTO membership following marathon negoti-

ations that began in the 1980s. That status would enshrine free trade as a national commitment, giving Zhu a tool to force local officials to stop protecting favored companies. Zhu's campaign was nearly derailed when he went to Washington in 1999 with market-opening concessions to win U.S. endorsement of the WTO bid. The Clinton administration rejected the offer as inadequate while his political enemies at home accused him of offering too much, but Zhu survived and China went on to join the body in December 2001. Zhu launched China's home ownership boom in 1998 with an initiative to sell apartments owned by state companies. Families rushed to buy, and within a decade the majority of urban housing was privately owned. Still, Zhu was less an advocate of free enterprise than a skilled bureaucrat who carried out party orders to whip state industry into shape. Zhu showed no interest in privatizing the economy. He played a key role in drafting plans in the 1990s to turn banks, airlines, oil companies and

Death Toll Rises To 44 After An Overloaded Ferry Capsized On A Zimbabwe Lake

Harare: The death toll has risen to 44 a day after an overloaded ferry capsized on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe, police said. Police said on X that the bodies had been retrieved from the lake that forms part of the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. But police did not update how many people were injured or missing after Tuesday's disaster involving a ferry operated by a government agency. The ferry capsized while carrying at least 114 adult passengers and five crew members, according to Zimbabwe's disaster management agency. The agency said Tuesday that 77 people had been rescued. It was not clear how many people were on the ferry because the figures only included those who bought tickets, and children below ticketing age could have been on board. State broadcaster ZBC reported that children were among the dead, though authorities didn't immediately give those details. The ferry had a carrying

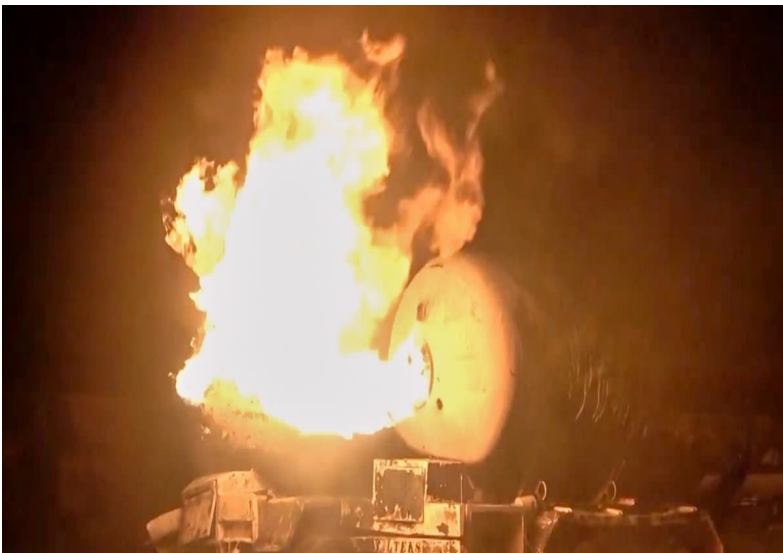


capacity of 90 people, according to authorities. It is used to take people from rural communities around the lake to the town of Kariba on the shore. Mutema Murombedzi, a local member of Parliament, posted a video Tuesday of what she said were people on shore waving at the ferry when it started its journey. Some of the people were expressing concern whether the aging ferry could handle strong waves, according to the video. Kariba is the

largest man-made lake in the world by volume and was created in the late 1950s and early 1960s by building a dam on the Zambezi River. The huge lake is now more than 200 kilometers (124 miles) long and up to 40 kilometers according to authorities. It is used to take people from rural communities around the lake to the town of Kariba on the shore. Mutema Murombedzi, a local member of Parliament, posted a video Tuesday

of what she said were people on shore waving at the ferry when it started its journey. Some of the people were expressing concern whether the aging ferry could handle strong waves, according to the video. Kariba is the largest man-made lake in the world by volume and was created in the late 1950s and early 1960s by building a dam on the meters (25 miles) wide in places. The official border between Zimbabwe and Zambia is in the middle of it.

