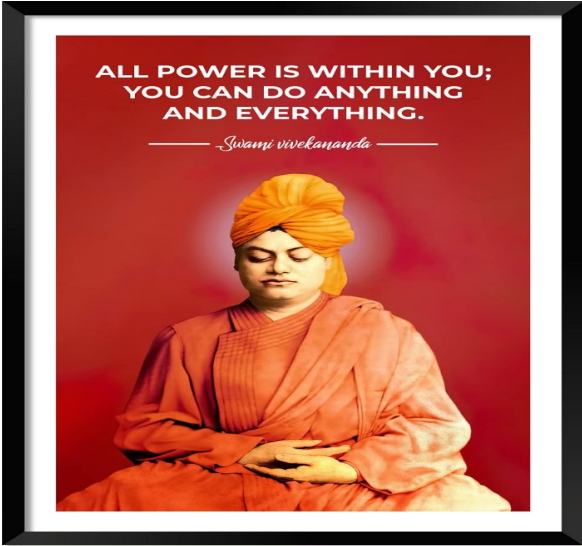
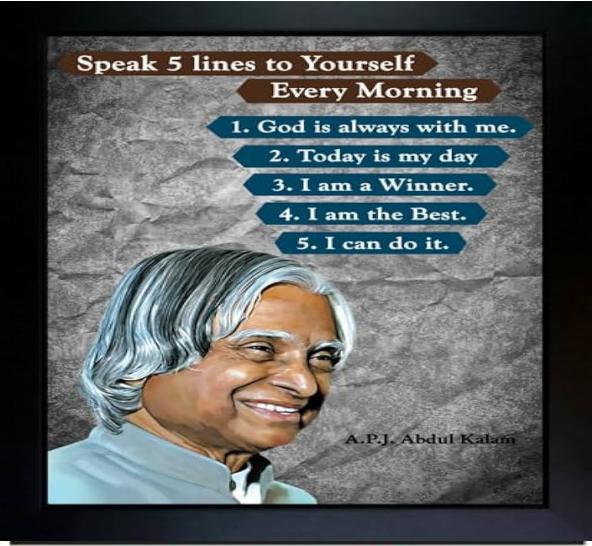




Godavari Pushkaralu Works to Begin in Sept



Hyderabad: Works for the Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 should commence in the first week of September, IT and Industries Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee Duddilla Sridhar Babu has instructed officials. Chairing a meeting of the Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 Cabinet Sub-Committee at the Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat here on Friday, Sridhar Babu directed officials to complete the tendering process by the end of August to ensure that the works begin as scheduled. To Shift Power Lines in Malkajgiri The State government has allocated Rs.1,000 crore for the conduct of the Godavari Pushkaralu, Sridhar Babu said. He direct-

ed the officials to appoint special officers for tier-I locations expected to witness heavy pilgrim footfall and establish dedicated command and control centres at keyster said there should be no compromise o. Senior officials the departments should undertake regular field inspections and closely monitor the progress of works, he said.

Naidu Flags Off 58 Modern Firefighting Vehicles in Andhra



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday flagged off 58 modern firefighting vehicles for the State Fire Services Department. The flag-off ceremony was held at the second steel bridge on the newly inaugurated E3 Seed Access Road in Undavalli village of Tadepalli mandal, Guntur dis-

trict. The new fleet, procured at a cost of Rs 40 crore, comprises 25 advanced fire-fighting vehicles and 13 water bowsters and 13 Quick Response M ultipurpose Fir e-fighting Vehicles. Also Read - Andhra Links PMFME Scheme with Streenidhi to Help DWCR

respond to emergencies, particularly in rural and forest areas, while the 20 water bowsters will ensure a continuous water supply to tackle major fires. Read - Andhra Links The 13 Quick Response M ultipurpose Fi refighting Vehicles will help fire personnel reach narrow and congested areas quickly, the government said.

Telangana Governor Extends Independence Day Greetings

Hyderabad: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday extended warm greetings to the people of Telangana and the nation on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day on August 15. The Governor called upon people to remember with gratitude the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought with courage and dedication for the country's independence. The freedom enjoyed today was the result of the sacrifices and valour of the freedom fighters, Shukla said. He urged every citizen to discharge their responsibility towards safeguarding the country's independence, sovereignty and unity. Also Read - TGSPDCL Sets 10-Day Deadline to Shift



Power Lines in Malkajgiri The Governor called for collective efforts to build a stronger and self-reliant Atmanirbhar Bharat. He emphasised the need to ensure that the benefits of development reach all sections of society and called for greater focus on peace, fraternity and inclusive development. Shukla said that every citizen should contribute to the building of a prosperous and pro-

gressive India based on the values of unity, integrity and development. He called upon youth, women, farmers, workers, students and people from all sections of society to play an active role in the nation's progress. The Governor expressed the hope that the tricolour would always fly high with pride and that its three colours would continue to symbolise courage, peace and faith among the people. He called upon the people to draw inspiration from the ideals of the freedom fighters and rededicate themselves to the task of building a Viksit Bharat.

Telangana Cabinet Approves Rs.200 Cr to Turn 18,766 Hyderabad Autos Electric

Hyderabad: The Telangana cabinet has taken a key decision to control pollution within the Core Urban Region and transform Hyderabad into a green city. There are currently 18,766 petrol and diesel autorickshaws in Hyderabad. The State cabinet has approved the implementation of Telangana Auto Rickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme at a cost of Rs.200 crore to convert these into EVs (electric vehicles). Also Read - Food Safety Rules Violated at Wacky Wok Cloud Kitchen In Kondapur Under this scheme, eligible auto drivers will be provided a



maximum subsidy of Rs.1.50 lakh per vehicle. The scheme will provide an opportunity either to install an electric kit in the existing auto or scrap the old vehicle and purchase a new electric auto. The cabinet has decided to extend the deadline for applications under the

HILT policy, which is intended to relocate polluting industries within Hyderabad City limits to the city outskirts, by another three months. Based on requests from applicants, an opportunity has been provided to apply until October 31. Also Read - Two Drown In Vialal Lake In Sangareddy Dist. The cabinet has approved an estimated cost of Rs.2,100 crore forTelangana Governor Makhthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift

Irrigation Phase-II works. With this, irrigation water for nearly one lakh acres, as well as drinking water and water for industrial needs in the region, will be supplied through this lift irrigation project. The cabinet has approved the appointment of a consultant to study increasing the capacity of the Gudem Doddi Pumped Storage Project from 1.19 TMC to 15 TMC, along with studying solar power generation. Also Read - Telangana Governor Extends Independence Day Greetings As was held last year, the Cabinet has also decided to conduct Telangana Rising

Global Summit 2.0 this year. It has tentatively decided to hold the summit on December 7, 8, and 9. It has decided to constitute special committees for conducting the summit, along with a sub-committee under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Mallu Vikramarka and Ministers D Sridhar Babu, B Uttam Kumar Reddy, and G Vivek Venkataswamy. As the Telangana Rising 2047 vision was unveiled last year, this time the summit has been approved with the Invest Telangana theme. On this occasion, the Future City Plan will be unveiled.

SC Dismisses Plea against HC Order Quashing Case Against Naidu

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to interfere with the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing a case against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and minister P Narayana in connection with alleged irregularities in the land pooling scheme in capital Amaravati. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said it is not inclined to interfere with the high court order and clarified that the outcome of the



petition will not have bearing on other cases, which should be adjudicated on its own merits. Also Read - Andhra Links PMFME Scheme with

Streenidhi to Help DWCR Women Set Up Food Units Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Alla Rama Krishna Reddy, submitted that there were large-scale irregularities in the case which involved land of around 30,000 acres of over 25,000 farmers. The bench told Kumar, "On the

larger issue of farmers, we are with you. Whatever they are entitled to, we will protect." The CJI, however, pointed out that the present criminal proceedings were at the instance of a political rival and no farmer had come forward. Also Read - Naidu Flags bench told Kumar, "On the Off 58 Modern Firefighting Vehicles in Andhra "Political battles should not be fought in court," the CJI told Kumar and disposed of the petition filed by Reddy challenging the

July 15 order of the high court at Amaravati. The FIR was registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act on March 12, 2021, following a complaint by then MLA Alla Rama Krishna Reddy over the land pooling scheme announced as per a 2016 government order. The CID, which probed the case, had named Naidu, Narayana and others as accused, and charged them under various sections of IPC, SC/ST Act, and Assigned Lands Act.

