



THE NEW
**INDIAN
EXPRESS**

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NOT A 'DRY DAY'

■ Rain lashed Hyderabad through the day, with traffic snarls being reported from Hitec City, Jubilee Hills and Begumpet

■ Kotapalle in Mancherial district received the highest rainfall in Telangana at 12.4 cm, followed by Kannepalli (12.3 cm), Tandur (12 cm) and Bellampalli (11 cm)

Citizens shield themselves from the rain near Tourism Plaza in Begumpet, Hyderabad, on Tuesday
| SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

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TG high on PGI, poor in learning outcomes, infra

State secures 28.8% marks in learning outcomes, quality category

MEGHNA NATH @ Hyderabad

TELANGANA may have significantly improved its position in the Ministry of Education's Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 over the past four years, but weak learning outcomes and inadequate school infrastructure continue to hamper the quality of education in the state.

These concerns came to the fore during a two-day state-level residential orientation programme on the PGI, organised by the Telangana School Education Department, where a draft analysis of the state's PGI performance was presented to district-level education officials.

According to the analysis, Telangana climbed from 31st to 18th among 28 states and eight Union Territories between 2021-22 and 2025-26, with its overall PGI score improving from 479.9 to 599.7.

However, the state's weakest performance was in the Learning Outcomes and Quality category, the highest-weighted component of the PGI framework. Telangana secured only 69 out of 240 marks (28.8%), ranking 26th nationally. The low score suggests that improvements in enrolment and access to schools have not translated into better learning outcomes for students.

The report also identified in-



frastructure and facilities as another area requiring urgent attention. Telangana scored 91.9 out of 190 marks (48.4 per cent), ranking 20th in the country. The findings suggest that many government schools continue to lack adequate classrooms, laboratories, libraries, drinking water, sanitation facilities and other basic amenities. Although infrastructure indicators have shown gradual improvement over the past five years, they remain below the levels achieved by the country's top-performing states.

Learning outcomes, the report noted, remained largely stagnant for three consecutive years before showing some improvement recently. However, the gains have not been substantial enough to improve the state's standing in the national rankings.

According to the education department, an orientation programme was organised to equip district-level officials with a better understanding of

the PGI framework, its indicators, data requirements and implementation strategies. The exercise is expected to strengthen district-level planning, monitoring and evidence-based interventions aimed at improving Telangana's future performance.

Each district was represented by a seven-member team comprising district educational officer, district planning coordinator, district quality coordinator, assistant statistical coordinator, one best-performing mandal educational officer, one best-performing school complex headmaster or headmistress, and one best-performing cluster resource person.

"The state now needs sustained investment in foundational literacy and numeracy, teacher capacity building, regular assessment and academic mentoring rather than concentrating only on physical expansion," said R Venkataiah, an educationist.

Another expert, M Ravinder, said providing classrooms and digital infrastructure is important, but these investments must be complemented by effective classroom practices, teacher support and continuous monitoring. Unless learning outcomes improve, higher PGI scores alone will not reflect meaningful educational progress.

Ramsar tag eludes TG wetlands as India reaches 100 sites

KHYATI SHAH @ Hyderabad

INDIA has expanded its network of wetlands of international importance to 100 Ramsar sites, but Telangana remains without one, despite 25 new additions between 2023 and 2026.

The contrast is stark. Andhra Pradesh has one Ramsar site, Karnataka four, Maharashtra three, Chhattisgarh one, Odisha six and Tamil Nadu 20. Overall, 26 states and Union Territories now have at least one Ramsar wetland, leaving Telangana among the few without international recognition.

This is despite Telangana having more than 13,000 wetlands covering nearly five lakh hectares, according to the National Wetland Inventory. These

include reservoirs, urban lakes and rural tanks that support groundwater recharge, flood mitigation, biodiversity and migratory birds.

The Telangana State Wetland Authority (TGSWA), constituted in 2018 under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, was tasked with identifying and protecting wetlands. Activists, however, say little progress has been made.

"In 2024, five wetlands were shortlisted and discussed in a State Wetland Authority meeting, but since then there has been no clarity on whether any proposal was formally moved forward," a source said. She said the absence of regu-

lar authority meetings and public updates suggested the process had either stalled or was still under review.

Environmentalists blamed unchecked urbanisation, particularly around Hyderabad, for degrading wetlands. "Flooding is more visible in highly urbanised areas where natural drainage and lakes have been disrupted. Wetlands themselves are not the cause of floods; their destruction is," the source said.

Environmentalist Donthi Narasimha Reddy said wetlands are vital for climate resilience. "Wetlands help regulate temperature, recharge groundwater and support biodiversity. Rising heat levels even during



Heavy rains lash state, traffic in city hit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

HEAVY rains lashed Hyderabad on Tuesday, triggering widespread waterlogging and bringing traffic to a crawl across several parts of the city. Commuters faced long delays on major stretches, including Hitec City and Jubilee Hills, as inundated roads caused severe traffic snarls during peak hours.

Across Telangana, heavy to very heavy rainfall was recorded over the past 24 hours. Kotapalle in Mancherial district received the highest rainfall at 12.4 cm, followed by Kanepalli (12.3 cm), Tandur (12 cm) and Bellampalle (11 cm), all in Mancherial district. Several other districts also recorded widespread rainfall. On Tuesday, the highest was recorded in Nandigama of Rangareddy district at 5.6 cm.

The India Meteorological De-



Chilkur Balaji temple priests perform Varuna Japam in Gandipet lake in Hyderabad

partment (IMD) has issued a heavy rain alert for parts of north and northeast Telangana on Wednesday.

According to the Meteorological Centre here, fairly widespread rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is expected across Telangana over the next two days. Rainfall activity is likely to reduce thereafter.

The weather conditions are being influenced by the monsoon trough, which now extends from Sri Ganganagar, Ro-

htak, Hamirpur, Sidhi, Ranchi and Digha, before stretching southeastwards towards the northwest Bay of Bengal up to an altitude of 1.5 km above mean sea level.

The IMD said an upper air cyclonic circulation persists over the west-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north coastal Andhra Pradesh between 5.8 km and 7.6 km above mean sea level, providing favourable conditions for rainfall over Telangana.

Gig workers announce flash strike during peak hours today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

APP-BASED cab drivers, auto drivers, goods transport drivers and delivery workers across Telangana will observe a statewide flash strike on Wednesday, disrupting ride-hailing, food delivery, grocery delivery and logistics services during peak demand hours.

The protest centres on long-pending demands for fair remuneration and stronger regulation of aggregator platforms. Workers are demanding a minimum base fare along with revised per-kilometre and per-minute rates for app-based transport services. They have also sought immediate notification of the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Rules, constitution of a welfare board, and implementation of minimum fares under the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines (MVAG), 2025, instead of allowing aggregator companies to fix fares unilaterally.

The forum has warned that if the government and aggregator companies fail to address their demands, workers will launch an indefinite statewide strike after August 8.

The one-day "Breakdown Flash Strike", called by the Telangana App-Based Drivers Forum (TADF), is expected to impact services operated through platforms including Ola, Uber,

Rapido, Swiggy, Zomato, Zepto, Blinkit and Porter. According to Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGP-WU) president Shaikh Salauddeen, more than two lakh gig and platform workers are expected to participate in the protest in the state.

The strike will be demand-based, with drivers and delivery partners staying offline during peak booking hours, resulting in longer waiting times and reduced availability of cabs, autos and delivery services. Commuters travelling to airports and railway stations have been advised to make alternate travel arrangements.

Sulphule takes charge as RPO



Hyderabad: Madhav Rachayya Sulphule assumed charge as the new regional passport officer (RPO) and head of office, Hyderabad. He took charge on Monday. Prior to taking charge as Hyderabad RPO, Madhav, a 2014 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, served as first secretary in the Political and Consular wings at the Embassy of India in Paris.

Trainee IPS officer moves HC to quash FIR in sexual assault case

TG NAIDU @ Hyderabad

TRAINEE IPS officer Mulagani Uday Krishna Reddy has approached the Telangana High Court seeking to quash an FIR registered against him on allegations of sexual harassment, assault, criminal intimidation and offences under the Information Technology Act.

He filed a criminal petition challenging the FIR registered on July 18, 2026, at Attapur police station under Sections 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 127(2) and 351(2)

of BNS, 2023, and Sections 66E and 67A of the IT Act, 2000.

The complaint was lodged by a fellow trainee IPS officer alleging that since June 23, 2026, Uday had subjected her to continuous harassment by sending sexually abusive WhatsApp messages, using derogatory language and making offensive remarks about her in the presence of fellow trainees. She also alleged that he forcibly took her mobile phone, com-

pelled her to disclose his password, confined her in his room, assaulted her by pulling her hair, attempted to strangle her, threatened her with a knife and prevented her from leaving. She also alleged that he secretly recorded a private video of her and forwarded it to her husband to blackmail and intimidate her.

In his quash petition, Uday contended that the allegations were false and arose from a

consensual relationship that later deteriorated. He relied on photographs and videos to contend that the relationship was consensual and to dispute the allegations of force and coercion.

Meanwhile, doctors at Jayanthi Super Specialty Hospital, where Uday was admitted on Monday, said on Tuesday that he was stable and likely to be discharged on Wednesday.

Doctors said body samples sent for examination tested negative for poison and drugs,

and indicated only an overdose of alcohol.

According to the doctors, he is suspected to have lost consciousness due to excessive alcohol consumption.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar visited the SVPNPA on Tuesday and inquired about the incident. The police department has handed over the investigation to Inspector Jyothsna, who will work under the supervision of Women Safety DCP P Lavanya Naik Jadav.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHS
22nd July: At the Turn of the Season The season of the crab cast illumination inward to ask: How do I protect and nourish life? Leo season says: Great. Now what are you going to (SET ITAL)do (END ITAL) with that life? Today begins in Cancer and ends in Leo, with the tone change to prove it. It's as though the cosmic lighting cue was: BLACKOUT. LIGHTS UP ON A NEW SET. So what does the switch mean for you?

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Instead of "I'm playing it cool," it's "I'm obsessed!" Even before you share your excitement, people feel its power. Enthusiasm is the ambrosia of the gods, with sweetness that fuels creativity and attracts support.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Instead of "I don't know," it's "I love this." A clear preference saves time and points you toward opportunities that fit. You don't need a complete plan before expressing what delights you. Passion often provides the first clue and the next step.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Instead of "I'm secretly working on this," it's "I'll show you the process." When you let people see the sketches, drafts, experiments and revisions, they feel invested. The audience becomes part of the story, cheering progress and celebrating milestones.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Instead of "I wonder whether I'm qualified," it's "I have something to offer." Generosity creates confidence. Focus on helping, entertaining, teaching, building or improving. Contribution shifts attention away from self-consciousness and toward the people who benefit from your gifts.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Instead of "How do I pay my dues?" it's "How do I create my own niche?" You're building something that reflects your originality and voice - your unmistakable point of view. There's much less competition because no one else sounds like you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Instead of "I wear a lot of hats to keep this show running," it's "I'm known for this one thing I do like nobody else can." General competence is good, but distinction is what grows your reputation and brings in stellar opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Instead of "I'm waiting for confidence," it's "I'll gain confidence by doing it." Confidence grows from experience, not contemplation. Every attempt teaches something useful. You earn your swagger through participation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Instead of "I hope someone notices," it's "I'll make it easy to find." Share the work. Send the invitation. Wear the outfit. Tell the story. Visibility is how opportunities, collaborators, customers and friends discover what you have to offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Instead of "I'll blend in," it's "I'll bring my flavor." Every group benefits from people who contribute something distinct. There's value in your perspective, humor, taste and style. Communities become more interesting when people stop standing down their most recognizable edges.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Instead of "I need more information," it's "I know enough to begin." Action generates questions that study alone cannot. The path reveals itself with each step. Experience teaches lessons no amount of preparation can replace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Instead of "I should be realistic," it's "I should dream." Wholeheartedly! Realism has its place, but most of the world was created by people who were at least a little delusional. The projects, relationships and adventures that shape us often start with unreasonable expectations.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Instead of "What if I fail?" it's "What if I excel?" Success depends on spending less time evaluating possibilities and more time practicing the thing. With repetition, you become masterful.

Sudoku puzzle grid and instructions. Includes text: 'Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle', 'SU DOKU HARD', 'TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE', and 'Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.'

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Includes text: 'CROSS WORD', 'ACROSS', and 'DOWN'.

Crossword puzzle clues. Includes text: 'CROSS WORD', 'ACROSS', and 'DOWN'.

Jumble puzzle and cartoon. Includes text: 'JUMBLE', 'UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.', and a cartoon about a locksmith.



DELHI POLICE FILE FOUR FIRS IN JULY 20 STUDENT VIOLENCE

Delhi Police on Tuesday lodged four FIRs over the violence that occurred during the Parliament march organised by Cockroach Janta Party on July 20. During the protest, several agitators and security personnel were injured following a clash between them when the protesters were stopped by police while marching towards the Parliament House. Charges have been invoked under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

SONAM WANGCHUK MOVED TO MEDANTA ON HIGH COURT ORDER

Activist Sonam Wangchuk was discharged from the Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday evening and shifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram for further treatment in compliance with a Delhi High Court order, Safdarjung Hospital authorities said. Earlier, a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia passed the order on an appeal by the activist's wife, Gitanjali Angmo, against a Sunday order of the high court refusing to interfere with his ongoing treatment at the central government hospital and direct his transfer to Medanta.

HIGH DRAMA AS CONG TAKES PROTEST TO PM'S DOORSTEP

Congress joins students' protest; Rahul, Priyanka, Akhilesh detained after sit-in

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after thousands of students marched through the national capital over the NEET controversy, the political battle escalated on Tuesday as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav were detained after leading a sit-in protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence, demanding his resignation.

