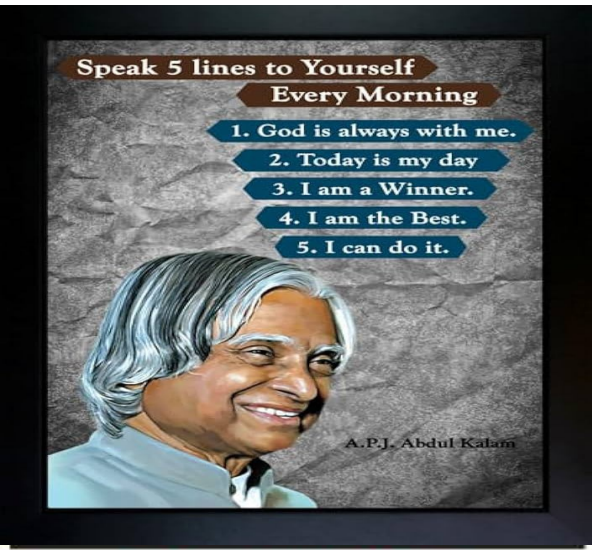




CEO Releases Telangana Electoral Roll, Check Here

Hyderabad: The Election Commission on Monday released the draft electoral rolls to enable people to check their names in the voter ID list. For details, the people can log into the website: <http://ceotelangana.nic.in/> Telan gana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudarshan Reddy released the draft voter list for Telangana as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll, after which the Election Commission of India (ECI) will start issuing notices to certain categories. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Welcomes TG-SAFE for Safer Food, Medicines The



claims and objections period starts immediately and will end on September 16. "Voters with anomalies are most likely to get notices from Electoral Registration Officers (ERO)," an official said, referring to people who have 'logical discrepancies' in their name, father's name, age between siblings, age difference with parents and some other categories. Their number stands at about 60 lakh. Also Read - Leopard Cub

Found Dead in Amrabad Tiger Reserve on Srisaillam Road The notices for voters with anomalies, printed with the elector's details will be sent from ECI's office. Voters who fail to find their names in the draft list can file claims to reclaim their votes. The disposal of claims and objections starts on Monday, and will continue for an additional month and conclude on October 15. Tribunals will also be set up in case of unresolved disputes like deletion of vote following the EROs decision. The final electoral roll will be published on October 19.

TG -SAFE Launch To Ensure Food, Drug Safety In Telangana

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday said the creation of TG-SAFE reflects the state government's commitment to ensure safety, security and overall well-being of citizens in every aspect of life. "Today, as Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG-Safe) comes into force, with a single department to ensure safety and standards in our food & medicines, I hope all citizens join me in welcoming and taking its services for a safe Telangana," he said



in a post on X. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Welcomes TG-SAFE for Safer Food, Medicines According to a Government Order (GO) issued recently, the Food Safety Department and the



Drugs Control Department share common objectives relating to public health, consumer safety, quality assurance and effective regulatory enforcement. A unified administrative framework is required to

improve surveillance, intelligence, enforcement, legal support and regulatory outcomes, it said. Therefore, the government has decided to establish a unified administrative structure for the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department. Also Read - Leopard Cub Found Dead in Amrabad Tiger Reserve on Srisaillam Road The order further said the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department would be merged under a unified administration known as the TG SAFE.

The unified administration shall preserve the statutory provisions under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The Commissioner, TG SAFE shall function as unified administrative control for the Food Safety and Drug Control Departments, it said. Senior IPS officer Avinash Mohanty, who was earlier posted as Director General, Drugs Control Administration, has been posted as Commissioner, Telangana SAFE, in addition to his normal duties.

Avinash Mohanty Takes Charge as TG SAFE Commissioner

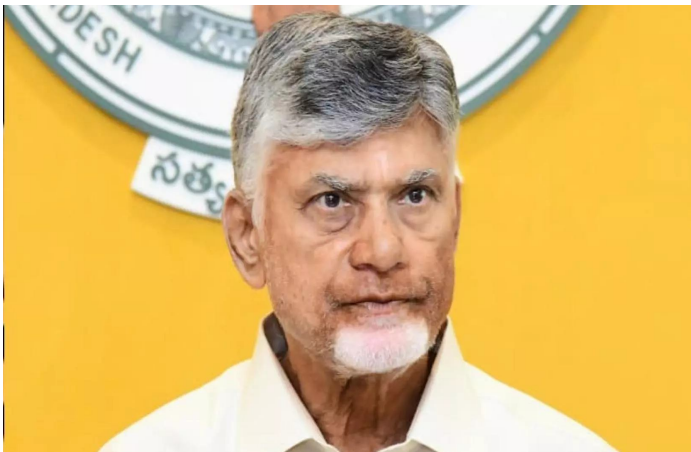


Hyderabad: IPS officer Avinash Mohanty has taken charge here on Monday as the Commissioner, Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE). The TG SAFE has been established with the objective of strengthening the regulatory framework relating to food and drugs, ensuring quality, safety and compliance with the

prescribed standards in Telangana. The State government has established the TG SAFE by bringing the food safety department and drugs control department under a unified administrative framework, given the increase in the volume of licensed food business operators in Telangana. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Welcomes TG-SAFE

for Safer Food, Medicines The move is also intended to strengthen surveillance, enforcement and coordination against unsafe, spurious and substandard food and medicines. The government will initially implement the unified system in the CURE region, citing the high concentration of food businesses and drug establishments in the

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday defended the Mega DSC-2025 teacher recruitment drive, asserting that the selection process was conducted with transparency. Addressing the Assembly, the Chief Minister said every candidate's selection is traceable and accountable. "Everything was transparent....every candidate selection is traceable and accountable," he said, adding that there was zero compromise while conducting the examination. Also Read - Foundation Laid For Rs 25-Cr Modern Educational Academy In Amaravati Naidu said the



teacher's recruitment through 'Mega DSC' fulfilled one of the core poll promises. He said 3.3 lakh aspirants had applied for

the DSC examination, which offered 15,941 government teacher jobs. Noting that the entire examination procedure

was completed in 148 days, the CM said 89 test sessions were conducted and 42,000 questions were compiled from 13 subjects. Naidu said the people who bagged jobs were happy and underlined that their stories were moving, adding that some aspirants had prepared for seven long years. Also Read - Konaseema: 7 Fishermen Missing For 14 Days, Families File Complaint The CM said the southern state had implemented sports quota in DSC - 2025, adhering to the guidelines imple-

mented by the Centre. Hitting out at YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu accused the previous YSRCP government of having "failed" to fill a single teaching post. According to the CM, between 10 lakh and 12 lakh students had quit government schools under the previous administration while one lakh students transitioned from private to government schools under the current political dispensation. Though there was no deviation from the teacher recruitment notification, he accused the opposition party of filing more than 300 cases against DSC-2025.

Congress Committed to Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak



Hyderabad: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar on Monday said the Congress government was committed to implement the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and accused the BRS of "shedding crocodile tears" over the issue. He said the government was releasing funds for the schemes through the green channel and would take all necessary steps to ensure that poor families continued to benefit from them. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Welcomes TG-SAFE for Safer Food, Medicines Prabhakar said a petition had been filed in the Telangana High Court challenging eight Government Orders (GOs) issued so far in connection with the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme.

The court had issued interim orders staying the scheme, he said, adding that the government would appeal against the order before the Division Bench and hoped for a favourable verdict. The Minister attributed the legal complications to "defective" GOs issued by the previous government in 2014. He said the present government would soon rectify the shortcomings and ensure that the schemes continued without interruption. Also Read - Leopard Cub Found Dead in Amrabad Tiger Reserve on Srisaillam Road Prabhakar also said the government was examining whether the failure to file a counter affidavit in the case was due to a lapse by officials or those handling the government's legal matters.

Action would be taken against those found responsible, he said. He pointed out that Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak were welfare schemes aimed at reducing the financial burden on poor families during the marriage of their daughters. Though introduced in 2014 by the previous government, the Congress government was continuing the schemes irrespective of political considerations, he said. Also Read - TG -SAFE Launch To Ensure Food, Drug Safety In Telangana: CM Revanth Reddy Welcomes TG-SAFE for Safer Food, Medicines Prabhakar said a petition had been filed in the Telangana High Court challenging eight Government Orders (GOs) issued so far in connection with the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme.

Foundation Laid For Rs 25-Cr Modern Educational Academy In Amaravati



Amaravati: A modern educational and cultural academy is set to come up at Abburaajupalem in the Amaravati capital region at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crore, giving a boost to educational infrastructure in the developing capital city. The proposed academy will be constructed on a three-acre site near the E3-N14 Junction. The school building is expected to have a built-up area of nearly one lakh square feet and, once fully developed, will have the capacity to accommodate around 2,500 students. Also Read - Naidu Defends Mega DSC-2025 Teacher Recruitment, Cites

Transparency According to the project plans, the institution will eventually offer education up to Grade 12. It aims to provide quality education at affordable fees while developing modern facilities for students. The academy is presently conducting classes from nursery to Grade 5, with plans to expand enrolment and introduce higher classes in phases from the coming academic years. The project is being developed under the DAV Amaravati Rythu Vidyalaya Vedantam Group. Formed by local farmers and residents of Thullur Mandal, AECA and other

donors are expected to contribute towards the construction of the new campus. The management has set an ambitious target of developing the academy into one of Andhra Pradesh's leading educational institutions. The educational project is expected to further strengthen developed under the DAV Amaravati Rythu Vidyalaya Vedantam Group. Formed by local farmers and residents of Thullur Mandal, AECA and other

BJP Announces New Team Under Nitin Nabin, Modi Congratulates

New Delhi: The BJP on Monday announced its new national team under party president Nitin Nabin, appointing 13 national vice presidents and retaining B L Santhosh as national general secretary (organisation). Ram Madhav, Lok Sabha MP D Purandeshwari and former Uttarakhand chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat are among the vice presidents. Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia, former Union minister Bharti Pawar, Manpreet Singh Badal and Tariq Mansoor have also been appointed to the post. Also Read - SC Orders Nationwide Survey Of Elephant Corridors, Bans Fireballs The party has retained B L Santhosh as national



general secretary (organisation), while former Union minister Smriti Irani and former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb have team of eight national general secretaries. Vinod Tawde and Sunil Bansal are the other two general secretaries retained by the BJP. Gajendra Patel, Harish Dwivedi and Sanjay Bhatia have also been appointed national

general secretaries. Also Read - SSB Safeguards 2,450-km Open borders with Nepal, Bhutan: Bandi Sanjay Shivprakash and SauHarish Dwivedi and Sanjay Bhatia have also been appointed national joint general secretaries (organisation), while Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed national treasurer.