TGSPDCL Sets 10-Day Deadline to Shift Power Lines in Malkajgiri



Hyderabad: TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Jitesh V. Patil participated in Multi-Departmental Coordination convergence meeting on Friday at the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate office here. The meeting extensively discussed monsoon preparedness, inter-departmental coordination for resolving public issues, joint action during emergencies, and measures to ensure uninterrupted public services during festival seasons. Also Read - Food Safety Rules Violated at Wacky Wok Cloud Kitchen In Kondapur The meeting was attended by Malkajgiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi, Malkajgiri Commissioner T. Vinay Krishna Reddy, Joint Sanchit, IAS, DCP Traffic K. Rahul Reddy, along

with officials from the Water Works Department, Traffic Police, Municipal Administration, HYDRAA, and other departments. Speaking on the occasion, Patil emphasized the need for stronger coordination among the Electricity, Municipal, and Police Departments. He stated that works such as shifting of electric poles, transformers, and power lines within the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation limits should be taken up in a phased manner to minimize inconvenience and power interruptions to consumers. Also Read - Telangana Cabinet Approves Rs.200 Cr to Turn 18,766 Hyderabad Autos Electric He assured that TGSPDCL is prepared to undertake such works on a priority basis in coordination with the con-

cerned departments. The CMD directed officials to identify and shift electric poles and cables obstructing the development of 21 key traffic junctions and the implementation of traffic management measures proposed by the Traffic Department within the next ten days. He also instructed officials to take necessary action to remove unused electric poles and other structures causing traffic obstructions on roads by August 30. Also Read - Two Drown In Vialal Lake In Sangareddy Dist. The CMD further stated that TGSPDCL would work in close coordination with the Police, Municipal, HYDRAA, and other departments to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Vinayaka Chavithi and other upcoming festivals. Referring to tree-trimming activi-

Telangana police rank last in training on new criminal laws



Hyderabad: Telangana police may have recently topped the country in tackling cybercrime, but it has also achieved a 'rare distinction' in training its officers on the new criminal laws. More than two years have passed since the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinaya (BSA) came into force throughout the country, yet 47.76 percent of Telangana police officers are yet to be trained in the provisions of these new laws. As per the information released by the Ministry of Home Affairs, only 27,747 (52.23 percent) out of 53,115 Telangana police officers have been trained in the new laws, leaving the State last in the country. The neighbouring Andhra Pradesh State police conducted capacity-building programmes for 96.46 percent of its 54,764 officers. Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest number of police officers, 2,33,969, in the country, has imparted knowledge about these new laws to 94 percent of its person-

nel. A total of 16 States, including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Assam, Haryana and Maharashtra, conducted capacity-building programmes on the new laws for all their police personnel. Five States achieved more than 90 percent police personnel training. The training among Telangana police officers is no better, as 38 percent of the 1,110 personnel remained untrained. However, all prosecutors, judicial officers and forensic experts in the State received training. Overall, 15,72,863 police officers, 50,588 prison staff, 13,446 prosecutors, 20,825 judicial officers and 3,406 forensic experts across the country were trained in the provisions of the new laws. The Ministry recently released this data in response to a query raised by Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjuna Kharge. He sought to know the implementation status of the BNS, BNSS and BSA in the country, besides training sessions, workshops or capacity-building programmes conducted for police, judicial officers and other enforcement personnel. The Ministry said the Bureau of Police Research and Development trained 83,740 officers, including 5,290 police officers from Hyderabad, and stakeholders from the five pillars of the criminal justice system, including master trainers. The master trainers have also been utilised by State training institutions to conduct further training programmes

AP's SIR Finds 7.37 lakh Electors Enrolled at Multiple Places

Vijayawada: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh has identified 7.37 lakh electors enrolled at multiple places, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vivek Yadav said on Saturday. In a statement, the CEO said all 4,16,27,694 electors in the state had been covered under the exercise. Enumeration forms have been received from 3,71,38,206 electors, accounting for 89.22 per cent of the electorate. Also Read - Kargil Vijay Diwas: AP CM Naidu, Pawan Kalyan Pay Tribute to Brave Soldiers According to the SIR findings, 44,89,488 electors (10.78 per cent) were not found at their registered addresses. The exercise has so far identified 15,22,174 deceased electors (3.66 per cent), 14,43,886 electors who have permanently shifted (3.47 per cent),



7,37,216 electors enrolled at multiple places (1.77 per cent), 7,77,885 In a statement, the CEO said all 4,16,27,694 electors in the state had been covered under the exercise. Enumeration forms have been received from 3,71,38,206 electors, accounting for 89.22 per cent of the electorate. untraceable electors

(1.87 per cent) and 8,327 electors (0.02 per cent) who refused to accept enumeration forms. Also Read - Gold, Cash Stolen from RDO's House in Kakinada The CEO said the authorities had completed the coverage of all targeted electors under the SIR exercise. Vivek Yadav said every effort had been made to ensure that

all eligible electors are included in the draft electoral rolls, which are scheduled to be published on July 31. He said that, in accordance with the SIR guidelines, the period from July 31 to August 30 would be available for members of the public to file objections regarding additions, deletions and corrections in the draft elec-

Keshav Maurya's Statements, Divisive and Unconstitutional

Mahbubnagar: A private bus travelling from Hyderabad to Arunachal Pradesh overturned after the driver allegedly lost control near Bhoopur in Mahbubnagar district shortly after midnight on Thursday. According to reports, the accident occurred when the bus driver tried to avoid a lorry after one of its tyres reportedly burst on NH-44. There were 38 passengers on board at the time of the accident. to Fashion: Former Gun-toting Women Maoists Walk The Ramp Several passengers sustained injuries in the mishap. Sharanappa, Lakshmi Durga and Maheswari of Guntur were among those seriously injured. The injured were initially shifted to the Mahbubnagar General Hospital for treatment and later shifted to a private hospital in



Hyderabad for further treatment. Bhoothpur SI Naganna reached the spot and took steps to regulate traffic following the accident. CI Ramakrishna said that several people from Hyderabad and other places were among the injured. Also Read -

Father, Son Die After Suffering Electric Shock at Farm in Bhupalpally
The injured were identified as Sunitha of Sangareddy; Akshita, Venkatram, Ravikumar, Pramod, Santhosh and Santhosi of Hyderabad; Premalatha and Ramesh of Lingampally; Sujatha,

Hemalatha and Rajendra Prasad of Miyapur; Maheshwari of Gandipet; Prabhu of Vellore, Tamil Nadu; and Sai Teja of Rajamahendravaram. SP Janaki also visited the hospital, took stock of the situation and consoled the injured. Further details are awaited.

Former Gun-toting Women Maoists Walk The Ramp

Raipur: Nine surrendered women Maoists, who once wore green fatigues and moved through the dense forests of Bastar, walked the ramp with beaming smiles at an event here showcasing traditional handloom and Kosa silk dresses of Chhattisgarh. The women, eight of them from Sukma and one from Bijapur, appeared at a state-level weavers' conference on National Handloom Day on August 7. For 22-year-old Punem Jyoti of Elmagunda village in Sukma's Chintagufa area, the moment was something she had never imagined. "I had never imagined that something like this would happen in my life," said Jyoti, who surrendered in Hyderabad in December last year. Also Read - Father, Son Die After Suffering Electric Shock at Farm in Bhupalpally Speaking in a mix of Hindi and the local Gondi dialect, she said her life has changed significantly after leaving the Maoist movement.



Another 28-year-old former Naxalite said she had never seen a fashion show during her life in the forests. "We had never seen such things in the jungle," she said with a laugh. Wishing anonymity, the woman, who surrendered in Hyderabad in April, said she knew a thing or two about performing before an audience because of the Maoists' cultural wing. Also Read - 15 Telangana Police Officers Got Gallantry,

Meritorious Service Medals "We had seen women performing in the cultural wing. That helped us learn some of the nuances of ramp walking," she said. "We are happy that after quitting violence, we are living a peaceful and respectful life," she added. Of the nine women, seven surrendered in Hyderabad in neighbouring Telangana, while one each surrendered in Sukma (Chhattisgarh) and



Mulugu in Telangana over the last one-and-a-half years. Also Read - Two More Doctors Suspended at Jogipet Hospital in Sangareddy All of them are currently undergoing rehabilitation at the Punarwas Kendra in Sukma, a government official said. These women received seven days of specialised training from professional experts from Mumbai in ramp walking, grooming, attire and speaking confidently on the microphone, he said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, who was present at the event, interacted with the women. The state government has been providing skill development opportunities to surrendered cadres as part of its rehabilitation efforts, with the aim of helping them secure dignified livelihoods and become economically self-reliant, the official said.

After evicting poor, Congress plans revenue generation from Hyderabad's vending spaces

Hyderabad: After clearing the roadside vendors and evicting the poor in the name of protecting government land and easing traffic congestion across Hyderabad, the Congress government is now preparing to monetise some of the same spaces by turning them into formal vending zones and renting out shops. The plan, which is being worked out by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), is being projected as a three-in-one solution to protect government land, ease traffic congestion and provide organised spaces for street vendors. But behind the urban-management plan lies a more immediate attraction, with public land being used to create a steady stream of rental revenue for urban local bodies which are facing financial constraints. Officials said proposals have been prepared for government parcels at Ameerpet Junction and opposite Satyam Theatre. Officials said vendors currently occupy these spaces with pushcarts, kiosks and other temporary structures, while vehicles are also parked

there. The proposed vending zones are expected to provide basic infrastructure and regulated spaces for vendors, while generating recurring income through rents. The revenue motive is significant amid the continuing financial strain on civic bodies. Municipal agencies have struggled with inadequate funds for basic services, while allocations from the government have remained a persistent concern. The proposed vending zones would offer a recurring income stream without requiring the government to dispose of the underlying land or impose additional taxes on people, especially ahead of elections to the truncated GHMC, along with Cyberabad Municipal Corporation and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation.

HUMTA is now preparing an inventory of small government plots at junctions and along roads within the GHMC, metropolitan municipal and city municipal areas. The government is also planning to involve traffic police and municipal authorities in identifying sites, removing unauthorised occupations and allotting the new shops



transparently to eligible vendors. If the Ameerpet model succeeds, similar projects are expected elsewhere. The authorities said transparent allotment to eligible vendors will prevent fresh encroachments. However, the new scheme ostensibly designed to help the urban poor could otherwise become another system in which access to public land is determined by commercial value and official allotment. Ironically, the civic authorities had earlier identified 127 vending zones in erstwhile GHMC limits with marginal or no rentals. However, as the majority of them are away from busy commercial stretches, several designated facilities have remained unused. The vacant stalls near Shilparamam and non-

operational fish markets at Begum Bazaar and LB Nagar are examples of infrastructure created without successfully relocating vendors.

GHMC officials recently said more than 1,000 footpath encroachments were cleared, but push-cart vendors returned soon after the drives.