US Strikes Targeting Houthis Killed 153 Civilians in Yemen Last Year, Pentagon Review Says



Washington: U.S. airstrikes targeting Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen last year killed more than 150 civilians, according to a Pentagon review of the attacks, which comes as concerns rise over civilian casualties during military campaigns under the Trump administration.

The unclassified assessment, obtained by The Associated Press, was sent to Congress as part of an annual report on civilian casualties and reported earlier by NBC News. A Pentagon official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the department will submit the report in the coming months but had nothing more to announce. Civilian casualties from U.S. military operations have drawn concerns, including from lawmakers in Congress, after a U.S. missile struck an Iranian primary school in the opening days of this year's war, killing up to 168 people. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is said to have slashed the size of an office focused on reducing civilian harm, the AP has reported.

The Pentagon review focused on three airstrikes in April 2025 that were launched during the U.S. campaign against the Houthis. The militants were attacking commercial ships in the Red Sea, a

crucial global trade route that leads to the Suez Canal and into the Mediterranean, as well as Israel. Those strikes targeted hostile forces in or near Yemen's rebel-held capital city of Sanaa as well as the Ras Isa port, the report said. A total of 153 civilians were killed and 243 were injured.

The strike on the port was the most deadly, killing 80 people and injuring 171 others. It sent massive fireballs billowing skyward and turned tanker trucks into burning wrecks. The Houthis aired graphic footage of the aftermath on their al-Masirah satellite news channel, showing corpses strewn about the port.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, said at the time that the "strike was not intended to harm the people of Yemen."

"U.S. forces took action to eliminate this source of fuel for the Iran-backed Houthi terrorists and deprive them of illegal revenue that has funded Houthi efforts to terrorize the entire region for over 10 years," U.S. Central Command said in its statement in April 2025. The command determined that the three strikes "more likely than not" resulted in civilian harm, the review said. The information was based on U.S. intelligence sources, imagery and open-source

reporting.

It was determined that condolence payments were not appropriate for the three strikes, according to the Pentagon's review, which did not explain why that was the case. Such payments may be one of several responses when U.S. military operations injure or kill a civilian, the review stated, adding that they're not required by law and not an admission of wrongdoing. Such payments are not unheard of. Following an errant drone strike in Afghanistan that killed 10 people, seven of them children, in 2021, the Pentagon said it was committed to offering condolence payments to relatives. The U.S. military first launched attacks against the Houthis in 2023, during the Biden administration, after the militants started launching drones and missiles at commercial ships in the Red Sea. The Houthis said the attacks were aimed at stopping Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and supporting the Palestinians, though they occurred as the Houthis tried to strengthen their position in Yemen. The U.S.-led campaign against the Houthi rebels turned into the most intense running sea battle the Navy had faced since World War II, U.S. military leaders and experts told the AP in 2024. American fighter jets and Navy destroyers shot down Houthi drones and missiles that were launched at commercial vessels and U.S. warships. The Houthis now are carrying out a growing number of strikes against government forces in Yemen and oil facilities in neighboring Sanot" resulted in civilian harm, the review said. The information was based on U.S. intelligence sources, imagery and open-source udi Arabia, which supports the Yemeni government, and the kingdom's shipping in the Red Sea. Fears are growing that the renewed violence could reignite Yemen's civil war following a 2022 truce and open a new front in the Middle East war.

Washington: President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he slipped away from Air Force One after a trip last month in Turkey because the Secret Service and military wanted him on a "different plane" due to a threat that he insisted didn't scare him. Trump downplayed the extraordinary nature of the subterfuge involved in his flight, which saw him stow away in an airport catering container to sneak onto another plane while Air Force One was sent into the sky, essentially



as a decoy. He also downplayed the risk to the people — White House officials, security and support staff, and reporters — he left on the plane. "They wanted me to go on a different flight, different plane," Trump told reporters

after returning from an event in Ohio, saying he had little choice in the matter. "I guess there was a threat out there. I didn't really ask too much about it," he said. "I get a lot of threats."

