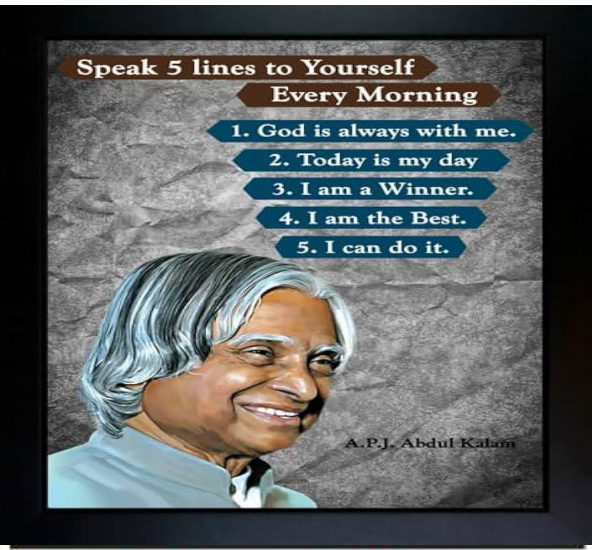




Telangana ACB Seeks I-T probe into Properties Allegedly Held in Benami Names

Hyderabad: Officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) wrote a letter to the Income Tax (I-T) department seeking an investigation into properties allegedly held in benami names. Based on ACB reports, the I-T officials have initiated action in cases involving alleged illicit assets worth more than Rs.100 crore. The IT department has reportedly registered cases under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act and begun an investigation similar to an ED-style probe. The properties allegedly held in



benami names by REDCO DE Muthyam Venkata Ramana, DSP Bheem Reddy, HMDA Chief Engineer Ravinder, Land Records Deputy Director Sunkari

Narahari Rao, Excise Superintendent Kommuri M allaredy, and R&B Engineer-in-Chief Mohan Naik are under the IT department's investigation.

70 Gram Gold Necklace Stolen by Burqa Clad Women



Sangareddy: Four women wearing burqas allegedly stole a gold necklace weighing around 70 grams from a jewellery shop in Zaherabad town of Sangareddy district on Sunday. According to reports, four burqa-clad women and a man wearing a

cap entered Jai Bhavani Jewellery shop posing as customers. They asked the shop staff to show them nose pins. While the staff was attending to them, the women allegedly diverted their attention and stole a gold necklace before leaving

the shop. The shop owner later noticed that the necklace was missing. Upon checking the CCTV footage, the theft came to light. The owner lodged a complaint with the police, who are examining the CCTV footage to identify the suspects.

Sanjay Jaju Reviews HMDA's Functioning, Ongoing Development Initiatives



Hyderabad: The CS asked officials to ensure coordinated planning, expedite key infrastructure and development projects, and strengthen urban infrastructure across the Hyderabad Metropolitan Region. Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviewed the functioning and ongoing

development initiatives of HMDA at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat here on Tuesday. He directed officials to ensure coordinated planning, expedite key infrastructure and development projects, and strengthen urban infrastructure across the Hyderabad Metropolitan Region. The Chief Secretary

emphasised sustainable, integrated and citizen-centric urban development in line with the vision of #TelanganaRising2047. Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviewing the functioning and ongoing development initiatives of HMDA at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat here on Tuesday.

Harish Rao demands Minister Ponguleti's resignation over 22A land row

Hyderabad: The ongoing row over 22A (prohibited lands) list intensified, with BRS deputy floor leader and former Minister T Harish Rao demanding that Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy resign, taking moral responsibility for the fiasco. He said lakhs of private properties were included in the 22A prohibited land list, putting citizens through an unnecessary ordeal. He demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy remove the Revenue Minister from the Cabinet, failing



which would strengthen suspicions of a joint conspiracy. He asserted that BRS would pursue the issue in the Assembly and legally hold those responsible accountable. Participating in a citizens' protest in Malkajgiri demanding immediate cancellation of

the list here on Tuesday, Harish Rao accused the Revanth Reddy government of creating problems instead of resolving them. He questioned why people should run from office to office to correct mistakes committed by the Congress government. "The government should take immediate measures to resolve the issue and restore normalcy," he said, demanding an investigation into the issue and punishing those responsible while the Congress government abolished the Urban Land Ceiling (ULC) in 2008,

following which several lands became patta properties and people had been living there for years. He stated that around 7,500 acres of exempted lands in Rangareddy, over 6,000 properties in Medchal and HMDA and HUDA lands were also included in the prohibited list. Harish Rao alleged that people were being asked for up to 30 per cent of the land and development rights to remove properties from the list. He cited the case of a journalist Ashok of Tilaknagar, who discovered that his house was on

the prohibited list only when he approached the sub-registrar to sell it. The BRSLP deputy leader rejected Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's attempt to blame officials and asked who ordered the inclusion of the properties which never faced any issue in last 20 years. He demanded that the government remove the properties without applications or forcing people to visit government offices, and publish details of all properties included and subsequently removed in the public domain.

CM Naidu Directs Officials To Step Up Search For Missing Fishermen

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed officials to step up search operations to trace eight fishermen who have been missing since August 3. The search is being conducted in coordination among the Indian Coast Guard, the State fisheries department, and the BR Ambedkar Konaseema district administration. The eight fishermen, from Odalarevu, Dummalapeta and Vasalathippa villages in BR Ambedkar Konaseema district had set out to sea from the Odalarevu Fish Landing Centre jetty at around 10 am on August 3. Also



Read - TDP Finalises Varla Ramaiah, Dalavayi Ramadevi For Governor Quota MLCs The families lost touch with the crew around 11 am on the day of departure. The vessel was expected to return by

August 12 but did not arrive, prompting authorities to launch search operations. During a review meeting with the officials, the CM stressed that all available means should be utilised to trace the fisher-

men. He further said the coast guard, fisheries department and district administration should continue the search in coordination until the missing boat and fishermen are traced. Also Read - Priests Recruited Basing On Merit, Not Zonal System: Anam "Search operations to trace the eight fishermen who have been missing since their fishing boat left Odalarevu jetty on August 3 must be intensified, and all possible measures should be taken to locate them safely," said Naidu in an official press release. The boat is equipped with a Very High Frequency (VHF) radio set and the fishermen are

carrying mobile phones. Officials estimated that the boat may have reached the fishing area at around 6 pm on the same day. The coast guard commandant has alerted nearby patrol vessels and search operations are underway. Fishing boats operating from Kakinada, Bhairavapalem, Visakhapatnam and Paradip were also alerted to assist in information gathering. Naidu directed officials to maintain continuous contact with the families of the missing fishermen, provide regular updates on the search operations and assured them of full government support

Telangana ACB Arrests GHMC, Forest Officials in Separate Bribe Cases



Hyderabad: The sleuths of Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested a GHMC official and two Forest department officials in connection with separate bribe cases. Ch. Prabhavathi, a Town Planning Supervisor at GHMC's Santosh Nagar Circle 25 in Charminar Zone, was caught red handed by the ACB officials when she demanded and accepted the bribe of Rs.20,000 from the complainant for doing an official favour. Also Read - Attapur: Woman Admitted With Fever Dies, Family Alleges Medical Negligence The bribe was demanded for processing the building

permission file and handing over the building permit order and work commencement letter to the complainant. The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of Prabhavathi. Meanwhile, the ACB booked a case of criminal misconduct against Ram Babu, a Forest Section Officer and Murali Krishna, Forest Beat Officer posted at the Lingala Forest Office in Nagarkurnool district. - Telangana ACB Seeks I-T probe into Properties Allegedly Held in Benami Names On July 23, the duo intercepted the complainant and others while they were transporting wood

collected from the Nallamala forest and threatened to register forest case and seize the bullock carts if the bribe was not paid. Initially, they demanded Rs.1.20 lakh and later, they reduced the amount to Rs.50,000. Accordingly, as the complainant had no other option, he agreed to pay the demanded amount and paid Rs.28,000 online and the remaining Rs.22,000 in cash. Thereafter, again they demanded an additional Rs.6,000 for issuing an official receipt. Thereby, the AOs acted improperly and dishonestly in the exercise of their official duties to obtain undue advantage for

Telangana – A Paradise for Investors: Bhatti



Hyderabad: Telangana is a paradise that encourages all kinds of investors, and the government's goal is to transform the state into a hub for clean energy, said Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. On Tuesday, he inaugurated the two-day India Energy Summit & Expo 2026 at HITECH and Novotel in Hyderabad. Addressing industrialists, investors, innovators, and technology experts attending the summit, he extended an invitation to them. Family Alleges Medical Negligence "Investors, innovators, scientists, CEOs... I warmly invite all of you. Telangana is a state that promotes every kind of investment—it is truly a paradise for investors. We are ready to share our growth and prosperity and welcome you

wholeheartedly to grow with us," Bhatti Vikramarka said. He emphasized that energy transition is not merely about changing the source of electricity generation, but a transformative process that reshapes the entire economic system. He expressed the vision of making Telangana not just a consumer of clean energy, but a major global manufacturing hub for clean energy technologies. Also Read - Telangana ACB Arrests GHMC, Forest Officials in Separate Bribe Cases Bhatti Vikramarka explained that the state has designed plans to meet rapidly growing power demand while ensuring environmental sustainability. As part of this, Telangana aims to expand solar power capacity to 20,000 MW by 2030 and over 26,000 MW by 2035. He also

highlighted the importance of energy storage for renewable energy integration, stating that through battery energy storage and pumped storage projects, the state plans to achieve 3,800 MW storage capacity by 2030 and 8,000 MW by 2035. Allegedly Held in Benami Names He further noted that Hyderabad's strengths in IT and AI are being leveraged to transform the future power grid into a digital network. A dedicated 100 MW renewable energy plant is being planned to support an AI data center in the proposed 'Bharat Future City.' Additionally, the state has set targets of producing 400,000 tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030 and establishing 12,000 EV charging stations by 2035. Companies manufacturing solar, wind, and battery components in Telangana will receive capital support, SGST reimbursement, and electricity duty exemptions, along with fast-track approvals through TG-iPASS. He concluded by stating that this energy transformation is only possible through