BRS hits back at CM Revanth over 24-hour power claim

Hyderabad: A day after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed that farmers were being provided 24-hour power, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) hit back, saying officials themselves were admitting that only 10 to 12 hours of power was being supplied to farmers. Former Minister Sunitha Laxma Reddy said it was a joke that the Chief Minister, who was making farmers spend sleepless nights, was claiming that he had made farming profitable. Addressing the media here on Sunday, she alleged that the Chief Minister had failed to implement the farm loan waiver as promised. She also questioned the introduction of the Urea app, saying farmers were facing increased hardships because of it. She asked

whether farmers were happy with the new app. Sunitha Laxma Reddy alleged that the Congress government was deceiving all sections of society, not just farmers. She said Revanth Reddy had promised two lakh jobs but had deceived unemployed youth. She also questioned what had happened to his promise of an unemployment allowance and the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' scheme. She further alleged that Revanth Reddy had failed to fulfil his promise of providing Rs. 1 crore each to the families of workers who died at the Sigachi industry. Condemning the remarks and objectionable language used by the Chief Minister in



Sangareddy, Sunitha Laxma Reddy said he had spoken lies even on Independence Day. She alleged that Revanth Reddy had no clear policy and had done nothing for the State. She also criticised the Congress government for boasting about the distribution of ration cards. She pointed out that Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy had admitted in the Legislative Council that 6.47 lakh ration cards were issued during the BRS regime. Sunitha

Laxma Reddy said the distribution of fine rice was not an achievement of the Congress government. She said BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao was the brand ambassador for the initiative as he had started the fine rice distribution programme. BRS MLA from Sangareddy Chinta Prabhakar said the public meeting in Sangareddy had been conducted using the State exchequer but had turned into a Congress party meeting. He said that, despite being the Sangareddy MLA, he was not even informed about the meeting. He alleged that Revanth Reddy had insulted not only him but also the people of

Kalyana Lakshmi row: BRS cadre stages protest at Collectorates and other places across the State

Hyderabad: Condemning the Congress government's conspiracies to discontinue the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) staged protests at Collectorates and other places across the State. The party demanded that the Congress government address the issues and extend benefits to the poor and needy under the scheme. The BRS leaders warned that if the scheme was not continued, protests would be intensified across the State involving women. From Alam pur to Adilabad, BRS leaders held placards and raised slogans against the Congress government for its failure. At many places, the party leaders squatted on the roads in protest and demanded that the government disburse Kalyana Lakshmi benefits at the earliest. These protests were staged following instructions from BRS working president KT Rama Rao. He had charged that the Congress government was hatching conspira-



cies to discontinue the scheme out of political vendetta. In Makthal constituency, former Makthal MLA Chittam Rammohan Reddy participated in the protest on National Highway 167. The BRS leaders opposed the Congress party's alleged conspiracy to discontinue the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. A protest was held by the BRS town and mandal units at the Sri Satyanarayana junction in Narayanpet. In Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Kodangal constituency, a protest was held at Maddur Old

Bus Stand junction under the leadership of former MLA Patnam Narender Reddy. Traffic movement was disrupted for a while after the BRS party held a protest at the Ambedkar Centre on National Highway 353 in Jayashankar Bhupalpally. Former Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy demanded that the schemes be continued without interruption. A massive protest was held at YSR Junction in the Jogulamba Gadwal district, demanding the continuation of the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, which has stood

as a support system for poor families. Led by BRS Gadwal in-charge Basu Shyamala Hanumantha Naidu, a large number of party leaders and activists participated and raised slogans against the government. Tension prevailed at the Nalgonda Collectorate after the BRS cadre staged a protest under the leadership of former MLAs Kancharla Bhupal Reddy and Nomula Bhagat. They launched the protest demanding the immediate implementation of the suspended Kalyana Lakshmi schemes.

Veligonda Evacuation Plan Gets Urgent Push Ahead Of Trial Run

Markapuram: Markapuram collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to ensure the safe evacuation of people from villages in the Veligonda project's submergence area ahead of the scheduled water release trial run on August 22. Reviewing rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) arrangements with district officials at the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector directed officials to carry out the evacuation without pressure or confrontation and in a cordial atmosphere. She said every eligible displaced family would receive justice in compensation matters. Also Read - ICAI Allotted Site for a Building in Anantapur Special committees have been constituted to oversee the planned evacuation of residents from Sunkesula, Kalanuthala, Gundacherla, Gottipadiya, Chintala Mudipi, Katamaraju Thanda, Lakshmipuram,

Krishnanagar and Akkacheruvu villages. Vijaya Sunitha directed officials to submit daily progress reports on R&R colonies and complete essential facilities, including drinking water, electricity and roads, on a priority basis. She also directed officials to take precautionary measures to prevent difficulties during the relocation process. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, RDO Venkata Sivaramireddy and officials from RWS, Transport, Mining, DWMA, Agriculture, Education and other departments attended the meeting. Markapuram collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to ensure the safe evacuation of people from villages in the Veligonda project's submergence area ahead of the scheduled water release trial run on August 22. Reviewing rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) arrangements with district offi-



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Krishnanagar and Akkacheruvu villages. Vijaya Sunitha directed officials to submit daily progress reports on R&R colonies and complete essential facilities, including drinking water, electricity and roads, on a priority basis. She also directed officials to take precautionary measures to prevent difficulties during the relocation process. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, RDO Venkata Sivaramireddy and officials from RWS, Transport, Mining, DWMA, Agriculture, Education and other departments attended the meeting.

TGHRC Calls for Strict Enforcement of Category-B Engineering Admissions Guidelines

Hyderabad: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC), headed by Dr. Justice Shameem Akther, Chairperson, has recommended strict enforcement of the prescribed guidelines for admissions to Category-B (Management/NRI) seats in engineering Colleges, ensuring transparency, fairness and equal opportunity to eligible students. The Commission passed the order DT.31.07.2026 in HRC.No.4961 of 2021 on a complaint filed by Paladugu Srinivas of Osmania University JAC alleging irregularities in the Category-B admission process for the academic year 2021-2022 in St. Martin's Engineering College, Dhulapally, and Vardhaman College of



Engineering, Shamshabad. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Welcomes TG-SAFE for Safer Food, Medicines The complainant alleged that eligible students were not provided an effective opportunity to submit applications, despite notifications being issued, and that the prescribed admission procedure was not properly followed. The Secretary, Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE),

submitted a report stating that both colleges had issued notifications on September 18, 2021 in three newspapers and completed admissions as per the prescribed guidelines and schedule. Also Read - Leopard Cub Found Dead in Amrabad Tiger Reserve on Srisailem Road The complainant, however, disputed the report and produced documents in support of his allegations. The Commission observed that the allega-

tions were serious and that, if true, there would be a discrepancy between the notified admission procedure and its actual implementation, potentially affecting the legitimate educational opportunities of eligible and meritorious students. Accordingly, exercising powers under Section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the Commission recommended that TSCHE strictly enforce the guidelines for Category-B admissions, ensure that no arbitrary or unauthorized procedure is adopted, and safeguard transparency, fairness and equal opportunity for all eligible candidates. With the recommendation, further proceedings in the case were closed. A copy of

TG Farmers Differ With Government On Bonus To Seven Paddy Varieties

Farmers in Telangana have opposed the state government's decision to provide a bonus of ₹500 per quintal on minimum support price (MSP) to only seven varieties of paddy sown. According to the government's stipulations, farmers must produce the bill of the seed purchased by them to officials while selling their crop at the procurement centres. This will help officials decide whether or not the crop is one among the seven varieties of paddy for which the bonus is to be given. Also Read - Hyderabad: Auto Catches Fire in Jillelaguda, Owner Suspects Son-in-Law Farmers contend that it is not possible to get bills from farmers who maintain seeds of their own. Further, such seeds are usable for about five years. About 25 per cent of farmers maintain their own foundation seed, according to an estimate. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Manda



Rajamallaiiah, a farmer from Gopalpur, said he purchases the best quality paddy seed produced by scientists of the Telangana Agricultural University. This is because though seeds of different companies are available in the market, their quality is not assured. Also Read - Telangana BJP Leaders Pay Rich Tributes To Vajpayee On 8th Death Anniversary Like Rajamallaiiah, many farmers purchase seeds from the university. After harvesting, they preserve some paddy as seed for the next season.

The same seed could also be used for about five years. "It is not possible to get a purchase bill for every season," Rajamallaiiah explained. To encourage farmers to produce fine variety of paddy, the Telangana government had announced a bonus of ₹500 per quintal on minimum support price for seven varieties of paddy purchased at the procurement centres in the state. They are BPT 5204, RNR 15048, HMT Sona, Jai Sriram, KNM 1638, WGL 44, and KNM 7715. Also Read - Food Safety Raids:

Unauthorised Unit Seized, 6 Kg Khova, 1,000 Kg Curd Seized Further, the size of the grain would be measured using a calliper. The length of grain must be below 6 mm and width below 2 mm. In addition, the length to width ratio must be 2.5 mm. Farmers maintain that the output of foundation and other fine varieties of seeds that meet these standards must also be given the ₹500 per quintal bonus. They underlined that most farmers grow only those varieties that have a good demand in the

CM Revanth cautions youth, says fake social media posts will invite

Warangal: With farmers, unemployed youth and others taking to the streets to press for their demands, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy warned that adverse posts shared on social media would invite severe punishment. "Many are under the illusion that sharing false facts on social media will benefit them, but it will be futile. You will be beaten black and blue," Revanth Reddy said at a public meeting in Parakala here on Sunday. He charged that opposition parties were instigating unemployed youth against the State government. He alleged that the youth were being misled and asked to stage protests. The Chief Minister assured that job notifications would be issued in phases and asked the youth not to fall prey to opposition politics. "Do not participate in protests. If police book cases, you will be ineligible for the jobs," he said. Revanth Reddy further



charged that the BRS, which recently conducted a blood donation camp at its office, had sold the donated blood units to private hospitals and made money from them. He asked unemployed youth not to believe the party. After assuring that the Assembly session would be conducted in the first week of August, the Chief Minister said it would now be held in

September. He said the Congress government was prepared to discuss the achievements of the previous BRS government and compare them with those of the current government over the last two and a half years. The Chief Minister said he was working 18 hours a day to fulfil the promises made to the people. He said the State government was providing Rs. 12,000 per acre

under the Rythu Bharosa scheme. In the last 32 months, Rs. 36,000 crore had been provided to farmers, he said. Similarly, the State government had spent Rs. 30,000 crore on free power supply to farmers, he said. "As promised, farming has been made lucrative and farmers are happy with the Congress government," Revanth Reddy said.