His comments confirmed a report that first appeared in The Washington Post saying that Trump, following a NATO summit last month, was spirited onto a different plane because of a credible threat from Iran. The action was kept secret for weeks,

until the newspaper's story. "I think actually the plane that I flew on was at greater risk," Trump said Tuesday, who did not provide many details about the action. But he said the incident did not scare him. "I don't worry about anything, to be honest," Trump said. "Whatever it is. You know my attitude? Whatever!" Presidents often take secret trips — but not like this. Commanders in chief have sometimes kept overseas trips covert for security reasons, with

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

Mecca pact and the remaking of West Asia's security order



The defence agreement signed in Mecca on August 7 by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye is significant not because it creates an entirely new strategic alignment, but because it reveals how the security architecture of West Asia is changing.

ny one of them will be regarded as an attack on all. They have also committed to expanding defence cooperation, including joint exercises, personnel training, defensive capability development and defence-industry cooperation. No detailed text of the agreement has been made public. Its timing, therefore, may be more revealing than its undisclosed provisions.

Riyadh Angle The pact comes as the Iran war enters its sixth month, amid missile and drone attacks and strikes by Iran-aligned groups that have exposed vulnerabilities across the Gulf and disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. For Riyadh, the question is no longer simply whether the United States remains the principal external security provider. It is whether Saudi Arabia can afford to depend on a single security guarantor when the costs of uncertainty are so high. The Mecca pact suggests that Riyadh is seeking layers of deterrence rather than relying on one umbrella.

This process predates the latest agreement. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a mutual defence agreement in September 2025. The Mecca pact now brings Türkiye into a framework that draws upon the three countries' distinct capabilities. It is therefore best understood as an attempt by Riyadh to diversify its strategic options while leveraging the military strengths of Pakistan and Complementarity

The complementarity is striking. Türkiye brings extensive NATO experience, one of the alliance's largest militaries and a growing indigenous defence industry, including Bayraktar drones and naval platforms. Pakistan brings a battle-hardened military, considerable intelligence capabilities and, unique-

ly among Muslim-majority states, an established nuclear arsenal. Its nuclear capability gives Pakistan a strategic weight that neither of the other partners possesses. Pakistani military personnel are also already deployed in Saudi Arabia, alongside fighter aircraft, drones and air-defence assets. Saudi Arabia contributes what the other two lack: financial resources, strategic geography and considerable political influence derived from its position in the Muslim world and its longstanding relationships with both Pakistan and Türkiye.

For India, the response should not be to join another camp, but to preserve strategic flexibility, deepen Gulf partnerships and strengthen indigenous defence capabilities

The presence of Pakistan's Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, at the signing was itself a significant signal. Yet the governments involved have been careful to deny that the agreement constitutes a military axis, a sectarian bloc or a nuclear arrangement directed against any particular country. Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan invoked Article 51 of the UN Charter, which recognises the right of individual and collective self-defence. These qualifications matter. There is insufficient evidence to describe the arrangement as an "Islamic NATO", and the agreement does not identify Iran or Israel as a Central Purpose

But collective defence arrangements cannot be understood only through their disclaimers. Their central purpose is deterrence: to convince a potential aggressor that an attack on one member will incur a response from the others. In the present regional environment, that logic inevitably has implications for Iran, Israel and other regional actors, even when none is named. The pact's strategic meaning, therefore, lies less in the identity of a declared enemy than in the message that the three countries intend to

develop additional sources of security.

For Riyadh, this amounts to strategic insurance. The Iran war and the vulnerability of Gulf infrastructure and energy routes have reinforced the case for a more diversified security architecture. Tehran has argued that an agreement with Türkiye and Pakistan cannot provide the security that decades of dependence on Washington failed to deliver. The argument is clearly self-serving, but it points to a broader reality: Gulf states are increasingly interested in multiple sources of deterrence and strategic reassurance.

For Washington, there is an additional benefit. Greater regional burden-sharing could allow local powers to assume responsibilities that the United States may to carry alone.