The high-voltage confrontation unfolded outside Lok Kalyan Marg, where Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and several senior leaders reached around 3.30 pm and staged a dharna, accusing the Centre of shielding those responsible for the alleged NEET paper leak and ordering police action against protesting students. NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule joined the demonstration later.

The Union government was quick to defuse the face-off by rushing Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh to hold talks with Rahul Gandhi. Union Home Secretary Govind



Supporters of BJP near Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of Education Minister over NEET irregularities, on Day 2 of their protest in New Delhi, Tuesday | PTI

Try every pressure, exert all your might ... this fight for justice for students will not stop now
— Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition

Mohan was also present. However, the discussions failed to break the deadlock, with the government later accusing Gandhi of shifting the goalposts from seeking a parliamentary debate to demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The Congress de-

mands included a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament on police violence, a judicial inquiry into the alleged police excesses against protesting students, and an immediate discussion on NEET in both Houses.

As the protest continued, Delhi Police moved in to clear

the site. Visuals showed Rahul Gandhi sitting on the ground and resisting as security personnel attempted to lift him away. "Democracy in India is happening right now," Gandhi told reporters.

Rahul Gandhi was taken to Chhatrasal Stadium in Model Town, while Priyanka Gandhi was detained at Mandir Marg police station. Both were released later. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi reached the police station where Priyanka was being held.

Several Congress MPs, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Kerala Chief Minister V D Sathesnan also attended the protest. Before the protest began, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi visited students injured during Monday's protests. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi along with other opposition leaders met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, urging him to allow a discussion in Parliament on the police 'brutality' and NEET controversy, but was informed that the government's approval was a must to take up the discussion.



Police detain Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi and LoP Rahul Gandhi during a protest near PM's residence over NEET irregularities in New Delhi, Tuesday | PARVEEN NEGI

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• VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM
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PLOT TWIST

3 pm: A cryptic message from AICC gen secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal reads: "All MPs of LS & RS of INC are requested to reach 10, Rajaji Marg at 3 pm to formally greet Congress president on his birthday". Senior leaders gather at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence. In minutes, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, Kharge move to Lok Kalyan Marg, protest outside PM's house seeking his resignation

4 pm: 20 minutes into the protests, govt rushes MoS Jitendra Singh to the protest site to persuade Rahul to end dharna

4.30-5 pm: Congress leaders seek Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, Amit Shah's statement in House, and a probe into July 20 police excesses. Talks fail, Singh accuses Gandhi of going back on his original demand

6.30 pm: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav joins protest. Rahul, Priyanka, Akhilesh detained by police. All three released later

Modi breaks silence on NEET-UG question paper leak, calls it 'grave sin'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday termed the alleged NEET-UG paper leak a *ghor paap* (grave sin), asserting that the government is taking strict action against those responsible and will not let anyone jeopardise the future of the country's youth.

Modi's remarks came while addressing the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting on the second day of the Monsoon ses-

sion, a day after Congress and other Opposition parties protested demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. Calling it a matter of national interest rather than party politics, Modi said tackling the issue requires close Centre-state cooperation. He told MPs that 13 people linked to the leak had been arrested.

Briefing reporters afterward, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Modi highlighted the government's swift

response, noting that the NEET re-examination was conducted promptly and results declared without delay.

The PM reiterated that the issue should not be viewed through a political lens, and called for stronger safeguards against future leaks, the strictest punishment for those involved, and the involvement of top legal experts to ensure exemplary action. He urged MPs to engage with students to rebuild their trust, saying misleading youth was easy but guiding them demanded sustained effort.

EXPRESS READ

Oil tankers diverted after Houthi warning

Singapore: Two oil tankers carrying Saudi crude to China and India made U-turns in the Red Sea on Tuesday, opting for the Suez Canal instead of sailing along Yemen's coast after a warning from the Iran-backed Houthi militia. The Houthis on Monday announced a naval blockade of Saudi Arabia. In an email to shipping companies, the group warned against loading or unloading cargo at Saudi ports, saying vessels doing so could be targeted "at any location" | P9

Three of family from city killed in US road accident

Hyderabad: Three members of a Hyderabad family were killed and two others critically injured in a road accident at St Francis in the United States. The deceased were identified as Nazeya Salma, Nihayeen Sheikh and Umar Sheikh. Sheikh Abdul Naveed and his five-year-old daughter, Khadeeja Sheikh, sustained critical injuries. The family, from Saidabad, was travelling from San Francisco when two cars collided, according to relatives.

'CHALO LOK BHAVAN'

Telangana Cong calls for statewide protests today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

CONDEMNING the detention of Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders, TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud has announced a statewide 'Chalo Lok Bhavan' programme at 11 am on Wednesday.

Terming the detentions as the "height of authoritarianism" by the BJP-led Union government, Mahesh appealed to ministers, MLAs, MLCs, senior leaders and Congress workers to participate in large numbers in the protest against what he called the BJP government's "authoritarian rule".

He alleged that the BJP had resorted to undemocratic measures by detaining leaders peacefully exercising their democratic right to protest. Mahesh said Rahul Gandhi had staged a dharna near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence seeking a comprehensive discussion in Parliament on the NEET issue, but was detained since the "BJP was afraid of such a debate".

The TPCC chief also accused the BJP of avoiding discussions and investigations into allegations of corruption and irregularities. "Whenever questions are raised over corruption and illegalities, the BJP backs away instead of facing a fair inquiry and parliamentary debate," he said.

For Mission Telangana, BJP to rely on 'proven' Team Abhishta

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY
@ Hyderabad

IS the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) preparing to shift into full election mode in Telangana? If party insiders are to be believed, the answer appears to be yes.

As part of its "Mission Telangana", the party has put together a dedicated election strategy team, signalling a broader organisational push ahead of the Hyderabad, Malkajgiri and Cyberabad municipal corporation elections and the next Assembly polls.

According to BJP sources, the newly put-together "Abhishta Team", modelled on the party's West Bengal campaign team, has begun operations in Telangana and joined two existing consultancies in a coordinated election war room. The expanded setup is expected to oversee campaign planning,

voter outreach and organisational strategy across the state.

Party leaders said the BJP has adopted a multi-layered election management structure, on the lines of the Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) model, to assess the political situation at the grassroots, monitor voter-related processes and prepare constituency-specific strategies well ahead of the electoral cycle.

According to BJP sources, two agencies — the Association of Billion Minds (ABM) and Jarvi — have been working with the Telangana unit for the past few years. Their responsibilities have now been widened as the party steps up preparations for the coming elections.

BJP leaders said ABM, which is understood to function under the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has been associated with the Telangana

unit for four to five years. The agency is said to be responsible for campaign planning, political messaging and the party's overall election strategy.

Jarvi, according to party leaders, operates voter outreach call centres, gathers voter feedback and works on strengthening the party's booth-level organisation. The agency is also said to coordinate booth committees, mobilise grassroots workers and maintain the BJP's Saral App used for organisational activities.

The latest addition, informally referred to within the party as the "Abhishta Team", is understood to have worked under senior BJP leaders Sunil Bansal and Bhupender Yadav during the party's West Bengal election campaign. Party insiders said the team has now been assigned a dedicated role in Telangana as part of the BJP's expanded election apparatus. **CONTINUED ON P4**



Under-construction tunnel in Sikkim collapses, 12 killed

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AT least 12 people were killed and 13 others remained trapped after an under-construction tunnel in Sikkim's Namchi district collapsed following the sudden release of suspected methane gas, which led to an explosion and triggered dense smoke and toxic gases.

"An unfortunate incident occurred on July 20, 2026, at 1:04 pm inside the Head Race Tunnel under construction at Samardung in South Sikkim for the NHPC Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project, due to the sudden explosive release of suspected methane gas trapped/embedded in the rocks, resulting in the generation of dense smoke and toxic gases," the NHPC said in a statement on Tuesday.

The NHPC said 25 personnel were inside the tunnel. Namchi Deputy Commissioner Anupa Tamling told this newspaper that 12 of them died and efforts were on to rescue the rest. Some reports put the toll at 20.

The NHPC said the project team was working in close coordination with the district administration, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, local authorities and other emergency agencies to support the rescue operations. In addition, a special rescue team from DG Mines-Safety reached the site.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang over the phone to enquire about the situation and offered every possible support for the rescue efforts, a Sikkim government statement said.

Russian envoy summoned over vessel attack

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Tuesday summoned Russia's chargé d'affaires, Vladimir Ladanov and lodged a strong protest over the killing of four Indians in the Russian missile strike on the merchant vessel MV Golden Leo in the Black Sea on Sunday.

During the meeting on Tuesday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) conveyed its "grave concerns and unequivocal condemnation" over the attack on the Guinea-Bissau-flagged commercial vessel on July 19, which killed 10 people including four Indian crew members, and stressed that attacks on merchant ships are unacceptable.

"The targeting of commer-



Smoke rises from carrier Golden Leo under the Guinea-Bissau flag after Russian missile strike in the Black Sea close to Odesa on Sunday | AP/PTI

cial shipping and the resulting loss of innocent civilian lives are unacceptable and must be avoided," the Russian diplomat was told. MEA said that such attacks "undermine the safety, security, and stability of international maritime commerce."

The MV Golden Leo, a general cargo ship, was struck

while departing Ukraine's Odesa port on Sunday evening. Of the 17 crew members onboard, five were Indian nationals. Four Indians were killed while the fifth remains hospitalised in critical condition. Ukrainian authorities said a total of 10 people, including a port pilot, lost their lives in the attack.

Responding to India's protest, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Moscow was in contact with New Delhi but defended the strike. "We are explaining our position. Most importantly, our armed forces are striking, and will continue to strike vessels involved in transporting ammunition, weapons, and so on for the purposes of the Kyiv regime," Peskov told reporters.

Private hospitals on concessional land must treat poor for free: HC

TG NAIDU @ Hyderabad

THE Telangana High Court has made it clear that private hospitals allotted public land at concessional rates are legally bound to provide free treatment to poor patients. Granting immediate relief to a breast cancer patient, Justice NV Shrivani Kumar directed the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute to admit her under its mandatory 25% free inpatient quota and provide treatment without charging any fee.

The interim order came on a writ petition filed by Bale Bhagyamma, a widow from Manala village in Malayalamandal of Jagtial district. She challenged the hospital's refusal to provide free treatment under GOMs No. 434, Revenue (Assignment-III) Department, dated May 26, 1989, and GOMs No. 80, Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department, dated July 16, 2022.

Bhagyamma, who is suffering from breast cancer, was referred to the hospital by doctors in Karimnagar for specialised treat-

ment. However, the hospital allegedly informed her that her illness was not covered under the AarogyaSri scheme and that she would have to bear the treatment costs. After receiving no response to her representation dated July 15, she approached the high court.

Counsel for the petitioner argued that the claim was not based on the AarogyaSri scheme but on the hospital's statutory obligation arising from the concessional allotment of about 7.35 acres of government land in Banjara Hills to the Nandamuri Basavataraka Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation. **CONTINUED ON P4**

Devadula pumps to be run 24x7 to tackle water scarcity

Uttam says govt is focused on ensuring water security and protecting farmers, not engaging in political rhetoric

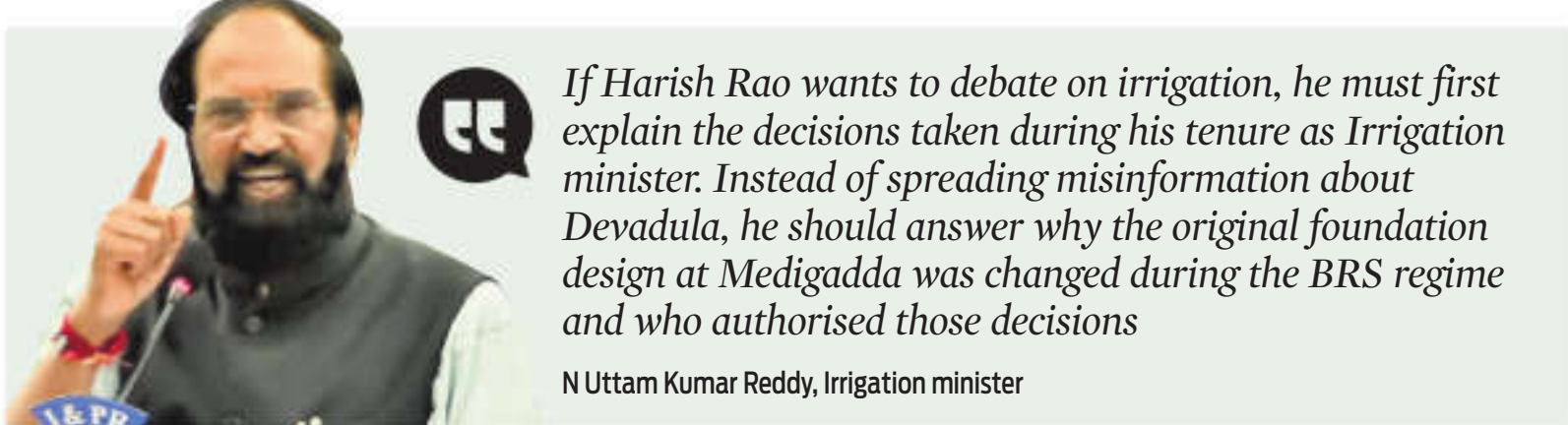
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

IRRIGATION Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday announced that nine out of 10 pumps of the Devadula project would be operated round-the-clock to tackle the emerging water scarcity caused by deficient rainfall.