36 Tonnes Of Adulterated Ghee, Material Seized By H-FAST

Hyderabad: In a major crackdown on illicit adulterated ghee manufacturing and trading establishments here, a total of 36 tonnes of adulterated ghee, raw processing materials, and chemical additives were seized, police said on Tuesday. Acting on credible intelligence and actionable tip-offs received from the public, the Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST), in joint coordination with the Food Safety Department, conducted a special enforcement drive. Teams conducted simultaneous inspections across 130 establishments, including 39 ghee manufacturing units and 91 ghee-selling outlets, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar told reporters. Woman Admitted With Fever Dies, Family Alleges Medical Negligence During the inspections, the teams unearthed large-scale



operations where spurious, substandard ingredients and hazardous, unauthorised chemical substances were being systematically mixed to produce synthetic ghee, he said. In the course of the drive, the enforcement teams seized a total of 36 tonnes of adulterated ghee, cream (raw material), palm oil, vanaspathi, artificial ghee flavours, starch, and chemical additives. Also Read - Telangana ACB Arrests GHMC, Forest Officials in Separate Bribe Cases
Food safety inspectors

collected statutory samples on the spot for comprehensive laboratory analysis. "This adulterated mixture was deceptively packaged, branded, and distributed to unsuspecting consumers under the guise of 'Pure Desi Ghee', posing grave health risks to the public," Sajjanar said. Investigation and chemical additives. ns revealed that certain manufacturers blended non-milk ingredients such as palm oil, vanaspathi, skimmed milk powder, starch and artificial flavouring to

mimic the taste, aroma and appearance of genuine ghee, the Commissioner said. Also Read - Telangana ACB Seeks I-T probe into Properties Allegedly Held in Benami Names Some products contained no dairy components at all. The adulterated products were packed in transparent covers and falsely marketed under names such as "100 per cent pure ghee, premium ghee, farm fresh ghee and "natural ghee", DCP (Task Force) Gaikwad Raghunath said.

Priests Recruited Basing On Merit, Not Zonal System

Amaravati: Minister Anam Ramana rayana Reddy said that zonal system was not being followed in the appointment of priests, pandits, supporting staff and others in the temples. During the Ass embly session, the min ister was replying to the questions on staff recruitment in temples. He said that the govern ment had no information about injustice to pandits and priests during appointment to temples in Rayalaseema. - TDP

Finalises Varla Ramaiah, Dalavayi Ramadevi For Governor Quota MLCs

Recently, 344 posts were filled. Of them, 172 posts were in Rayalase ma. Vacancies in the Srisailem, Mahanandi,



Srikalahasti, Kanipakam temples are being filled by issuing notification. Irrespective of the region, merit is being priority in the recruitment of priests. Veda and Agama pandits have been included in the committees conducting

interviews for priests. Over 1,400 priests attended the interview. Over 1,431 applications were received from Rayalaseema and 172 of the eligible were recruited, Anam said. The recruitment process has been recorded to main-

tain transparency, he said. In Rayalaseema Zone-4, there are over 440 posts. Currently, over 245 are discharging their duties, 147 are vacant. The government is taking measures to fill the posts as per the regulations.

Several Tollywood celebrities give up voting rights in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Several celebrities and prominent personalities from the film industry residing in Hyderabad have opted to retain their voting rights in their native places in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. During the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the majority of the celebrities from Tollywood and prominent people from various other industries who had voting rights in Jubilee Hills have chosen to forego them while preferring their native places. Confirming this, Telangana Chief Electoral Office officials said several Tollywood celebrities, including those from the big film families, have accorded prominence to their native places in Andhra Pradesh. “When our officials and BLOs reached out to them, the celebrities informed us that they wanted to retain their votes in their home towns in Andhra Pradesh. Although the celebrities did not exercise their franchise there, they have retained their votes in Andhra Pradesh.”



Pradesh while giving them up here,” officials said. The Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency is home to a large section of the Telugu film industry, from actors and directors to producers, who have been residing in the area for several decades. In fact, several of them own homes and spend most of their lives here. In the Jubilee Hills constituency, where several Tollywood celebrities have been exercising their voting rights, the SIR information reveals

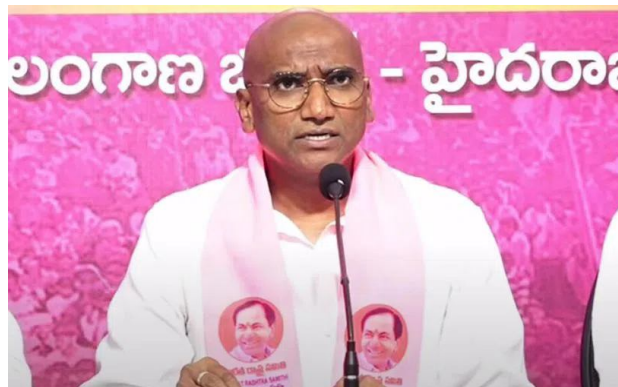
that 1,48,859 electors have permanently shifted, which is the highest among 15 constituencies in Hyderabad. Similarly, 8,232 voters are reported dead, 13,500 are untraceable, and 7,279 electors are already enrolled. Telangana CEO officials said the desire to stay connected with their hometowns retain their votes in their has led several celebrities information reveals that 1,48,859 electors have permanently shifted, which is the highest among 15 constituencies in Hyderabad. Similarly,

8,232 voters are reported dead, 13,500 are untraceable, and 7,279 electors are already enrolled.

Telangana CEO officials said the desire to stay connected with their hometowns has led several celebrities to retain their voting rights there. The decision is also attributed to them owning agricultural land and other properties in their native places.

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BRS asks why Congress government failed to challenge stay on Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak



Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday questioned why the Congress government failed to file a counter petition in the High Court challenging the stay on implementation of the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes, despite officials allegedly preparing and submitting their remarks on the case. Speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan here, the party general secretary R S Praveen Kumar suspected that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy himself stopped the government from filing the counter. He also demanded that Ministers Ponnampet Prabhakar and Vakati Sriharaj apologise to the people. He said the stay orders were a failure of the Law Department and the Chief Minister. "Who prevented the Advocate General and Additional Advocate General from appearing before the court?" he asked. Praveen Kumar argued that welfare schemes could be implemented through government orders (GOs) under Article 162 of the

Constitution, provided funds were approved in the State Budget. He reminded that separate legislation was not mandatory. He cited the 1955 Ram Jawaya Kapoor versus State of Punjab judgment and alleged that the government failed to place the relevant legal position before the High Court. He said departmental officials had received communications soon after the case was filed in July and had sent their remarks and counter-related material, but the Law Department did not file the counter. He questioned why the government had engaged senior Supreme Court lawyers Siddharth Luthra and

Abhishek Manu Singhvi for other cases but did not use them to defend Kalyana Lakshmi. Praveen Kumar alleged that the government deliberately delayed the schemes for nine months and was now attempting to discontinue welfare programmes introduced during the previous BRS regime. He warned that similar court stays on Aasara, Gruhajyothi, Mahalakshmi or Rythu Bharosa should not automatically become grounds for stopping their implementation. The former IPS officer said the government was using attention-diverting politics, including public meetings at an alleged cost of Rs 15 crore each,

to shift focus away from government issues. On the 22A prohibited land list, Praveen Kumar alleged a major land scam and claimed that officials were seeking 30 per cent commissions to remove properties from the list. He questioned the toll-free number announced by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, as it allegedly remained non-functional and unresponsive. He also alleged irregularities involving records of 22,000 transactions and inclusion of Indiramma housing plots in the prohibited list. Bharosa should not automatically become grounds for stopping their implemen- tation, but the Law Department did not file the counter-entation. The former IPS officer said the government was using attention-diverting politics, including public meetings at an alleged cost of Rs 15 crore each, to defend the Chief Minister but to explain to the people what was in the government.