The more difficult question is whether the three countries can translate their complementary capabilities into durable collective security. Their threat perceptions are not identical, nor are their strategic priorities. The Baghdad Pact provides an imperfect historical parallel. Established in 1955 with British and American backing, it brought together Türkiye, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan around a security framework aimed principally at containing Soviet influence. Divergent interests and regional opposition weakened the arrangement, and the 1958 Iraqi revolution led to Iraq's withdrawal.

levant lesson is not that the Mecca pact will meet the same fate, but that defence partnerships become fragile when members disagree over the threats they face and the circumstances in which they are prepared to act. Implications for India

For India, this distinction is important. Pakistan is likely to emerge as one of the principal beneficiaries of the new arrangement, gaining greater strategic relevance and potentially deeper access to Turkish defence capabilities. Ankara's growing convergence with Islamabad, therefore, deserves close monitor-

ing.

Yet it would be a mistake to assume that Saudi Arabia's new security partnership automatically translates into an anti-India alignment. Riyadh has invested substantially in its relationship with New Delhi across energy, investment, technology and security. Its engagement with India has also demonstrated that closer ties with Pakistan need not determine the entire trajectory of Saudi-India relations.

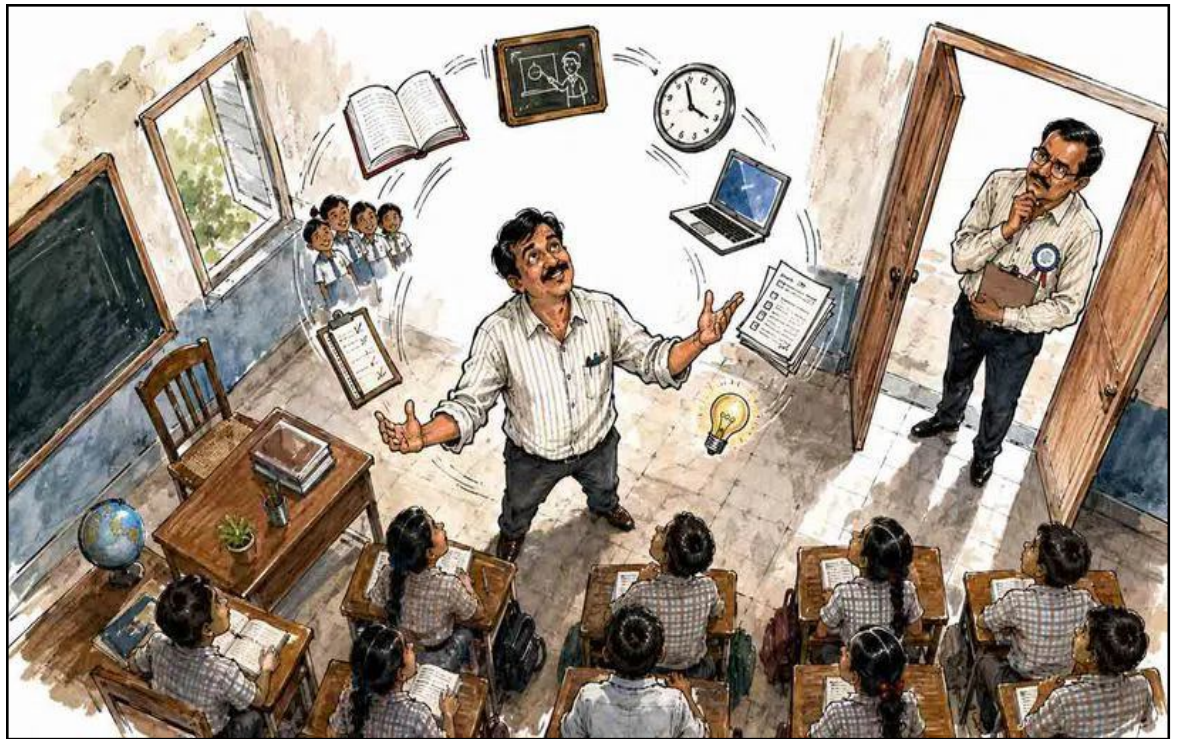
India should consequently avoid viewing the Mecca pact through a binary lens. Its interest lies in deepening its strategic relationship with Riyadh while ensuring that Pakistan-related disputes do not acquire greater space in the Gulf.