Seven Dead, Nearly A Dozen Injured In Stampede At Ashok Dham Temple In Bihar's Lakhisarai

Patna: At least seven devotees were killed and around a dozen were seriously injured in a stampede near the famous Ashok Dham temple in Lakhisarai district of Bihar on Monday morning. Majority of the victims were women, officials said. The stampede was allegedly triggered after an electricity pole broke and fell on the pilgrims, sparking rumours that people were getting electrocuted due to it. Panic spread through the crowd, with devotees running helter-skelter. Seven Dead, Nearly A Dozen Injured In Stampede At Ashok Dham Temple In Bihar's Lakhisarai (ETV Bharat) The incident occurred at around 6:40 AM as two trainloads of pilgrims arrived at the Lakhisarai railway station adding to the unprecedented rush at the Shiva temple on the occasion of the third Monday of the auspicious month of Sawan (Shravan). "The incident occurred on the kuchcha (beaten or earthen) road leading to the temple. A cemented electricity pole snapped and fell near the place where the women



were queueing up to go to the temple. It led to panic among the devotees," Lakhisarai sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Shivam Kumar told ETV Bharat. "There are open land and farms on both sides of the path and women ran towards them in panic. Some of them slipped and fell as the open land was wet due to rains. Meanwhile, they were trampled by other devotees. Seven women have died in the incident," Shivam added. er Samrat Choudhary expressed grief over the incident and condoled the

loss of lives. "We have given necessary instructions to the administration for immediate and adequate treatment of the injured. May God grant peace to the departed soul and speedy recovery to the injured," Samrat said in a post on X. So far, only four of the seven deceased have been identified. They include Hemlata Devi, Rinku Devi, Manmala Devi and Madhubala Devi. Senior administrative officials, including Lakhisarai District Magistrate Shaileendra Kumar and Superintendent of Police

(SP) Prerna Kumar, were present on the spot at the time of filing the report. Incidentally, this Monday coincided with Nag Panchmi, which led to more people thronging the temple than eadministrativexpected. "All of us, including the police, SSB jawans, and administrative officials were on duty right from 2:30 AM today. All necessary arrangements were in place. Yet this tragic incident happened. Two minutes of chaos left seven dead and many injured. All the injured have been admitted to hospital and a team

of doctors is treating them," Lakhisarai DM Shaileendra Kumar said. The Ashok Dham temple had earlier witnessed a stampede in 2019, in which one person was killed and several others were injured. On March 31 this year, nine people were killed and many others were injured in a stampede at the Sheetla Mata Temple at Maghra in Bihar's Nalanda district of Bihtime of filing the report. Incidentally, this Monday coincided with Nag Panchmi, which led to more people thronging the temple than expected. "All odent happened. Two minutes of chaos left seven dead and many injured. All the injured have been admitted to hospital and a team of doctors is treating ar.

BJP Lodges Complaint Against Sonia Gandhi For Insulting 'Vande Mataram' Song



Bengaluru: The BJP on Sunday lodged a complaint against senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in Bengaluru as well as in Mangaluru in connection with a controversy surrounding the recitation of 'Vande Mataram', officials said. In Bengaluru, the BJP Yuva Morcha (youth wing) lodged a complaint at the Malleshwaram police station regarding the alleged insult to the national song Vande Mataram by senior Congress leader and requested that legal action be taken in this regard. The Yuva Morcha also staged a protest near the BJP state headquarters, Jagannath Bhawan, on the issue. Yuva Morcha state president and MLA Dheeraj Muniraju, speaking during the protest, demanded that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi apologise to the people of the country for allegedly showing

disrespect to the Vande Mataram song, and warned that their protest would continue until they do so. In the police complaint, they said the song Vande Mataram played an important role in the freedom struggle and is presently the national song of India. It is required by the law of our land to be accorded the same respect as our national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana." Stating that it is the duty of every Indian citizen to show due respect to the national song and national anthem without causing any derogation to their dignity, the BJP youth wing said, insulting the national song, obstructing its presentation, or objecting to it is an offence under the relevant provisions. Further noting that they saw a video of an Independence Day flag-hoisting event where Sonia Gandhi was present, they

said, while Vande Mataram was being presented in accordance with the prescribed procedure, she displayed disrespect towards it and deliberately tried to interrupt it. "This appears to be an intentional act aimed at disturbing public peace and amounts to an insult to our country's national song. Therefore, as the alleged conduct constitutes an offence under Section 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and Section 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), I request that appropriate legal action be taken against Sonia Gandhi immediately," it added. In Mangaluru, the complaint was lodged at Urva police station, with BJP leaders accusing Gandhi of conduct that they said was inappropriate in relation to Vande Mataram. The BJP leaders sought action against Gandhi over the issue and alleged that the controversy had hurt sentiments associated with the national song.

The police are yet to file an FIR, while the BJP leaders Vikas K

UGC NET Re-Exam: Congress Targets NTA, Modi Govt; Demands Accountability Over Question Paper Errors And Delayed Action

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has once again found itself at the centre of a controversy after announcing its decision to re-conduct UGC-NET exams for English, Commerce and Sociology, citing "multiple errors" in the papers. Demanding accountability, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has accused the agency of making students pay for its mistakes. On Sunday night, the NTA announced the re-examination after a committee found several errors in the three question papers, including factual, typographical and translation mistakes, as well as repeated questions from earlier exams. Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the NTA, Rahul Gandhi said students who had spent



years preparing for the exams would now have to repeat the process. "Modi ji, look at what your NTA has just done. UGC-NET exams for Sociology, English and Commerce were held between 22 and 30 June. Nearly two months later, NTA has cancelled all three because it set faulty papers and repeated old questions. Thousands of

candidates who prepared for years, filled forms, paid the fees, travelled to distant centres, must now do it all again in September. NTA makes the mistake but the student serves the sentence," Gandhi, the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition, said. He also questioned whether the papers were leaked before the exam

and demanded accountability from the NTA leadership. "NTA still won't answer the real question - were these papers leaked before the exam? Just like every other arm of the Modi government, NTA never says it's their fault. Just like every other compromised paper, I am absolutely sure there will be no accountability," he criticised. Rahul Gandhi further said former Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation was "the first step, not the last". "To every student sitting this exam again in September - you are not the problem. PM Modi built a system that cannot run an exam and then blames the students who take it. Your years are being stolen and we will not stop until PM Modi

answers for it," he said. Congress MP Jairam Ramesh also questioned how such serious errors could have gone unnoticed before the exams. He said the NTA committee had found wrongly written names of scholars, distorted book titles, language and grammatical errors, punctuation mistakes and non-standard terms in the papers. "...The exams for these three subjects will be held again on September 9 and 10. Our question is: why should the country's students suffer the consequences of the NTA's mistake? Does it really take nearly two months to detect such serious errors?" Ramesh questioned. The Congress leader also raised concerns over students who could lose admission opportunities in universities because

Kendrapara Flood: 300 Students Trapped In Submerged Sevashram School In Odisha



Kendrapara: More than 300 children have remained stranded inside a residential school in Kendrapara district after floodwaters from the Brahmani River submerged its approach road and inundated essential facilities, necessitating urgent appeals for evacuation. The crisis has affected the Kulasahi Sevashram School under Pattamundai block as incessant rain and the opening of gates at the Rengali dam led to a surge of water from upstream. With the Brahmani flowing above the danger mark, floodwater encircled the school campus, hostels and classrooms, cutting the institution off from surrounding areas. After school authorities, teachers and students have appealed to the district administration and local representatives to begin immediate rescue operations, Pattamundai BDO Sheetal Agrawal, on Monday, said since shifting about 300 students from their hostels to a new location will pose more problems,

all arrangements have been made to make their stay safe in the same hostels. "We have made plans and are executing those for the students. Water bottles are being supplied, and food arrangement will also be taken care of," she said. As per reports, ODRAF team has been deployed near the school. Miranjan Mohanty said, "The water level of the Brahmani River rose suddenly last night, following which floodwater rushed towards the school with a strong current. Until Sunday morning, the campus had only ankle-deep water, but the floodwater later rose to around eight to 10 feet. More than 300 young children studying in the primary and upper-primary classes are trapped helplessly inside the Sevashram hostel." The rapidly rising water has also submerged the school's basic facilities. The main road leading to the institution is underwater, making it impossible to reach the campus by ordinary vehicles. "The

main approach road to the school has been completely submerged, bringing all movement to a halt. The tube well, kitchen and toilets near the school are also underwater," local resident Pratap Padhi said. "The stored food supplies are at risk of being ruined, while the inmates are facing an acute shortage of safe drinking water. The electricity supply has been disrupted, forcing the children to spend anxious hours in darkness. There is also a growing threat from snakes and other venomous creatures in the floodwater," he added. Parents have been left deeply worried. The strong river current has prevented even local residents from approaching the school. "Because of the powerful current in the river, local people are also afraid to go near the school. We are extremely worried," said Mrutyunjay Sahu, the parent of a student. The headmaster and the school management committee urged the administration to deploy powerboats and teams from the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force or the National Disaster Response Force. They had demanded that all the children be evacuated to a secure location without delay.

Residents fear the situation could deteriorate further unless the Pattamundai block

Bihar Man Posing As Fake IAS Officer Held; Property Estimated At Rs 100 Crore

Udaipur: As children celebrated the Independence Day across the country on Saturday, students of a government school in Rajasthan were forced to hoist the tricolour on the rubble of their old school building due to the delay in its completion. School Principal Shiv Kumar of the Government Primary School at Haryakheda Lunda said that they have been operating from a private building for the past one year and were forced to hoist the tricolour on the occasion of Independence Day at the rubble of the old school building. "On Independence Day, the owner of the private building refused to allow the flag-hoisting ceremony at the place citing personal reasons. Following that the villagers decided that the children would not be prevented from celebrating Independence Day and resolved to hoist the flag on the rubble of the



old school building," said Kumar. About 40 children from first to fifth grade study in the school. Earlier, the school building was demolished on August 1, 2025, due to its dilapidated condition as the structure had become unsafe for continuing education. According to villagers they had however hoped that a new building would be constructed on priority, but they rued that

the construction work has not begun even after a year. On Saturday young children carried tricolours in their hands to celebrate Independence Day at their old school. Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Govind Singh Dotasra shared a video of the incident on social media and targeted the BJP government over poor state of affairs of the state's education system.