"The majority of these vendors operate illegally on the roadsides and at busy junctions. It is an open secret that they also pay bribes to local officials and politicians to run their businesses. The government is only proposing to legitimise it by constructing shops," a top municipal official said. However, he refused to comment on the amount of rent to be collected from these vendors, with questions being raised about the

Farmers demand uninterrupted power supply for agriculture

Hyderabad: Three police officers from Telangana got Gallantry Medal (GM), while two of them bagged the President's Medal for Distinguished Service and 10 of them got Medal for Meritorious Service. Two fire services personnel and a Home Guard from Telangana got the Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM). These awards were announced by the Central government on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations. Also Read - From Forests to Fashion:



Former Gun-toting
Women Maoists Walk
The Ramp Three junior
commandos B Sathya

Rao, K Sandeep Kumar and J Vamshi Krihna from Tela ngana recei ved Gallantry Medal while Narsaiah Jogula, Additional Deputy Co mmis-sioner of Police (ADCP) and R Jagadishw ar Reddy, Superinte ndent of Police got PSM medals. P Jagadeeshwar, Inspector, P Venkata Ramana, ADCP, Bhumana Ravi Kumar Reddy, DS P, Bachalakura Ra mesh,

DSP, Bupathi Srinivasa Rao, DSP, Gangaram Ashala, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), R G Siva Maruthi, ACP, C Ramulu, Head Constable, and K Thirupathi Raju, Head Constable, D Satyanarayana, Assistant Commandant got and Ashok Munde and, Leading Fire Fighters got Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) along with Home Guard Yadaiah Medipalli. These were among the recipients' of 301 Gallantry Medals, 92,664 MSM medals

Law Equal for All: TDP MP Seeks Speedy Trial of Political Cases

Amaravati: Raising the issue during parliamentary proceedings, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Rajya Sabha member Chintakayala Vijay has called for faster trial proceedings related to political leaders, saying that the rule of law must prevail equally for ordinary citizens and individuals holding public offices. Highlighting that numerous criminal matters against political leaders have remained unresolved for over a decade due to frequent judicial transfers and shortages, he urged the government to expand the capacity of Special CBI Courts. Chintakayala Vijay, TDP Rajya Sabha MP, said that the law is equal for everyone, regardless of whether a person holds public office or is an ordinary citizen. Also Read - AI Surveillance Helps Trace Missing Students In 90 Minutes
The Member of

Parliament raised concerns in Parliament over delays in the disposal of criminal cases involving public representatives and called for strengthening the capacity of Special CBI Courts. Addressing the House, the MP said the issue was not about any one individual but about ensuring timely justice and maintaining public confidence in the judicial system. Citing the case of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as an example, the MP said around 31 criminal cases have been registered against him since 2013 and that nearly 13 years have elapsed since the cases were filed. Also Read - Sindhu's Sports Centre In Vizag Picks Up Pace The MP further stated that discharged petitions in these cases



have reportedly been heard by around eight different judges over the years. However, owing to frequent judicial transfers and a shortage of judges, the petitions are yet to reach a final decision. Questioning the pace of judicial proceedings, the MP asked, "If discharge petitions alone take 13 years, when will the actual trial be completed?" Noting that delayed judicial proceedings severely

impact public confidence in the justice delivery mechanism, the MP remarked on the state of long-pending litigations. The MP urged the government to strengthen the capacity of Special CBI Courts to ensure speedy disposal of cases involving public representatives. Delays in judicial proceedings undermine public faith in the rule of law and the justice delivery system, Chintakayala Vijay said.

Three Labourers Killed As Tunnel Of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Collapses

Chamoli: At least three labourers were killed after a tunnel belonging to the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) collapsed on Thursday at Pipalkoti in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The incident has been confirmed by Chamoli District Collector Gaurav Kumar. So far, 18 people have been safely rescued from the tunnel while the rescue operation is underway. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force have rushed to the spot. He also said that his government's top priority is the safe evacuation of each and every person who has been trapped



inside the tunnel. In a post on X, Dhami said, "Reports have been received regarding the ingress of debris and water into the THDC tunnel at Pipalkoti. Given the seri-

ousness of Three Labourers Killed As Tunnel Of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Collapses In Uttarakhand the situation, teams from @NDRFHQ and @uksdrf

have been immediately dispatched to the site. Instructions have been issued to the district administration and all concerned agencies to carry out relief and rescue oper-

ations on a war footing." Three Labourers Killed As Tunnel Of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Collapses In Uttarakhand ously monitoring the situation. Our top priority is to safely evacuate every person trapped inside the tunnel." "I pray to the Almighty for everyone's safety," added Dhami. Dhami spoke to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and appraised the duo about the situation. Labourers from both Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are among those trapped in the tunnel. Dhami also spoke with the labourers who have been rescued and are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Lady Passenger Loses Cool, Damages Airport Property After Flight Cancellation In Bhubaneswar; Complaint Lodged



Bhubaneswar:

"Palpable tension prevailed at Biju Patnaik International Airport here on Thursday evening after an IndiGo flight to Kolkata was cancelled due to a technical issue, leaving several passengers stranded. Enraged over the flight disruption, a female passenger, whose child was unwell, allegedly damaged airport equipment worth around Rs 49,000, a video of which has now gone viral on social media.

As per a complaint lodged with the Airport Police Station, passenger Mamoni Kharat, who had booked the IndiGo flight 6E 7352 from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata, allegedly damaged airport property after the flight was cancelled. The flight was scheduled to depart at 2:35 PM but was first delayed until 5:30 PM. At around 6 PM, passengers were informed that the flight has been cancelled due to a techni-

cal issue. Following the cancellation, Kharat allegedly became agitated and damaged some equipment at the airport. "The damaged items include a monitor estimated at Rs 22,000, a keyboard estimated at Rs 4,000 and a passport-swiping machine estimated at Rs 23,000. The total estimated damage has been put at Rs 49,000," the complaint mentioned. CISF officials, IndiGo staff, Airport Authority of India (AAI) staff and SITA staff, who were present at the airport, tried to explain the situation to the passenger but to no avail. In the video, which has gone viral, the woman can be seen in a fumed state and allegedly damaged equipment while also arguing with and abusing the airport staff. She is also heard speaking about her child, who she said was in poor health. Other passengers were also seen coming out in her support. Authorities said the passenger authorities reported the incident to the Airport Police," he told ETV Bharat. Pradhan said the female passenger was later able to travel to Kolkata on another connecting flight.

requested to arrange another flight to her destination and she was subsequently allowed to leave on another flight. Airport Director Prasanna Pradhan informed that the woman was scheduled to travel to Kolkata and became upset after her flight was delayed due to a technical problem and subsequently cancelled. "She told airport authorities that she was travelling to Kolkata for her son's treatment, which added to her distress. The passenger expressed her displeasure over the cancellation and vandalised computers at the airport. The airport heard speaking about her child, who she said was in poor health. Other passengers were also seen coming out in her support. Authorities said the passenger authorities reported the incident to the Airport Police," he told ETV Bharat. Pradhan said the female passenger was later able to travel to Kolkata on another connecting flight.

Punjab SIR: Draft electoral Roll published; Over 20 Lakh Names Deleted

Chandigarh: The draft electoral roll for all assembly constituencies in Punjab under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 was published on Thursday in accordance with the programme announced by the Election Commission of India, officials said. As part of the revision process, a meeting under the chairpersonship of Punjab Chief Electoral officer (CEO) Anindita Mitra was held on Thursday with representatives of recognised political parties. During the meeting, Mitra handed over the draft electoral roll to the representatives of the recognised political parties, according to an official release. They were also briefed about the prescribed forms: Form 6 for inclusion of names, Form 6A for the inclusion of NRI voters, Form 7 for deletion of names, and Form 8 for correction of entries or shifting. She further informed them that young citizens turning 18 by October 1, 2026 are eligible for enrolment.



The representatives of political parties were apprised of various platforms, including the Citizen Service Portal and the 'Book a Call Request with BLO' facility. Mitra said for the convenience of electors, a one-day special camp under SIR is being organised at all polling booths on August 16 to facilitate

electors in checking the details. BLOs will be present at polling stations from 10 am to 1 pm to assist in checking details in the draft roll and to support voters with all electoral services. She further said a help desk will be set up at the DEO and ERO offices across the state to display the published draft electoral roll. The CEO added

that electors can check their details in the published draft electoral roll, available on the website of CEO Punjab (www.ceopunjab.gov.in) and on the portal (voters.eci.gov.in). Voters whose names do not appear in the draft electoral roll will be present at polling stations from 10 am to 1 pm to assist in checking details in the

draft roll and to support voters with all electoral services. She further said a help desk will be set up at the DEO and ERO offices across the state to display the published draft electoral roll. The CEO added to appear in the draft electoral roll may submit their claims, along with the prescribed declaration and supporting documents, for inclusion from August 13 to September 12. Earlier, as part of the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in Punjab, enumeration forms of nearly 1.94 crore electors, out of the total electorate of 2.14 crore, were collected and digitised during the enumeration exercise. The remaining over 20 lakh electors, accounting for 9.63 percent of total electors, had been categorised as absent, shifted, dead, or duplicate (ASDD), officials said on Tuesday. The house-to-house enumeration phase of SIR exercise, aimed at updating and sanitising the electoral rolls in the state, was carried out between June 25 till August 3.