CBI Nabs 3, including Hyderabad Mining DD in Bribe Case



Hyderabad: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested three accused persons, including Deputy Director (DD) (Mining), DGMS, Hyderabad-III Region, South Central Zone, a consultant-cum-middleman and a representative of a private mining establishment in a bribe case. The three persons are U. Siva Sankar, Deputy Director (Mining), DGMS, Hyderabad-III Region, South Central Zone, Sidda Venkata Suresh Kumar, a representative of Vasavi Granites, Chimakurty in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh and A. Subhaskar Reddy, a consultant-cum-middleman, and proprietor of Lotus Enviro Mining Services (LEMS) at Ongole in Prakasam district.

according to a statement issued by CBI on Tuesday. Also Read Attapur: Woman Admitted With Fever Dies, Family Alleges Medical Negligence The CBI registered the instant case on Monday against the three persons and other unknown public servants and private persons, in connection with alleged demand and acceptance of bribe. Information was

received that a fatal accident occurred on June 25, 2026 at a mining quarry in Prakasam district. The representatives of the mining establishment concerned approached Sankar, through a consultant for obtaining a favourable enquiry report in connection with the accident and without implicating the owners of mining establishment. Also Read -
Telangana ACB Arrests

GHMC, Forest Officials in Separate Bribe Cases. It was alleged that the middleman had earlier paid Rs.1 lakh, as part of the undue advantage, to Sankar for a favourable report. Subsequently, an amount of Rs.2 lakh was arranged for payment to Sankar and it was to be delivered at Ongole on Monday, towards obtaining a favourable report in the fatal accident case and also towards alleged quarterly bribe payments relating to the private mining establishment and other mines. a trap and caught Sankar red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs.2 lakh from the consultant in the presence of a representative of the private mining establishment. The bribe amount was recovered during the

TDP Finalises Varla Ramaiah, Dalavayi Ramadevi For Governor Quota MLCs

Amaravati: The Telugu Desam Party on Tuesday finalized the names of senior leader and TDP Politburo member Varla Ramaiah and BC women's leader Dalavayi Ramadevi for the Governor's quota MLC posts in Andhra Pradesh. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced in the Assembly that the state government has already sent the relevant file to Lok Bhavan for the Governor's approval. Varla Ramaiah will be given representation in the Legislative Council under the SC quota. Ramaiah earlier served as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation. He also contested from the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat on a TDP ticket in the 2009 elections. Also Read - Priests Recruited Basing On Merit, Not



Zonal System: Anam
While Dalavayi
Ramadevi, who is a BC
women's leader from
Anantapur, worked as
DWCRA Sangham
President and as TDP
Cluster In-charge.
Ramadevi belongs to the
Vaddara community. By
giving an MLC post to a
grassroots party worker,
the TDP high command
has sent a signal that

dedicated party workers will get due recognition and positions. With the Governor's approval pending, both leaders are expected to take oath as MLCs soon. Zonal System: Anam While Dalavayi Ramadevi, who is a BC women's leader from Anantapur, worked as DWCRA Sangham President and as TDP Cluster In-

charge. Ramadevi belongs to the Vaddera community. By giving an MLC post to a grass-roots party worker, the TDP high command has sent a signal that dedicated party workers will get due recognition and positions. With the Governor's approval pending, both leaders are expected to take oath as MLCs soon.

TMC MP Mahua Moitra Claims Nadia Administration Ordered Her To Vacate Circuit House

Lucknow: The BJP has cobbled together its new national organisational team with eight leaders from Uttar Pradesh, the most represented, and characterised by relatively young, but not short on political experience.

The BJP's UP picks include two women and an equal number of Muslims. The appointments include two national vice presidents, two general secretaries, two secretaries and the chiefs of the BJP's OBC and Minority Morchas. Former Union minister Smriti Irani and former Lok Sabha MP Harish Dwivedi have been appointed national general secretaries, while former MP Rekha Verma and Tariq Mansoor have been made national vice-presidents. Rajya Sabha members Bhola Singh and Sangeeta Yadav have been appointed national secretaries. Rajya Sabha member Amarpal Maurya will head the OBC Morcha, while Kunwar Basit Ali will head the Minority Morcha. Irani is the most prominent political face



among the UP-linked appointments. She represented Amethi in the Lok Sabha and defeated Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in 2019, before losing the seat in 2024. Her return to a key organisational position brings a known campaigner with substantial experience of UP politics into the party's central structure. Verma, a two-term former MP from Dhaurahra, has direct electoral experience with victories in 2014 and 2019, though she narrowly lost in 2024. Her elevation gives the BJP another woman leader familiar with the electoral dynamics of central UP. Mansoor, a professor and former vice-chancellor of

Aligarh Muslim University, brings a different political profile. A prominent Muslim figure associated with western UP, Mansoor has been seen as part of the BJP's efforts to reach sections of the Muslim community, particularly its Pasmanda section. His elevation to national vice-president gives that outreach a higher organisational profile. Dwivedi, a two-term former MP from Basti, brings parliamentary and organisational experience from eastern UP. He won the seat in 2014 and 2019 before losing it in 2024. Bhola Singh, a three-term Dalit MP from Bulandshahr, represents another electorally tested

face from western UP. Sangeeta Yadav, a Rajya Sabha member and former MLA from Chauri-Chaura in Gorakhpur, adds another woman leader with electoral experience from eastern UP to the national organisation. Maurya's appointment as OBC Morcha president is particularly relevant to the BJP's social mobilisation strategy. A Rajya Sabha member and former BJP state general secretary, he contested the 2022 Assembly election from Unchahar in Rae Bareilly district and has substantial organisational experience. Ali, who has headed the BJP's Minority Morcha in UP, has been active in the party's outreach to Muslim voters, particularly in western UP. His appointment as national Minority Morcha president gives that effort a national organisational platform. The eight appointments collectively cover several strands of the BJP's political strategy in UP — women, OBCs, Muslims, Javed Malik, BJP West UP chief, told PTI that Basit

was only the third BJP leader from the minority community to have been tasked with national responsibilities of the minority wing, the previous two being Aizaz Rizvi and Tanveer Usmani. "There are two minority leaders from UP to have found a place in the national team. Apart from Basit, Tariq Mansoor, named national vice president, is from the Pasmanda community," Malik said. BJP state president and Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, and State General Secretary (Organization) Dharmpal Singh, extended their wishes to the newly appointed national office-bearers of the party. Meanwhile, UP BJP state media in-charge Yatendra Sharma met party national general secretary (organization) B L Santosh after taking charge of his post on Monday. The two discussed strengthening the organisation, improving media coordination and communicating the party's policies and programmes

'Not A Single Person Was Harmed': Kiren Rijiju Defends Law Enforcement's Handling Of Gen Z Protest



New Delhi: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday defended both the Bihar and Delhi governments, as well as law enforcement's handling of widespread student demonstrations, asserting that security forces managed massive crowds without causing casualties or severe injuries. Speaking to ANI regarding recent student protests over exam irregularities and paper leaks in Bihar and New Delhi, Rijiju praised the police and administration while drawing a sharp contrast with historic protest responses under Congress-led governments. Rijiju rejected allegations of police overreach, emphasising that despite thousands of demonstrators and the infiltration of political agitators, no protester suffered serious injuries or fatal harm. "Not a single person was

harm; not a single person suffered a broken bone. Not even one protester is in the hospital with a serious injury. Consider the scale of this movement: thousands turned up, and so many criminals infiltrated under the guise of students," he said. Rijiju emphasised that despite thousands turning up, including what he termed political agitators from the Aam Aadmi Party, Bhim Army, Samajwadi Party, and "dafli-playing agitators," the Delhi Police used minimal force. Force was applied only when demonstrators forcibly attempted to break barricades to march toward Parliament. "Further more, more than half the people, whether from the Aam Aadmi Party, the dafli-playing agitators, the Bhim Army, or the Samajwadi Party, came and incited others to violence; yet, not a single casualty occurred," he said. The Minister accused past Congress administrations of using lethal force during public unrest, citing historical incidents such as the Telangana statehood movement and the Emergency era. "If such a movement had taken place during the Congress era, and many did, resulting in thousands of deaths, one should praise the Delhi police and the administration for handling such a massive protest without allowing even a single serious injury. Thousands actually died from gunfire during the Congress era," Rijiju said. It is the Congress that imposes an Emergency in response to protests. You might recall how many people have fallen victim to gunfire during the various movements that have taken place in this country. Even during the movement to create the state of Telangana, so many people were killed... In this movement, not a single shot was fired," he added. Rijiju said the police and administration should be appreciated for handling the situation without allowing any loss of life, adding that no firing took place during the movement.

'Vande Mataram' Rendered For First Time During Independence Day Celebrations At Red Fort

New Delhi: National Song 'Vande Mataram' was played for the first time during the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort in New Delhi on Saturday. The National Song was rendered followed by the recitation of the National Anthem at the grand event. The mega function commemorates 150 years of the enduring legacy of 'Vande Mataram' as floral decoration on the ramparts depicted the national flag at the centre flanked by 'Vande Mataram' in Hindi. The National Song was rendered followed by the recitation of the National Anthem. (ETV Bharat) Prime Minister Narendra



Modi led the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort amid patriotic fervour and multi-layer security.