During an informal chat with the media at the Secretariat, the minister said that engineers were asked to “operate the pumps at their maximum capacity to ensure that all reservoirs under the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme were filled to the maximum extent possible”.

Asserting the state government was fully implementing the assurances made during the recent Group of Ministers’ review of the Devadula project, he said: “Nine pumping units would be operating round the clock from tonight (Tuesday night) to maximise water lifting from the Godavari.”

Responding to criticism by



If Harish Rao wants to debate on irrigation, he must first explain the decisions taken during his tenure as Irrigation minister. Instead of spreading misinformation about Devadula, he should answer why the original foundation design at Medigadda was changed during the BRS regime and who authorised those decisions

N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Irrigation minister

BRS leader T Harish Rao, the minister said that the government was focused on ensuring water security and protecting farmers, not engaging in political rhetoric.

“As assured during his recent review of the Devadula project, nine pumping units will be operating at full capacity. They will function round the clock to maximise lifting from Godavari and fill the 22 reservoirs serving nine districts,” he said.

The minister said Harish Rao was attempting to divert public attention from the failures of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. “The BRS leaders

should first speak about their failures that led to structural crisis at Medigadda and then talk about Devadula,” he said.

“If Harish Rao wants to debate on irrigation, he must first explain the decisions taken during his tenure as irrigation minister. Instead of spreading misinformation about Devadula, he should answer why the original foundation design at Medigadda was changed during the BRS regime and who authorised those decisions,” he said.

Uttam also demanded that Harish Rao respond to Telangana Rakshana Sena chief K Kavitha’s allegation that Ka-

leshwaram contractors had paid ₹1,400 crore to the BRS.

Stating that the Congress government was committed to completing the Devadula project works by December 2027, the minister said once fully completed, it would provide irrigation to nearly 5.6 lakh acres while significantly strengthening drinking water security across northern Telangana.

‘Drought created by govt, not caused by El Nino’

Earlier in the day, Harish Rao alleged that the state government was deliberately denying irrigation to farmers despite

the availability of adequate Godavari water.

Speaking to reporters here, the former minister said the present crisis was “not a drought caused by El Nino, but a drought created by the government”.

He recalled that the BRS on July 12 demanded that the government operate the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme pumps.

The former minister said that the very next day, ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy visited the project and announced that 38 tmcft of water would be lifted to fill 22 reservoirs under the Devadula project, prompting farmers to begin transplantation.

“But the ministers failed to keep their assurance,” he said and pointed out that farmers across Shayampet, Bhimadavarapally, Elakathurthy and several other parts of Warangal district were staging protests demanding irrigation water.



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inspects the ongoing construction works of the colleges at Education Hub at Hakeempet village in Vikarabad district on Tuesday

Revanth pulls up officials for delay in Education Hub works

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

EXPRESSING dissatisfaction over the slow pace of Education Hub works in his Kodangal Assembly constituency, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday warned that strict action would be taken against officials who show negligence or fail to perform their duties efficiently. He made it clear that officers responsible for unnecessary delays would face disciplinary action.

During his visit to the constituency, he inspected the ongoing construction works of Education Hub in Hakeempet village of Dudyal mandal.

During the inspection, Revanth directed officials to expedite the construction works and ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated timeline. He instructed them to submit progress reports from time to time on every project being executed in the Education Hub so that the government can closely monitor the project implementation.

Warning against delays, the

chief minister also expressed displeasure over the delay in allotting residential plots to farmers who have given their land for the project. He directed officials to complete the process and distribute pattas to all eligible beneficiaries by next week.

‘Expedite land acquisition for Kodangal irrigation projects’

Later in the day, the chief minister reviewed the progress of the Maktal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project and directed officials to expedite land acquisition so that construction works can begin without any delay.

Revanth assured the officials that the state government is ready to provide all necessary support, including sanctioning additional surveyors and allocating the required budget to accelerate land acquisition. He said the project should move into the execution phase without any delays.

The chief minister also reviewed the progress of road connectivity and civic infrastructure in villages across the Kodangal constituency.

El Nino effect pushing power demand to April peak: Bhatti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

DEPUTY Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said Telangana’s power demand has reached peak summer levels, similar to April, due to the impact of El Nino.

Speaking at the state-level awareness seminar, From Pacific Ocean Warming to Telangana Preparedness, organised by the Planning department at Ravindra Bharathi, the deputy chief minister said electricity demand, which is usually lower during the monsoon, has surged because of changing global weather patterns.

“The current demand in Telangana has reached peak summer levels similar to April. The changing global seasonal patterns are influencing electricity consumption, and Telangana is ahead in planning to meet these rising demands,” he said.

Vikramarka attributed the rise to increased use of fans, air conditioners, lights, borewells and lift irrigation motors during both the day and night. He said the government was managing the higher demand through efficient energy management, including maximum use of low-cost solar power during the day and planned use of thermal power later to maintain grid stability and reduce costs.

He said the government was preparing a comprehensive action plan to minimise the impact of El Nino on agriculture, water and power supply.

Hyd DMHO told to oversee free treatment

FROM PAGE 3

They submitted that the land allotment required the hospital to reserve 25% of inpatient beds and 40% of outpatient services for free treatment of poor patients, while GOMs No. 80 established a mechanism to monitor compliance.

Taking note of the petitioner’s medical condition, the court observed that any delay in treatment could have serious consequences. It directed the hospital to immediately admit her and provide all necessary treatment, including consultations, diagnostic tests, chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, medicines and inpatient care, under the mandatory free treatment quota.

The court also directed the District Medical and Health Officer, Hyderabad, to monitor the petitioner’s treatment and submit a report on whether Basavataarakam Hospital and the other respondent hospital were complying with the obligations under the two government orders. The matter has been posted for further hearing on July 23.

Cong govt trying to extort money from the poor: BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

QUESTIONING the state government’s intention behind the proposed Core Urban Region Economy Act (CURE Act) as well as the Indiramma Housing Scheme, state BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Tuesday alleged that the ruling Congress has “opened floodgates to extort the poor and middle class people living in and around Hyderabad in the name of taxes and deposits”.

Addressing the media at the party office here, Ramchander said that the BJP has no objection to making necessary amendments to the 1955 Municipal Act to serve people. “But key provisions within the CURE Act are designed to squeeze the public dry,” he said, while criticising the inclusion of provisions to increase taxes up to 5 per cent annually based on registration values without a scientific taxation policy and called it an “outright tax extortion”.

“The Congress government is placing an additional burden on the people by imposing taxes under the guise of CURE Act,” he added.

The state BJP chief also al-

leged that attempts are being made to separate water and sewerage services to levy separate taxes, which would put an additional financial burden on the public.

Ramchander said that unilaterally pushing this legislation without consulting key stakeholders, such as Resident Welfare Associations and the general public, is improper and deplorable.

‘Cong conspiracy to collect ₹1,000 cr from poor people’

On the Indiramma Housing Scheme, he said: “This initiative is not aimed at ensuring the welfare of the poor but is just another scheme started for financial exploitation.”

“When there are lakhs of eligible applicants across 24 constituencies, issuing a notification for only 7,680 flats and collecting a ₹100 application fee along with an EMD deposit of ₹10,000 from each applicant is highly unjust,” he added.

The BJP leader termed the process as a conspiracy to collect nearly ₹1,000 crore from the poor, recalling the deposit exploitation carried out by the previous BRS government under the guise of sheep distribution.



Ramchander desperate to stay politically relevant: Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

HITTING back at state BJP chief N Ramchander Rao for levelling “baseless allegations” against the proposed CURE Act and Indiramma Housing Scheme, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday said that the former was misleading the public just to stay politically relevant.

Addressing the media here, the minister said: “Ramchander Rao is not a member of any legislative body. He does not have an official platform to express his views. That’s why he is making controversial statements ahead of the Assembly session to gain political mileage.”

He said that instead of levelling unnecessary accusations against the government, the BJP leader should press the Centre to release funds to Telangana in view of the El Nino and other natural calamities that are likely to affect the farming community as well as the state’s economy.

He challenged Ramchander to secure central funds for the state if he is genuinely concerned about Telangana’s interests. Stating that the government would introduce the

Telangana Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026 in the Assembly, he said that all political parties will have an opportunity to express their opinions in the House. “BJP can present its views through its MLAs, MLCs and other elected representatives in the House instead of attempting to create unnecessary confusion before the session,” he said.

‘Cong does not believe in suppressing Oppn’s voice’

Prabhakar also said it does not believe in suppressing the voice of the Opposition despite enjoying a majority in the Assembly. In contrast, he alleged that the BJP-led Union government had passed several key legislations in the past without adequate discussions, whereas the Telangana government ensures comprehensive debate on every important issue before taking decisions.

He also demanded that the BJP clearly state its position on the state’s housing scheme, asking whether the party supports providing houses to the poor or not. He urged the BJP to view the housing initiative from a public welfare perspective rather than through a political lens.



ECHO OF DELHI PROTESTS

Students and activists stage a protest at People’s Plaza in Hyderabad on Tuesday, condemning the lathi-charge on New Delhi protesters who demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET paper leak issue | **SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN**

BRS gives ₹5L to kin of deceased farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Adilabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government hoodwinked not just farmers but all sections of the society.

During his visit to Luxettipet, the former minister participated in the Rythu Sadassu and handed over financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of four farmers who died while trying to protect their paddy crops recently.

He exuded confidence that a

“farmers’ government” would be established again in the state under the leadership of BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao.

“The BRS recently exposed the Congress Youth Declaration by organising a meeting with youths. The Congress failed to fulfil its promises in the last 31 months. It has only 29 months left,” he said while terming the Revanth Reddy dispensation as an “utter failure government”.

He handed over the cash to kin of T Nagaraju and T Ab-

hiram of Gampallapelli village, G Venkatesh of Kothur village and N Lachanna of Muthyampet village in Mancherial district. The four farmers lost their lives while protecting their paddy at purchasing centres. They were crushed to death when the wall of the purchasing centre collapsed on them.

As the government provided Bima amount to the family of only one farmer, the BRS provided assistance to the kin of all four farmers.



BRS working president KT Rama Rao interacts with a woman party worker at Rangapet village in Luxettipet mandal of Mancherial district on Tuesday



Police recruitment schedule sought

The Telangana High Court has directed the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board to place on record the recruitment schedule for 7,437 sanctioned vacancies in the police and allied departments while hearing a Public Interest Litigation. A bench of Chief Justice Apresh Kumar Singh and Justice M Ghouse Mohiuddin issued the direction while hearing a PIL filed by Akhil Sriguru Teja, chairman of the Help the People Charitable Trust. The petitioner sought a direction to the state government to announce a recruitment calendar, contending that sanctioned posts have remained vacant. The state informed the court that recruitment had been approved for 7,437 posts across the police, Fire Services, Disaster Response, Prisons, Civil Defence and Special Protection Force. The bench directed the Recruitment Board to submit the recruitment schedule and adjourned the matter by four weeks.

Abhishta Team will only report to BL Santhosh: BJP leaders

FROM PAGE 3

According to sources, the consultancy is currently focusing on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana. The team is said to be monitoring booth-level developments, evaluating the performance of BJP booth agents and advising local leaders on areas requiring greater attention during the voter verification exercise.

BJP state leaders also claimed that the team reports to BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh, who has held meetings with its members in recent days. Sources said the consultancy has been entrusted with assessing the party’s organisational preparedness and providing strategic inputs based on field-level feedback.

The induction of a third consultancy is being viewed within the party as part of a wider effort to strengthen its organisational network ahead of the municipal corporation elections and the next Assembly polls. According to BJP sources, the three agencies are expected to work in tandem to assess the political landscape, fine-tune constituency-level strategies and build the party’s organisational capacity in the run-up to the next electoral cycle.

Shifting to Hyd voter list won't affect sops: Karnan

DEO rejects rumours of loss of welfare benefits, says there's no link

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

HYDERABAD District Election Officer and GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan on Tuesday dismissed rumours that residents enrolling as voters in Hyderabad would lose access to welfare schemes in their native villages, urging people not to believe such misinformation.

Addressing a press conference on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Karnan clarified that anyone residing in Hyderabad for at least six months is eligible to register as a voter. He said the choice of where to enrol was entirely an individual's decision and had no bearing on eligibility for government welfare schemes.



Refuting claims that voter registration was linked to beneficiary selection for schemes such as Indiramma Housing and the earlier 2BHK scheme, he said there was no connection between voter enrolment and welfare benefits. He also clarified that voter registration was not linked to the address mentioned on an Aadhaar card.

Karnan said 2,60,593 voters had so far been identified as Absent, Shifted and Dead (ASD) voters.

Appealing to citizens not to wait until the deadline, he said Enumeration Forms (EFs) could

be submitted till August 3, but early submission would provide sufficient time for corrections by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and facilitate digitisation.

He said stickers were being affixed to houses where Enumeration Forms had been collected. Hyderabad district has achieved around 43 per cent digitisation so far, with nearly 20.34 lakh Enumeration Forms digitised. Assembly constituencies such as Sanathnagar, Musheerabad, Amberpet and Malakpet have recorded relatively lower submission rates.

Karnan added that while applications for fresh voter registration were being accepted, the names of such applicants would not appear in the draft electoral roll.

A reform that falls short of the CURE: Report

S BACHAN JEET SINGH @ Hyderabad

THE CURE Bill, 2026, billed as Hyderabad's biggest urban governance reform in seven decades, scores just 28% on key metropolitan governance parameters, only marginally better than the 70-year-old GHMC Act it seeks to replace, according to a report released by Bengaluru-based think tank Janaagraha on Tuesday. The organisation has submitted 142 recommendations, identifying five reforms it says are essential to make the legislation truly transformative.