New Delhi should continue engaging Ankara even as it accounts for Türkiye's growing strategic convergence with Islamabad. The changing military environment also underlines the importance of accelerating indigenous capabilities in counter-UAS systems, electronic warfare, drone defence and integrated air defence.

The larger significance of the Mecca pact is, therefore, not that a new bloc has suddenly emerged. It is that West Asia is moving towards a more distributed security order in which regional powers are seeking greater responsibility for their own deterrence while retaining multiple external partnerships.

For India, the response should not be to join another camp, but to preserve the strategic flexibility that has enabled it to maintain productive relationships with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Israel, Iran and Oman. In a region where old security certainties are giving way to deeper access to Turkish defence capabilities, Ankara's growing convergence with Islamabad, therefore, layered and transactional arrangements, India's influence will increasingly depend on the strength of both its partnerships and its strategic capabilities.

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. ership also matters. 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.

IND vs SL: Dickwella, Madushanka Return After Three Years As Sri Lanka Unveil Squad For First Test



Just three days before the start of the Test series against India, Sri Lanka have announced a 16-member squad for the series opener. Dhananjaya de Silva will lead the team while Kamindu Mendis has been appointed as his deputy. The unveiled squad marks the return of Dilshan Madushanka and Niroshan Dickwella to the Test squad. Keshara Nuwantha has earned a maiden call-up while key batters Kusal Mendis and Pathum Nissanka are missing from the squad. Two players return after three years. Two players in the form of Dilshan Madushanka and Niroshan Dickwella

have returned to the red-ball team. Dickwella, who has experience of 54 Test matches, played his last match in 2023 against New Zealand. Madushanka, who has played only one Test match, which came in 2023, has also been called back into the team. His last appearance came against Pakistan in red-ball cricket, and Nissanka ruled out due to injury, pletely the pace attack. The first Test against India will start on August 15, while the Kusal Mendis is yet to recover from a right during a Lanka Premier League (LPL) match. Pathum Nissanka underwent wrist surgery last

month and is still recovering from it. Keshara Nuwantha gets maiden call-up. The off-spin bowling all-rounder has been included in the squad for the first time after taking three wickets in the warm-up fixture. Sri Lanka's spin unit will be spearheaded by Prabhath Jayasuriya. Ramesh Mendis and Nuwantha will join forces with him in the spin unit. The fast bowling attack will be spearheaded by Asitha Fernando, while Prabhath Jayasuriya, Keshara Nuwantha, Milan Rathnayake, Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka will complete the pace attack. The first Test against

India will start on August 15, while the second Test will be played from August 23-27 at the SSC.

Sri Lanka squad for first Test

Dhananjaya de Silva (captain), Kamindu Mendis (vice-captain), Lahiru Udara, Nishan Madushanka, Dinesh Chandimal, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Sonal Dinusha, Niroshan Dickwell (wicketkeeper), Ramesh Mendis, Prabhath Jayasuriya, Kespelte the pace attack.

The first Test against India will start on August 15, while the arena will be the Arjuna Cricket Ground, Nuwantha, Milan Rathnayake, Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka.

IND vs SL: Ajinkya Rahane Returns For India vs Sri Lanka Test Series In New Role



Just a few days after taking retirement, the former Indian cricketer is set to return to the sport for the Test series against Sri Lanka. However, he will make his comeback in a new role. The 38-year-old will begin his journey as a commentator with the two-match Test series between India and Sri Lanka. Speaking on his upcoming commentary stint, Rahane expressed his excitement of taking over the new role.

"I'm excited to make my Test commentary debut for India's tour of Sri Lanka on the Sony Sports Network and Sony LIV. Test cricket is the pinnacle of our sport, and having represented India in the format for so many years, it is a privilege to now look at the game from a different perspective," Rahane said in a press release as quoted by PTI.