"The tricolour is fluttering but the future of our children lies buried under the rubble. While the entire nation is immersed in the celebrations of the 80th Independence Day, the children of our state are hoisting the tricolour under the open sky, amidst the debris and stones of a dilapidated school. This is not just the plight of the school in Hariya Kheda village (Udaipur); this is

also a picture of those dreams that the BJP government's negligence has left buried in the rubble. In the BJP-RSS mindset that has pushed the country's education system into the abyss, children's education and their future have never been a priority," Dotasra said in a post on X. Villagers rued the delay in the completion of the building. Local resident Pratap Singh Meena, whose child studies in the fifth grade in the school, said, "Even a year after the school building was demolished, no budget has been announced for the construction of a new one. The children had to study in a private building for a long time, but that arrangement is no longer feasible. Furthermore, the village's Anganwadi center, which previously operated from the school premises, is currently functioning out of a private building."

Charges Against Justice Varma 'Are Proved': LS Probe Panel On Cash Discovery

New Delhi: A panel set up by Lok Sabha Speaker to probe allegations of discovery of cash at the official premises of Justice Yashwant Varma has concluded that the charges of unexplained cash, disturbing evidence and evasive explanation against him "are proved". In its report submitted in both houses Parliament Wednesday, the three-member committee constituted under the Judges (Inquiry) Act said Justice Varma failed to furnish satisfactory explanation on the presence, source or ownership of cash found in the store room of his official residence. The panel also said that material evidence was

not secured or preserved and the evidentiary condition of the storeroom was disturbed before the lawful sealing and inspection. It also found that the explanation by Justice Varma did not exhibit candour, transparency and institutional responsibility expected in the circumstances.

"It remained evasive and unsatisfactory when tested against the evidence of independent official witnesses and corroborative material," the panel said in its final report. "The Committee therefore records its final findings that Articles of charges I, II and III are proved," the probe panel said in its consolidated findings on the articles



of charge against Justice Varma in the report submitted to Parliament. The report is in two volumes along with oral and documentary evidence recorded during the course of the investigation. The three-member probe panel had submitted its findings to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in May. As nearly

200 MPs pressed for his removal by Parliament, Justice Varma has since resigned. His resignation has so far not yet been notified by the law ministry. A fire broke out in the official residence of Justice Varma on the night of March 14, 2025. Firefighters called to put out the blaze allegedly discovered massive

Only Those Who Support Maoists, Separatists Are 'Dimagi Naxals': Rijiju After Oppn's Criticism

New Delhi: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "dimagi Naxal" remark sparked a war of words between the opposition and the BJP, Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said the PM was not referring to opposition leaders but only to those who support Maoists and separatists and reject the Indian Constitution.

Addressing the nation on the 80th Independence Day, Prime Minister Modi on Saturday warned the country about "dimagi Naxals" who have allegedly entrenched themselves in the system and continue to pose a threat to society by manipulating policies. He cautioned that "armed Naxals may have gone, but dimagi (intellectual) Naxals are lurking around" and called for "identifying and isolating" them.

The remark riled the opposition leaders who decried it as an attempt to stigmatise dissent and target those who question the government. In a post on X, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rijiju said, "PM Narendra Modi ji didn't say opposition leaders are Dimagi Naxals." "Only the following are Dimagi Naxals: 1. Who support Maoists and reject the Indian Constitution. 2. Who stand with separatists & support Article 370. 3. Who want to cut chicken neck to separate North-East from India (sic)," he said in veiled



reference to student activist Sarjeel Imam, who is in judicial custody in connection with a case under the anti-terror UAPA law. Imam was arrested on August 25, 2020, and booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being one of the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots in northeast Delhi that left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. Congress

Rajya Sabha MP Pawan Khera took a jibe at Rijiju with a post on X: "Brother Kiren Rijiju, get your counting right first, then we'll answer. After 1 and 2 comes 3, not 4." "Entire Political Science's kamaal (The marvel of entire political science)," Congress' Jairam Ramesh said, responding to Khera's comment. Earlier, senior Congress leader and former home minister P Chidambaram posted on X, "I am proud to be a 'dimagi Naxal'". "Very

unfortunate and highly damaging statement by respected former Home Minister of India," Rijiju said in another post on X, with correct numbers of the three points that he had earlier listed to explain who are 'dimagi Naxals'. BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad also condemned Chidambaram's remark, calling it "utterly irresponsible". Addressing a press conference in Patna, Prasad said Prime Minister Modi's reference to "dimagi Naxal" meant those people who sit in air-conditioned rooms in Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and Kolkata and nurture the ideology of Maoism.

"They leverage their networks to secure funds and logistical support for the (Naxal) movement. Whenever they find themselves in a tight spot, they appear on television to justify the group's heinous crimes. "And when the public

seethes with anger over Maoist atrocities, these individuals pen scathing articles in prominent English newspapers in their defence," Prasad said. Such people are called "dimagi Naxals", the former Union minister added. BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra hit out at Chidambaram, saying although it's late, it is good that the Congress leader has accepted the title of "dimagi Naxal".

"Now we know why Naxalism prospered during your tenure as Home Minister and under the UPA government. Now we know why around 2000 policemen and CRPF jawans were killed fighting Naxalism during 2004-14," the BJP MP said in a post on X. "Now, we know why more than 5000 Indians lost their lives to Naxal attacks under your government. Now, we know why as HM, you allowed 92 per cent of Naxal

Sidhi Shocker: CRPF Jawan, Set To Retire Next Year, Arrested For 'Raping' 4-Year-Old Girl

Sidhi: A jawan, serving in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), has been arrested and sent to jail for allegedly sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl in a village under Majhau police station limits of Sidhi district in Madhya Pradesh.

While the shocking incident took place on Friday, the matter came to fore on Sunday after the accused jawan was apprehended by police, produced before the court and subsequently sent to jail.

Station House Officer (SHO) Vishal Sharma said, "The minor girl's mother lodged a complaint at the police station on Saturday (August 15), alleging that her daughter was raped on Friday."

The police complaint details how the child, aged 3 years and 11 months, recounted the entire incident to her mother. In the complaint, the girl's mother narrated that her daughter had stepped out of



the house at night. "When she did not return for a long time, the family searched for her frantically but in vain. When the girl eventually returned, she was crying, and there was bleeding from her private parts. The child revealed that a 'neighbour uncle' had gagged her mouth and then registered under FIR No. 567/26, invoking POCOS Act and other relevant sections," the official said.

"Based on relevant evidence and the investigation, the accused was arrested and produced in

court. Following the hearing, the court ordered that the accused be sent to the Sidhi District Jail," Sharma added. As per sources, the accused is 59 years old and was due to retire committed the sexual assault," the complaint mentioned. The mother immediately informed the family members and lodged a formal complaint at the police station the following day, Saturday.

SHO Sharma stated that an investigation was conducted based on the complaint. "A case has

been registered under FIR No. 567/26, invoking POCOS Act and other relevant sections," the official said.

"Based on relevant evidence and the investigation, the accused was arrested and produced in court. Following the hearing, the court ordered that the accused be sent to the Sidhi District Jail," Sharma added. As per sources, the accused is 59 years old and was due to retire next year. Police said he had faced allegations of prior to this incident.

Leading With Compassion: Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin On Four Decades Of Military Healthcare

New Delhi: From serving as a military surgeon to becoming the first woman Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin represents a remarkable journey of leadership and medical excellence. Recently honoured with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, she has played a key role in advancing healthcare for soldiers and veterans and their families while shaping the future of military medicine through compassion and innovation. Interview with ETV Bharat, Sarin reflects on her inspiring career in the Armed Forces Medical Services and her vision for the future of healthcare in uniform. **Leading With Compassion: Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin On Four Decades Of Military Healthcare** Excerpts from the : ETV Bharat: Recently, President Droupadi Murmu conferred upon you the Param Vishisht Seva Medal. What was your first reaction to it?



Arti Sarin: I was delighted to hear the news. I accept this on behalf of my entire team across all three services, who have worked diligently to provide the highest levels of medical care to our service members, their dependents, and . Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin On Four Decades Of Military President Droupadi Murmu conferring upon Arti Sarin the Param Vishisht Seva Medal. (Special Arrangement) ETB: You are also leading the Armed Forces Medical Services as its first woman Director General. Had you imagined that this was going to be the path to take and that you were going to achieve this? Arti Sarin: No! When I

entered college, I certainly didn't think this would be the path I would take. I simply enjoyed what I did and kept moving forward in my career. When I became the Commandant of the Armed Forces Medical College, someone shared a nice poem noting that while the girls' hostel is very close to the Commandant's office, it took her 38 years to get there. Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin On Four Decades Of Military Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin (right) during the early years of her career. (Special Arrangement) ETB: As the first woman to serve as DG, AFMS, your appointment is

widely seen as a milestone. It is often said that women make excellent managers and leaders. What, in your view, took the Armed Forces so long to appoint its first woman DG?

Arti Sarin: The AFMS has had women since the 1950s. Our first female Major General was Major General Nirmala Hooja in 1987, who commanded the 900-bed Command Hospital in Lucknow. Then, in 2004, came the first three-star officer, Surgeon Vice Admiral Punita Arora. She became the Commandant of AFMC as well as the Director General Medical Services (Navy). Soon after that, we had Air Marshal Padma Bandopadhyay, another three-star officer, who became the Director General Medical Services (Air). Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin On Four Decades Of Military Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin (right) during the early years of her career. (Special Arrangement) ETB: As the first woman to serve as DG, AFMS, your appointment is

BC Asks US Court For Help In Getting Testimony From The Trump Family In Defamation Suit



London: The BBC asked a U.S. court for help in getting documents and testimony from members of U.S. President Donald Trump's family in connection with his \$10 billion defamation lawsuit against the British broadcaster, a court document showed. Lawyers for the BBC argued that Ivanka Trump, her husband Jared Kushner, and Donald Trump Jr. have "personal knowledge" and likely have records relevant to elements of Trump's claims against the broadcaster, according to a filing Friday in federal court in Florida. The broadcaster has been unable to serve subpoenas because the three have Secret Service protection and other security personnel around them, the filing says. Trump filed the lawsuit in December seeking \$10 billion in damages from the BBC, accusing it of defamation as well as deceptive and unfair trade .