Defence PSU Launches High-Resolution 'Garud' Binoculars For Civilian Market

New Delhi: A defence public sector undertaking (PSU) on Thursday launched indigenous high-resolution binoculars 'Garud' with a wide 7.6-degree field of view for the civilian market. Developed and manufactured by the Ordnance Factory, Dehradun, a unit of India Optel Limited (IOL), Garud embodies the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' through indigenous design and manufacturing, the defence ministry said in a statement. Garud, which was launched at DPSU Bhawan here, combines proven defence-grade expertise with modern technology to deliver reliable and high-quality optical performance for civilian users, it said. "Garud offers 8x magnification and a wide 7.6-degree field of view, enabling clear observation of distant objects while retaining a broad viewing perspective," the ministry said. "The binocular features ± 5 diopter adjustment to accommodate



individual eyesight, soft-touch eyecups for comfortable extended viewing and a secure, ergonomic grip. Its weather-resistant construction enables reliable use across varied outdoor conditions," it said. Weighing approximately 610 grams, Garud combines portability with dependable performance in a compact design. It is

suited for a wide range of applications, including birdwatching, wildlife observation, nature exploration, travel, sports, forestry, marine activities and security-related applications. The launch marks the entry of IOL, a Mini Ratna category-I defence PSU under the Department of Defence Production, into

the civilian optics market, the statement said. The product draws upon a binocular platform which has served as a trusted and reliable companion for the defence forces and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in demanding operational conditions, it said. The launch event was attended by senior officers

from the Department of Defence Production, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the CAPF and the launch marks the entry of IOL, a Mini Ratna category-I defence PSU under the Department of Defence Production, into the Wildlife Society of India, along with members of the board of directors and senior officers of IOL.

New Delhi: With the Red Fort all set to host the 80th Independence Day celebrations on Saturday (August 15), the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has announced that special arrangements have been made to facilitate movement of people heading to the venue for the celebrations, by starting Metro services as early as 4 AM across all terminal stations. DMRC Principal Executive Director Anuj Dayal said the move is aimed at assisting special guests, invitees and the general public attending the 1-Day celebrations. After services begin at 4 AM, metro trains on all lines will run at a frequency of 30 minutes until regular revenue services start as per the day's scheduled timetable. "The arrangement is aimed at helping people travelling early in the morning, particularly those attending

the Independence Day ceremony, reach their destinations on time without inconvenience," Dayal said. 1.30 Lakh Special QR Tickets To make travel easier for special guests and authorised invitees, DMRC has provided 1,30,000 special pre-validated QR tickets to the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Officials said invitees holding valid physical entry passes issued by the Ministry will also be provided special pre-validated QR tickets at specific metro stations. The arrangement will also ensure that passengers do not have to go through additional paperwork later. The total cost of travel made using these special QR tickets will subsequently be paid by the Ministry of Defence to DMRC, officials added. Dayal said Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Gate metro stations are the closest to the

Independence Day celebration venue and that people attending the ceremony can use these stations to reach the area. The administration has appealed to people to leave home on time and follow traffic rules while joining the celebrations. As per the schedule, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the assisting special ceremony at Red Fort and address the nation from the historic ramparts. This year's celebrations will mark 150 years of the enduring legacy of 'Vande Mataram' and highlight the contribution of 'Yuva Shakti' to India's journey to a world of peace. Dayal said Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Gate metro stations are the closest to the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort.



Historian Sumit Sarkar Passes Away At 87

New Delhi: Noted historian Sumit Sarkar died on Thursday at his Delhi residence from age-related ailments, historian and family friend G Arunima told PTI. He was 87. "Professor Sarkar was unwell for a long time, but for some time now, he had been suffering with age-related issues. He was not publicly active, since he had a fall some years ago," Arunima said. Sarkar is survived by his wife and historian Tanika Sarkar and son Aditya Sarkar, associate professor of South Asian History at the University of Warwick. His last rites are likely to be performed on Saturday. A confirmed date and time will be announced later. Born in 1939 to historian Sushobhan Sarkar, Sumit Sarkar studied History at Presidency College, Calcutta and the University of Calcutta. Sarkar took up teaching jobs as a lecturer at the University of Calcutta and as a reader



at the University of Burdwan. His longest stint as professor of history was at the University of Delhi. Some of his most seminal works, including "The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal", "Modern India: 1885-1947", and "Writing Social History", established him as an authoritative voice in examining colonialism, nationalism and the freedom movement through the experiences of different social groups, classes and popular movements. A Marxist historian, Sarkar is known for his

studies of the Swadeshi movement and for challenging conventional, leader-centred accounts of Indian nationalism. He was one of the founding members of the Subaltern Studies Collective, but later began to critique it.

Sarkar received the Sarit Chatterjee Memorial Award from the Indian History and Culture Society for his work on the Indian freedom movement in 2003. The next year, he was given the Rabindra Puraskar for his book "Writing Social History", which

he returned in 2007 in protest against the treatment of farmers by the CPI(M) led Left Front government in West Bengal. Tributes poured in on social media from readers and historians alike. "Rest in power, Sumit. Professor Sumit Sarkar, doyen amongst historians and the kindest of human beings, passed away. His contribution to modern Indian history is immeasurable," Arunima posted on X. Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha remembered Sarkar for his understanding of Gandhi. "And how can one forget your understanding of Gandhi as someone who did not seek to make everyone think alike, but created an 'umbrella' under which people who did not think alike could struggle together. That idea, like so much of your work, continues to speak to our present," Jha wrote on X.

Author Nilanjana Roy

I-Day 2026: 1057 Personnel From Police, Fire, Civil Defence Honoured With Gallantry, Service Medals

New Delhi: As many as 1,057 personnel from the Police, Fire Services, Home Guard and Civil Defence (HG&CD) and Correctional Services have been honoured with Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of Independence Day 2026. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a total of 301 personnel have been awarded Gallantry Medals for acts of courage, while 756 others have received Service Medals this year. Of the 301 personnel who have received Medals for Gallantry (GM), 272 are police personnel and 29 are Fire Service personnel. The Gallantry Medal is awarded for acts of courage in saving lives and property, preventing crime or arresting criminals, while considering the risks involved in the performance of official duties. MHA informed in a release that 197 per-



sonnel of the 301 Gallantry Medal recipients are from Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 51 from Jammu and Kashmir, 12 from the Northeast and 41 from other regions. 756 Receive Service Medals. A total of 92 personnel have been awarded President's Medal for apart, 664 personnel Distinguished Service apart, 664 personnel have been honoured with Medals for

Meritorious Service (MSM). This recognition is for valuable service marked by resourcefulness and devotion to duty. Of the 664 MSM recipients, 606 are from Yce (PSM). The PSM is given for a special and distinguished record of service. Of the 92 recipients, 83 are from the Police Service, four from the Fire Service, three from Civil Defence and Home Guard Service, and two from

Correctional Service. This apart, 664 personnel have been honoured with Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM). This recognition is for valuable service marked by resourcefulness and devotion to duty. Of the 664 MSM recipients, 606 are from the Police Service, 28 from the Fire Service, 18 from Civil Defence and Home Guard Service and 12 from Correctional Service.

Accept Responsibility With Humility: Pralhad Joshi On Appointment As Education Minister

New Delhi: Newly appointed Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi said he accepted the responsibility with a sense of duty and humility. Joshi has been appointed as Education Minister after President Droupadi Murmu accepted Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation from the Union Council of Ministers following widespread student-led protests across the nation over the NEET paper leak. Joshi has been given additional charge of the Education Ministry besides his role as Consumer Affairs Minister. "I have just got to know that the Prime Minister has given me a responsibility. I accept this responsibility with a sense of duty and humility," he told reporters on Saturday night. "In the last 12 years of Prime Minister Modi's government, many his-



torical achievements have been made. In the last four to five years, Dharmendra Pradhan also implemented the National Education Policy, and several important initiatives were undertaken," Joshi said. "Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, I will try to perform to the best of my ability and fulfil my responsibilities with dedication," he added. Earlier in the day,

Pradhan resigned from his post following the Cockroach Janta Party-led student protests across the country, demanding his ouster over the NEET paper leak controversy. Pradhan said it was not a matter of "individual prestige" for him and he was disturbed to see the series of events that have unfolded in the last 10 days. In response to Pralhad Joshi receiving the additional charge of

the Education Ministry, Saurav Das, Chief Spokesperson of the Cockroach Janta Party, warned that anyone becoming the Education Minister should understand that the youth are watching closely. "Our concerns and have been addressed. Those demands resonated with the youth across the country, which is why this movement gained nationwide support," Saurav Das said.