"I'm looking forward to sharing experiences, breaking down the

nuances of the game and offering fans insights into the decisions, strategies and moments that can shape a Test match." Rahane announced his retirement a few days back while taking on social media. "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, 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! The Indian crick-

team is touring Sri Lanka this month for a two-match Test series. The first Test between the two teams will be played at the Galle International Cricket Stadium on August 15. This will be followed by the second Test in Colombo on August 23. Both teams are gearing up for the series, which will be a part of the World Test Championship. Former Indian captain Ajinkya Rahane will also start a new chapter in the series. Rahane has played 85 Tests for India, scoring 5,077 runs with 12 centuries and 26 half-centuries. Rahane, who also captained the Indian Test team, created history by winning the Test series 2-1 on Australian soil. He has led the Indian team in 6 Tests, winning 4 and

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, whatsmall 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 MSMEs 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.TrReDS (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

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

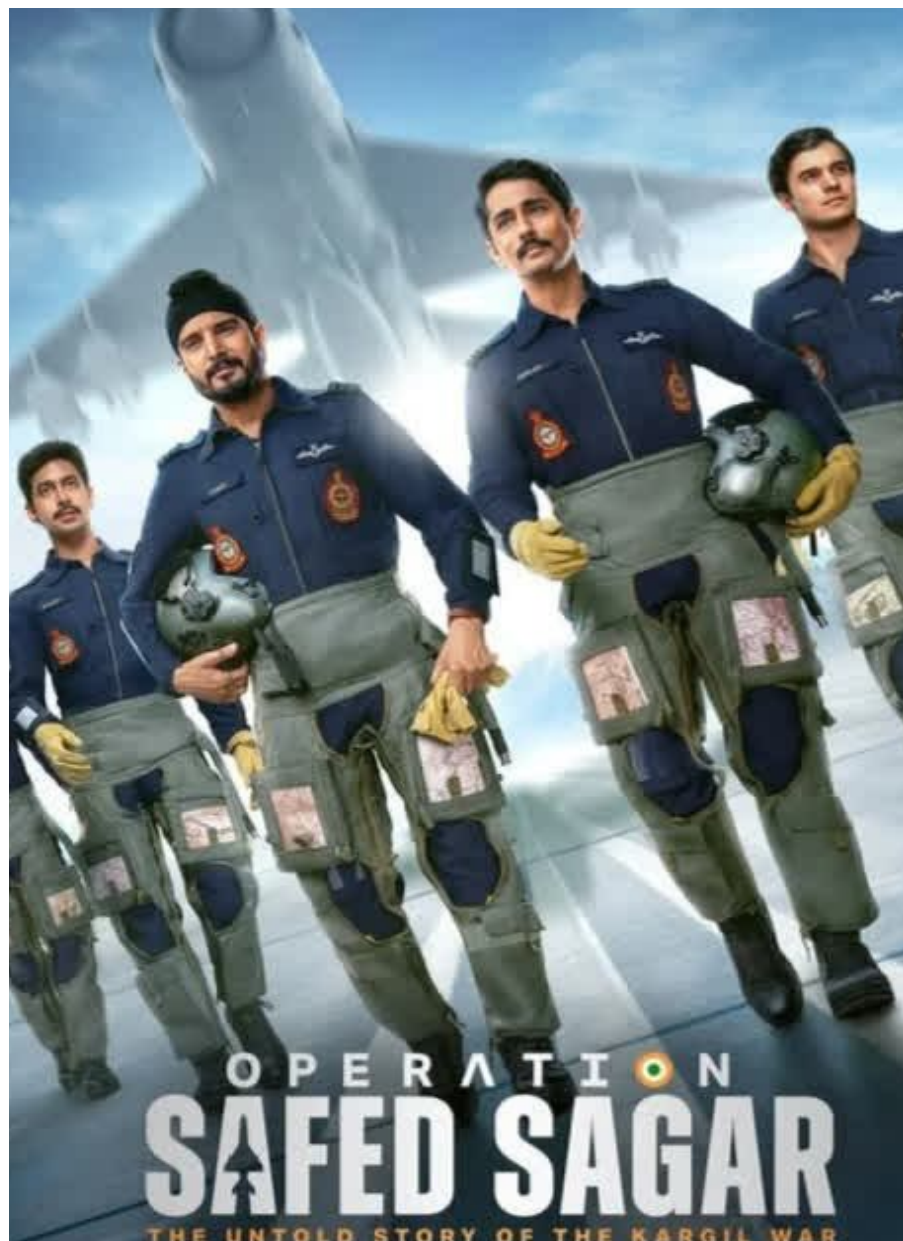
a 70 per cent drop in the forex or derivatives income. Its deposit growth came at 9.73 per cent and the share of the low-cost current and saving advances declined by 0.12 per cent on-year to 39.36 per cent. Speaking to reporters, Chairman C S Setty said the bank is targeting a credit growth of 14-15 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