The allegations center on the way a 2024 documentary edited a speech Trump gave on Jan. 6, 2021, before protesters attacked the Capitol in Washington. The lawsuit accuses the BBC of "splicing together two entirely separate parts of President Trump's speech" to "intentionally misrepresent the meaning of what President Trump said." It added that the editing was "a brazen attempt to interfere in and influence" the 2024 U.S. presidential election. The BBC has apologized to Trump for the misleading edit, but said it had not defamed him. The latest court filing said that Trump's family members had knowledge of issues that were relevant to Trump's argument "that it would be materially false to imply that he incited violence" on Jan. 6, 2021. It cited that Donald Trump, Jr. and Ivanka Trump were both present in the Oval Office when

Trump was still revising his speech, adding that Donald Trump, Jr. spoke directly with his father after violence had broken out at the Capitol. The filing says the BBC asked Trump to accept the subpoenas on his daughter and son-in-law's behalf or to direct the Secret Service to allow the subpoenas to be served, but he refused. The broadcaster asked the court to allow the subpoenas to be served by email and certified mail. The judge has given Trump's legal team until Friday to respond to the BBC's request. Trump's legal team said that "the BBC is simply trying to distract away from their own obvious liability." "The BBC intentionally defamed President Donald J. Trump, and now the BBC is seeking to harass him, his family, and supporters by abusing the deposition process," according to the team. A trial has been provisionally set for

February in the case. Last week, a federal judge in Florida granted Trump a temporary reprieve from an order that he provide details of his business empire's financial performance as part of the . U.S. District Judge Roy Altman agreed to put that order on hold while he considers an amended complaint from Trump that would narrow his claim that he suffered daThe judge has given Trump's legal team until Friday to respond to the BBC's request. Trump's legal team said that "the BBC is simply trying to distract away from their own obvious liability." "The BBC intentionally defamed President Donald J. Trump, and now the BBC is seeking to harass him, his family, and supporters by abusing the deposition process," according to the team. A trial has been provisionally set for

Colombians Dig Through Rubble As Quake Death Toll Surpasses 240

Pereira: Rescuers, soldiers and volunteers searched through collapsed apartment blocks and office buildings Tuesday across western Colombia, racing to find survivors after the country's strongest earthquake in a century killed at least 241 people and left many more homeless. In Pereira and Cali, families slept in parks as aftershocks rattled damaged neighborhoods where entire blocks had been reduced to rubble. Emergency crews used cranes, dogs and heavy machinery to search ruined buildings while volunteers formed human chains to clear debris by hand, hoping to reach people still trapped beneath collapsed structures.

The 7.4-magnitude quake injured more than 1,670 people, according to a tally by municipal authorities. It overwhelmed parts of the health system, turning the rescue effort into one of Colombia's largest disaster responses in years. "The house came down on top of us. I wasn't able to get out," said Beatriz Arcos, who was trapped with her



husband and mother beneath their collapsed condominium. "It took about an hour to get us out," Arcos said she was hospitalized after a concrete block fell on her back. Her husband and mother were also injured. In Cali, residents armed with picks, shovels and their bare hands joined firefighters in digging through collapsed buildings.

Rescuers stopped every few minutes to call into the rubble and listen for any response. "One of the rescuers asked anyone trapped to whistle, and someone whistled back," volunteer Andres Felipe Mejia said. Rescuers later pulled a man and a baby from a

pancaked building, though the man's wife remained trapped, he said. In Pereira, army units and sniffer dogs combed through twisted concrete and exposed steel. At one site, a rescue squad leader abruptly raised his fist, stopping workers so they could listen for signs of life. Volunteers formed human chains, passing bricks and chunks of masonry hand-to-hand to clear paths into collapsed structures. For many families, the desperate search was becoming a vigil. "My aunt lived there. She's under the rubble," said Jorge Gonzalez, standing beside a collapsed building in Pereira. "I

arrived yesterday and I haven't left, and until they find her body I don't intend to leave here." While some families waited for news of missing relatives, others were grappling with the loss of homes, possessions and livelihoods. "We lost everything," said Stella Galvis, fighting back tears after escaping the collapse of her home. "We survived by a miracle, since I managed to get my little boy out and my partner managed to get out too." From the air, neighborhoods in Cali appeared flattened, with piles of grey rubble replacing entire blocks of homes and apartment buildings.

Iran Offers \$30,000 Bounty For Killing, Capturing US Soldiers

Tehran: Iran's military announced on Sunday that it was offering a bounty equivalent to \$30,000 for killing or capturing US soldiers, with the reward doubled if carried out by a woman. Army chief Amir Hatami said the plan had been drawn up following a "large number of requests" to participate, according to the IRNA state news agency. There has been no known deployment of US ground forces in Iran during the Middle East war, with the exception of a rescue mission in April for a downed American airman. Hatami did not provide any details on where or when the killing or capturing of US soldiers was expected to take place. "Anyone who kills or captures and hands over an invading American military personnel will receive a reward equivalent to \$30,000 or 5 billion toman from the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army," Hatami said, using an informal unit equivalent to 10,000 Iranian rials. "Courageous Iranian women who carry out such an action will receive double the reward," he added.



Hatami repeated Iran's call for the US to leave the Middle East, and said "they no longer have permission to enter the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman or the Strait of Hormuz". The war between Tehran and Washington began on February 28 when the United States and Israel attacked Iran. Just over a month into the war, the US launched a massive rescue operation to retrieve the weapon systems officer of an F-15 jet, involving around 200 US troops and more than 170 aircraft racing to find the airman ahead

of Iranian forces. During the rescue, Iranian troops damaged an A-10 ground attack aircraft which was ditched over friendly territory. The US also reportedly abandoned and destroyed aircraft used during the mission including a C-130 transport plane. Days before, the pilot of the F-15 was rescued by a helicopter crew in a smaller operation. The war was later paused by an April ceasefire after nearly 40 days of fighting, followed by a June framework for peace talks that later collapsed. Iran and the United States have

since traded fire sporadically, with fighting mainly centred in southern Iran and around the Strait of Hormuz. Indirect contact between the two sides via mediators has continued with little sign of any diplomatic breakthrough. Iran has also set out a list of demands for reopening the strait, including war damages. The number of US military personnel killed since the start of the war stands at 17, with the most recent deaths in July. They have all been killed outside of Iran, in countries including Jordan and Iraq.

US Envoy Kushner Meets With Hamas In Push To Revive Gaza Plan



Cairo: US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and envoy Jared Kushner met Hamas's new leader in Egypt on Sunday, sources with knowledge of the talks told AFP, in a push to revive a Gaza peace plan rejected by Israel.

Two weeks after Hamas endorsed the latest stage of Trump's Gaza plan by saying it would hand over weapons to a new governing committee, Kushner pressed for verifiable disarmament, a key demand of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Kushner called for "concrete, verifiable steps" and relayed a message that "Gaza can never again be a source of terror for Israel", said one source who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the talks. Hamas chief Khalil al-Hayya took part in the discussions in the Egyptian Mediterranean city of El-Alamein, making his first trip since assuming leadership of the group in July. Soon after he took the helm, Hamas backed the disarmament roadmap, a move that some observers believe was tactical in the knowledge that Israel would say no.

In the talks with Kushner, Hamas again voiced its commitment to the plan, another source with knowledge of the talks said. The group said afterwards that it had called on mediators and Trump's so-called Board of Peace to "compel" Israel to "approve the roadmap... and begin establishing a timetable for its implementation". A picture released by host Egypt did not include al-Hayya, but showed Kushner at a table

alongside members of the Board of Peace, including former British prime minister Tony Blair. Qatar and Turkey, key mediators alongside Egypt, also joined. The United States for years refused contact with Hamas, which it classifies as a terrorist organisation and which led the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the Gaza war. Israel has increasingly been comfortable with direct contact in hopes of ending the devastating conflict, negotiating the October ceasefire agreement that led to the release of remaining Israeli hostages. Kushner on Monday will see Netanyahu, a longtime hawk who faces a tough re-election fight in October. - Mulim states press Israel - The three regional mediator countries and five fellow Muslim nations -- Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Indonesia -- on Sunday condemned Israel's rejection of the plan. In a joint statement, they said "Israel bears direct and full responsibility" for obstructing peace, adding its refusal "directly threatens to derail extensive efforts" by Trump. In response, Netanyahu's Likud Party charged that "the Arab countries want to bring down the prime minister" in the election. The inclusion of the United Arab Emirates is significant as it normalised relations with Israel five years ago, kick-starting an economic and strategic relationship that Netanyahu considers a key achievement. Netanyahu expressed opposition to the US plan even after he was assured by Nickolay Mladenov,

the Board of Peace's high representative for Gaza, that Israel would not need to pull troops out of the war-battered territory until complete disarmament by Hamas. The board had initially said Israel would start a phased withdrawal in tandem with Hamas's disarmament. - Israel keeps up strikes - Israel has resumed airstrikes in Gaza after a lull following Trump's promotion of the peace plan, though the October ceasefire had never fully halted the violence in the Strip. Several people were injured Sunday after Israeli aircraft targeted a house west of Nuseirat, said Mahmoud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's civil defence agency, which serves as a rescue service under Hamas. The Israeli military said it was responding to a threat by Islamic Jihad militants and that it had tried to mitigate civilian casualties. "The terrorists advanced terror attacks and were struck in precise aerial strikes to remove the threat," it said. Several others were wounded after Israeli forces opened fire on tents housing displaced people west of Khan Yunis, where separately the body of a child, Suhail Shallouf, was recovered after he was killed by Israeli fire on Saturday, the civil defence agency said.