An Army band played the

tune of 'Vande Mataram' as the guests present on the occasion sang the national song. This was followed by the prime minister hoisting the national flag, and then the

national anthem was recited. After the flag hoisting, the tricolour received a 'Rashtriya Salute'. After that, flower petals were showered at the venue by two Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force -- one trooping the national flag and the other carrying a flag depicting 'Vande Mataram'. Written in 1875 by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, 'Vande Mataram' had turned into a rallying cry during the freedom movement. It was adopted as India's national song by the Constituent Assembly in 1950. The government last November launched a year-long celebration to

mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'. 'Vande Mataram' was initially composed independently and later included in Chatterjee's novel 'Anandamath'. It was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Congress Session in Calcutta (now Kolkata). The chant 'Vande Mataram' as a political slogan was first used on August 7, 1905, according to a note '150 Years of Vande Mataram: A Melody That Became a Movement', shared by the government on November 6 last year. 'Vande Mataram' was first published in the literary journal 'Bangadarshan' on

Delhi CM Rolls Out Cleanliness Drive; Govt To Offer Rs 1 Cr Monthly Reward For Best Ward

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday launched a city-wide cleanliness campaign that will run till October 2, with the government announcing a ward-level competition and financial incentives of up to Rs 1 crore for the best-performing wards every month. The 'Delhi Ko Kude Se Azadi-Swachhta Abhiyan 2026', launched at the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) headquarters, seeks to improve sanitation, strengthen waste management and encourage residents to take greater responsibility for keeping their neighbourhoods clean. Gupta said cleanliness cannot be left to a particular department or civic agency and that it has to become a shared responsibility of Delhi's residents. "The objective is not merely to run cleanliness drives, but to make cleanliness a part of people's daily behaviour and lifestyle," she said.

Under the campaign, the cleanest ward will receive Rs 1 crore every month based on its performance.

A ward that continues to perform exceptionally

be valid, the chief minister said in a statement.



well could receive additional incentives, with a maximum of Rs 12 crore available over the year from the Chief Minister's Development Fund, according to the government. The wards will be assessed using reports from an independent agency, officials' reports and complaints received from residents and through social media. A ward could also be disqualified if garbage-related complaints are found to

Union Minister of State and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra said the campaign was aimed at making cleanliness a part of people's "thinking and behaviour", rather than treating it as an occasional exercise. Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood said the campaign was intended to change not only the appearance of Delhi but also the way people approach cleanliness.

"The cleanliness of a neighbourhood, park, road or back lane should matter to citizens just as much as the cleanliness of their homes," he said.

Mayor Pravesh Wahi said better coordination between the Delhi government and the MCD was helping strengthen waste management, sanitation and the upkeep of public spaces. The campaign will focus on what the government described as the four 'Cs' of waste management — collection, cleaning, conversion and circular economy. Source segregation, timely collection and scientific processing of waste will be prioritised, along with efforts to turn waste into resources and promote green fuel and a circular economy. The government has also planned a series of targeted drives during the campaign. Special cleanliness drives will be held in slum clusters on August 23 and 30 and September 6 and 13, while public toilets will receive special atten-

tion on weekends, the statement read.

A campaign to clear green waste from parks will be held from September 1 to 10, while government hospitals will see special cleanliness drives on September 17. From September 17 to October 2, government schools will take part in the 'Mera School, Sabse Sundar' competition, alongside a zero-waste campus initiative. To strengthen sanitation infrastructure, 70 mechanical sweeping machines, additional litter-picking vehicles for each ward and 125 secondary collection centres for construction and demolition waste are being developed, the government said. The Urban Development Department has directed the MCD, New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment Board to prepare detailed action plans and ensure regular monitoring of the campaign. The plan also lays down a different focus for each day of the week. Mondays will be dedicated to

Lucknow Students Block Road, Stage Sit-In Over Teacher Shortage; Minister Assures Action



Lucknow: Hundreds of students from a state-run residential school in the Para area of Lucknow staged a sit-in protest against the acute shortage of teachers on Friday, causing a temporary blockade on one of the important roads which leads to the Agra Expressway, according to the police.

Students of the Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya Vidyalaya School took to Buddheshwar-Mohan Road with banners in the afternoon demanding the immediate recruitment of teachers due to the disturbances in their education.

The sudden road blockade caused a complete halt in traffic on the road from both sides for an hour due to the large queue of vehicles. After receiving information about the protest, Para inspector Suresh Singh reached the spot with a strong police contingent and was able to free the road after a struggle.

Social Welfare Minister of State

(Independent Charge) Asim Arun also reached there and calmed down the agitating students. The students and the principal of the school, Vinod Kumar, were taken to the school auditorium and a discussion was held in the presence of the minister. The school administration told the students that although their demands were genuine, obstructing the roads was not a solution for them. Arun assured the agitating students that the problem of lack of teachers would be sorted out and the entire academic system restored soon. **L u c k n o w :** Hundreds of students from a state-run residential school in the Para area of Lucknow staged a sit-in protest against the acute shortage of teachers on Friday, causing a temporary blockade on one of the important roads which leads to the Agra Expressway, according to the police.

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Constitutional Values, Democratic Institutions Faced Serious Challenges In Last Decade: Kharge



New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a veiled attack on the BJP-led government at the Centre on Friday, said constitutional values, democratic institutions, and social harmony have faced serious challenges over the last 10 years.

Kharge, who has been critical of the ruling government over alleged brutalities on students during the recently held

students' protest at Jantar Mantar here, categorically stated that youth deserve opportunities to fulfil their aspirations. In a message to the fellow citizens on the occasion of Independence Day, he said, "Warm greetings to all my fellow citizens on Independence Day. Paying homage to the freedom fighters, the Congress chief said, "We pay our humble

tribute to the countless freedom fighters who gave their all in the struggle for India's freedom. Their courage, sacrifice and unwavering faith in our nation continue to inspire us." "Over the past 79 years, India's journey has been one of remarkable achievements, struggles and collective resolve. We have travelled a long way, but as a nation, many aspirations remain unfulfilled," Kharge said. The Congress chief added, "For us, freedom was never merely liberation from British rule. It is the assurance bestowed upon every Indian by our Constitution: equality, dignity, justice and the freedom to speak with-

out fear. These values remain the greatest strength of our Democracy and the strongest safeguard of every citizen." In an apparent attack on the ruling BJP, he said, "Over the past decade, our Constitutional values, democratic institutions and social harmony have faced serious challenges. Our youth deserve opportunities to fulfil their aspirations. Our farmers deserve dignity and justice for their toil. Our women deserve equality, empowerment and an equal voice in shaping India's future. Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, minorities and economically weaker sections must receive the full measure of equality and justice promised by our Constitution." On this Independence Day, our greatest resolve must be hope, he added.

Dabholkar Murder: HC Grants Bail To Convict Sachin Andure, Suspends His Life Sentence



Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Sachin Andure, convicted in the 2013 murder case of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar. A bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and Ranjitsinha Bhonsale also suspended the life sentence handed to Andure by a sessions court in 2024. A copy of the detailed order was not yet available.

Andure, who is also facing trial in connection with the killing of activist Govind Pansare, can walk out of jail now as he has secured bail in both the cases. Dabholkar, 67, the founder of the M nd hashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, an anti-superstition organisation, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne assailants while on a morning walk

in Pune on August 20, 2013. Initially, the case was probed by the local police, but following a petition filed in the HC by his daughter Mukta Dabholkar, the investigation was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2014. The prosecution had claimed that Andure was one of the shooters. On May 10, 2024, a sessions court convicted Andure and Sharad Kalaskar for Dabholkar's murder, sentencing them to life in prison. However, they were acquitted of charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Arms Act. The court had also acquitted Virendra Singh Tawde, Sanjiv Punalekar and Vikram Bhavne, cit-

ing insufficient evidence. Andure had filed an appeal in the HC challenging the conviction and, in an interim application, sought bail in the HC by his daughter Mukta Dabholkar, the investigation was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2014. The prosecution had claimed that Andure was one of the shooters. On May 10, 2024, a sessions court convicted Andure and Sharad Kalaskar for Dabholkar's murder, sentencing them to life in prison. However, they were acquitted of charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Arms Act. The court had also acquitted Virendra Singh Tawde, Sanjiv Punalekar and Vikram Bhavne, cit-

Two-Day Strike Over NRC Demand Paralyses Normal Life In Valley Districts Of Manipur

Imphal: Markets and educational institutes remained closed, and public transport remained off the roads in the five valley districts of Manipur on the first day of the two-day strike called by a students' organisation demanding the implementation of the National Register of Citizens before the census. The strike called by the Campaign for Just and Free Delimitation (JFD) from Tuesday midnight, however, did not have any effect on hill districts, including Churachandpur. Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur saw thin attendance at government offices, with some private vehicles seen plying on roads. Educational establishments remained closed, and public transport remained off the streets. Strike enforcers in different parts of the valley districts blocked the roads with bamboo poles and stone boulders. They also forced a few vegetable vendors to pack up their items at Kongba bazaar in



Imphal East district. At Athokpam in Thoubal, protesters burnt tyres in the middle of roads and raised the slogan "No NRC, No Census." The self-enumeration phase of Census 2027 is scheduled to begin on August 17. The main house-listing operation is scheduled from September 1 to September 30 this year. Students, demanding implementation of the NRC in Manipur before the census, staged a demonstration outside the Directorate of Census Operations in Imphal on Sunday, prompting the police to fire tear gas shells to dis-

perse them. Hundreds of protesters in Imphal East and Imphal West districts also held a torch rally on August 16 evening, demanding implementation of the NRC before any census activity in the state to identify illegal immigrants. Imphal East district. At Athokpam in Thoubal, protesters burnt tyres in the middle of roads and raised the slogan "No NRC, No Census." The self-enumeration phase of Census 2027 is scheduled to begin on August 17. The main house-listing operation is scheduled from September 1