Janaagraha's independent assessment found that the Bill centralises power in the state government while failing to ad-

equately empower elected mayors and municipal councils. It also lacks a robust financial and human resource framework to support staffing, institutional capacity, performance management and professional development.

The report said the Bill scores 28%, compared with 23% for the GHMC Act, mainly due to stronger transparency provisions and modest improvements in planning. However, it trails the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, which scored 38%. Janaagraha noted that even the GBG Act falls short of the standards.

Anita Kumar, director (policy

and insights) at Janaagraha, said the proposed law provides little scope for citizen participation, with weak ward committees and no provision for area sabhas, participatory budgeting or an independent municipal grievance redressal mechanism. She also noted that several key provisions have been left to subordinate rules without timelines, while the Bill lacks budgetary support for implementation.

The think tank recommended five reforms: creating an integrated metropolitan planning framework with clearly defined roles for the Metropolitan Planning Committee, HMDA and the proposed Chief Minister-led

Apex Governance Council; clearly defining the powers of the over 15 new authorities proposed under the Bill; ensuring adequate staffing, technical capacity and assured funding; strengthening the role of elected representatives and citizen participation; and making key reforms mandatory through time-bound implementation rather than subordinate rules.

Associate director (policy and insights) VR Vachana called for a full-time secretariat for the Apex Governance Council, a dedicated Hyderabad minister, directly elected mayors, greater devolution of powers and funds to municipalities, and financially empowered ward committees for neighbourhood planning.



SACRED SPACE

CM A Revanth Reddy's wife Geetha Reddy and daughter Nymisha, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha participate in Kalyanotsavam at Sri Yellamma Pochamma Devasthanam in Balkampet, Hyderabad, on Tuesday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN



EXPRESS READ

SCR GM reviews Metro operations

South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava visited Hyderabad Metro Rail on Tuesday to review operations, maintenance systems and expansion plans. He inspected the Nagole depot, Operations Control Centre and maintenance facilities, while metro officials briefed the SCR delegation on ridership, safety systems, ongoing initiatives and future projects.

Drones to monitor Bonalu traffic

Hyderabad Traffic Police have deployed drones for the first time to monitor traffic during Bonalu festivities at Golconda Fort. Live aerial surveillance is helping regulate diversions, parking and congestion, enabling quicker responses to bottlenecks. Senior traffic officials are supervising operations to ensure smooth movement and devotees' safety.

CRIME BRIEF

Student dies by suicide in Puppalaguda

Hyderabad: A 20-year-old degree student allegedly died by suicide at her residence in Puppalaguda on Monday. The victim, V Shreya, was a student of Vasavi Engineering College. She was found hanging in her room. Upon receiving information, Narsingi police reached her residence and launched an investigation. During the visit, police recovered a two-page suicide note, which indicated that Shreya had taken the extreme step because of the severe mental distress caused by derogatory remarks from a faculty member during her exam on July 17.

POCSO case: Student, auto driver convicted

Hyderabad: A special court at LB Nagar in Ranga Reddy district on Tuesday convicted two accused in a POCSO case registered at Balapur police station in 2022. The court sentenced the prime accused, Sampangi Chendra Shekar (23), an auto driver from Balapur, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. The second accused, Bollipaka Madhu (22), is a student from Akanpally village.

Newborn abandoned near Shamshabad

Hyderabad: A newborn girl was found abandoned in a white bag in Shamshabad on Tuesday. RGIA police said they received information around 11 am that an abandoned baby had been found beside the ORR service road and near Airport Colony bridge. The officials rushed to the spot and shifted the baby to Shamshabad Government Hospital for treatment. A case has been registered.

PD Act invoked against rowdy sheeter

Hyderabad: Hyderabad police have invoked the Prevention Detention Act against a notorious rowdy sheeter, Bojja Bhagyarah, a resident of Chilkalguda, citing his repeated involvement in violent crimes in the city. The order was executed by Chilkalguda police on Tuesday. Bhagyarah is a habitual offender with 15 criminal cases filed against him across Hyderabad and Malkajgiri. The cases include charges of attempt to murder, rioting, causing grievous hurt and criminal intimidation.

PARTNER IN SHAPING GUJARAT'S MINERAL PROCESSING ECOSYSTEM IN KUTCH

GMDC, one of India's leading mining PSUs, invites reputed agencies to submit proposals for preparation of DPRs for Three Integrated Mineral Processing Parks at Lakhpat, Abdasa, and Mundra Talukas in Kutch.



Mineral Processing Park at Lakhpat and Abdasa Talukas, Kutch
RFP No.: **GMDC/PP&D/004/2026-27**

Mineral Processing Park at Mundra Taluka, Kutch
RFP No.: **GMDC/PP&D/005/2026-27**

Submission Deadline:
25th August, 2026 up to 16:00 IST
For detailed RFP documents, eligibility criteria and submission guidelines, visit: **www.gmdcltd.com**

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)

Khanij Bhavan, 132 Feet Ring Road, Nr. University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380052



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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MISSION BHAGIRATHA CIRCLE, BHONGIR

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. 33/11/MB/SDF-Tharigoppula/Bhongir Circle/2025-26, Dated: 20.07.2026 (2nd Call - Reserved for Waddera/Sagara) - Construction of 20 KL OHSR at Wadlawada of Tharigoppula (V&M). Est. cost of **16.05 Lakhs**. Work bid evaluation starts from date **25-07-2026 to 12-08-2026 up to 03:00 PM**. Further details can be had from <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/> Sd/- Superintending Engineer, MB Circle, Bhongir
DIPR R.O. No.6411-PP/CL/AdvT/2026-27, Dt: 21/07/2026

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

Request for Qualification (RFQ) Dt:20-07-2026

No.5/T/O/2026-27 (R&B) Circle, Vijayawada, NTR District invites Request for Qualification for "CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE ACROSS BANDAR CANAL IN PORANKI VILLAGE IN KRISHNA DISTRICT" at a cost of **Rs.21.96 Crores**. Dates of issue of RFQ Documents dt.23.07.2026 onwards. Last date of receipt of applications : **06.08.2026 upto 3.30 PM**. Further details may be obtained from the undersigned. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B) CIRCLE, Vijayawada
DIPR No.20989/CL/ADV/T/11/2021-22, Dt: 21/07/2026

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE No. Engg/10/2026-27/83 Date: 21.07.2026

Name of the work	Est. Amount	Last date & time for receipts of bids	Name & Address of Officer, Phone No.
Spreading of Good Gravel and Stone Dust for Bonalu Festival and Arranging of Temporary Lights in view of Bonalu Festival on Hire Basis at various temples in Nadergul, Division no.57, Prashanthi hills, Division no.58, Jillelaguda, Division no.59, Meerpet, Division no.60, Badangpet, Division no.61, Balapur, Division no.62, Badangpet Circle-16, Shamshabad Zone, GHMC.	Rs. 30.70 Lakhs	24.07.2026 @ 3.00 PM	Sri D.Kistappa, Executive Engineer, Badangpet Circle-16, 500058, eec16.badangpet@gmail.com, Ph.No. 9849906776

For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in/login.html Sd/- Executive Engineer, Badangpet Circle-16, Shamshabad Zone, GHMC.
DIPR R.O. No.6398-PP/CL/AdvT/2026-27, Dt: 21/07/2026

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स प्रौद्योगिकी सामग्री केंद्र (सी-मेट)
CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)

IDA PHASE - III, CHERLAPALLY, HCL (PO), HYDERABAD-500 051
Phone: +91-40-27265587, 27267006, 27261658 Web: www.cmet.gov.in

Adv. No.: HD/02/Rect/3/SP-49/2026
Engagement of Project Personnel

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

C-MET invites eligible and highly motivated candidates for Walk-in Interview on **04.08.2026** to fill up the temporary and time bound position of "Project Fellow (1 no.) - UR Category" under MeitY sponsored project titled "Informal Sector Capacity Building Upgradation with formation of recycling clusters under MSME scheme and Enabling Technology for Recovery of Resources from Electronic Waste thereby Promoting Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy". The positions are purely temporary and are co-terminus with the project duration (i.e. 19.12.2026). For application format, educational qualifications, age limit & other important details, please visit our website: www.cmet.gov.in.
Sd/-
Centre Head

TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED					
Regd office: "Chaitanya", No. 12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakam, Chennai 600 006 Website: www.tvsmotor.com Telephone No.: (044) 28332115 Email: corporate@tvsmotor.com CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845					
STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 th JUNE 2026					
(Rs. in Crores)					
S. No	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter ended 30.06.2026 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2025 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations	13,896.08	10,081.00	47,270.32	16,295.52
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	1,589.45	1,050.13	4,944.89	1,545.19
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	1,589.45	1,050.13	4,903.52	1,545.19
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	1,173.97	775.65	3,615.22	1,057.61
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax))	1,186.05	745.42	3,780.58	1,036.37
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re. 1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	11,186.79	-
8	Security Premium Account	-	-	-	-
9	Networth	12,512.49	10,720.80	11,348.62	10,201.09
10	Outstanding Debt	3,229.87	1,648.83	2,733.36	29,246.50
11	Outstanding Non Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares (NCRPS)	1,900.35	-	1,900.35	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	0.26	0.15	0.24	2.77
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	24.71 24.71	16.33 16.33	76.09 76.09	21.46 21.46
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	5.55	4.77	4.77	4.03
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	25.66	32.00	29.64	18.09
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.93
19	Long term debt to Working Capital (Times)	-	-	-	2.65
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.89	0.88	0.88	0.71
22	Total debts to Total Assets ratio (Times)	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.54
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	25.86	30.20	28.08	24.47
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	23.10	17.45	20.37	16.08
25	Operating Margin (%)	12.8	12.5	12.9	11.4
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	8.4	7.7	7.6	6.5

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com) and www.nseindia.com and on company's website (www.tvsmotor.com).
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.
- The detailed financial results of the Company for the Quarter ended 30th June 2026 can be accessed through the QR code.

For TVS Motor Company Limited
Sd/-
Sudarshan Venu
Chairman

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 21.07.2026

AGITATIONS HIGHLIGHT ANGST AT SHRINKAGE OF DEMOCRATIC SPACE

PROTESTS rent the air at both ends of Delhi’s Sansad Marg as legislators and agitators demanded debate and action on the country’s exams mess. What began on Monday as a students’ protest became a full-fledged political drama on Tuesday with the principal opposition party jumping into the fray. As the Leader of the Opposition staged an unprecedented sit-in before the Prime Minister’s residence along with the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Karnataka, the government sent an emissary to mediate. However, matters remained unresolved at the end of Tuesday.

The evening before, despair was writ large on the faces of thousands of battered young protestors who had gathered on the Cockroach Janta Party’s call demanding resignation of the Union education minister and compensation for the families of those who had died by suicide because of exam scandals. Though they were mostly demanding a fairer shot at the future, they got lathi-charged and tear-gassed. Despite the temporary detention of 70-odd protestors, they braved inclement weather to gather again on Tuesday.

Solidarity marches were reported from Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Pune and Panjim. Thus, what CJP co-founder Abhijeet Dipke admitted had started as a joke playing on a loose remark has become a lightning rod for dissent. Both in Parliament and on the streets, there is growing frustration at the shrinkage of democratic space. The retreat in Parliament’s deliberative role is plain in the decreasing time for or denial of debate on crucial topics. Outside, the anxiety is not just about glitches in medical entrance exams, but in a series of derailed recruitment drives. As the future of lakhs of families is held hostage to incompetence, apathy and corruption in a job-starved economy, there is an unmistakable feeling that the government is unable to address their genuine concerns.

Action is required on all sides. The government must engage in earnest with the protestors and plan enough House time for a thorough debate. The opposition must participate continuously in making education work for all, not just when protests reach a crescendo. The sacking of a minister would be a mark of accountability; but it would not cure systemic ills. Most importantly, citizens staring aghast at the disproportionate response to peaceful protests must vote on the issues raised. Only then can the pledge made at the midnight hour of independence be substantially redeemed.

LEAVE POTHICHORU ALONE, FOCUS ON HEALTH SYSTEM

THOUSANDS of families in Kerala cook an extra portion of lunch on assigned days round the year to feed needy strangers in government hospitals. This meal, called *pothichoru* or packed rice, is collected and delivered by volunteers, mostly cadres of the Democratic Youth Federation of India, the CPI(M)’s youth wing. Every day, 40,000 such meal parcels are distributed across the state. The person who cooks the meal has no idea about the caste or religion of the receiver; neither does the receiver know about the person who cooked the meal. RSS-affiliated Sevabharati, too, distributes food to the needy in hospitals. So, when Health Minister K Muralaeeharan announced that he would stop the distribution of *pothichoru* by political organisations in government hospitals, the public outrage was huge.

Muralaeeharan’s argument was that government hospitals “are not venues to display political or organisational flags” and proposed that all food distribution be routed through government-run community kitchens to ensure a standardised system. The statement drew sharp reactions from various quarters, particularly the DYFI, which has been running a large food distribution network at medical colleges since 2017. The BJP, too, voiced strong objection, suggesting that minister should instead be encouraging Youth Congress workers to follow suit. They alleged that the programme is being hastily banned before alternative systems are implemented.

Facing criticism from all quarters, the health minister has taken a step back, insisting he was trying to address the shortage of space in state hospital premises. Politics apart, stopping this much-loved humanitarian gesture is not in anyone’s interest. These organisations had to step in with food packets to fill the gap left by the authorities, as government hospital canteens were in an abysmal condition. *Pothichoru* is not just about cooking an extra meal—it is also about cooking with a sense of shared humanity. The minister, instead of mixing narrow politics in this exemplary act, should focus on addressing the various systemic issues faced by the state’s health sector. Kerala is in the grip of various types of seasonal infections, with related 67 deaths being reported this month alone. Rather than going after *pothichoru* distribution, it will be more useful if the ministry channels its energy towards ensuring better disease surveillance and service delivery.