Kashmir Steps Up Security Ahead of Independence Day, J&K Police Rule Out Information On Al-Qaeda Link To Red Fort Blast



Srinagar: Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir have intensified surveillance, patrolling and access-control measures ahead of Independence Day celebrations, with senior officials urging people to participate in the national event in large numbers. Speaking on the sidelines of a full-dress rehearsal on Thursday for the August 15 celebrations at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium, Inspector General of Police for Kashmir Zone VK Birdi said authorities currently have no information confirming reports that Al-Qaeda was linked to the November 25, 2025, Red Fort blast in New Delhi. Birdi said it was not the appropriate time to discuss the matter in detail but added that police had no such information at present. "As of now, we don't have anything like this in our knowledge," he said. He added that extensive preparations have been made across Kashmir to ensure the smooth conduct of Independence Day functions. Security rehearsals have been conducted in different districts, and arrangements have been strengthened throughout the Valley. "We have rehearsed in different districts of the Valley. We have also rehearsed the security arrange-

ments so that we can carry out our main programme on August 15," Birdi said. On recent security incidents, he said investigations were continuing and district-level security mechanisms had been reinforced. When asked about threats circulating on social media ahead of Independence Day, Birdi said the immediate focus remained on ensuring security for the August 15 events. Birdi appealed to people across Kashmir to participate in Independence Day celebrations at district and local administrative headquarters. "August 15 is a national event. I request the public to participate in the events taking place in the districts and administrative units in large numbers and make them successful," he said. The heightened security preparations come as Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat chaired a high-level review meeting at the Police Control Room in Srinagar to assess security readiness across Jammu Senior officers from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and other security agencies attended the meeting. Officials said discussions focused on deployment plans, intelligence

Independence Day event at Bakshi Stadium had been finalised and invited people from across the Valley to attend the celebrations. Addressing reporters after the full-dress rehearsal, Garg extended advance greetings to residents and encouraged public participation in the national event. "I would also like to invite everyone to come to Bakshi Stadium on August 15 and be a part of this national event," he said. Garg said residents could participate in celebrations at their respective district headquarters, while those wishing to attend the Union Territory-level function in Srinagar would be welcomed. He said entry to Bakshi Stadium would remain free for the public, as in previous years. Authorities have also arranged basic facilities, including drinking water, toilets and refreshments, for visitors attending the event. Garg said security preparations were being continuously reviewed in coordination with various security agencies. Security measures have also been expanded beyond the main event venues. Officials have increased frisking and vehicle checks at key entry points, established additional checkpoints in sensitive areas and stepped up patrolling across parts of the Valley. Surveillance systems, including drones and CCTV cameras, are being used to monitor important locations, while anti-sabotage checks and access-control measures have been intensified as part of the broader security plan ahead of Independence Day. The full-dress rehearsal at Bakshi Stadium involved parade contingents, school-children and representatives of several government departments who

3,800 Hectares River Link Project, Partially In Western Ghats, Gets Preliminary Clearance

New Delhi: A river link project spanning more than 3,800 hectares (ha) in Maharashtra's Nashik district, requiring diversion of over 900 ha of forest land and situated partially in the Western Ghats, has received a preliminary clearance. The initial nod was given during the meeting of the Environment Ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) on July 30. According to the minutes of the meeting, the nearly Rs 7,400-crore project, called the Nar-Par-Girna River Link Project, will affect nine villages with 516 houses and about 2,580 persons. It will divert surplus water from the west-flowing Nar, Par, Auranga and Ambika river basins to the water-deficit Girna sub-basin of the Tapi river basin to provide assured irrigation to about 50,000 ha of agricultural land in Nashik and Jalgaon districts. The proposed project was recommended for the grant of standard "terms of reference



(TOR)", which is the first step in the approval process, during the meeting of the Environment Ministry's EAC on July 30. TOR refers to a formal document that defines the scope, objectives, methodology and reporting requirements of an environmental impact assessment study for any proposed project. The Nar-Par-Girna River Link Project comprises construction of several infrastructures, including nine dams, three links, pump houses and tunnels, among others, and result in the sub-

mersion of more than 1,600 ha of 3,800 ha of land, the minutes of the meeting noted. According to the project's pre-feasibility report, proposed dam sites at Ukhedmal, Rakhambhavan, Umbarpada, and Sarnya Aawan fall within villages under the eco-sensitive area (ESA) of the Western Ghats. Notified by the Environment Ministry, ESAs are areas with unique biological resources, which require special attention for their conservation. The Ghats' ESA was declared through the ministry's

draft notification issued last month. This was its seventh iteration since March, 2014. Note that hydro-projects are permitted in the ESA of the Western Ghats, according to a 2013 notification. The pre-feasibility report also noted that the project's three links traverse areas falling within the ESA, and also intersect reserved forest areas.

A portion of the command area, and all the identified tunnel lines/drainage channels associated with the project alignment also pass

US Accuses Over 40 Nations Of Helping China Evade Tariffs Through Transshipment

Washington: The US on Thursday accused over 40 countries, including India, of operating a “shadow trans-shipment network” to help China evade high tariffs and unveiled plans to use artificial intelligence to detect and penalise such practices. In a report, ‘The Great Transshipment Scam’, Peter Navarro, the top trade advisor to President Donald Trump, said the transshipments became more prevalent after 2018, when the Trump administration imposed Section 301 tariffs on China to counter “unfair trade practices.” “For years, the great transshipment scam has let Communist China launder its exports through more than 40 countries,” Peter Navarro, Counsellor to the President for Trade and Manufacturing, told reporters. The countries that comprise China’s Shadow Transshipment Network include many of America’s largest trading partners, ranging from Mexico and Canada on US land borders to the European Union, India, Japan, and South Korea.



“China began using these third countries for minor processing, relabeling, repackaging, re-invoicing, or routing changes that created the appearance of a new national origin while leaving the underlying Chinese content largely intact,” Navarro said in the report. He said by routing around the tariffs, China and its state-supported manufacturers and trading firms could push goods into jurisdictions with cheap labour, weak customs oversight, permissive free zones, or preferential US trade access. The report said India’s Pune–Gujarat–Chennai

production belt absorbs pumps and compressors, affecting industrial supply chains in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus. “A Chinese pump that leaves Pune as Indian is a pump not machined in Cincinnati, Dayton or Columbus,” Navarro said. The report pegs the annual value of illegally transshipped goods anywhere in the range from approximately USD 40 billion to USD 303 billion, depending on the methodology and definition used. Navarro announced that the US will use an AI-enabled “Detective Border” to identify transshipped goods reaching American shores.

The ‘Detective Border’ would support US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) by integrating shipment data, routing histories, product classifications, ownership relationships, production-capacity indicators, anomaly detection, computer vision, and other analytical tools. “The objective is to improve CBP’s ability to distinguish legitimate nearshoring and foreign investment from illegal pass-through trade, identify high-risk shipments, and convert analytical findings into interdiction, duty collection, penalties, and exclusion,” the report said.

New Aircraft Carrier Heads Toward Mideast After Reports Of Issues On Long-Deployed USS



Washington: The Pacific-based aircraft carrier USS George Washington has begun heading toward the Middle East as reports have emerged of mental health and supply issues aboard the long-deployed USS Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln has been supporting the U.S. war against Iran, and its deployment has included a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 260 days. Several Democratic lawmakers are pressing for accountability from the Pentagon over conditions aboard the carrier, which Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Thursday said were “completely misrepresented.” Extended deployments of carriers during the Iran conflict have raised concerns about the impact on service members who are away from home for long periods as well as the increasing strain on the ship and its equipment. While renewed hostilities between the U.S. and Iran have calmed in recent weeks, the Navy has reimposed a blockade on Iranian ports in the crucial Strait of Hormuz, and the Trump administration has offered no clarity on how it intends to wind down the war. Hegseth told reporters that the U.S. can maintain the blockade “indefinitely.” A new aircraft carrier is heading west from the Asia-Pacific. The USS George Washington left port in Da Nang, Vietnam, last week, a Navy statement said. The carrier, along with a cruiser and a

destroyer, have since been spotted crossing the Singapore Strait. A Navy official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to detail sensitive ship details, confirmed that the Washington was in the Strait of Malacca, which links the Pacific and Indian oceans and puts the carrier on a course to head into the Indian Ocean. The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that the Washington would replace the Lincoln as one of the two aircraft carriers now stationed in the Middle East. The move would leave the waters of the Pacific without a U.S. carrier presence for an unknown period of time. The Trump administration sees China, the dominant power in the region, as “a settled force” that only needs to be deterred from dominating the U.S. or its allies and not the top global adversary that it was under the Biden administration. The Lincoln originally deployed Nov. 21 from San Diego, and it arrived in the Middle East in January, ahead of the launch of the Iran war on Feb. 28. The Navy conceded that the conflict created a “highly contested environment where traditional supply hubs in the Middle East were disrupted by combat actions.” That, in turn, led to shortages and loss of mail aboard the aircraft carrier, the Navy said in a statement.

“Leadership prioritized mission-critical supplies: first food, then hygiene items, then mail,” the

statement said, before assuring that sailors aboard the ship now have access to clean water and “healthy meal options.”

Democrats call for scrutiny, while the Pentagon defends conditions aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln. Democratic lawmakers are calling for investigations, more information and greater visibility into conditions aboard the ship, which was originally set to return home in May. “The Lincoln’s prolonged deployment is especially significant because it is occurring in the context of continuing military operations against Iran and the possibility that substantial US naval forces will be required in the region for an extended period,” Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, wrote in a letter to Navy leadership asking for a response to several questions. Arizona Sen. Ruben Gallego, a Marine Corps veteran, said on social media that he is looking to take a bipartisan delegation on an official oversight visit to the ship and that the way sailors are being treated is “not just disgusting; it’s dangerous.” Hegseth told reporters during a visit to Panama that he wants the Lincoln’s sailors home and crews rotated as quickly as possible but pushed back against reports of problems aboard. “We make sure that every ship, every crew, every captain has everything we can provide them at every single moment. Some deployments are longer than others, and I have more respect and gratitude for those sailors than anybody. What they do in those high seas in those austere conditions with less port calls — it’s incredible.” Navy leaders, including acting Secretary Hung Cao, last week held a tense town hall for families of troops aboard the USS Lincoln, at which the commanders of the Navy’s air and surface forces promised to do everything they could to relieve the aircraft carrier. MS NOW reported earlier on the meeting. When reports of food shortages aboard the ship first surfaced in April, the Navy pushed back, calling those reports “false.”