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India Weather Update: More Monsoon Rain In Store For Several States



Sambalpur: A team of mechanical engineering students at Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, has developed a low-cost room-cooling device aimed primarily at households where people cannot afford air-conditioners or their high electricity bills. Built largely from discarded scrap materials, the experimental device currently costs around Rs 2,000. The researchers estimate that an improved version made with better-quality components could be produced for approximately Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000. The team claims the device lowered the temperature inside a large room by as much as 10 degrees Celsius during a trial conducted in May. However, the project remains at the research stage while its design will require further refinement before wider deployment. The initiative was conceived against the backdrop of the intense summer heat experienced across western Odisha, where temperatures frequently cross 40 degrees Celsius. While financial-

ly secure households can rely on air-conditioners and conventional coolers, their purchase and operating costs make it difficult for many rural families to afford. Odisha VSSUT Students Develop Low-Cost Room-Cooling Device Using Scrap Materials. Odisha VSSUT Students Develop Low-Cost Room-Cooling Device Using Scrap Materials (ETV Bharat) The device was developed by five to six BTech students and a PhD scholar under the guidance of Pandav Kumar Patra, a faculty member in VSSUT's mechanical engineering department. "We have developed it particularly for people living in rural areas. Many villagers cannot afford an air-conditioner or even the electricity bills that rise with AC usage, which made us to design this device," Patra said. How the cooling system works The device operates through a heat-transfer mechanism comprising a blower, an S-shaped galvanised iron pipe buried approximately three feet underground and a diffuser. The blower draws warm air from the room

and sends it through the underground pipe. As the air travels through the pipe, its heat is transferred to the relatively cooler surrounding soil, lowering the air temperature. The cooled air is then directed back into the room through another pipe and released through the diffuser. Patra also explained that the air temperature drops further while passing through the diffuser because of what the team describes as the Joule-Thomson effect. "We tested the device in May and found that the temperature inside the room remained around 10 degrees lower than the temperature outside," he said. The prototype uses a 40-watt motor, keeping its electricity consumption relatively low. Since it was assembled primarily from scrap materials, the present model also has some leakage issues that the researchers plan to address in its next version. Odisha VSSUT Students Develop Low-Cost Room-Cooling Device Using Scrap Materials. Odisha VSSUT Students Develop Low-Cost Room-Cooling Device Using Scrap Materials (ETV Bharat)

Using Scrap Materials (ETV Bharat) "At present, the device is still in the research phase. We will work to improve it and develop a better model at the lowest possible cost. With support from the government or an NGO, we hope to take it to economically disadvantaged households," Dr Patra said. Designed for summer and winter PhD scholar Ajit Prasad Das said the team wanted to develop an affordable and environment-friendly solution suited to western Odisha's climate. "Summer temperatures in western Odisha generally remain between 40 and 42 degrees Celsius. We wanted to create a device that would be both eco-friendly and inexpensive," Das said. "We have used a blower, an underground heat exchanger and a diffuser. During our summer trial, we observed that the room temperature remained around 10 degrees below the outdoor temperature," he added. The researchers said the device could also help regulate indoor temperatures during winter. Since the underground temperature remains relatively stable, the system is expected to keep the room warmer than the outdoor environment during winter months. The student team comprised Nazrul Mohammad, Dinesh Kumar Sahu, Nitish Priyadarshi Sahu, Lishban Kumar Hembram, Gedam Charan and Swadha Das, along with PhD scholar Ajit Prasad Das.

Young Rajasthan Artist Rajat Ojha Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition

Jaipur: Rajasthan's folk art and culture live not only in its colours, paintings and crafts, but also in stories passed down from one generation to another over centuries. Among these traditions is the nearly 500-year-old art of Kaavad, made from a series of small, door-like wooden panels painted with different scenes. A Kaavad is much more than an object created for display, for, within its folding structure lie stories, traditions, faith and the folk culture of Rajasthan. Every time one of its painted doors is opened, the narrative moves forward. And working to carry this tradition into the future is artist Rajat Ojha, from the Suthar community, currently studying at the Rajasthan School of Art in Jaipur. Kaavad continues to be handcrafted by artisans of the Suthar community living in Bassi near Chittorgarh. Rajat, who comes from the same region and is pursuing his education in Jaipur, has been working with the art form for several years now. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition (ETV Bharat) He has so far created around 35 to 40 Kaavads, depicting subjects ranging from the Ramayana and Krishna Leela to contemporary themes. "To call Kaavad merely an art form



would be unfair. It is Rajasthan's traditional method of storytelling," Rajat said. Its survival, he explained, has historically depended on the participation of three groups. The Suthar community constructs and paints the Kaavad, while members of the Bhat community narrate the stories illustrated on its panels. The yajman, or patron, arranges and supports the storytelling performance. Together, they transform a painted wooden structure into a living cultural experience. When Kaavad Told Stories Before Television And Mobile Phones Contrary to the present day when entertainment and information are readily available through mobile phones, television and digital platforms, there was a time when folk traditions were the principal sources of entertainment, knowledge and cultural education in Rajasthan's villages and

small towns. Traditions like Kaavad and Phad connected people with religious narratives, folk heroes, local histories and the culture of their communities. Kaavad performances were not limited to sacred stories. They also conveyed information about social life, customs and local traditions, allowing collective knowledge and memory to pass from one generation to the next. Each wooden door of the Kaavad opened a different scene and a new chapter of the story began. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition Materials required for Kaavad art How Kaavad Got Its Name The word "Kaavad" is believed to be related to kivaad, the Rajasthan word for a door or shutter. Just as the doors of a house or temple open one after another, the wooden panels of a Kaavad unfold in sequence. Different characters and scenes are painted on a story of the epic progresses from one episode to another. So the audience gets to watch the narrative and not just listen to it.

scenes are painted on each panel. As the doors are opened, the next stage of the narrative is revealed. In a Kaavad based on the Ramayana, Rajat has depicted Lord Rama's journey across a series of painted panels. As the Kaavad unfolds, thof the Kaavad opened a different scene and a new chapter of the story began. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition Materials required for Kaavad art How Kaavad Got Its Name The word "Kaavad" is believed to be related to kivaad, the Rajasthan word for a door or shutter. Just as the doors of a house or temple open one after another, the wooden panels of a Kaavad unfold in sequence. Different characters and scenes are painted on a story of the epic progresses from one episode to another. So the audience gets to watch the narrative and not just listen to it.

US Governors, Lawmakers Hail Bilateral Partnership In Messages For India's

Seattle/New York: Several American states and prominent leaders have applauded the strong India-US ties and the contribution of the diaspora community to the economic and cultural fabric of the country, in their messages on India's 80th Independence Day. Governors of states across the US — from New York to Seattle — have issued proclamations announcing that August 15, 2026, will be commemorated as 'India Day' in their respective jurisdictions. Prominent Senators and lawmakers have also extended messages of congratulations to India and the Indian-American community on the occasion, highlighting their achievements. Governor of the western US state of Montana, Greg Gianforte, in a special video message posted on X by the Consulate General of India in Seattle, said his state deeply appreciates the contributions of the Indian and Indian-American community to "our state's cultural, educational, and economic life". "Your commitment to innovation, learning, and community enriches



all of us."

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy said the important milestone of India's 80th Independence Day honours the courage and determination of those who fought for freedom and self-governance. "Alaska is proud to be home to a vibrant Indian and Indian American community. Your contributions to our economy, our schools, our health-care system, our businesses, and our communities make Alaska a stronger place," he said. In his message, South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden said, "May the friendship between our people continue to grow stronger in the years ahead." Several US Pacific Northwest states,

counties and cities issued proclamations honouring India's 80th Independence Day. These include proclamations by the states of Washington and Nebraska, apart from the cities of Seattle, Bellevue, Kent, SeaTac and King County Council. Earlier, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Delaware on the US East Coast issued proclamations, declaring August 15, 2026, as 'India Day' across the states. New York Governor Kathy Hochul had issued a proclamation recognising August 15, 2026, as 'India Independence Day' across the state. The proclamation noted that "a significant and

historic journey of rejecting colonial rule to embrace self-determination, self-governance, and the ongoing promise of democracy unites the United States and India—a connection deeply felt across our state, which itself served as a critical battleground for liberty during the struggle for American freedom". The New York proclamation states that the annual commemoration of India's Independence Day within the United States has evolved into a "magnificent testament to cross-cultural harmony, marked by vibrant festivals where multigenerational gatherings proudly honour the rich patriotic traditions of both nations, symbolising the