QUICK TAKE

THE WAY OF WATER

WHEN Soviet scientists tried to get back to their Antarctic station Druzhnaya 1 in October 1986, they found it had drifted away on an iceberg. Thus began the slow journey of A-23a, the world’s largest iceberg that was once half the size of Bengaluru. After keeping the scientific community rapt for four decades, during which climate science grew into a formidable discipline, this massive table of snow recently melted away in the South Atlantic, releasing a trove of nutrients in sparkling-blue meltwater. It taught generations of glaciologists and marine biologists how melting icebergs act as transporter of materials, alter salinity and reconfigure ocean floors. Today it’s essential knowledge in a planet of rapidly-warming oceans. It’s as if a gentle giant finally rested after teaching the world the way of water.

IN an escalatory move, the US Senate is expediting the Sanctioning Russia Act 2026 containing a revised package of sanctions and tariffs to squeeze Moscow’s finances for the Ukraine war. The bipartisan Bill has enough votes to pass the Senate. Russians are hoping that the new legislation, where the discretion to impose sanctions vests with US President Donald Trump, may be largely symbolic. But one can never be too sure of Trump’s shifting moods.

In the US estimation, the support for the war among Russian elite and the public is waning amid growing unease over the Ukrainian strikes deep inside the country, including in Moscow. Trump has echoed the European narrative that Russian forces are in some trouble. Therefore, ruling party United Russia’s performance in the State Duma elections on September 18-20, the first since the war began, becomes a significant benchmark.

Two recent issues of *The Economist* magazine featured sensational reports regarding dissatisfaction in Russia. Of course, the journal has a reputation as a flag-carrier of anti-Russian narratives. But one of the pieces is an article under the byline of one of Russia’s most prominent industrialists, Andrey Melnichenko, nicknamed ‘fertiliser king’, who is under Western sanctions. Interestingly, the article was first featured in the Russian daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, close to the Kremlin establishment. It makes Melnichenko’s decision to speak out rather intriguing, as he sketches for Russia grim scenarios if the war in Ukraine drags on and nothing changes domestically.

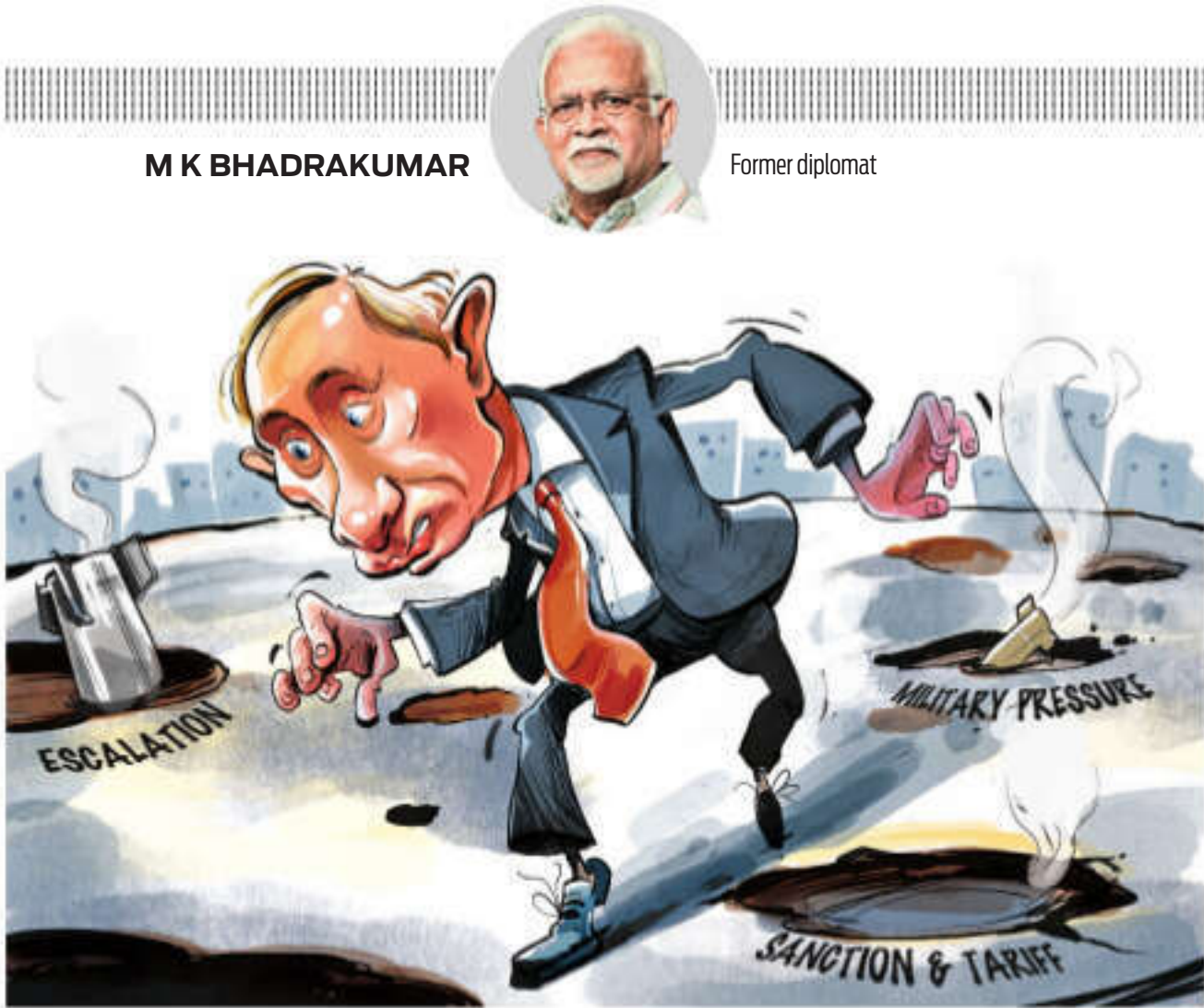
Melnichenko assesses that without policies that focus more on citizens’ welfare and present a more predictable, less hostile face to the West, Russia could descend into chaos or some kind of powerless vassal relationship with China or the West.

The debate about Melnichenko’s piece is heating up Moscow’s lively echo chamber, and is parsed carefully also by different brands of Russia watchers. On the other hand, balancing this to an extent is a sizeable group that expresses dissatisfaction differently. They want to prosecute the war more aggressively. They are not against the war, but are frustrated by its slow pace and favour further mobilisation and putting the country on a stronger war footing.

Public opinion is never easy to gauge

Like the Iron Chancellor, Putin wants to win without humiliating the adversary. Grumbles about deep strikes in Russia and firing of Ukraine’s defence minister set the stage for a winter of discontent

MODERN-DAY BISMARCK FACES A SHIFTING MAP



in Russia. Indeed, the public mood has been darkened by Ukraine’s audacity to reach deeply and destructively into Russian territory with advanced drones supplied by the Nato countries. But then, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been in similar situations before too in his tumultuous career in the Kremlin, beginning with the Chechen war, which had American backing. In Ukraine, Putin is winning the war and his strategy is about winning without humiliating the adversary.

Putin is a keen student of German history, and I’ve written previously also that his statecraft bears striking similarity to that of Otto von Bismarck, who oversaw the unification of Germany and served as its first Chancellor from 1871 to 1890, which earned him the nickname *Eiserner*

Kanzler (Iron Chancellor). That is quintessential Putin for you.

At the moment, Putin is where Bismarck stood as the Prussian army was knocking at the gates of Vienna after defeating the Austrian empire in the Austro-Prussian war of 1866. Bismarck had a historic choice to annex Austria, but with great deliberation, chose not to humiliate the Habsburgs, one of Europe’s most powerful and enduring dynastic systems. Instead, he allowed it to acquire the vainglorious title of Austro-Hungarian Empire. Of course, Bismarck’s wisdom and foresight—and his balance-of-power approach to diplomacy—helped maintain unified Germany’s position in the middle of Europe. He was proven right when Austria aligned with fraternal Germany to fight the First World War.

MISSING: SECOND DEMOGRAPHIC BONUS

FOR a decade, India’s demographic arithmetic has been a great source of optimism. A swelling working-age population, shrinking share of dependents and still-small elderly cohort together promised a demographic dividend—the growth that arrives when a country has far more producers than mouths to feed.

But a quieter demographic signal is now flashing red. Even as the share of Indians of working age is climbing to a peak, the country’s households are saving less than they have in nearly two decades. The puzzle strikes at the heart of how demographers think about saving.

In 1985, Franco Modigliani won the Nobel for his life-cycle hypothesis, which held that people do not simply spend what they earn each year: They borrow when young, save through their prime working years and draw on those savings in old age. Scaled up, the theory carries a striking implication: a country’s saving rate is written less by how wealthy it is than by how its people are distributed across the life-cycle.

Ronald Lee and Andrew Mason later drew out a sequel with the ‘second demographic dividend’. If the first dividend is the mechanical rise in output per person, the second is subtler and not guaranteed: the wealth those workers accumulate as they anticipate old age. It materialises only where the age structure meets institutions—pensions, formal finance, functioning labour markets—that let the instinct to save harden into investable assets.

Set India’s numbers against that framework and the age-structure and saving rate are moving in opposite directions. The working-age share has risen from around 58 percent at the turn of the century to nearly 65 percent today, and the UN projects it will keep climbing into the 2040s before the country begins to age. By Modigliani’s logic, household saving should be rising in step. Instead, it has fallen sharply—from a peak equivalent to roughly a third of disposable income around the late 2000s to about a fifth today. The demographic tailwind is at its strongest just as the saving it is meant to generate fades.

The contrast sharpens when India is set beside economies it hopes to emulate. East Asia is the canonical proof of Modigliani’s logic, not its exception: Japan, South Korea and later China all saved massively as their working-age shares crested, converting a youthful age structure into a deep pool of investable wealth. Japanese and Korean households sustained saving rates in the



SRINIVAS GOLI
Associate Professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences

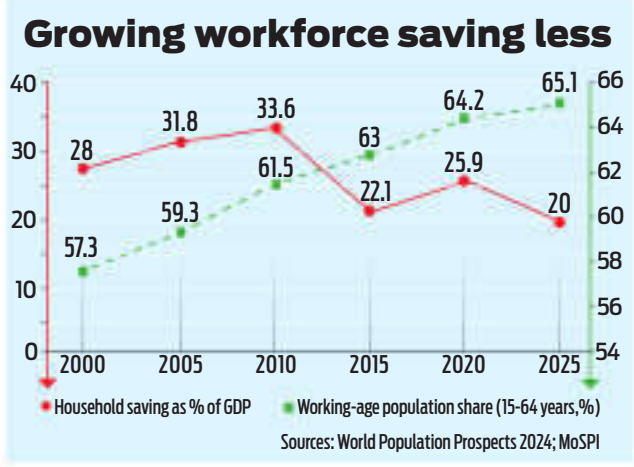


NEHA JAIN
Assistant Professor of economics at the Delhi Technological University

mid-teens or higher through their bulge decades; China’s household saving climbed toward a third of disposable income as its dependency ratio fell. When those rates finally turned down, they did so for the reason the theory predicts—ageing populations spending what they had banked.

India inverts the sequence. Its saving rate is sliding while its working-age share is still climbing. Comparative work by Gerald Bloom and co-authors on Japan, China and India finds that demographic transitions explain much of the divergence in these three nations’ saving paths.

Growing workforce saving less



Year	Household saving as % of GDP	Working-age population share (15-64 years, %)
2000	28	57.3
2005	31.8	59.3
2010	33.6	61.5
2015	22.1	63
2020	25.9	64.2
2025	20	65.1

Sources: World Population Prospects 2024; MOPSI

Why is India’s household saving at a two-decade low while its working-age population is swelling? We are going opposite to the route Japan and China took. We must consider that a working-age cohort may not all be at work and informal workers aren’t pausing to bank

India’s break from the pattern is precisely what makes it worth explaining.

If age structure cannot account for the fall, then the cause must lie in the incomes and institutions that are supposed to turn a young workforce into savers. So why is a young India saving like an old one? Three answers stand out—each a story about the population.

The first is that the demographic bulge has not become a productive one. The life-cycle model assumes that the people crowding into the prime-age brackets are

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Iberian iteration

Ref: *Spain win a triumph* (Jul 21). What stood out in Spain’s victory was quiet consistency, not spectacle. Indian administrators often celebrate flashes of individual brilliance while ignoring grassroots coaching. If the federation invested in age-group academies the way Spain did decades ago, better results would follow naturally.
Prajesh Paramasivan, Coimbatore

Juvenile care

Ref: *No country for adolescents* (Jul 21). Parents, teachers, school administration and social media jointly share a responsibility. There is a strong need for properly trained carers, security personnel and dedicated departments to monitor juvenile homes.
P Prema, Thanjavur

Citizens’ power

Ref: *Centre blinks* (Jul 21). It has become evident that we, the people, have been pushed to the limit of hopelessness. Citizens had been assumed to be zombieified and acting on what Big Brother says. But the diverse crowd that had set for Parliament gave a fitting reply to the government’s strategy of bread and circuses.
Nilika Setti, Sundargarh

Mounting agony

This was not merely a protest, but an expression of frustration and discontent felt by millions. While leaders engage in chestbeating overseas, students are met with batons at home. That protestors remain steadfast in their demands even after facing lathis indicates that the movement is a culmination of years of piled-up grievances.
Mahesh Sidhmukh, email

Poetic reportage

Ref: *La Roja say two cheers* (Jul 21). Hats off to *TNIE*’s sports desk for bringing poetry on paper every day. Even if one had missed ‘telecasts’ of a game, reporters brought it live as ‘paper-casts’. Reading the World Cup coverage was like enjoying one’s favourite dish in their favourite restaurant.
Jaikishan N, Bengaluru

Shared rivers

Ref: *IWT won’t be functional in present form* (Jul 21). Water-sharing agreements must evolve with changing realities, but any revision should be guided by international law, environmental sustainability and humanitarian concerns. While national security cannot be compromised, rivers are shared natural resources that demand responsible stewardship.
Stephanie Siby Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Rahul, Priyanka raise NEET heat in hot, humid capital

Cong president Kharge accuses Centre of suppressing dissent in democracy • Alleges education system ruined by 'allowing' repeated question paper leaks

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

HIGH political drama unfolded outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence at Lok Kalyan Marg on Tuesday evening as Delhi Police detained Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several Opposition MPs after they staged a sit-in demanding action over the alleged NEET paper leak and police crackdown on protesting students.