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 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 the bank's overall capital adequacy ratio stood at 15.67 per cent as on June 30, including the core buffer of 12.89 per cent. The SBI scrip settled at Rs 1,096.05, up 1.03 per cent on BSE



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



: Looking for something new to watch this week-end? 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

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

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 Release Date: August 7 Streaming On: Netflix Cast: Atharvaa Murali, Fahadh Faasil, Preity Mukhundhan, Kayadu Lohar, Malavika Mohanan Idhayam Murali follows Idhaya (Atharvaa 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: Greta Lee, Wagner Moura, Noah Alexander Sposnowski, Gabriel Barbosa, Riley Chung, Emma Ho

Toxic Song Madhosh: Yash And Tara Sutaria Unveil A Softer Side Of Raya & Rebecca's Love Story

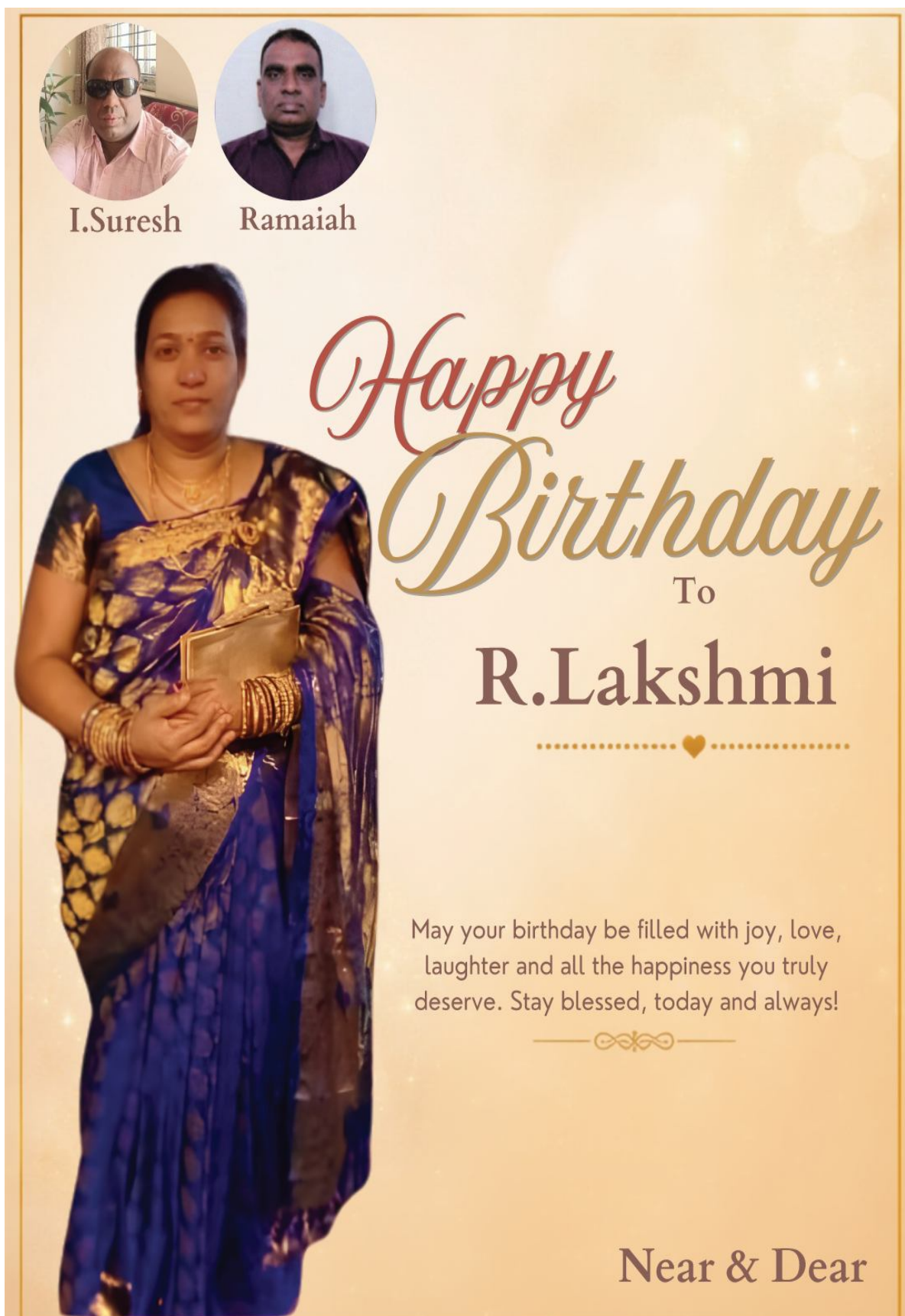


: The makers of the upcoming film Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups have released the film's second song, Madhosh, on Tuesday, July 21. It gives fans a glimpse into the love story of Rocking Star Yash's Raya and Tara Sutaria's Rebecca. The song arrives after the success of the film's first track, Tabaahi, 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 Madhu Mohini in Malayalam. Sharing his thoughts on the song, composer Tanishk Bagchi said, "Madhosh is in again, and it's even more credibly 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

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



Mallika Sherawat Criticised For Mentioning Rhea Chakraborty's Jail Time On The Traitors 2

Mallika Sherawat and Rhea Chakraborty are among the contestants participating in The Traitors Season 2. Ahead of the reality show's premiere, a clip from the upcoming season has surfaced online, showing Mallika and Rhea involved in a heated argument. Several netizens have criticised Mallika for bringing up Rhea's time in jail during the argument. In the clip, Rhea appears to defend another contestant after he makes a comment about Mallika's "comeback". Rhea