Zambia President Hichilema Has Been Reelected For A Second Term

Lusaka: Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema has been reelected for a second five-year term, the Electoral Commission of Zambia announced early Tuesday. He was declared the outright winner of last Thursday's presidential election without the need for a run-off, having secured 61.4% of the 5 million votes cast. According to the commission, Hichilema won with 2,965,326 votes and his closest competitor was opposition leader Brian Mundubile, who won 1,856,217 votes, which was about 38% of the total vote. "I therefore declare, Hichilema Hakainde S, to be president-elect of the Republic of Zambia this 18th day of August, 2026," commission chairperson Mwangala Zaloumis said. In a statement issued Tuesday, Hichilema welcomed the results and thanked Zambians for the reelection, but also reached out to those who voted for the opposition. "To those citizens who preferred the ideas presented by our opponents,



we hear you, and we will continue to work for you to ensure that every Zambian benefits from the development we are delivering," he said in a statement. There was no immediate reaction from opposition leader Mundubile. Hichilema's victory follows a closely watched election which saw the vote counting suspended last Friday and then restarted hours later under heightened security after the commission said there had been attacks against some polling station officials and some ballot papers had been stolen. The government also confirmed that several

leading opposition figures were arrested on the night of the elections, with the police accusing them of posing a threat to state security. Mundubile said his home was raided by the police in what he called an attack on his life. Thursday's election was seen as a test of Hichilema's economic recovery plan after the copper-rich nation was plunged into a debt crisis in 2020. Hichilema was elected in 2021 and oversaw the restructuring of Zambia's sovereign debt while reigning in inflation and stabilizing the currency. International observers, including the European

Union, said the election was largely peaceful, but said the "broader electoral process took place in an environment that limited fundamental freedoms." "Late legal changes, legal uncertainty, and unequal campaign conditions distorted the playing field," said Michael McNamara, chief of the EU observation mission. In a pastoral statement, the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed concern over the deployment of the army during the vote counting. "The maintenance of order during elections is constitutionally and statutorily the

60-Day Deadline For An Iran Peace Deal Is Expiring; Here's Where Things Stand



The deal that U.S. President Donald Trump signed at Versailles in June set an ambitious 60-day deadline for ending the war with Iran and reaching an accord on its nuclear program. The deadline was Monday, and the two sides are further apart than they were then.

Talks, such as they are, have focused on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and lifting a U.S. blockade on Iran, both of which were supposed to have happened under the interim deal. There has been no sign of any compromise on the strait, or that detailed nuclear talks have even begun.

The U.S., meanwhile, has no good options for getting out of the war it started alongside Israel.

Acceding to Iran's latest demands would mean giving it control over a critical international waterway that carried a fifth of the world's traded oil and gas before the war — and would be tantamount to admitting defeat. Escalating the deeply unpopular war would further draw down U.S. supplies of advanced missile interceptors, jolt the world economy, and drive up gas prices ahead of U.S. congressional elections.

So both sides have dug in, hoping

the other will blink first. So far, neither has.

The interim deal collapsed weeks later

The June deal, known as the Memorandum of Understanding, called for a halt to all military operations and set a 60-day deadline for an agreement to permanently end the war and resolve the longstanding dispute over Iran's nuclear activities.

It called for the Strait of Hormuz to be reopened but gave Iran a vaguely defined role in facilitating traffic, leaving open the possibility it could charge fees after the 60-day deadline. Iran has seized on that clause to claim control over the waterway.

A week after the deal was signed, Iran began firing on vessels using a route along the coast of Oman, on the other side of the strait, that is overseen by the U.S. military and intended to bypass Tehran's control.

The U.S. responded by striking Iran, which retaliated by attacking Arab countries hosting American forces, like Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain. The U.S. canceled waivers issued as part of the deal that had allowed Iran to sell its oil

internationally and Trump restored a blockade of Iran's ports. Each side accused the other of violating the June agreement, of which almost nothing remains.

The fighting eventually died down. A related truce in Lebanon between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah has mostly held, even as Israeli troops occupy large areas in the country's south. Lebanon's "territorial integrity and sovereignty" were to have been ensured under the June deal.

Iranian officials say they stopped negotiating with the U.S. in June, while acknowledging that messages have been relayed by intermediaries. Trump says the talks have continued, occasionally claiming progress after pulling back from threatening major strikes.

Pakistan, which played a key role in brokering the June agreement, noted last week that the deadline was Monday while expressing hope it would be extended. "We are not closing the chapter," Foreign Ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi said. "Pakistan is making all-out efforts to bring the two parties to the negotiating table."

FS Misri Holds Talks With China's Vice FM Hua Chunying In Beijing

New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met China's Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying here on Monday and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Misri, who is currently on an official visit to Beijing, also met Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Misri and Hua "reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually benefi-



cial outcomes across trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges," the Indian Embassy in Beijing said in a post on X. "Both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," it added. Earlier, Misri met Sun and "discussed

ways to deepen implementation of the guidance of the leaders for bilateral relations, including addressing issues of priority to both sides and by promoting political, people-to-people, academic and think-tank exchanges," the Embassy said. Misri also met Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the

14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Hong was previously the Director General of the boundary department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. "They discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges at the political and people-to-people levels," the Embassy said. Misri, who was previously India's Ambassador to China, will hold a few meetings with officials on Tuesday, officials said. His visit followed the meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the

Experts Warn Against Nixing 60-Day Grace Period For Foreign Workers In US

Washington: The US proposal to eliminate the 60-day grace period for H-1B workers seeking employment after job loss will cause severe human displacement and loss of highly skilled talent, mostly from India, experts said. Indian nationals are among the largest beneficiaries of H-1B employment visas, comprising 71 per cent of all successful applicants in the 2024 fiscal year. The Department of Homeland Security has proposed eliminating the 60-day grace period that allows H-1B workers and certain other legal nonimmigrants to remain in the US after their employment ends while they find another sponsor, change status, or prepare to leave. "Scrapping the existing 60-day grace period entirely represents a severe regression that directly harms legal immigrants who have contributed significantly to the United States' technological and economic leadership," Ajay

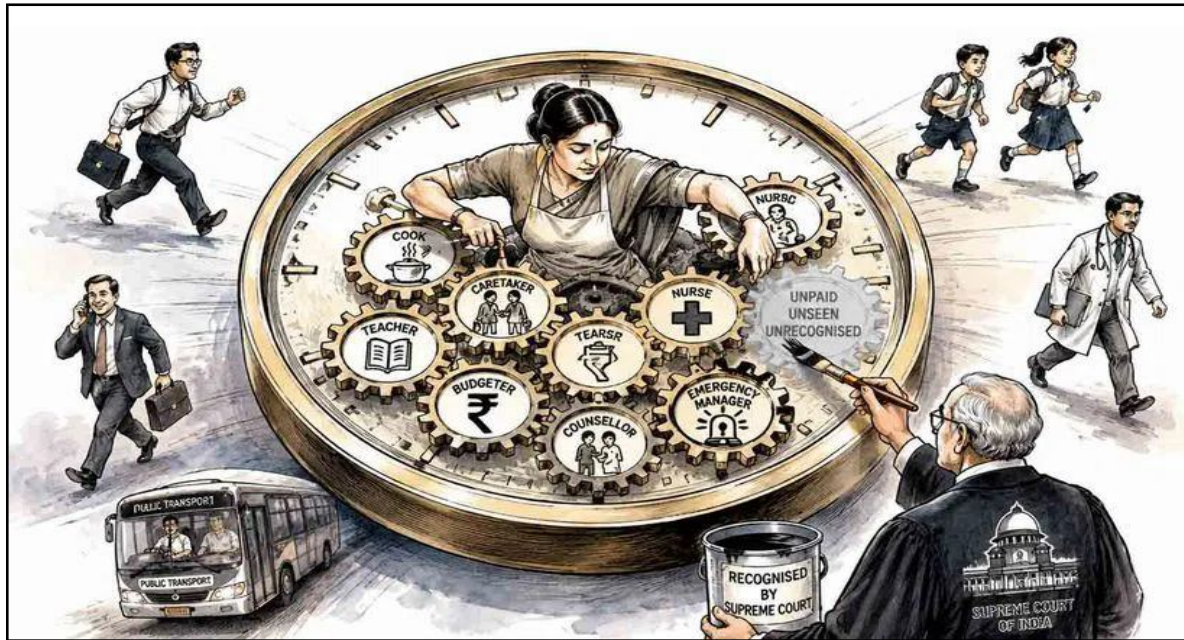


Jain Bhutoria, a former White House advisor, said in a statement. American attorney Adrian Pandev said all start-up founders quit their corporate jobs and utilise the 60-day grace period to file change of status petitions for their new ventures. "Without it, the employee is incentivised to not mention anything to their current employer until the new petition is filed or even approved. That means the current employer could be finding out they are losing a team member on extremely short notice," Pandev said in a post on

X. "This would impact US employers as much as employees," he added. Bhutoria condemned the proposed policy of the Department of Homeland Security. "Eliminating the 60-day grace period is inhumane and unworkable. When a worker faces a sudden termination, 60 days is already dangerously short. Stripping away this protection entirely leaves thousands of law-abiding individuals with zero time to wrap up their lives," he said. He urged South Asian community organisations, business leaders,

and advocacy groups to prepare for public comments once the rule is officially published in the Federal Register to ensure the administration hears the full impact of this proposal. Bhutoria, during his tenure as advisor to then-President Joe Biden, had proposed extending the grace period from 60 days to 180 days, citing the reality of corporate hiring practices, where technical interview rounds and visa transfer paperwork often take months to complete. "This proposal strikes at the heart of the South Asian immigrant community and skilled workforce. I urge DHS and the administration to withdraw this proposal immediately and instead adopt a compassionate, pragmatic 180-day grace period that respects human dignity and protects America's competitive edge," Bhutoria said. According to him, hundreds of thousands of South Asian tech, healthcare, and engi-

Kaleshwaram and KCR's vision for Green Telangana



When we look at the problems facing the Kaleshwaram project today, a serious question naturally arises for the people of Telangana — has the vision and determination that created such a massive water system weakened, or has the present administrative machinery failed in its responsibility to protect and properly manage it? During K Chandrashekhara Rao's tenure, Kaleshwaram earned recognition as a world-class lift irrigation project. It transformed dry lands into green agricultural fields, filled tanks, improved groundwater levels, and restored confidence among farmers. If deficiencies are seen in such a system, the question is not whether KCR's vision was right or wrong; the real question is whether the present management has failed to carry that vision forward with the same commitment.