The protest began near the Lok Kalyan Marg roundabout and quickly turned into a flash-point between the Congress and the government. The party demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, while seeking a discussion in Parliament on the alleged paper leak and police action against students.

The situation escalated shortly after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav arrived at the protest site around 6 pm to express solidarity with the Congress. Moments later, Delhi Police, backed by Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel, moved in to clear the area, triggering chaotic scenes.

As police personnel attempted to remove the protesters, pushing and jostling broke out. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other Congress MPs resisted being taken away, while their security personnel tried to shield them amid the melee. Congress leaders, exhausted after sitting for over hours in sweltering heat and high humidity, continued raising slogans even as police escorted them towards waiting buses. A tight protective ring was formed around Priyanka Gandhi by her security staff and party leaders as police advanced. Senior Congress leader KC Venugopal was seen engaged in a heated exchange with police officials, insisting that the protest was peaceful and should be allowed to continue. Despite multiple security layers around the Prime Minister's residence, several Con-



MOS Jitendra Singh arrives to interact with Congress members who staged a protest near the Prime Minister's residence (L); police detain Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi during the protest; and security personnel detain Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi | EXPRESS



Rahul 'backtracked' on his demands: Minister

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

UNION Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of going back on his words after the government agreed to a discussion on NEET and related issues in Parliament.

The Centre sent Singh to urge Gandhi to end his sit-in outside PM Narendra Modi's Lok Kalyan Marg residence.

Singh spoke to Gandhi for several minutes, but all his efforts failed to persuade Gandhi to end his sit-in.

Later, Singh, in a social media post, alleged that the LoP "backtracked" from his earlier demand for a debate. Singh said that this behaviour did not benefit a leader of his stature.

Singh said that a request was made to Gandhi to end the sit-in, as the site was not meant for protests, and that holding a

demonstration there was causing considerable inconvenience to the public. "Rahul Gandhi put forward the demand that if the government agrees to discuss in Parliament all issues related to NEET and the associated movement, he would immediately end his sit-in. Within a few moments, after taking permission from the government's top leadership, Rahul Gandhi was assured that his demand has been accepted and

the government is ready to discuss in Parliament all issues related to NEET and the associated movement," Singh said.

He alleged that Gandhi did not agree to his request and instead demanded that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan must also resign. The minister also said that the Congress "has not given any notice to date for a formal discussion on this serious matter (NEET issue) as per rules".

'Fundamental rights': HC says shift Wangchuk to private hosp immediately

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed to immediately shift activist Sonam Wangchuk to Medanta Hospital "to ensure his fundamental rights under the Constitution", as desired by his family. The court said that moving Wangchuk to a hospital of his choice would protect his fundamental rights.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia also ordered the constitution of a committee of doctors from the Medanta Hospital to monitor Wangchuk and provide him medication, saying that he should abide by the order.

The bench said that Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali Angmo would be allowed to visit her husband as and when she desires. The bench made the directions on an appeal filed by Angmo, who argued that her husband was being held at Safdarjung Hospital against his will and the Delhi Police kept him there to prevent him from rejoining the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest.

Angmo had approached the division bench against a single judge bench order passed on

Sunday, which did not allow shifting of Wangchuk.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that the government had no objection to the shifting of Wangchuk to Medanta. "Only thing is that he may not get a discharge against medical advice. Those who are around him want him out, irrespective of his health," he said. The court, however, said, "We will not go into all that. Do not drag the court into all that."

The division bench passed the order after taking into account the opinion of Wangchuk's doctors. "Having regard to the submissions made, the opinion expressed by the doctors present and the concerns raised by

them, we are of the opinion that the husband of the appellant ought to be shifted to a hospital of his choice. We accordingly direct that the husband of the appellant shall be immediately shifted to Medanta," the bench said.

Moreover, the court also directed Angmo to cooperate with the decision. "Please cooperate. Court's concern is only with his health. Nothing to do with all that is going on," the bench told her counsel Akhil Sibal.



Rebel TMC MPs likely to join NDA meetings from next week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE 20 rebel TMC MPs who have broken away from the party are expected to begin participating in NDA meetings from next Tuesday sources said.

The development comes days after 20 of the TMC's 28 Lok Sabha MPs revolted against the party leadership following its defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections and joined the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), a registered but unrecognised political party based in Howrah.

The rebel MPs have submitted a petition to the Speaker seeking recognition of their merger with the NCPI. "Our petition about merging with NCPI is pending with the speaker and we are hopeful of a decision being taken soon," a party leader said. The political realignment became visible during the customary all-party meeting convened ahead of the Monsoon Session, where rebel MPs Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar attended after being invited by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. Their presence prompted opposition parties to stage a symbolic walkout before returning to the meeting.

If recognised by the Speaker, the breakaway faction would mark the biggest parliamentary splits in the TMC's history and they would join NDA as NCPI. Otherwise they will have to attend the meeting as TMC rebels. The expected participation of the rebel MPs in NDA meetings from next week is likely to further deepen the political crisis within the TMC and reshape parliamentary equations during the session.

POWER CORRIDOR

RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLED CAPACITY 288 GW

Renewable energy installed capacity in the country has increased from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 288.58 GW by June 2026, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. The 288.58 GW includes 162.15 solar, 57.44 wind energy, 11.75 GW bio power and 57.24 GW hydro power. Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik stated in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, "So far, a total of 297.36 GW non-fossil fuel sources based electricity capacity has been installed in the country as on June 30, 2026.



'NO CENTRALISED DATA BASE ON HAIs IN INDIA'

India does not maintain a centralised national database capturing institution-wise data on all hospital-acquired infections, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said Tuesday. In a statement in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said, "Government has instituted mechanisms for surveillance of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) through various national programmes and institutions. However, a centralised national database capturing institution-wise data on all HAIs across the country is not maintained," he said. The minister said that HAI surveillance is undertaken in designated institutions through established surveillance systems.

'52L GIRLS HAVE GOT HPV JABS AS OF JULY 15'

An estimated 52,10,302 girls have received HPV vaccine across the country till July 15, the Rajya Sabha was informed Tuesday. The HPV vaccine, which is delivered free of cost at designated government health facilities in the country, was launched on February 28, for approximately 1.2 crore eligible beneficiary girls aged 14 years across all 36 states and UTs. In a written reply, Union Minister of State of Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Anupriya Patel, said training on HPV vaccination has been completed for medical and paramedical staff across all 36 states/UTs in the country. The coverage data on the HPV vaccination campaign is captured through U-WIN portal.

SECURITY TALKS

Doval in Saudi, holds talks on energy & crisis in West Asia

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

NATIONAL Security Adviser Ajit Doval visited Saudi Arabia and held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, with the two sides focusing on strengthening bilateral strategic ties, enhancing energy security and safeguarding maritime corridors. Doval met Prince Faisal in Riyadh on Monday to review the strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia and discuss the regional security situation.

"They also discussed the latest regional developments and the efforts to enhance energy security and protect maritime corridors," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said. The meeting was also attended by Saudi Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Saud Al-Sati. The visit comes against the backdrop of heightened instability in the region following the continuing US-Iran conflict, which has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil trade. Fresh concerns have also emerged after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels announced a "maritime embargo" against Saudi Arabia, threatening to block Saudi vessels in the strategically important Bab al-Mandab Strait. The Houthis said the move was in response to "Saudi restrictions on ports and airports in Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen." Notably, Doval's visit marks his third trip to Saudi Arabia this year, underlining the strategic coordination between New Delhi and Riyadh.

SC seeks Centre's response on NRC appeals in Assam

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Case against bank over FERA quashed

In a relief to the Standard Chartered Bank, the SC on Tuesday quashed a 23-year-old criminal complaint and summons issued under FERA provisions, saying that the complaint was not supported by any documentary evidence. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra quashed the complaint.

Govt reply sought on green relief fund

The SC on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on a PIL alleging non-utilisation of environmental relief funds of over ₹1,000 crore. A three-judge bench was urged by Jabalpur-based activist Gyan Prakash that the relief fund should have been used for road accident victims.

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response from the Centre and other parties on a plea seeking directions to authorities to start an appeal process for people excluded from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam. The plea, filed by the Assam State Jamiat Ulama, was heard by a bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justice Joydalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M Pancholi. "Nothing is happening. For those who have been excluded, there is a provision for appeal, but nothing is happening," the petitioner's counsel submitted, adding that a similar matter was already pending before the top court. The petitioner argued that a large number of people are left out of the NRC process and need a structured way to appeal their exclusion. The final NRC was released on August 31, 2019. Of 3.30 crore applicants, 3.11 crore were included and 19.06 lakh were ex-

cluded, as per the data from the state coordinator's office. If a clear appeal process exists, the excluded people could gather documents to prove their case, the petitioner argued.

"Issue notice," the bench said and tagged the plea with the pending petition. The court sought responses from the Centre, Assam government and the office of the state NRC coordinator in four weeks. The petitioner also sought directions to issue national identity cards under Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, to all persons included in the final NRC.

At the time of the publication of the NRC, the Centre has insisted that the government machinery would assist excluded people with appeals. It had claimed that the needy would be helped through its vast district legal service aid network. The Assam government had assured free legal aid to any person excluded from the list and who is unable to afford such legal assistance to help the disadvantaged sections.

'96 Raj bus blast: SC sets aside death sentence, orders fresh trial

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside the conviction of Abdul Hameed in the 1996 Rajasthan bus blast case and ordered a fresh trial. The direction came nearly 30 years after his arrest and 12 years after he was sentenced to death. The bench asked the chief justice of Rajasthan High Court to assign the retrial to a special court in Jaipur and said proceedings should be completed within one year.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta held that the trial was "fatally flawed" due to denial of effective legal representation and procedural fairness. The bench, in its order, made it clear that the order was not based on the merits of the prosecution case, but on the lack of fairness as well as procedural propriety.

"The proceedings were fundamentally unfair, as Hameed was not provided effective legal assistance when witnesses deposed," the top court said, as it directed that he be given meaningful legal representation during the retrial.

The court also acquitted co-accused Pappu, alias Salim, who is serving a life term for allegedly supplying explosives to the accused.

Judges differ on 2-yr ban on razing houses of accused after FIR filed • Court orders case against police officer over assault, wants CID probe

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

Split verdict on 'bulldozer action' against accused

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

In a development related to the bulldozer action as a punitive measure taken by the UP government, a division bench of the Allahabad High Court has delivered a split verdict on whether the state can be barred from taking action to demolish the house of an accused for a period of two years from the date of registration of an FIR.

While Justice Atul Sreedharan observed that a 2-year hiatus must be put on the demolition, Justice Siddharth Nandan said such direction could not be given. Considering the dissent, the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court for decision by a third judge on the issue.

In a ruling passed on July 20, Justice Sreedharan said: "Rushing to demolish the dwelling of a person, accused of an offence, under the garb of the same being violative of municipal laws is impermissible, the same being a retributive exercise of executive discretion and so, no action may be taken to demolish his house for a period of two years from



SC directives on razing

In February, the court had called out the UP government for continuing with demolitions of properties linked to the accused despite the SC's directives to refrain from taking such actions.

the date of registration of the FIR." Justice Nandan said there was always a presumption that the government would only proceed in accordance with law and that it was open for aggrieved person to approach the HC. "No fixed time period can be put, for as a matter of fact it would result in keeping the operation of an enactment in abeyance, for the said period," Justice Nandan said.

The third judge will give his opinion on issues like if in exercise of powers under Article 226 of the Constitution, a direction be issued where the state may be restrained from taking any action under the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973, though subject to some exceptions. Moreover, opinion would be sought on whether before initiating a procedure under municipal laws, can a direction be issued to the authorities to give a 'notice of intent', one year prior to the initiation of the said procedure, for the alleged violation of the statutory norm.

In February, the court had called out the UP government for continuing with the punitive demolitions of properties linked to the accused despite the Supreme Court's directives to refrain from taking such actions.

The HC gave its observation while hearing a plea filed by three members of a family who alleged that a mob targeted their house in collusion with police after one of their relatives was booked under the POCSO Act and UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act.

Omar ups ante on restoration of statehood plank

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

JAMMU & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said restoration of statehood was the foundation for regaining the constitutional special status of the Union territory. He said the Delhi protest on Monday as "just the beginning" of the party's campaign for statehood.

"The promises made with J&K must be fulfilled. The Centre has assured restoration of statehood both in Parliament and before the Supreme Court. We went to Delhi only to remind the government of India about that promise," he told reporters in Srinagar.