Israeli operations have killed at least 1,262 Palestinians since the ceasefire came into effect on October 10, according to figures by Gaza's health ministry, which is under Hamas. Its figures are considered reliable by the United Nations. The Israeli army has

Former Afghan Security Official Killed In Pakistan

Karachi: A prominent former Afghan security official was shot dead in Pakistan on Sunday, according to a police officer. Haji Hazrat Ullah alias Rorad Achakzai, who had migrated to Pakistan in 2021 after the Taliban takeover, was killed near his home in Quetta, Adil Shah, the police officer in the area, confirmed. According to the police, armed men riding motorcycles opened fire on Achakzai while he was taking a walk in the Killi Raisani area near his home, killing him on



the spot. Shah said Achakzai was a prominent local anti-Taliban commander and militia leader of the Achakzai Pashtun tribe in Southern Afghanistan, which includes Kandahar province. He led an anti-Taliban

tribal movement around the Spin Boldak and the Kandahar border regions with Pakistan before moving to Quetta. He said police are still investigating whether it was a matter of old enmity or the commander was targeted because of his past in Kandahar province. The motive for the killing and the identities of those responsible remain unclear. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

In another incident on Sunday, two labourers were killed when a vehicle was targeted by militants some kilometres from Quetta. The labourers were killed, and three others were injured in an IED blast that targeted their vehicle. Senior Superintendent of Police Asif Ghaffoor said the IED had been planted by the roadside and was detonated when the vehicle carrying a contractor and four workers passed through on the road. He said the contractor was taking the labourers to the area for

Trump Terms Saudi-Turkey-Pak Defence Agreement 'Big, Bold' Step



Washington: US President Donald Trump has termed the Saudi Arabia-Turkey-Pakistan defence agreement a "big, bold and important first step" towards defending themselves in a "more meaningful way". Trump's remarks on Sunday came days after the three nations signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement -- holding any armed offensive against any of the three countries an attack against all of

them. "Very happy to see that Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan have recently, and finally, signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement. It shows how the Middle East is coming together, and how countries will finally be able to defend themselves in a more meaningful way," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. "Congratulations to the Great Leadership of the three Nations mentioned. THIS IS A

BIG, BOLD, AND IMPORTANT FIRST STEP -- WOW," Trump wrote. The agreement was signed August 7 by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. India said it is assessing the implications of the Mecca agreement on its national security, as well as regional peace and stability.

"As far as this agreement is concerned, we are examining its implications both from the perspective of India's national security and considerations of regional peace and stability," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on August 11. "India remains fully committed to safeguarding its national interests and will take all necessary measures in this regard," Jaiswal said.

A new burden-sharing compact for NATO



The latest NATO summit underscored a strategic reality that the Alliance can no longer afford to ignore: European security cannot continue to rest disproportionately on American military power. For decades, successive US administrations have argued that many European allies benefited from Washington's security umbrella while devoting relatively greater resources to domestic welfare than to defence. Trump's Arctic obsession and President Donald Trump's longstanding insistence that Europe shoulder a larger share of collective defence has accelerated a debate that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had already made unavoidable. The commitments adopted at the 2025 Hague Summit, including raising core defence spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP along with an additional 1.5 per cent for defence and security-related investments, marked a watershed in NATO's long-running burden-sharing debate. Together, they signal the Alliance's gradual shift towards a more balanced distribution of responsibilities, even though translating these commitments into military capability will remain politically and economically demanding.

Defence Expenditure

The decision to raise defence expenditure reflects far more than American pressure. Russia's war in Ukraine has fundamentally altered threat perceptions across Europe, exposing critical deficiencies in ammunition stocks, missile defence, logistics, industrial capacity and military readiness. European governments increasingly recognise that credible deterrence cannot be sustained without long-term investment in modern military capabilities, including drones, long-range missiles, cyber defence, intelligence assets and integrated air defence systems. Equally important is the political objective of reassuring Washington that Europe is prepared to assume greater responsibility for its own security, thereby preserving transatlantic cohesion at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners. Yet strategic consensus does not automatically translate into political consensus. The greatest obstacle to higher defence spending is likely to be domestic political rather than strategic necessity. Increasing military expenditure inevitably revives the classic dilemma of "guns versus butter". Higher defence budgets require difficult fiscal choices, such as increased taxation, additional public borrowing, or reductions in spending on healthcare, pensions, and welfare programmes.

Social Priorities

Public demonstrations in countries such as Italy illustrate the political sensitivity of shifting resources from social priorities to defence. Major economies, including Britain and France, continue to face fiscal constraints, while Spain and Portugal remain cautious about substantially increasing military expenditure. The challenge for European governments will therefore be to convince their electorates that long-term security is itself a prerequisite for sustained prosperity and social stability. Without credible defence, both economic resilience and welfare become increasingly vulnerable. Threat perceptions, however, remain far from uniform across Europe. Geography continues to shape strategic priorities. Frontline states such as Poland, Finland and the Baltic republics view Russian military power not as a distant geopolitical concern but as an immediate national security challenge. Consequently, they have demonstrated greater willingness to increase taxes, rationalise public expenditure and accelerate military modernisation. Lithuania has introduced additional security-related taxation, while several northern European countries are expanding investments in air defence, ammunition production and force readiness. In these countries, public opinion broadly accepts that

higher defence spending is the price of national survival. By contrast, countries farther from Russia's borders generally perceive lower levels of immediate risk, making it politically more difficult to prioritise defence over welfare. The divergence illustrates that NATO's burden-sharing debate is shaped as much by differing threat perceptions as by economic constraints.

US Role

The evolving role of NATO's leadership has also been significant. Secretary General Mark Rutte's public engagement with President Trump has attracted criticism in some quarters for appearing unusually accommodating. Yet it can equally be viewed as pragmatic diplomacy aimed at preserving American commitment while Europe rebuilds its military capabilities. At a time when uncertainty surrounds Washington's long-term security guarantees, maintaining Alliance cohesion has become a strategic imperative rather than a matter of diplomatic convenience.

Equally important has been Ukraine's continued resistance against Russian forces. By absorbing the principal military pressure from Russia, Ukraine has effectively bought valuable time for European countries to replenish ammunition stocks, expand defence production, procure advanced weapon systems and strengthen military readiness. Kyiv's battlefield resilience has therefore become an important enabling factor in Europe's broader rearmament effort, allowing European governments to undertake structural reforms in defence planning that would have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure.

Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel

ligence, strategic lift and nuclear deterrence.

Nevertheless, Europe's growing investments seek to reduce long-term dependence on American military capabilities and foster a more balanced transatlantic partnership. Whether this transition succeeds will depend less on summit declarations than on sustained political commitment, industrial capacity and financial investment over the coming decade.

For India, the significance of these developments extends well beyond Europe. The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners. As geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific, India must continue strengthening indigenous defence production, modernising its armed forces and investing in emerging technologies while preserving strategic autonomy in its external partnerships. Diversified defence capabilities, resilient supply chains and sustained military preparedness are not merely instruments of deterrence; they are essential pillars of national resilience. Europe's experience also offers a timely reminder that credible dwould have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intelovised during a crisis. It is built patiently through consistent political commitment, economic investment and strategic foresight. For India, seeking to safeguard its interests in an increasingly contested international order, that lesson is particularly relevant.

Mental health in the age of Algorithm



While companies highlight AI's advantages: greater efficiency, fewer errors and data-driven precision, there is a vital and usually overlooked expense: the effect of AI implementation on workers' mental well-being. An increasingly large body of scholarship is starting to uncover the layers of life and work under algorithmic rule. Among the strongest additions to this discussion is a 2024 paper by Byung-Jik Kim and Julak Lee, in *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. Based on a survey of 418 South Korean professionals, one of the country's most technologically advanced populations, the research examines the impact of AI adoption in the workplace on worker stress, burnout, and psychological well-being.

Invisible Weight of Algorithms The study reveals a psychological domino effect: AI adoption does not necessarily lead to burnout, but it drastically increases job stress, which becomes a significant predictor of burnout. It's a subtle move with far-reaching implications. Workers are not necessarily angry about the existence of AI itself. Instead, it's the pressure AI imposes upon them—the rate of change, the ongoing requirement to learn, the threat of obsolescence—that stokes this growing worry. AI fosters an environment of technostress—a catch-all term for several stressors that include: Techno-overload: being overwhelmed by the compulsion to deal with new digital tasks and devices

Techno-insecurity: the fear that automation will take one's job

Techno-complexity: having difficulty learning and adapting to AI systems

Techno-uncertainty: uncertain expectations regarding performance under AI systems

This pressure comes at a high psychological cost. Tasks that once relied on human judgment and creativity are now often shaped by algorithms, leaving employees feeling less autonomous and more like extensions of the systems they work within. This shift has contributed to rising feelings of emotions

exhaustion, disengagement, and helplessness, a pattern reflected across industries ranging from finance and education to healthcare. Psychological Theories Kim and Lee base their conclusions on three dominant psychological paradigms: The Job Demands-Resources (JD-R) Model: Proposes that burnout occurs when job demands (such as AI upskilling) exceed available resources (eg, training, assistance, or affective resilience). The Conservation of Resources (COR) Theory: People attempt to preserve their physical, emotional, and psychological resources. As AI compromises these resources, eg, by making employees feel irrelevant or incompetent, people suffer from stress and burnout. The Transactional Model of Stress and Coping (TMSC): If AI is seen as a threat instead of an opportunity, and if coping skills are poor or lack support, then the outcome is psychological strain. Simply put, it isn't AI alone that hurts employees; it's how AI is deployed, governed, and understood as part of an organisational environment. Digital Self-Efficacy Another influential finding is AI learning self-efficacy, or in simple terms, an individual's confidence in their ability to master and utilise AI. Such employees feel less stressed and more resilient when encountering technological change. Low self-efficacy results in helplessness, anxiety, and burnout. In this context, self-efficacy represents a new form of workplace armour. It does not merely enable employees to excel; it equips them to cope emotionally in AI-powered work environments. New Face of Burnout Historically, burnout has been linked to long working hours, poor management, unrealistic expectations, and emotionally demanding jobs. However, in the algorithmic era, burnout is taking on a new and more invisible form, one rooted not only in overwork, but also in disconnection, disempowerment, and constant digital overload.

Today, algorithms shape how we work, communicate, consume information, and even rest. Notifications blur the boundaries between personal and professional life, while productivity-driven digital cultures create pressure to always be available, responsive, and efficient. At the same time, algorithmic systems reduce autonomy by monitoring performance, predicting behaviour, and dictating routines in ways that can make individuals efficient. At the same time, they are replaceable and emotionally detached from their work. The result is a form of burnout that is less about physical exhaustion alone and more about cognitive fatigue, emotional numbness, and the persistent feeling of never truly being “offline.”

In the algorithmic era, burnout is taking on a new and more invisible form, one rooted not only in overwork, but also in disconnection, disempowerment, and constant digital surveillance. Employees increasingly report feeling sidelined by AI systems that make decisions with little to no human input. Others describe a growing sense of being constantly “watched” through performance metrics, productivity trackers, and algorithmic evaluations that monitor everything from response times to efficiency levels.

This culture of continuous surveillance often leads employees to engage in chronic self-monitoring, creating heightened pressure to appear productive at all times. Over time, this can contribute to anxiety, emotional exhaustion, and a weakening sense of personal agency within the workplace.

This type of burnout is less obtrusive, less visible, but no less harmful. It may undermine self-esteem, drive up absenteeism, and, in extreme instances, result in depression or leaving the workforce altogether.