Jared Kushner To Visit Israel And Egypt Next Week With Board Of Peace Officials

Washington: President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and negotiator Jared Kushner will travel to the Middle East next week to try to advance plans for an end to the conflict in Gaza after a deal recently announced by the Trump administration ran into Israeli opposition. An official with the Board of Peace, the body Trump established to oversee the fragile ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, said Kushner, board high representative Nikolay Mladenov, and executive board member and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would arrive in Israel on Sunday. The group will then travel to Cairo, where meetings of a Palestinian technocratic group set to assume control of Gaza under a U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal have been taking place for the past several months, the official said. The trip was reported earlier by Axios. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because planning for details of the trip has not yet been finalized, said



the meetings would demonstrate the determination of Trump and the Board of Peace to “see peace, prosperity and sustainable security withdrawal until Hamas has completely disarmed. The deal had been seen as a potential breakthrough emerge” in a demilitarized Gaza where Hamas has ceded withdrawal until Hamas has completely disarmed. The deal had been seen as a potential broken

control to allow reconstruction of the devastated territory. But Israel has dismissed a recent deal announced by Trump for Hamas to disarm and Israel to withdraw its forces from the Palestinian territory, marking a rare public display of friction with the Trump administration. Though Hamas accepted the plan to decommission its weapons, Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu said in recent days that Israel would not withdraw until Hamas has completely disarmed. The deal had been seen as a potential breakthrough for ending the war in Gaza. The agreement was based on an October ceasefire that ended major military operations and brought about the release of the remaining hostages held in Gaza, but it has stalled on other fronts.

Ro Khanna Detained Briefly By Israeli Settlers In Palestine

Washington: Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna, a 2028 US Presidential aspirant, on Saturday said he was detained by gun-wielding Israeli settlers while on a visit to Palestine. Khanna, a Democrat from California, was visiting on Wednesday the ruins of Khirbet Zanuta, a Bedouin village in the southern West Bank that was abandoned after attacks from Israeli settlers when the incident took place. “Israeli settlers, brandishing American-made M4s, detained me and other Americans on my trip to Palestine. When the IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) arrived, they sided with the settlers and continued our detention. They made a huge



mistake,” Khanna said in a post on X. Khanna’s experience was reported by a photographer of The New York Times, who was accompanying the Congressman. “I felt powerless in that situation, which is not an easy thing, as I have a lot of privilege in life,” the New York Times quoted Khanna as saying.

The report said Khanna was eventually allowed to continue his journey after calls to the US embassy and Israeli police. “Imagine how people feel every day, Palestinians under the occupation, if they could make an American congressman feel powerless for 90 minutes,” Khanna said. US politi-

cians – Democrats and Republicans alike – have been visiting the West Bank from time to time since the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas started a war in the region. Republican Mike Johnson, the House Speaker, and Democrats Chris Van Hollen and Jeff Merkley visited the region last year. Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is also on a visit to Israel. Emanuel, who briefly served as the White House Chief of Staff during President Barack Obama’s tenure, is also considered a presidential aspirant.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Seeks Lanka's Cooperation For Early Release Of Indian

Colombo: India on Wednesday urged Sri Lanka to cooperate in the early release of Indian fishermen and their boats detained by its authorities, while reiterating that a humanitarian approach should guide the handling of the long-pending issue.

The matter figured prominently during Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri’s discussions with the Sri Lankan leadership during his official visit to Colombo, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Misri arrived in Colombo for a day-long visit. It was his first stand-alone visit to Sri Lanka as Foreign Secretary. He held separate meetings with President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath and Foreign Secretary Aruni Ranaraja. During the talks, Misri discussed issues about fish-



ermen and requested Sri Lanka’s cooperation for the early release of fishermen and boats detained in the island nation, the MEA statement said. “He also requested that even as bilateral mechanisms continue to work towards finding a resolution of the various issues, a humanitarian approach keeping in view the livelihood requirements of fishermen should continue to guide our approach,” it

said. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters. The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other’s waters. In the last week of July, the Sri Lankan navy arrested nine Indian fishermen and seized their trawler for allegedly poaching in the island data, this year, as of April 15, 128 Indian fishermen were arrested, with 18 trawlers being seized by the Sri Lankan Navy for alleged poaching.

Beyond the coding boom—the silent evolution of technology and entry-level work



Every year, thousands of young graduates flood the bustling tech corridors, clutching degrees long viewed as a definitive passport to economic security. For decades, the unwritten contract of the corporate and IT sectors was simple: you started at the bottom, handled the tedious “grunt work”, sorting databases, drafting basic reports, testing standard lines of code, or writing repetitive summaries, and gradually worked your way up the ladder. It was an essential corporate apprenticeship in which professionals made low-stakes mistakes and gradually learned the nuances of their industry.

Also Read
Opinion: Fear of being replaced — Navigating value in an AI-driven workplace
Opinion: Automation and future of work
Today, however, that traditional career ladder is facing a profound structural disruption. The bottom rungs are missing, and the entry-level white-collar job is rapidly transforming or, in some cases, evaporating entirely.

Beyond Prompt

Until recently, public anxiety surrounding artificial intelligence was largely focused on basic generative tools. We marvelled at chatbots that could write a quick email, answer simple queries, or draft a generic marketing paragraph on command. These tools still required a human operator to constantly sit at the screen, type in specific prompts, and piece the outputs together. AI was treated merely as an efficient digital assistant.

But the technological landscape has moved far beyond simple prompt-and-response mechanisms. We have entered the era of autonomous ‘Agentic AI.’ These are independent software systems capable of executing complex, multi-step workflows entirely on their own.

Instead of asking a system to write a single email, companies can now assign an AI agent a broad, complex objective, such as auditing a logistics budget, running a localised marketing campaign, or writing an entire software patch. The agent works inde-

pendently for hours, diagnoses its own bugs, refines its methods, and delivers a completed project without human intervention.

Immediate Casualty

The immediate casualty of this operational shift is the traditional entry-level white-collar worker. From a purely corporate standpoint, the mathematics are stark. Why hire a team of junior analysts to spend 40 hours compiling and processing market data when an autonomous digital agent can complete the task in 40 seconds for pennies? The machine wins on speed, volume, and cost every single time. As a result, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and IT service providers are quietly restructuring their hiring practices, leaning away from mass entry-level recruitment.

This creates a massive paradox for a rapidly developing tech ecosystem like India’s. If the entry-level ‘cognitive grunt work’ is automated, how do we train senior leaders, architects, and managers of tomorrow? If young professionals are never given the chance to learn the foundational, routine aspects of an industry, how will they develop the institutional intuition required to make high-level decisions? One cannot effectively govern a system without ever understanding how its core pieces fit together.

The future of white-collar work lies not in creating content from scratch but in exercising judgment over what automated systems produce. In the AI era, the defining skill will be serving as the ‘human in the loop’.

To navigate this transition, both our skill development models and educational frameworks must move away from past metrics. For too long, professional success has been measured by volume, how fast a person can code, how many pages of a report they can generate, or how efficiently they can manage a spreadsheet. We are currently training young minds to excel at tasks that machines have already mastered.

When an AI agent generates a financial strategy, a legal brief, or a technical design, it operates entirely on patterns, his-

torical datasets, and probabilities. It completely lacks empathy, contextual awareness, and an understanding of human consequences. It cannot look a client in the eye, navigate the delicate political dynamics of a boardroom, or determine if a decision is commercially sound but socially or ethically bankrupt. These deeply human elements—critical thinking, ethical scepticism, and emotional intelligence—are the true safe havens against automation.

Consequently, a young professional’s value will no longer be determined by output speed, but by their ability to audit, stress-test, and find the subtle flaws within an algorithmically generated solution. Their job will be to locate the rot in the digital foundation before it compromises the structure.

Shifting Focus

This shift underscores a broader reality that policymakers and industry leaders are increasingly acknowledging: traditional white-collar roles can no longer rely on rote academic certification. The focus must pivot drastically toward high-value skill development and practical problem-solving. Corporations must view entry-level positions not as a source of cheap, repetitive labour but as an essential long-term investment in human capital, restructuring junior roles so that young professionals spend less time on data entry and more time learning to govern automated systems.

The anxiety among today’s youth is understandable, but it shouldn’t lead to despair. The world of work is not ending; it is merely being rewritten. The traditional, predictable entry-level desk job may be fading, but the societal demand for human wisdom, oversight, and strategic vision has never been higher. To ensure our young work force thrives, we must stop preparing them to compete against machines and finally teach them how to command them.

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Organ donation — let life continue



Organ transplantation is one of the remarkable achievements of modern medicine. A patient with irreversible kidney, liver, heart or lung failure, who once had very limited prospects for survival, can today receive a functioning organ and return to a productive life. Yet transplantation has a limitation that medical technology alone cannot overcome: an organ must first be donated before it can be transplanted.

Opinion: Organ donation in India — Life beyond death needs trust
Editorial: National drive needed for organ donation

India performs a large and increasing number of organ transplants, but the need remains far greater than the availability of organs. Thousands of patients continue to wait for a suitable kidney, liver, heart or lung. Some deteriorate or die while waiting. National Organ Donation Day should remind us that organ donation is a shared responsibility involving individuals, families, hospitals, governments and society.

Transplant Law began developing in India several decades ago. However, the absence of an adequate legal framework in the early years created serious concerns. Commercial kidney transplantation, brokers arranging donors, exploitation of economically disadvantaged people and transplantation based on financial transactions threatened both medical ethics and public confidence. India needed a law that could enable legitimate transplantation while preventing the human body from becoming a commodity. The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, provided a framework for organ retrieval and transplantation and, importantly, gave legal recognition to brain-stem death. Amendments in 2011 expanded its scope to tissues, leading to the present Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) and the rules governing transplantation.

The principle behind the law is fundamental: human organs may be donated for transplantation, but they cannot be

traded for financial gain. Commercial dealings in organs, the involvement of brokers, fraudulent documentation and illegal transplantation are offences. The law provides for imprisonment and substantial financial penalties, apart from professional consequences for medical practitioners found participating in unlawful transplantation.

These safeguards are essential because transplantation can retain public confidence only when donation is voluntary, allocation is fair and financial power cannot determine access to an organ.