Many people still believe that with proper technical maintenance, responsible administration, and farmer-centric decisions, Kaleshwaram can once again take Telangana agriculture back to its earlier period of growth and prosperity. Hope For Farmers

KCR's foresight changed the future of Telangana. The Kaleshwaram project is a historic water mission that lifted the waters of the Godavari into the heart of drought-prone lands, brought water to villages that had been waiting for decades, and gave new hope to farmers who had fallen into despair. This is not merely an irrigation project; it is a permanent symbol of Telangana's self-confidence, built through KCR's vision, political commitment, administrative courage, and concern for future generations. The determination to bring Godavari waters to the dry regions of Telangana was not an ordinary administrative decision; it was a challenge thrown at history itself. KCR believed that people should not suffer from thirst while a mighty river flowed through the State. That philosophy became the foundation of the Kaleshwaram project. He transformed what many considered impossible engineering challenges into opportunities and created a water system that attracted national and international attention. The scale of construction, the lifting capacity, and the technical coordination all con-

vey one message — it is a saga of determination that sought to rewrite Telangana's future through water.

There was a time when waiting for water was a part of life in Telangana. If the rains came, there was a crop; if they failed, there were debts, migration, and hopelessness. Though the Godavari flowed through the State, its waters did not reach the drought-hit regions. Challenging this historical imbalance, the Kaleshwaram project emerged as a turning point in the water history of Telangana. Built on the principle of taking water from where it is available to where it is needed, the project became a combination of engineering strength, administrative determination, and scientific planning. Kaleshwaram created the capacity to lift nearly 44,993 cusecs of water. With an investment of more than Rs 23,889 crore, the project developed into a comprehensive network of pump houses, barrages, reservoirs, tunnels, and canals. In terms of technical scale, speed of execution, and construction spread, it earned a special place not only in India but also in the field of global water engineering. Engineers, water-resource experts, and administrative analysts have described it as one of the most prestigious infrastructure projects of modern Telangana. When the world's lift irrigation systems are examined, Kaleshwaram stands out for its scale, technical complexity, lifting capacity, distribution network, and integrated water management approach. Lifting Godavari waters in multiple stages to great heights and delivering them to lakhs of acres through reservoirs, tunnels, pump houses, and canals is regarded as a rare engineering achievement. Any countries have built large water projects, but Kaleshwaram is unique in combining irrigation, drinking water supply, groundwater recharge, and future water planning within a single integrated vision. It is not merely one of the largest lift irrigation projects; it is a model that showcases India's capability in modern water management. The impact of this project is not confined to statistics alone. Thousands of acres that once depended entirely on rainfall now enjoy irrigation security. Dry

tanks were revived, groundwater levels improved, and crop diversity increased. Along with paddy, cotton, maize, vegetables, and horticultural crops expanded. Increased farm incomes created new economic activity in rural areas. Agriculture once again began to appear as a viable and respectable occupation. Greater cash flow in farmers' hands, active rural markets, and employment in agriculture-related activities became important indirect benefits of the project. Social Water Revolution

Kaleshwaram also had a significant impact on drinking water supply. Many villages and towns were connected to stable water systems. Dependence on water tankers during summer reduced in several areas. The burden on women who had to walk long distances to fetch water was eased. The project demonstrated how water security is closely linked to public health, dignity, and quality of rural life. In that sense, Kaleshwaram was not only an irrigation project; it was also a social water revolution.

KCR's idea of Kaleshwaram was not limited to constructing lifting structures; it included a disciplined and scientific system for using water according to the needs of farmers and ensuring that Telangana remains permanently green. Contemporary newspaper reports, engineering analyses, and official documents released during the implementation phase reveal another important aspect. KCR's idea of Kaleshwaram was not limited to constructing lifting structures; it included a disciplined and scientific system for using that water according to the needs of farmers. He believed that if floodwaters flowing wastefully into the sea were stored, transferred through a chain of reservoirs, distributed through well-maintained canals, and supported by coordinated electricity supply, pumping systems, and irrigation management, Telangana could remain permanently green.

His vision was larger than irrigation alone. Dry tanks had to be filled, migrant farmers had to return to their lands, multi-crop agriculture had to replace uncertainty, groundwater had to be recharged, and farming families had to come out of the debt cycle. He believed that

with proper governance, the stretch from North Telangana to South Telangana could become a continuous belt of green fields and that regions once known for water scarcity could become grain-producing zones. This was not merely a development programme; it was a state vision to rebuild Telangana's social, economic, and agricultural future around water.

Present Situation

This is where the present situation demands careful examination. The technical, structural, and maintenance problems now associated with Kaleshwaram have created concern among the public. But do these problems indicate the failure of the project's original idea, or do they expose weaknesses in the present administrative system that has failed to preserve it with the same commitment? When a water system that once inspired confidence among farmers begins to face difficulties, the more relevant question is not whether the vision was wrong, but who has failed to maintain it effectively.

With proper technical care, transparent management, accountable administration, farmer-oriented decisions, timely repairs to pumping systems, scientific reservoir management, and systematic canal maintenance, Kaleshwaram can once again restore Telangana agriculture to its earlier momentum. The same flow of water that once turned dry lands green still possesses the power to transform farmers' lives. The growing public feeling is that the problem lies not in the project's conception, but in the administrative will required to carry it forward with the same determination.

Kaleshwaram is not merely a system that lifts water; it is an integrated water civilisation. It reflects the idea of storing floodwaters and using them when needed. In an era of climate change, uncertain rainfall, and increasing water demand, such planning becomes a guide for the future. The project treats water not simply as a resource to be consumed, but as a foundation for long-term security. To speak about Kaleshwaram today is not merely to remember a structure. It is to speak about the dignity of farmers, rural revival, water equity, and the security of future generations. Water is not only a gift of nature; Kaleshwaram showed

Midnight muhurtham—why India became Independent



Indian independence came in the last hours of 14 August 1947, in the early hours of August 15. At midnight, the transfer of power from the British government to India took place, and the Constituent Assembly assumed the authority to govern the country. Why did all this happen at midnight and not on August 14 or on the morning of August 15? These questions naturally arise. Behind this decision lies an interesting story.

Constitution of many paradoxes

Opinion: Hyderabad's Day of Deliverance

The British government had officially announced that the transfer of power to India would take place on 15 August 1947. For many Indians, religious beliefs and traditional practices are important considerations. There is a strong belief that planetary positions affect human life. That's why, before every auspicious work, astrologers check Ra hukalam, tithi, nakshatras, etc. With such beliefs in mind, some national leaders of the time consulted scholars and astrologers to determine whether August 15 would be an auspicious day. August 15 was a Friday, and fell on Chaturdashi. The scholars pointed out that after 2:30 am, Amavasya would begin and, therefore, August 15 was not a good day. August 14 was also not regarded as particularly auspicious. They suggested August 17 as a favourable date. This left the leaders with a difficult problem. If the transfer of power were held on August 14, Lord Mountbatten would be in Karachi for the transfer-of-power ceremony in Pakistan. He could return to Delhi only later that night. Moreover, the British government had already announced in Parliament that India would get independence on August 15. Prominent journalist and scholar KM Panikkar is said to have suggested a solution: the Constituent Assembly would meet at 11 pm on the night of August 14. At the stroke of midnight, it would assume power from the British government. This arrangement allowed the British government's announced date of August 15 to remain

unchanged while also accommodating the astrological considerations.

At 10 am on August 15, Mountbatten took a special oath as Governor-General before the Constituent Assembly. Goodwill messages poured in from across the world. The Indian national flag was hoisted on the grand building, now Parliament House. A gun salute marked the occasion. Mountbatten's Appointment

On 31 July 1947, Constituent Assembly Chairman Dr Rajendra Prasad announced the programme for August 14-15 ceremonies. He said that the leader of the House, Jawaharlal Nehru, should request Lord Mountbatten to accept the office of Governor-General. However, a great sacrifice named Mahaveer Tyagi objected. He pointed out that the Assembly had never discussed the question of Mountbatten becoming the Governor-General of India, nor had it ever agreed to appoint him to that position. He argued that without passing a formal resolution to this effect, it was not right to invite Mountbatten to the Assembly. August 15 was a Friday, and fell on Chaturdashi. Scholars pointed out that after 2:30 am, Amavasya would begin and, therefore, August 15 was not a good day. August 14 was also not regarded as particularly auspicious. In response, Dr Rajendra Prasad said that he would bring this matter before the House in the form of a resolution. However, several members immediately rose and said: "no, no." They insisted that the matter should proceed as had already been decided. Thus, in the Constituent Assembly, Lord Mountbatten came and took charge as the Governor-General of India without any discussion, acceptance, or resolution.