What Can Be Done

Normalise psychological support in AI transitions: Organisations need to realise that implementing AI is not merely a technical change but a psychological one. That requires providing mental health support, check-ins, and safe

spaces for employees to vent anxiety or confusion, and efficient. At the Foster digital self-efficacy across the board: Continuous training, mentoring, and peer support initiatives to develop digital confidence are a must. The objective is not technical competence alone but emotional resilience.

Redesign AI with empathy in mind: AI systems must be constructed with user agency at their centre. Workers need to know how algorithms work, what data is being drawn upon, and where human input is placed in the decision-making pipeline. Transparency and inclusion lower fear and resistance.

Reframe measures of success: Human feedback, teamwork, and imagination need to be preserved in performance measurement.

Create ethical principles around mental health and AI: Mental health needs to be an integral part of ethical AI, no less than privacy, bias, or transparency.

Re-Centering the Human

One of the most significant contributions of Kim and Lee's research is that the real cost of AI isn't simply in terms of job loss or data risk, but in the emotional lives of actual human beings. AI isn't neutral. AI alters how people feel about their work, their worth, and their future. If we forget the mental health consequences of AI adoption, we risk creating an efficient but inhuman workplace, optimised but emotionally unsustainable.

The algorithm age is upon us. The quinstances, result in depression or leaving the workforce altogether.

What Can Be Done

Normalise psychological support in AI transitions: Organisations need to realise that implementing AI is not merely a technical change but a psychological one. That requires providing mental health support, check-ins, and safe spaces for employees to question is whether we will greet it with empathy, foresight, and care, or whether we will trade human well-being at the altar of automation. The future of work doesn't just rely on smarter machines. It relies on more systems.

Spain Break Australia's World Record In International Cricket Days After Winning FIFA World Cup



A few days after winning the FIFA World Cup 2026, Spain accomplished another sporting feat and this time it was in cricket. The Spanish cricket team broke the long-standing record of Australia to win the most international matches in a row. Spain have been undefeated since 2023. They kicked off their unbeaten streak with a triumph against the Isle of Man. They handed four defeat to the opposition over two days in February 2023. In April 2024, Spain defeated Jersey in two matches played on April 14. They went on to beat Croatia 5-0 in August 2024 before scoring victories against Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece and Finland. Spain registered

5-0 series win over Croatia in December 2025 and equalled Australia's 20 consecutive wins. The team broke Australia's record of the longest winning streak in international cricket with a successful chase of 132 against Finland in a T20I. In their most recent fixture, the team stretched their streak to 22 victories by defeating Isle of Man. Spain will take on Luxembourg and Bulgaria in the next couple of matches on August 17 and 18, respectively. Australia's 20-match winning streak which helped them secure a 4-0 lead in the seven-match ODI series. West Indies broke Australia's streak by beating them in the

first ODI. Who are the top five nations to register the most consecutive wins? Spain are at the top with 22 consecutive wins, and their streak is not broken yet. Australia are in second position with 20 wins in a row, while Uganda have occupied the third spot with 17 consecutive triumphs. Australia appear in the top five twice, as they are at the fourth. Australia were the most dominant force in world cricket at one point of time, and during that period they created a streak of 20 international wins. Their streak of winning matches started with a win against England in January 2003. The 20th consecutive win came against West Indies in May 2003, which helped

them secure a 4-0 lead in the seven-match ODI series. West Indies broke Australia's streak by beating them in the fifth ODI. Who are the top five nations to register the most consecutive wins? Spain are at the top with 22 consecutive wins, and their streak is not broken yet. Australia are in second position with 20 wins in a row, while Uganda have occupied the third spot with 17 consecutive triumphs. Australia appear in the top five twice, as they are at the fourth position with 16 consecutive victories. Australia are the most dominant force in the list as they are also at the fifth position with 16 wins in a row.

Bangladesh Register Test Win Against Australia In Australia For First Time



: Bangladesh scripted history in the first Test of the two-match series against Australia at the Marrara Cricket Ground, Darwin, on Sunday, August 16. The team registered their second Test win against Australia, beating the hosts by nine wickets. Their first Test win over Australia was in Mirpur in 2017 by 20 runs. Also, it is the team's first win against Australia in Australia. The win becomes more significant given that Bangladesh have beaten Australia on Australian soil. The Australian team were up against the Bangla Tigers with a full-strength squad, but

the visitors pulled off a fierce effort to defy the odds. The foundation for the win was built by Hasan Mahmud, who picked up a five-wicket haul in the first innings, and then Tanzid Hasan shone with the bat to take Bangladesh to a commanding position. Bangladesh take a massive 228-run lead. Bangladesh put themselves in a position of strength in the first innings only, and it started with Hasan, who bowled in the right areas to extract the seam movement and bounce from the pitch. Thanks to his bowling masterclass, Bangladesh bundled Australia for a pal-

try total of 198. Steven Smith scored a half-century with a knock of 71 runs. Hasan picked six wickets while Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain picked two wickets each. The visitors then posted a mammoth total of 426, riding on a century from Tanzid Hasan (101) and half-centuries from Najmul Hossain Shanto (84) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (65). Josh Hazlewood picked six wickets for Australia. Bangladesh cap off the match with a nine-wicket win after trailing by 228 runs in the first innings, Australia were bundled out for 284 despite Cameron Green playing

a knock of 104 runs, as he lacked support from the other end. Steven Smith (44) and Alex Carey (30) scored in double digits, but four of the batters ended up scoring only in single digits. Mehidy Hasan Miraz capitalised on the conditions as the pitch started offering some assistance for spinners by Day 3 and picked up a five-wicket haul, taking five scalps while conceding only 66 runs. He chased the target of just 57 runs while losing only one wicket and beat them BAN vs AUS 1st Test scorecard Australia 1st Innings: 198 all out (Steve Smith 71; Hasan Mahmud

Global Tax Reform Talks At UN: India Pushes For Stronger Taxing Rights



United Nations member states have begun a crucial round of talks in New York to create a fairer global tax system that works for all countries, especially developing nations. The negotiations focus on a proposed UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and two related protocols covering cross-border services and tax disputes.

The Fifth session, which is underway till August 13, is the first time countries are discussing concrete draft texts for all three agreements. The decisions could affect how countries collect taxes, settle tax disputes and also share taxing rights, with major implications for development funding. This process is supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Financing for Sustainable Development Office.

This process is led by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a dedicated workstream advancing each of the three instruments (on the Framework and the two protocols). Working within a tight timeline of nine sessions across

three years, the INC aims to deliver final texts to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by 2027. Since the fourth session concluded in New York on 13 February 2026, the negotiators have been preparing the zero drafts that will anchor the next round of talks. As the member states are for the first time expected to engage with a concrete draft text across all three workstreams, ETV Bharat spoke to experts to know its impact on India. Indian tax experts see the proposed UN global tax convention as a major opportunity to strengthen India's taxing rights over multinational companies and curb profit shifting.

They opined that international tax rules must evolve with modern business models. They also stressed the need for greater information sharing and stronger checks against tax avoidance and evasion. The ongoing UN talks could reshape how countries tax cross-border business and settle disputes, particularly in developing economies.

Tax expert and Chartered accountant Gauri Chadha stated that the UN global tax convention could bring a significant change in how multinational companies are taxed globally. "The existing international tax system was designed when businesses had a more physical presence. Today, compa-

nies can have customers, employees and profits spread across countries without having a traditional physical presence, she said. The focus, she added, should increasingly be on where the actual business activity, customers and economic value are. Chadha further said, "For India, this could strengthen our ability to tax MNCs earning significant income from the Indian market and make artificial profit shifting and use of tax havens more difficult. However, it is equally important to avoid double taxation and excessive disputes." "The biggest challenge will be balancing the interests of developed and developing countries. For India, a suc-

Fitch Retains India's BBB- Rating On Robust Growth Outlook, Flags Fiscal Risks From Youth Protests



Fitch Ratings on Tuesday retained India's sovereign credit rating at 'BBB-' for the 20th year in a row, but flagged risks of pressure on fiscal spending amid youth protest over jobs. Fitch said despite headwinds from the energy shock due to the West Asia conflict, India's economy remains strong with robust growth = and solid external finance. The ratings agency forecast a 6.4 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal year. The growth is, however, slower than the average 7.4 per cent growth clocked over the past three years. "Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at BBB- with a stable outlook," Fitch said in its rating action. India's rating has remained unchanged at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, since 2006. Fitch said the gains of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in state-level elections would support implementation of policy pri-

orities at the Centre. Fitch, however, cautioned that the recent youth protests could put pressure on the government to hike spending on education-related measures, generation of jobs, including skill development. "Recent protests, stemming from leaked medical exams, may point to rising concerns among youth over employment opportunities, risking fiscal spending pressures over time," Fitch said. Last month, students had staged a massive protest in the capital over paper leak in medical entrance exam NEET and demanded transparency in competitive exams. The protests and the subsequent police action on students have been raised by the Opposition in Parliament, disrupting its proceedings in the ongoing monsoon session. Fitch said India's economy has been resilient to shocks in recent years, a trend it expects to continue. "There are residual risks from uncertainty related

to the US-Iran conflict, given India's position as large net energy importer position, but we do not expect a durable risk to growth prospects," Fitch said. India imports 87 per cent of its crude requirement, of which 46 per cent transits through or near the Strait of Hormuz, which is blocked on account of the US-Iran war which began on February 28. Fitch said India's rating reflects its robust growth outlook and solid external finance fundamentals. A strengthening record of delivering macroeconomic stability and improving policy credibility should underpin continued robust growth and enhance economic resilience, despite near-term macroeconomic headwinds from the energy shock. High growth should also support a sustained improvement in structural credit metrics and increase the likelihood that government debt will trend down, Fitch said. In the FY27

Budget, the government estimated the debt-to-GDP ratio at 55.6 per cent of GDP, lower than 56.1 per cent of GDP in FY26. The government has set a target to bring down its debt-to-GDP ratio to 50 per cent by March 2031. Fitch estimates India's medium potential GDP growth of 6.4 per cent, led by public capex, a private investment pick-up and favourable demographics. It said India's external finances remain solid, with a low current account deficit (CAD), net external creditor position and still high forex reserves. Fitch forecast a slight widening of CAD to 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY27 from 0.6 per cent in FY26, from the energy shock. Forecast reserves of USD 733 billion (7.4 months of external payments) by FY27 end. Capital outflows picked up in the June quarter of FY27, amid already subdued FDI and portfolio flows, but have reversed following the recent RBI and measures.