Living, Deceased Donation
Living donation has played an enormous role in India, particularly in kidney and liver transplantation. Living donation must, however, remain voluntary and medically safe. Financial hardship should never compel a person to become an organ donor. The second source is deceased organ donation, particularly following brain-stem death. Brain-stem death is the irreversible loss of all brainstem functions and is death as recognised under the transplant law when established according to prescribed medical criteria. Following certification of brain-stem death and the required consent, organs such as the kidneys, liver, heart and lungs may be retrieved for transplantation.

Tissues including corneas, skin, bone and heart valves can also benefit patient s. Countries such as Spain have consistently demonstrated the potential of a well-organised deceased-donor programme. The United States and several European countries have also developed extensive systems for donor identification, organ retrieval, allocation and transplantation. India has made impressive progress in transplantation, but a substantial proportion of kidney and liver transplants still depend on living donors. The lesson from countries with strong deceased-donation programmes is not merely about legislation. Successful systems identify potential donors in hospitals, have trained transplant coordinators, communicate sensitively

with families, maintain transparent waiting lists and allocation systems, and build public confidence over many years. NOTTO and a National System The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) provides the national framework for organ and tissue donation and transplantation, supported by Regional Organ (ROTO) and Tissue Transplant Organisations (SOTTO). A transparent system for registering patients awaiting transplantation, allocating deceased-donor organs and coordinating retrieval and transplantation across hospitals is essential.

Every donated organ is precious. An organ donated in one hospital may need to reach a recipient in another hospital or even another city within hours. Coordination among doctors, transplant coordinators, hospitals, government agencies, police and transport systems can determine whether that organ is successfully transplanted. The experience of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh demonstrates how state-supported deceased-donor programmes can change the transplantation landscape. Green corridors and rapid transport arrangements have enabled organs to reach recipients within the narrow time available for successful transplantation. The next step should be to extend donor identification beyond major transplant centres. Every hospital with an intensive care unit should understand its responsibility in recognising potential brain-stem-dead donors, completing certification according to law and providing families with an opportunity to consider donation. A potential donor should not be lost simply because the hospital lacks awareness or coordination.

Organ Trafficking
The shortage of organs creates another danger: illegal organ trade. When poverty, debt or social vulnerability is exploited to obtain an organ, donation loses its ethical meaning. Brokers, commercial transactions, forged relationships and coercion must be investigated and

punished under the law. At the same time, reports of illegal transplantation should not create fear about legitimate organ donation. The answer to organ trafficking is not less transplantation. It is more transparent, regulated and equitable transplantation.

A strong deceased-donation programme can itself reduce dependence on desperate arrangements and commercial exploitation. Signing a donor pledge is valuable, but discussing the decision with family members is equally important. When death occurs suddenly, relatives are grieving and must make difficult decisions within a limited period. Knowing what their loved one wanted can make that decision clearer. This conversation does not require a hospital. It can begin at home.

Families who are approached for donation must also be treated with dignity. They deserve clear explanations about brain-stem death, the donation process and what will happen afterwards. Consent must be informed and voluntary. There should be no coercion and no commercial consideration. That is the sanctity of organ donation.

Awareness to Action
India does not lack compassion. What we need is a system that converts willingness into donation. Potential donors must be identified in hospitals. Brain-stem death certification should become consistent and timely. Transplant coordinators need appropriate training. Waiting lists and organ allocation must remain transparent.

National and State registries should provide reliable information about donation, transplantation and outcomes. Above all, the public must trust the system. An organ should never be available to the highest bidder. It should go to an appropriate patient according to transparent medical and allocation criteria.

National Organ Donation Day gives every family an opportunity to discuss a question that is usually avoided: What should happen to our organs after death if they can save another person’s life? We spend

East Bengal Script Stunning Comeback To Beat Al Arabi 4-1, Qualify For ACL Two Group Stage

East Bengal produced a stunning late comeback to beat Kuwait's Al Arabi SC 4-1 in extra time and qualify for the group stage of the AFC Champions League Two at the Salt Lake Stadium, here on Wednesday.



The new-look home side under Antonio Lopez Habas looked set for a disappointing exit after trailing 0-1 with just 14 minutes of regulation time remaining following Anayo Iwuala's 76th minute strike from a penalty. But Jay Gupta's 90th-minute equaliser changed the game before East Bengal, who are playing with an all-Indian defence in the absence of Spanish centre back Nacho Monsalve, took complete control in extra time against the Kuwait Premier League runners-up. Captain Mohammed Rashid put the hosts ahead in the 108th minute before substitute David Lalhlansanga added a third in the 117th. Rohit Danu completed the turnaround in the first minute of stoppage time in extra time.

East Bengal, who won the Indian Super League last season, their first top-flight triumph in 22 years to qualify for the continental competition, will now enter the West Region group stage in the continent's second tier club football. The group phase will feature 16 teams playing in a round-robin format with home-and-away fixtures. The first half was played at a frantic tempo with both teams not planning on sitting back. Al Arabi sounded the opening warning with Zeid Qunbar dragging a shot wide from outside

the box in the fifth minute. Backed by the home crowd, East Bengal kept Sulaiman Abdulghafoor busy with the Al Arabi custodian fielding Basim Rashid's powerful effort before reading Jesin Thonikkara's attempted curler perfectly. Al Arabi were left wondering how they did not go ahead in the 23rd minute when Kenean Maleko burst into the box and his shot from an acute angle appeared to squirm past Prabhsukhan Gill, only for the East Bengal goalkeeper to recover in time to claw the ball away

from the goal line. East Bengal came close soon after the restart when Bipin Singh missed a golden opportunity in the 50th minute. Jesin raced forward on the counter and played the ball across to Bipin, who had a clear sight of goal. But after taking a touch, he fired his effort wide. Al Arabi made East Bengal pay for the miss in the 76th minute with Iwuala slotting home from 12 yards after Sandip Mandi had hauled Maleko down in the box. Iwuala sent a low, powerful effort into the bottom-left corner as

Sarvesh Kushare Dazzles In Diamond League Debut With Third-Place Finish In Monaco

Indian high jumper Sarvesh Kushare shone on his Diamond League debut, securing a podium finish with his performance. He finished in third place in Monaco on Friday and became only the fourth Indian athlete to finish in the top three at a Diamond League meet. He has joined the elite list of Neeraj Chopra, Vikas Gowda and Murali Shreshankar, who all have secured a podium finish at least once in a Diamond



League meet. The 31-year-old registered his best successful try of

2.26m to occupy the third position in a field including world-class

performers. He cleared 2.12m, 2.16m, 2.20m, 2.23m and 2.26m, clearing every height in his first attempt before falling short of clearing 2.28 m height. The Maharashtra-based athlete is having a breakthrough season so far. He recently jumped 2.31m at the National Championships in Bhubaneswar and rewrote Indian athletics history. He broke Tejaswin Shankar's eight-year-old national

Gukesh Crumbling Under Pressure, Needs To Shut Out Noise



World champion D Gukesh is crumbling under the weight of expectations and needs to shut out the noise to regain his form ahead of his title defence, said American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura, who also revealed that the 2028 Chess Olympiad could potentially be his last tournament featuring "true classical" chess. Gukesh has faced a slump since his historic 2024 World Championship win, dropping down in ratings after finishing last at both Norway Chess and a recent event in Chennai, alongside low finishes at the Tata Steel Chess and Prague Masters. "I don't know what Gukesh can do different-

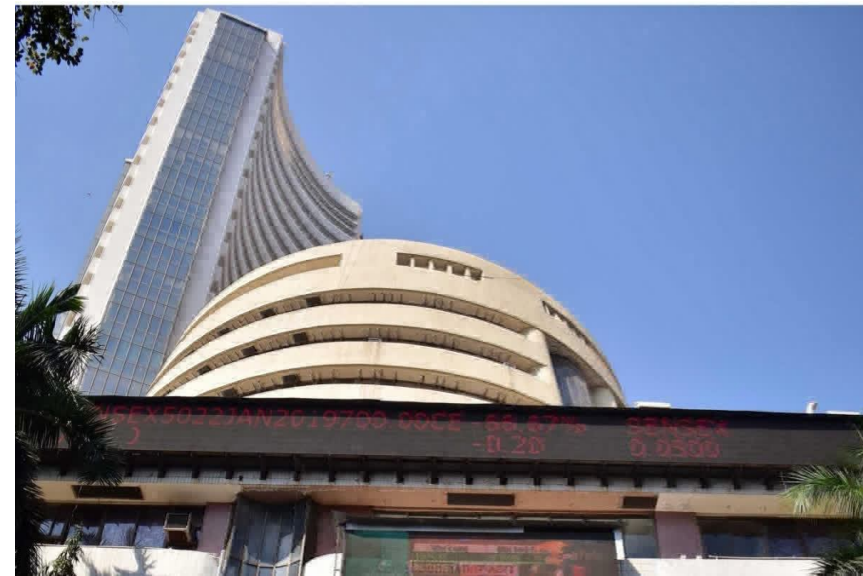
ly. I know what he should have done differently, which is to basically be willing to take draws in a lot of games instead of trying to play for the win," Nakamura said to a query by news agency PTI on Wednesday. "But obviously, I'm not Indian. So, I don't necessarily understand the culture, all the pressure that he's facing. But I get the general sense that there's a lot of pressure whether it's external, whether it's internal. I think he's crumbling because of it. I think if he can kind of just, like, block it all out, forget that he's world champion. You know, this is obviously quotable. But sort of forget that he's never going to be