says, "I don't think that was something so bad." Mallika then responds to her and brings up Rhea's past. "Oh, this is your comeback? Who is he to comment on that, Rhea? Is this game about comeback? I would also say, 'Oh Rhea, you were in jail. This is the big comeback for you?'" Mallika says. Rhea appears visibly upset by the remark. The clip has received several reactions on social media, with many viewers calling out Mallika for making a personal comment about Rhea's past. One user wrote, "That was disrespectful." Another commented, "Dragging personal things into a TV show is somehow getting glorified?" A third user said, "It's not baddie behaviour insulting someone going personal; it's hypocrisy and rudeness at its peak. It's rather pathetic behaviour when you don't have anything left to say, just go personal seriously." Another netizen criticised Mallika's behaviour, writing, "Disrespecting doesn't equate to being baddie." However, Mallika also received support from some viewers. One fan wrote, "Damn Mallika Sherawat, you legend", while another wrote, "The OG baddie." A third fan commented, "Loving Mallika, I'm excited to watch it." Another viewer reacted to the clip by saying, "Wow Mallika."



first season of the reality show featured drama, strategy and betrayals, with Uorfi Javed and Nikita Luther emerging as the winners after identifying the last remaining Traitor, Purav Jha. For the second season, Karan Johar is returning as the host. The celebrity line-up includes Aadiya Kulshreshtha (Kullu), Abhishek Malhan, Ansh Chopra, Dalip Tahil, Harman Singha, Ikka Singh, Karan Singh Magic, Krystle D'Souza, Mallika Sherawat, Munawar Faruqui, Parul Gulati, Prish and Ranveer Brar. Rhea Chakraborty, Rida Tharana, Sahil Salathia, Shahneel Gill, Shalini Passi, Shweta Tiwari, Soundous Moufakir and Tanya Puri are also part of the show. In The Traitors, contestants are divided into Faithfuls and Traitors. Three contestants are



secretly chosen as Traitors and must eliminate the Faithfuls without revealing their identities. The Faithfuls, meanwhile, have to identify the Traitors and eliminate them to win the game. The Traitors Season 2 will premiere on Prime Video on August 13.