Transfer of Power

The historic Constituent Assembly session began at 11 pm on August 14, 1947, under the chairmanship of Dr Rajendra Prasad. At the stroke of midnight, the Assembly formally assumed power for the governance of India. House leader Nehru moved the historic resolution, which was introduced before

the House and subsequently approved by the members.

Jawaharlal Nehru would convey the Assembly's decision to Mountbatten. The national flag was subsequently presented to the Assembly by Hansa Mehta. On the occasion of the transfer of power, the House also approved, as a mark of appreciation, a song written in Chinese by India's Ambassador Dr Chin Lu. Following this, the first few lines of 'Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara' and the opening lines of 'Jana Gana Mana' were sung by the members of the House. Immediately thereafter, the House was adjourned until 10 am on August 15. This is how the historic transfer of power unfolded that momentous night.

A Misstep at the Start

There is also an interesting incident worth recalling. On the night of August 14, Nehru went to Viceroy's House and informed Mountbatten about the recommendation for his appointment as India's Governor-General. He handed over to him a cover containing a list of the names of the Council of Ministers. After everyone present had left, Mountbatten opened the cover, only to find nothing inside! The cover was empty, which surprised him. Whoever had prepared the cover had forgotten to put the list inside it. Though it seemed like a humorous incident, Nehru's governance appeared to have begun with a kind of "misstep at the very beginning".

A Funny Incident

There's an interesting anecdote associated with that historic night. When Nehru came back from Viceroy's House, he delivered his famous speech. The lighting in the Assembly was inadequate, making it difficult for Nehru to read the notes from which he was speaking. He asked for a candle so that he could see the text clearly. Photographers captured that moment. That candlelight speech became historic. Nehru's speech became famous as the "Tryst with Destiny", delivered in candlelight. Pakistan's independence was formally marked on August 14. It was said that Muhammad Ali Jinnah preferred August 14 because it coincided with the 27th day of Ramzan, considered holy by Muslims.

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Australia Replace Jake Weatherald With Matthew Renshaw After Embarrassing Defeat In Opening Test



Australia have tinkered with their opening combination ahead of the second and final Test of the bilateral series against Bangladesh. They have brought in Matthew Renshaw as a replacement for opener Jake Weatherald for the Mackay Test.

Weatherald registered scores of 23 and a duck in the first Test, and Australia were bowled out for 198 in their first innings. Renshaw has returned to the red-ball team for the first time in more than three years after making his last appearance in Test cricket in 2023. In that fixture, he came in as a concussion substitute for David Warner. Afterwards, he has been in the ODI and T20I side, but never got an opportunity to play in the Test side. Matt Renshaw in red-ball cricket Renshaw has amassed 645 runs from 12 Tests with an average of 29.31, including one century and 30 half-centuries. He has also accrued 8188 runs in first-class cricket with an average of 37.73, including 26 centuries.

Labuschagne struggle to pile runs Coach Andrew McDonald admitted while speaking on Labuschagne's form, he admitted that the Australian batter is lacking runs and the coaching team is working on that. "I think it was 31 he got in the second innings, and up until the point he got out, you'd sit there and say he was looking good," McDonald said.

"He was moving well, he's clipping off his pads, he was getting back through the ball down the ground. So it's easy for me to sit here and try to defend that, but ultimately it's 31. It's not a big score. He's lacked runs. He feels that. We feel that. We're working incredibly hard as a coaching group."

When second Test between Australia and Bangladesh start?
The second Test of the series will be played from August 22, and the hosts will aim to recover the vulnerability in the top order.

Australia squad for 2nd

Test vs Bangladesh

Pat Cummins (captain),
Scott Boland, Alex
Carey, Cameron Green,
Josh Hazlewood, Travis
Head, Josh Inglis,
Marnus Labuschagne,
Nathan Lyon, Matthew
Renshaw, Steve Smith,
Mitchell Starc, Beau
Webster.scores of 23 and
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Australia squad for 2nd

India's FCNR (B) Inflows Projected To Touch USD 80-85 Billion;

New Delhi: India may now receive Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 billion, according to an SBI Research report. The total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 over a three-month period.

"Given the current trend, we believe that the total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 in 3 months! Overall, we believe India may now receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 bn," the SBI Research report stated.

The report noted that public sector banks served as the primary drivers of this mobilisation. Citing data from the Reserve Bank of India, the report noted that FCNR(B) depositors worth USD 17.41 billion were mobilised till July 17, 2026. The total deposit inflows reached USD 20.72 billion till July 17, which included USD 1.97 billion from Overseas Foreign

Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and USD 1.34 billion from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).

The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme



upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion.

"We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in Aug/ Sep'26 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report added.

"Our preliminary estimate indicates that an amount worth USD 10 billion on a conservative basis, in addition to baseline estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available," the report said.

Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) increased by USD 7.6 billion from June 8 till July 17. Meanwhile, deposit mobilisation recorded USD 17.4 billion for FCNR(B) flows, possibly reflecting that the exchange process at the

RBI by the banks was happening gradually, accounting for roughly 44 per cent of the total amount.

"The next reporting for FCA for July is for the week ended July 24 and the week ended July 31, and we expect for the next 15-day period (17 Jul-31 Jul) FCA inflows could touch USD 10-12 billion based on current trends," the report said.

"This should make most of the overall FCA accruals/growth (till July end) of USD 17-20 billion post the RBI meas. The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion.

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Stock Markets Extend Losses To 4th Day On Surging Crude Oil Prices



Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Thursday, extending losses for the fourth straight session, as a sharp jump in crude oil prices due to escalating tensions in West Asia weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 363.66 points, or 0.47 per cent, to settle at 76,391.39. During the day, it tanked 603.07 points, or 0.78 per cent, to 76,151.98. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 126.65 points, or 0.53 per cent, to end at 23,869.60. From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, InterGlobe Aviation,

Axis Bank, State Bank of India and Tata Steel were among the major laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal and Bajaj Finserv were among the winners from the pack. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 4.52 per cent to USD 98.32 per barrel. "Indian equity markets extended their decline as escalating tensions between the US and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices and renewed concerns over global AI spending weighed on investor sentiment," Ponmudi R., CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 819.20 crore on Wednesday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

"With crude oil prices approaching the USD 100 per barrel amid concerns over further disruptions to global energy supplies, investor sentiment remained subdued as markets reassessed inflation risks and corporate margins," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4.40 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index

and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading lower. US markets ended in the negative territory on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the Sensex tanked 715.06 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 76,755.05. Tcorporate margins," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Nair, Head of Research, Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4.40 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index the Nifty declined 191.45 points, or 0.79 per cent, to end at 23,996.25.

VVS Laxman Defends BCCI COE Amidst Growing Injury Crisis



Former India cricketer VVS Laxman has come out in defence of the BCCI Centre of Excellence amidst the growing crisis. He has said that the role of the institution goes beyond just the rehabilitation of injured players. "CoE is not merely a rehab centre. There are bigger roles to play for it in helping cricketers achieve excellence," Laxman said while addressing a press conference in Bengaluru. The COE has come under criticism in recent days as the Indian players have suffered injuries and questions

have been raised over the time taken by the rehabilitation for the players. Laxman further added that injuries are part and parcel of the game, but blame is not the right term to use while analysing the situation. "Injuries are part and parcel of Injured players at any player's career. That's why a monitoring system is very critical. And we don't use the term blame, then we will be trying to find scapegoats," Laxman said. COE's injury management programme has been under discussion as Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana

and Nitish Kumar Reddy are some of the players undergoing rehabilitation at the facility. India are all set to play a two-match Test series against Sri Lanka on August 15. Bumrah's presence in the team becomes most crucial for the team considering they have been going through a dip in form recently. Injured players at present Recently, news emerged that left-handed batsman Sai Sudharshan has also been ruled out of the series due to injury. With this, Sudharshan joined the list of players along with Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit

Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar who are not available for the Test series against Sri Lanka due to injuries. Sudarshan suffered a toe injury during the India A team's tour of Sri Lanka last month. He scored two centuries in both A Test matches. He has been undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence in crucial for the team considering they have been going through a dip in form recently. Injured players at present Recently, news emerged that left-handed batsman Sai Sudharshan has also been ruled out of the series due to injury. With this, Sudarshan joined the list of players along with Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Bengaluru since then. Fat bowler Jasprit Bumrah has not yet recovered from the left knee injury he sustained during the second ODI against England in Cardiff last month. As a result, 29-year-old Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Aaqib Nabi has been included in the Indian Test squad for the Sri Lanka tour.



N. Sai Ram MD



V. Ramaraju



Shaik Sazid CMD



Sonu Thakur



Madhu Sharma



Suman Bharati



Kusum Lata



Gopal Manta



Suraj Thakur



Shubham Thakur



Rathnam

Happy Birthday

Vijaya Laxmi

Wishing you
a day filled with joy, love and beautiful moments. May your
life be blessed with good health, happiness and success always.

From