Omar said the NC had invited all political parties from J&K to join the statehood protest in Delhi, describing the issue as one concerning the entire region rather than a single party. He alleged that instead of supporting the protest, opposition parties attempted to ridicule and discredit it.

"I don't worry what will be the attitude of the central government after Delhi protest. But I am sorry that those who call themselves sympathisers of people of J&K, forget their sympathy at these moments," he said. Responding to criticism from Kashmir-based opposition parties that NC was prioritising statehood over restoration of Article 370, Omar said statehood is essential.

Nudged by Mamata, Kalyan leaves TMC Kolkata rally venue

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

SENIOR Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee on Tuesday left the Martyrs' Day rally venue in Kolkata immediately after his nearly 23-minute speech amid reports of a verbal exchange with party supremo Mamata Banerjee over exceeding his allotted speaking time.

TMC sources said Mamata pulled up Kalyan for delivering a long speech despite her prior instructions to make the addresses shorter so that others can get time to speak at the rally organised to commemorate the killing of 13 Youth Congress workers in police firing on July 21, 1993 when the Left Front ruling West Bengal.

"Kalyan addressed the rally for about 23 minutes. So several party MPs, including Mahua Moitra, Kriti Azad and Dola Sen, could not get an opportunity to speak. Mamata and Kalyan got involved in an exchange of words over the longer speech," said a TMC leader.

Kalyan came out of the dais and left for his Kalighat house from the venue. He did not even wait for Mamata to address in the rally causing an embarrassment to the party. Party sources said Mamata came to the venue when Kalyan was speaking.

After a pause, the MP resumed his address. The party



CPM, Cong must unite to fight against Bengal BJP

The TMC supremo on Tuesday appealed the Congress and CPM to unite under the INDIA bloc in West Bengal and fight against the BJP. She also made it clear that she won't take back the rebel leaders to her party again.

sumed his address. The party supremo asked him to finish his speech but he allegedly ignored her instruction, and continued speaking for nearly 23 minutes, launching an attack on the BJP and the breakaway TMC faction led by Ritabrata Banerjee. Kalyan denied any spat with Mamata.

In her speech, Mamata urged the Congress and CPI(M) to unite against the BJP in Bengal under the INDIA bloc, even as her party's organisational split played out with rival Martyrs' Day rallies being held by her faction and rebels.

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE Patna HC has ordered registration of an FIR against a station house officer (SHO) accused of assaulting a man in custody and breaking his legs, and warning against "Nazi Germany-style" policing.

Directing the CID of Bihar Police to investigate allegations of custodial assault, the HC warned that unchecked police brutality could undermine the rule of law. Hearing a petition filed by victim Manish Kumar, Justice Jitendra Kumar on Tuesday observed that if such conduct by the police was allowed to continue, the constitutional guarantee of life and personal liberty would be rendered meaningless.

"If such conduct by the police is not curbed and controlled, the rule of law and the constitutional protection of citizens' lives and liberty in this country will cease to exist. The national police force could turn into something like that of Nazi Germany," he said.

The court directed immediate registration of an FIR against former SHO Kamal

PATNA HIGH COURT

'Nazi-style policing' comes under bashing



DGP asked to track probe

The Patna High Court has directed the Bihar DGP to obtain a report on the FIR registered at Murar police station and ensure that the CID conducts an independent investigation.

Nayan Pandey of Murar police station in Bihar's Buxar district and ordered that the investigation be transferred to the CID to ensure an impartial probe. According to the petition, Kumar, a resident of Ganghar village in Bhojpur district, had gone to a friend's shop in Chaugain village in Buxar on July 4, 2024.

Around 2 pm, a vehicle from Murar police station reached the spot. Kumar alleged that Pandey asked for his name and caste. After learning his caste,

the officer along with other policemen verbally abused him and assaulted him with lathis, leaving him with fractures in both legs.

Police denied the allegations, claiming before the court that Kumar had slipped during rainy weather and sustained the injuries. Rejecting the explanation, the HC relied on X-ray reports and other material on record, observing that the injuries were inconsistent with the police version.

The court held that a brutal assault by a police officer on a citizen cannot be treated as an act performed in the discharge of official duty. It ruled that no prior sanction under section 197 of the CrPc or section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) was required to initiate proceedings against the accused officer. The HC directed the Bihar DGP to obtain a report on the FIR registered at Murar police station and ensure that the CID conducts an independent investigation. The court ordered that a compliance report be submitted to the registrar general within 30 days.

MP becomes 4th BJP-ruled state to pass UCC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

MADHYA Pradesh on Tuesday became the fourth BJP-ruled state to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill. Passed by the state's assembly by a voice vote amid noisy protests by the opposition Congress MLAs, the MP UCC 2026 legislation, on getting the presidential assent, will render a common law for all religious communities to govern issues related to marriage, divorce, success or inheritance and live-in relationships.

Forming the crucial part of ruling BJP's core political agenda of the country having a UCC (that supersedes all personal laws), the bill was passed following a noisy discussion, which was punctuated by the House being adjourned by Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar twice within the two hours allotted for debating the crucial bill.

While the ruling BJP members accused the Congress MLAs of indulging in minority appeasement, the opposition members led by the LOP Umang Singhar protested against the bill, saying that resolving the long-pending issue of 27% reservation to the OBCs was more important than the UCC bill.

Second-time Congress MLA Arif Masood alleged that the bill infringed the Indian Constitution's Article 25 and Article 29.

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND Congress in-charge **K Raju** has moved to ensure greater coordination among ministers from the party's quota by aligning their public statements with the party's official stand.

As part of the initiative, Raju said that a ministers' forum will soon be constituted, which will meet every fortnight to discuss key issues and ensure that all ministers speak in one voice while effectively projecting the party's position.

The decision was taken during a meeting of Raju with the ministers of the Congress quota held in Ranchi on Tuesday. "All ministers will speak strictly in line with party policy; no public statements will be made without prior discussion on the party platform," said Raju.

All ministers would meet every 15 days to deliberate on public issues, form a consensus, and present the party's stance to the public, he added.

According to Raju, it has often been observed that ministers express differing opinions on the same issue; therefore, they have been instructed to present a unified party view to the public only after internal consultation on the party platform. A dedicated forum for ministers will be established

Meetings every 15 days

The decision was taken during a meeting of Raju with the ministers of the Congress quota held in Ranchi on Tuesday. "All ministers will speak strictly in line with party policy; no public statements will be made without prior discussion on the party platform," said Raju.



for this purpose, he said.

A campaign committee meeting was also held on Tuesday, during which it was decided that two committees will operate in each division. Campaigns focusing on public issues will be conducted in every division over the next six months.

According to Congress leaders, efforts will be made to connect with the general public and understand grassroots issues through seminars, workshops and public meetings. The full-scale campaign will commence once the state-level internal review process is completed.

Twist in Pune tale: Cops say Siya initially wanted to only hurt Ketan

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Pune

SIYA Goyal, the main accused in the Lohargarh Fort murder case, initially had no plan of killing her fiancé, Ketan Agarwal, but to make him seriously injured so that she could decline the marriage, citing his disability, and marry her boyfriend, Chetan Chaudhary.

Goyal (20) and Chetan Chaudhary (22) are in judicial custody for allegedly killing her 25-year-old fiancé and Pune-based developer Ketan. The digital and forensic probe has revealed that the two accused had searched the Internet on how to make a person permanently disabled and how to slow poison a person so that she could get away from the wedding, the Pune Police said on Tuesday.

The Pune police revealed that Siya and Chetan had various meetings to discuss how Ketan can be injured badly, not killed



also. They wanted to break his hand and leg and even discussed whether that could be done when Siya and Ketan were off to Bali on a pre-wedding trip and during the earlier Lohagar Fort visit. However, Siya was unable to execute that plan during the first two visits to Lohagar Fort as Ketan managed to balance himself and prevent the fall off the cliff. Siya covered up the incident by saying that she pushed Ketan to save him from a snake. Siya thought that by making Ketan disabled,

Multiple failed attempts

Siya and Chetan wanted to break Ketan's hand and leg and even discussed if that could be done when Siya and Ketan were off to Bali on a pre-wedding trip and during the earlier Lohagar Fort visit. However, Siya was unable to execute that plan during the first two visits to Lohagar Fort.

she would convince her family against marrying a physically challenged person.

"She did not want to kill Ketan. She and her boyfriend Chetan tried different means to injure Ketan Agarwal but failed in their attempts. Finally, they conspired to push him into the 400 ft deep valley of Lohagar Fort. Both the accused's and co-accused's mobile Google search histories show that they visited and studied Tiger Point and other deadly points of Lohagar Fort," said police.

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

WITH an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections, the Uttar Pradesh government is set to dole out sops in the days to come, with the latest being the decision to provide free scooters to girl students who complete their graduation.

The proposal related to the SOP was approved by the Yogi cabinet on Tuesday. The scooters will be delivered under the Rani Lakshmbai Scooty Scheme, which is available for the students from families with an annual income of less than ₹12 lakh, and only the top 5% of female students in each university and college will be eligible to get the benefit.

State Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay said, "The government will not only provide scooters but also their insurance, registration, helmets, essential accessories, and five litres of petrol. The scoot-



SOPS POUR IN

Proposal okayed under Rani Lakshmbai Scooty Scheme

To come with free insurance, registration, helmets, five-lt petrol

Being purchased through the GeM portal

Eligible for top 5% of students in varsities and colleges

Relaxation for disabled people, daughters of martyrs, and destitute people

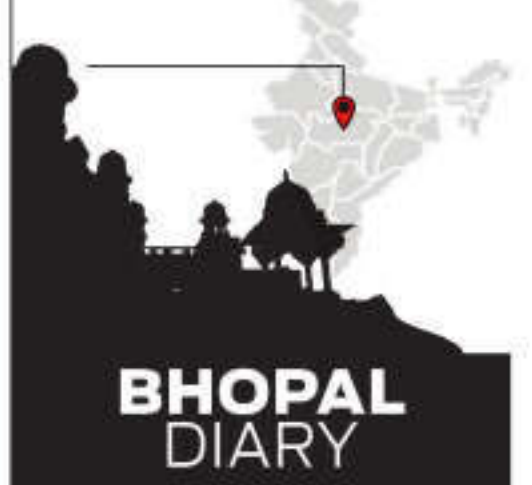
In all, 18 proposals got cleared in cabinet

Monsoon session to be held from August 3 to 6

Scooters for graduate girl students approved

new expressways in the state, the Vindhya Expressway and the Vindhya-Purvanchal Link Expressway.

Vindhya Expressway will start from the point where Ganga Expressway ends at Sonwar Tehsil in Prayagraj district. After this, it will cover Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Varanasi, and Chandauli to Sonbhadra. It will directly connect UP with the borders of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, thus giving a boost to interstate trade. The estimated cost of the project is ₹22,400 crore. It will be 330-kilometre long crossing approximately 341 villages. In Prayagraj, it will connect with the Ganga Expressway. For this, 2,800 hectares of land will be required. After the construction of the expressway, the journey from Prayagraj to Sonbhadra will be completed in three and a quarter hours, which currently takes up to six-and-a-half hours.



BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH

Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh

singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

'No decision on renaming Barkatullah University'

More than a month after Bhopal-based Barkatullah University's executive council (EC) approved a proposal to rename the university as Vagdevi Bhopal University, triggering a major political debate, the Madhya Pradesh government stated on Monday that no decision has been taken regarding it. Replying to a query in the assembly, the higher education minister, Inder Singh Parmar, informed that it hasn't been decided by the government to rename the varsity. On June 3, the varsity EC had approved a proposal to rename the university, which was renamed in 1988 after the famous Indian revolutionary Mohamed Barkatullah 'Maulana Barkatullah'.



BJP leader seeks votes at Cong chief's rural meet

Chirula village of Datia district witnessed an interesting development on July 19, as the ruling BJP's candidate for the July 30 Datia assembly by-election, Ashutosh Tiwari, appealed for votes at a public meeting being addressed by state Congress president Jitu Patwari. Actually, Tiwari was campaigning in the village when he came across the principal rival party's poll meeting, being addressed by the state Congress chief. When Patwari called him to the meeting, Tiwari went there and solicited votes for himself in the month-end bypoll. This led to a war of words between the two. Videos of the verbal dual have since been doing rounds on social media.

Digvijaya Singh quits social media

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh stepped away from personal use of his X page recently. He handed his X account and personal mobile phone over to his office staff and secretary to focus on spiritual activities and a planned padayatra from Ujjain to Ayodhya, slated to start from the Dussehra festival (October 20). His account, previously operating under the handle @digvijaya_28, has now been renamed OfficeofDVS, indicating that future updates will be issued through his office instead of being personally managed by him. The around thousand km long Padayatra would start from Ujjain's famous Mahakal Temple on October 20 and conclude in Ayodhya (UP).