Bhumi Pednekar Faces Backlash For Asking Protesters To Avoid Abusive Language, Netizens Ask 'What About



: Actor Bhumi Pednekar has faced criticism on social media after speaking about the language used by some protesters during the ongoing NEET-UG 2026 protests. The actor recently shared a video on Instagram in which she asked young protesters to express their anger without using abusive or insulting language. She said that such behaviour does not represent the values and culture of the country. However, her comments quickly divided social media users.

Many people questioned why she chose to speak about the language used by protesters but did not address the alleged police action against students during the protests. Bhumi said she had been watching several videos from the demonstrations and was concerned about the way some young people were speaking, particularly the abusive language directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She pointed out that Modi holds the highest constitutional office in the

country and asked whether people would speak in the same way to elders in their own families. "Would we ever speak like this to the elders in our own homes?" she asked, while making her appeal for more respectful public discussion. The actor also spoke about India's culture and said that people should be able to express disagreement without resorting to abusive language. According to her, moving away from these values could make meaningful conversa-

tions and progress more difficult. Bhumi ended her message by calling for unity. She also referred to issues such as gender-based violence and education, saying that these matters need to be addressed in a productive and effective manner. Her message, however, did not receive the response she may have expected. Several social media users criticised the actor for what they described as a selective response to the protests. They argued that while abusive language can be questioned, the alleged use of force against students should also be discussed. One user questioned whether people should be more concerned about a protester using a swear word or the alleged use of serious force against demonstrators. Another user said that respect cannot simply be demanded and has to be earned. Some others asked Bhumi to also speak when politicians use offensive or abusive language. A few comments accused her of judging the protesters without addressing the reasons that brought students onto the streets. The criticism comes against the backdrop of the NEET-UG 2026 protests, which have attracted attention over concerns surrounding education, student welfare and demands for reforms. The demonstrations in Delhi became particularly tense on July 20, when protesters attempted to march towards Parliament. Videos circulating online showed clashes between protesters and police.

After Dhurandhar's Blockbuster Run, Ranveer Singh Begins Pralay, His First Film As Producer

After Dhurandhar's success, Ranveer Singh is stepping into a very different kind of world with Pralay. The actor has begun shooting for the end-of-the-world action thriller in Mumbai, and the project marks an important new chapter for him as he also takes on production duties. Directed by Jai Mehta, Pralay is being produced by Ananya Birla's Birla Studios, Hansal Mehta and Sahil Saigal's True Story Films, along with Ranveer's Maa Kasam Films. The film has been in technical pre-production for several months before going on floors. While the makers are keeping the plot closely guarded, Pralay is built around a simple but intense idea that what happens when the world people know begins to collapse? The story is set against Mumbai, with the team shooting at live locations across the city and its surrounding areas. That choice could give the film a different texture from a typical large-scale action movie. Instead of creating an entirely fictional world, Pralay appears to be placing its survival story in a city that audiences already know. That makes Mumbai more than just a backdrop. Its crowded streets, buildings, public spaces and familiar surroundings could become part of the film's tension as the characters try to survive a catastrophe. Ranveer will headline the film and play a physically demanding role. His decision to produce

the project also makes Pralay significant

Harshad Mehta Story with Hansal Mehta and

they aim for a large-scale cinematic experi-



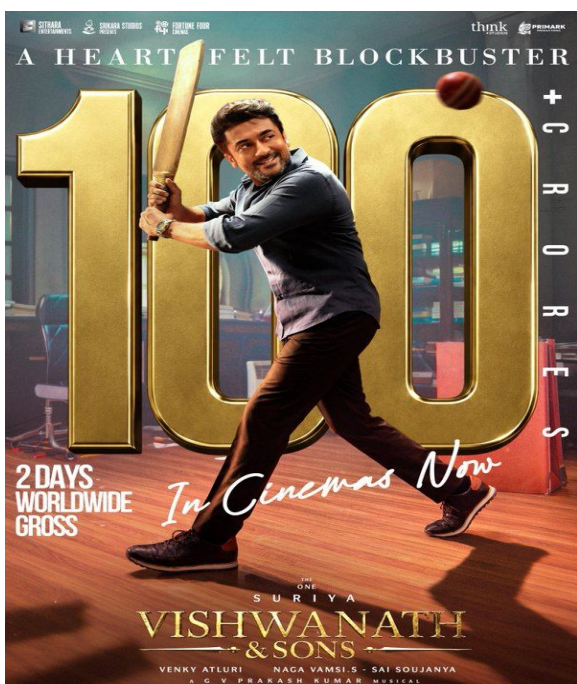
beyond being his next acting assignment. It gives him a chance to have a creative stake in a film that is being positioned as an ambitious theatrical action thriller. The film also brings Ranveer together with Kalyani Priyadarshan, who has emerged as one of the newer names to watch after the success of Lokah Chapter One: Chandra. She plays a pivotal role in Pralay, although details about her character are being kept under wraps. For Jai Mehta, the project is another move into large-scale storytelling after work across both film and streaming. He co-directed Scam 1992: The

later directed the series Lootere. Pralay is also an interesting choice for Ranveer after the Dhurandhar films. The two-part franchise put him at the centre of a gritty action world and became a major theatrical success. Pralay continues his association with big-screen action, but its survival-focused story gives him a new space to explore. The film is described as an original story centred on survival, courage and the instinct to protect what matters when everything familiar starts falling apart. The makers have also assembled a crew from India and abroad as

ence. Hansal Mehta had earlier teased the ambition behind the project while speaking about the True Story Films slate, calling it the kind of film India had not made or revival, courage and the instinct to protect what matters when everything familiar starts falling apart. The makers have also assembled a crew from India and abroad as en before. Now, with filming finally underway, that ambition is moving from the planning stage to the screen. For Ranveer, Pralay could therefore be more than just the film that follows Dhurandhar as it marks his first step as a producer.

Suriya Starrer Breaches Rs 50 Crore In India After Strong Weekend

Suriya's Vishwanath and Sons is enjoying a strong run at the box office, with the film continuing to attract audiences across Tamil and Telugu markets. The family drama has also made a strong impact overseas, where it has recorded the biggest opening of Suriya's career. At the India box office, the film collected Rs 14.98 crore net by Sunday evening, taking its three-day total to Rs 52.58 crore. Its India gross collection stands at Rs 61.15 crore. The film had opened with Rs 15.35 crore net on Friday. It then saw a major jump on Saturday, collecting Rs 22.25 crore on the Independence Day holiday. Vishwanath and Sons crosses Rs 50 crore in India. The three-day performance has taken Vishwanath and Sons past the Rs 50 crore net mark in India. The film's collections have remained healthy despite competition from other major releases during the Independence Day weekend. The language-wise numbers show that the Tamil version remains the bigger contributor. On day 3, the Tamil version collected Rs 9.01 crore, while the Telugu version added Rs 5.97 crore. So far, the Tamil version has contributed Rs 31.91 crore to the India net collection, while the Telugu



version has earned Rs 20.67 crore. Suriya scores a career-best overseas opening. The overseas performance has added another major highlight to the film's theatrical run. Vishwanath and Sons recorded approximately 1.45 million dollar in overseas gross on its opening day, making it Suriya's biggest overseas and North American opener to date. North America has emerged as one of the key markets for the film. The combined collection from premieres and the first Friday was around 676,000 dollars from 301 locations.

Interestingly, the Telugu version performed much better than the Tamil version in North America. It contributed around 436,000 dollars compared with approximately 240,000 dollars from the Tamil version. The overseas opening has also helped the film recover a significant portion of its international theatrical investment. With an overseas break-even target reportedly pegged at 4.25 million dollars, the opening-day gross of around 1.45 million dollar represents roughly 33 percent recovery. The makers are already celebrating the film's perform-

ance. Sithara Entertainments took to X to call Vishwanath and Sons a blockbuster and announced that the film had crossed the Rs 100 crore mark worldwide in just two days. The numbers suggest that Suriya's appeal is extending strongly into Telugu-speaking overseas audiences as well. Director Venky Atluri's familiarity with the Telugu market may have also helped the film connect with that audience. Vishwanath and Sons becomes a strong Independence Day performer. The film was among the biggest contributors to the Independence Day box office. On August 15, the combined collections of major releases crossed the Rs 100 crore gross mark in India, with Awarapan 2 leading the day and Vishwanath and Sons emerging as the second-biggest contributor. The film's performance also puts it in a strong position for the coming days. With positive audience feedback and no immediate signs of slowing down, the family drama could continue to benefit from word of mouth. Vishwanath and Sons follows Sanjay Vishwanath, an international shooter who has spent his life chasing excellence. As age, family responsibilities and an unexpected romance

Polish Guitarist Marcin Patrzalek Arrives In Shillong For Live Concert



Guwahati: World-famous Polish guitarist Marcin Patrzalek reached Shillong on Tuesday for a scheduled concert at the Lariti Performing Centre as part of the 'Marcin, Art of Guitar Tour 2026'. "All the way from the airport to Shillong, I have been taking videos of the scene outside the window with my mobile phone. Nature is beautiful. It feels like I have entered a different world," he told reporters. The tour will not only include concerts but also the lively music and culture of Meghalaya. Patrzalek will also participate in special workshops and jam sessions with local artists under the Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Program (CM-MGMP). Three popular bands from Meghalaya — Segim Durama of Garo Hills, Leo Boys of Khasi Hills and Larger Day 90 of Jaintia Hills — will perform at the concert before Patrzalek at the main event on

Wednesday, aimed at introducing young talent from the state to the world stage. The international concert is jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and CM-MGMP to further strengthen the state's identity as the 'country of guitars'. Appreciating the warm welcome by the Indian audience, the world-famous Polish guitarist Marcin Patrzalek reached Shillong on Tuesday for a scheduled concert at the Lariti Performing Centre as part of the 'Marcin, Art of Guitar Tour 2026'. "All the way from the airport to Shillong, I have been taking videos of the scene outside the window with my mobile phone. Nature is beautiful. It feels

like I have entered a different world," he told reporters. The tour will not only include concerts but also the lively music and culture of Meghalaya. Patrzalek will also participate in special workshops and jam sessions with local artists under the Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Program (CM-MGMP). Three popular bands from Meghalaya — Segim Durama of Garo Hills, Leo Boys of Khasi Hills and Larger Day 90 of Jaintia Hills — will perform at the concert before Patrzalek at the main event on Wednesday, aimed at introducing young talent from the state to the world stage. The international concert is jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and CM-MGMP to further strengthen the state's identity as the 'country of guitars'.

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