Magnus Carlsen. I'm quite confident his rating will go back up." Gukesh's classical FIDE rating dropped to 2703 in the August 2026 list. "I don't know if it'll go to 2,800. But I mean, he'll definitely get to, like, 2,740 at least if he kind of just puts a couple of things out of his mind. But obviously, it's very hard," Nakamura continued. "I mean, he's one of the world champions. And you're not the best player. And everyone's comparing you to probably the greatest player of all time. And it's very difficult mentally." Nakamura, however, does not believe Gukesh's upcoming title defence against Uzbek challenger Javokhir Sindarov is a foregone

conclusion despite considering him the underdog. "Even though I think, Gukesh is the big underdog in the match, I don't think it's that unlikely that he wins the match. It's like 75-25 in favour of Sindarov... if the match happens today, Sindarov is playing better. So Sindarov is likely to win. But as I said, 75-25 doesn't necessarily mean you're going to win every time. "But I think it's going to be a close match. I don't think it's going to be some blowout like a lot of people think it will be." Nakamura's assessment of Gukesh also comes in the context of what he sees as a remarkable transformation in Indian chess although he still believes

Mcap Of Five Of Top-10 Most Valued Firms Jumps Rs 1.54 Lakh Cr; TCS Biggest Winner

The combined market valuation of five of the top-10 most valued firms jumped Rs 1.54 lakh crore last week, with IT major TCS emerging as the biggest winner, in line with a positive trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 582.06 points, or 0.75 per cent, and the NSE Nifty went up by 127.4 points, or 0.52 per cent. "Indian equity markets ended the week on a firm footing, extending their recovery despite heightened geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices, and persistent uncertainty surrounding the global interest-rate outlook." Sentiment remained supported by encouraging Q1 FY27 earnings from the IT sector as TCS closed with nearly 10 per cent of weekly gains, renewed buying interest in financial stocks, and resilience in domestic economic fundamentals," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. While Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Bajaj Finance emerged as the gainers, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion in their valuations. TCS added Rs 72,072.3 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 8,20,672.70 crore. The country's largest IT services company reported a 4.61 per cent increase in its June-quarter net profit to Rs 13,349 crore, and guided towards an improvement in demand, impacted by the West Asia crisis, returning in the ongoing



quarter. ICICI Bank's valuation surged Rs 29,062.06 crore to Rs 10,34,441.77 crore, and that of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 23,884.93 crore to Rs 17,95,091.26 crore. The valuation of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 21,946.5 crore to Rs 6,57,274.28 crore, and that of State Bank of India went up by Rs 7,338.34 crore to Rs 9,63,768.78 crore. However, the market capitalisation (mcap) of Larsen & Toubro eroded by Rs 18,097.72 crore to Rs 5,24,840.68 crore. The valuation of LIC declined by Rs 12,080.75 crore to Rs 5,48,124.30 crore. Bharti Airtel's mcap tumbled Rs 7,706.45 crore to Rs 11,91,067.77 crore, and that of HDFC Bank edged lower by Rs 7,084.61 crore to Rs 12,62,369.81 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever dipped Rs 1,221.79 crore to Rs 5,03,775.86 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State

Bank of India, TCS, Bajaj Finance, LIC, Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever. The combined market valuation of five of the top-10 most valued firms jumped Rs 1.54 lakh crore last week, with IT major TCS emerging as the biggest winner, in line with a positive trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 582.06 points, or 0.75 per cent, and the NSE Nifty went up by 127.4 points, or 0.52 per cent. "Indian equity markets ended the week on a firm footing, extending their recovery despite heightened geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices, and persistent uncertainty surrounding the global interest-rate outlook." Sentiment remained supported by encouraging Q1 FY27 earnings from the IT sector as TCS closed with nearly 10 per cent of weekly gains, renewed buying interest in financial stocks, and resilience in domestic economic fundamentals," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. While Reliance

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Sebi Proposes Mandatory Colour-Coded Credit Risk-O-Meter For Debt



Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday proposed introducing a mandatory colour-coded 'Credit Risk-o-Meter' for debt securities, to help investors assess credit risk more easily before investing. Inspired by the risk-o-meter framework for mutual funds, the proposed tool will use a standardised, colour-coded scale to depict the credit risk associated with a debt security. The move is aimed at simplifying complex credit ratings, enabling investors to assess and compare debt securities more easily and align their investments with their risk appetite, Sebi said in a consultation paper. Under the proposal, issuers and online bond platform providers (OBPPs) will be required to display the

Credit Risk-o-Meter in offer documents, abridged prospectuses, private placement memorandums, advertisements and on their web and mobile platforms. The meter will have six colour-coded risk levels, ranging from Irish Ghe name of the credit rating agency (CRA) and the actual credit rating of the security will have to be disclosed in text immediately below the Credit Risk-o-Meter. In cases where a debt security has ratings from multiple CRAs, the meter will be based on the lowest rating, while all ratings will have to be disclosed alongside it. For unsecured debt instruments, issue that the Credit Risk-o-Meter represents only the credit risk associated with the debt security. The name of the credit rating agency (CRA) and the

Caramel for moderate risk and Dark Orange for moderate risk of default. "By simplifying risk evaluation, this tool enhances market transparency, improves investor understanding while supporting regulatory goals of investor protection and market development," Sebi said. The regulator has also proposed that issuers and OBPPs clearly disclose

actual credit rating of the security will have to be disclosed in text immediately below the Credit Risk-o-Meter.

In cases where a debt security has ratings from multiple CRAs, the meter will be based on the lowest rating, while all ratings will have to be disclosed alongside it. For unsecured debt instruments, issuers will have to prominently disclose the same in bold red text below the Credit Risk-o-Meter. OBPPs will also be required to immediately communicate any change in the Credit Risk-o-Meter of a debt security on their platforms. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought public comments till September 3 on the proposal.



Shreya Kalra Takes Home Trophy And Rs 1 Crore



Social media influencer emerged as the winner of Lock Upp Season 2. Shreya Kalra has got into arguments with fellow contestants,

She lifted the winner's trophy and took home the cash prize of Rs 1 crore during the grand finale held on August 5. Hosts Riteish Deshmukh and Farah Khan announced her name as the winner, while actor Shivangi Joshi finished as the first runner-up. The finale featured five contestants: Shreya Kalra, Shivangi Joshi, Yogesh Rawat, Ram Kapoor, and Shilpa Shinde. After weeks of tough competition, the title came down to Shreya and Shivangi. When the winners were announced, Shreya hugged Shilpa Shinde before receiving the trophy from the hosts. Shreya was one of the most talked-about contestants throughout the season. She grabbed attention with her outspoken nature, fearless attitude, and strong gameplay. She often got into arguments with fellow contestants,

including Shilpa Shinde and Akanksha Chamola, but managed to stay in the spotlight from the beginning until the finale.

As the game progressed, Shreya also showed smart strategy inside the house. She made important decisions at crucial stages and used her special advantage to protect herself from elimination. Her gameplay divided opinions, but it helped her reach the final and eventually win the show. View this post on Instagram

A post shared by Shreya kalra (@shreyakalraa) The final voting also went in Shreya's favour. The "Janta Ki Jury" gave her 18 votes, while Shivangi received five. Overall, Shreya secured 23 votes compared to Shivangi's 16, sealing her victory. Yogesh Rawat finished as the second runner-up. His journey was remarkable as he re-entered the competition through a wild card entry after being eliminated earlier. Ram Kapoor and Shilpa Shinde also made it to the top five after putting up strong performances throughout the season. Ahead of the grand finale, actor Harshad Chopda was eliminated after choosing to make Shivangi Joshi the show's first finalist. Lock Upp Season 2 is

Suvinder Vicky Thought His Dhurandhar 2 Dialogues Would Be 'A Big Beep'



Suvinder Vicky thought his character in Dhurandhar: The Revenge might end up with more beeps than dialogues. The actor, who played Arjun Rampal's father in Aditya Dhar's action drama, was surprised by the amount of abusive language written for his character and even joked that the filmmaker should have made him mute. But director Aditya Dhar was confident that the dialogues would make it to the final cut. In a recent interview with a newswire, Vicky recalled his conversation with Dhar before shooting the scenes. "I told Aditya that my whole dialogue will be a big

beep; he should have instead made me play a mute character in the film because I'm abusing so much. But he told me confidently that nothing will be cut." That confidence also made Vicky think about improvising some of his lines. However, Dhar had one clear boundary. According to Vicky, the director told him, "We will not go to mothers and sisters. It is also our responsibility to not hurt sentiments in films." The abuses were part of the script. Vicky also made it clear that the strong language was not something he created on set. He credited the writing team for the dialogues while also acknowledging the director and his

own performance. "I'm lucky to work with great directors. In this, the credit goes to Aditya Dhar and to me also because I also gave my hundred per cent effort. Also, galiyon ka shrey hamare script writer ko bhi jayega, because I didn't make any of those; that was all written in the script," he said. Arjun Rampal told him to go all out. Vicky and Rampal were already familiar with each other before Dhurandhar: The Revenge. The two had worked together in Satluj, which helped them approach their intense scenes with an existing equation. Vicky said he warned Rampal about the dialogues

before filming. Rampal's response was simple: "It is part of life, camera ke samne faad de." Vicky's next stop is Awarapan 2 Dhurandhar: The Revenge continued the story of Ranveer Singh's Jaskirat Singh Rangi, who becomes Hamza Ali Mazari and gets deeper into Karachi's criminal underworld. The film also featured Arjun Rampal, Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt and R Madhavan. For Vicky, he would next be seen in Awarapan 2. He stars alongside Emraan Hashmi, Disha Patani and Shabana Azmi in the Nitin Kakkar-directed sequel, which releases in cinemas on August 14.