AHEAD OF POLLS

Israel builds giant barrier across Gaza, entrenching territorial divide

CAIRO some 40 kilometers long and 11 kilometers wide, and home to

The line was envisioned in the US-backed agreement as a temporary division of the territory pending a fuller Israeli withdrawal. *AP*

APPENDIX IV (POSSESSION NOTICE) (for immovable property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.				
Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower / Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable property	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Combine Loan Code No.: 53610000037 Jangaon New Branch) Omkar Erugu (Borrower) Narsamma Erugu (Co-Borrower)	All that the RCC House with open place H.No.4-137T1 to an extent of 244.44 Sq.Yards or 204.35 Sq.Meters, Plinth area 510.00 Sq.Feet situated at Marigaddi Village, JangaonMandal, Dist: Jangaon.within the following boundaries : East : G.P Road, West : House of EruguShravan, North : Open place of KurakulaVenkataiah, South : House of DasanEliyas	14-Apr-26 ₹ 7,05,029.00	18-Jul-26
2.	(Combine Loan Code No.: 24800000861 & 24810000093 Khammam Branch) Kishan Gogunad (Borrower) Vijaya Gogunad (Co-Borrower)	All that residential house site Bearing No: 5-8-41/1 An Extent: 29.80Sq. Yards Situated Ramvlis Street, Maripeda Municipal Limits And Mahabubabad Dist, Telangana And Bounded On The : East : Gp Road, West : House of A. Vallya, North : House of Mr. Malli Balaji, South : House of the Mr. Guduru Nagarao	14-Apr-26 ₹ 6,91,799.00	20-Jul-26
3.	(Combine Loan Code No.: 53610000060 Jangaon New Branch) Kalyani Ravula (Borrower) Ravula Prabhakar (Co-Borrower)	The RCC House with open place Ground floor and first floor H.No.4-80 (Part) to an extent of 108.14 Sq. Yards or 90.41 Sq.Meters, Plinth area 394.87 and 394.87 Sq. Feet Total 789.74 Sq.Feet, situated at Vavilela Grampanchayath Palakurthy Mandal, Dist: Jangaon. Within the following boundaries And Bounded On The : East : GP Road, West : House of Ravula Sudhakar, North : G.P Road, South : House of Ravula Saidulu	14-Apr-26 ₹ 9,49,395.00	20-Jul-26
4.	(Combine Loan Code No.: 22410000467 Warangal Branch) Mallishetti Sriatha (Borrower) Late. Mallishetti Baia Chandra (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Co-Borrower)	RCC House with open place in H.No.59-3-114 (New) (part), 3-33 (Old) to an extent of 297.45 Sq.Yards, Plinth area 697 Sq.Feet, situated at Tharalapalli Village, Kazipet Mandal, Dist: Hanamkonda, and within the limits of Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation, and within the Registration District Warangal and within the Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar Office, Warangal (RAnd Bounded On The : East : Road (GP Road), West : H.No.59-3-115 of Koraboina Ramesh, North : H.No.59-3-113 of Addagalla Rajitha, South : Road (GP Road)	14-Apr-26 ₹ 8,15,173.00	20-Jul-26

Co said it is unable to bear inflationary pressure and will increase prices up to ₹30,000

PRICING PAIN

₹30K Maruti Suzuki announced a price increase of up to ₹30,000 across its vehicle range, effective August 2026.

● In June, MSIL had raised price of cars by ₹30,000

Earlier this month, **Mahindra & Mahindra** announced an average price increase of 2.7% on its SUVs and 2% on its CV range

2% **Kia India** increased prices by up to 2% across its model range, effective 1st July 2026.

With inflationary burdens now at elevated levels and the adverse cost environment continuing, the company is constrained to pass on a portion of the increased costs to the consumer — MSIL

Maruti to hike car prices second time in 2 months

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

CITING persistent inflationary pressures and rising commodity costs, carmakers have continued to raise vehicle prices. For the second time in three months, Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL), the country's largest carmaker, will increase prices across its model range. The company on Tuesday announced a price increase of up to ₹30,000 across its vehicle range, effective August. The exact quantum of change will vary from model to model. MSIL had implemented a similar hike of up to ₹30,000 in June.

The company said that for the past few months, it has been making continuous efforts to mitigate the cost impact to the extent possible through cost reduction measures.

"However, with inflationary burdens now at elevated levels and the adverse cost environment continuing, the company is constrained to pass on a portion of the increased costs to the market, while continuing to ensure that the impact on custom-

ers is kept to the minimum extent possible," said MSIL in an exchange filing.

Earlier this month, Mahindra & Mahindra announced an average price increase of 2.7% on its sports utility vehicles (SUVs) and 2% on its Commercial Vehicle (CV) range, effective July 10. Mahindra had attributed the price increase to commodity cost escalations.

Not only Mahindra, but other carmakers have also gone for multiple price hikes in recent times. Major luxury carmakers such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz India continue to revise their prices every quarter due to rupee devaluation.

The price hikes, however, have had a limited impact on car sales so far. Domestic passenger vehicle dispatches from manufactur-

ers to dealers touched an all-time high of 1,273,811 units in Q1FY27, rising 25.9% year-on-year, as per SIAM data. Among mass market brands, Kia India raised prices by up to 2% across its model range from July 1.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles last month decided to increase prices of its four-wheelers for the second time in a span of three months. "While TMPV continues to absorb a significant portion of these increases, a part of the impact is being passed on to customers through this adjustment. The extent of the price increase will vary across models and variants, ensuring that the overall value proposition of each offering is maintained," it said.

METALS PRICES RISE 10-30% IN ONE YR

Industry sources said prices of essential commodities like steel, plastic and other metals have surged sharply since early March, when West Asia war broke out. Steel, non-ferrous metals and plastic prices have surged between 10% and 30% in the last one year.

TURNAROUND

Bandhan Bank Q1 profit rises 35% as bad loans decline

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

PRIVATE sector lender Bandhan Bank on Tuesday reported a 35% year-on-year increase in net profit to Rs 502 crore for the first quarter of FY27, aided by lower provisions and an improvement in asset quality.

The bank had posted a net profit of ₹372 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

Net interest income (NII) rose 5.9% to ₹2,921 crore during the April-June quarter from ₹2,757 crore a year earlier, while total income increased 1.2% to ₹3,524 crore from ₹3,483 crore.

Gross advances grew 16.4% year-on-year to ₹1.56 lakh crore as of June 2026, compared with ₹1.34 lakh crore a year earlier.

Among key segments, the retail loan book (excluding housing) expanded 45% year-on-year; wholesale banking advances rose 38%, and the housing loan portfolio grew 6%.

Asset quality improved sequentially, with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) declining to 3.1% from 3.3% in the March quarter, while net NPA (NNPA) eased to 0.9% from 1%. On a year-on-year basis, GNPA improved by 182 basis points and NNPA by 43 basis points.

The provision coverage ratio, including technical write-offs, stood at 85.9% as of June 30, 2026. Provisions and contingencies (excluding tax) fell 40% year-on-year to ₹683 crore during the quarter.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 18.2% at the end of June, compared with 19.4% a year earlier. Return on assets (RoA) was 1%, while return on equity (RoE) stood at 7.7%.

"Our Q1 FY27 performance reflects the resilience of Bandhan Bank's franchise, the commitment of our teams, and the trust our stakeholders continue to place in us," Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Partha Pratim Sengupta said.

The bank said it remains focused on customer-centric, digitally enabled growth by strengthening its distribution network and expanding its product offerings.

Govt's outstanding debt crosses ₹200 lakh cr

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA'S outstanding liabilities rose to ₹201.17 lakh crore in FY26 (provisional), up 8% from ₹185 lakh crore in FY25, even as the Centre maintained that public debt remains fiscally sustainable due to a declining debt-to-GDP ratio and rising government revenues that have helped meet increasing interest payment obligations.

Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the debt-to-GDP ratio has been broadly on a declining trajectory since the Covid-19 pandemic, indicating fiscal sustainability of public debt. He

added that increasing revenue receipts have enabled the government to service interest payment obligations in a fiscally sustainable manner.

Of the total ₹201 lakh crore, public debt formed the overwhelming bulk of this, accounting for 91.2% of total liabilities at ₹183.43 lakh crore.

Public debt

Within public debt, internal debt made up ₹173.55 lakh crore, while external debt, valued at the current exchange rate, added a further ₹9.89 lakh crore.

Data furnished by the Ministry showed that interest payments increased steadily over the past five years, rising from

GOVT DEBT			
FINANCIAL YEAR	FISCAL DEFICIT	INTEREST PAYMENT	OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES
2021-22	15.85	8.05	139
2022-23	17.38	9.29	156
2023-24	16.55	10.64	172
2024-25	15.74	11.16	186
2025-26	15.19	12.43	201

Note: All figs in ₹ lakh crore

₹8.05 lakh crore in FY22 to ₹12.43 lakh crore in FY26.

The fiscal deficit, however, has moderated over the years. It

stood at ₹15.19 lakh crore in FY26 (provisional), compared to ₹17.38 lakh crore in FY23 and ₹15.85 lakh crore in FY22.

India-Chile FTA to be signed by Oct

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA and Chile are aiming to conclude negotiations for their proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by October, said government officials aware of the matter. The two countries are currently stuck on a few issues in the negotiations, which are expected to be resolved over the coming months.

The proposed agreement is particularly important for India as it seeks to develop an alterna-

tive supply chain for critical minerals and reduce its dependence on China. "The aim is to conclude the negotiations by October," officials told *TNIE*.

According to media reports, negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) faced hurdles over Chile's demand for market access for certain sensitive products. Chile has sought greater

access for products such as gold, salmon, apples, walnuts and other fruits and agricultural products, officials said.

Once the sticking points are resolved, the pact with the South American nation is expected to help India secure supplies of critical minerals such as lithium, copper, rhenium, molybdenum and cobalt — key inputs for the electronics, automobile and solar energy sectors.



TECH UNCERTAINTIES

IT firms warn AI revenue will remain uneven

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

ARTIFICIAL intelligence is creating new business for India's largest IT services companies, but executives say revenue from the technology is likely to remain uneven in the coming quarters as enterprises divert more of their AI budgets towards model usage costs and demand quicker returns on investment.

The comments from Wipro and HCLTech indicate that while clients continue to spend on AI, the way those budgets are being deployed is changing. Companies are increasingly paying for the tokens consumed every time employees and applications use AI models, while AI



implementation projects remain shorter in duration than traditional outsourcing contracts. "You all heard about tokenisation. As the landscape evolves, clients are focused on net productivity and require a tighter linkage between their investments and their outcomes," Wipro CEO Srinii Pallia said during the company's Q1 earnings press conference.

He added that AI spending was largely coming from existing technology budgets rather than new allocations.

"Clients' overall budgets have not dramatically shifted, but investment into AI is happening," Pallia said. "As that cost settles down, as we redesign the customer processes and implement AI, they will dramatically see the return on investment... in

the next few quarters, that should settle down."

The remarks come as AI model developers compete to reduce the number of tokens required to perform the same tasks, lowering inference costs for enterprise customers and increasing scrutiny over AI spending.

The trend is reflected in Gartner's latest forecast, which projects worldwide end-user spending on AI platforms and models to grow 63.4% to \$64.3 billion in 2026. It said enterprise AI budgets are coming under greater scrutiny, with spending increasingly shifting towards providers that can demonstrate cost control, usage efficiency and measurable business outcomes.



INDONESIA

PRESIDENT'S FREE MEALS BUDGET CUT TO \$12.8 BN

Indonesia has further reduced its budget for President Prabowo Subianto's signature free school meals programme to 229 trillion rupiah (\$12.81 billion) from 268 trillion rupiah and more cuts are possible, senior officials running the project said on Tuesday. The programme is Prabowo most important and expensive election campaign pledge and has been central to wider concerns about fiscal health. Originally, it was allotted 335 trillion rupiah in 2026 with a target by the end of the year of reaching 83 million recipients - roughly 30% of the population - consisting of students and pregnant women.

THAILAND

DEEPENS COOPERATION IN AI, TECH WITH CHINA

Thailand and China have agreed to deepen cooperation in technology and innovation as Bangkok seeks to strengthen economic and strategic ties with Beijing. The agreement was announced in a joint statement issued following Thai PM Anutin Charnvirakul's five-day official visit to China. The two countries will work to align policies in technology-related sectors, expand innovation exchanges, and collaborate in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence and supply chain resilience. Thailand aims to leverage Chinese expertise and investments to support its technological and industrial development goals. Both sides pledged to strengthen cooperation in foreign affairs and defence while reaffirming their commitment to building a "China-Thailand community with a shared future".

PHILIPPINES

CHINA LOCK HORNS OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA

China and the Philippines on Monday traded accusations after an encounter between vessels in contested South China Sea waters, with Manila saying one of its navy personnel was struck on the head and Beijing saying Manila provoked the incident. The Philippines said Chinese Coast Guard personnel aggressively struck one of its navy staff on the head with a wooden baton during an encounter in the Second Thomas Shoal on Monday in which a navy rubber boat was damaged. Southeast Asian foreign ministers will gather in Manila for high-level meetings this week, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also in attendance. Tensions in the South China Sea are expected to feature in the discussions.

SINGAPORE

TOURISM RECEIPTS RISE 5.8% TO S\$8.6 BN IN Q1

Singapore's tourism receipts grew 5.8% year-on-year to S\$8.6 billion in the first quarter of 2026, supported by stronger visitor spending as the city-state continues its "quality tourism" strategy of attracting higher-spending travellers. International visitor arrivals rose 2.9% to 4.4 million. Spending on sightseeing, entertainment and gaming registered the sharpest increase, rising 22.8% to S\$2 billion, followed by shopping expenditure, which grew 7% to S\$1.4 billion. Spending in other tourism-related categories, including airfares, local transport and business travel, also edged higher. However, expenditure on accommodation and food and beverage declined. China remained Singapore's largest tourism receipts market.

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

IN Birmingham, India sent six judokas — three in men and as many in women category. With the Glasgow Games featuring only 10 disciplines, a full-strength team comprising seven judokas each in men and women's section will represent the country. The Indian judokas won three medals in the 2022 edition with Shushila Devi Likmabam and Tulika Maan clinching a silver each in the women's 48kg and +78kg respectively while Vijay Kumar Yadav bagging a bronze in the men's 60kg. The medal tally may surge this time, especially with the country's judokas competing in all 14 weight categories.

"It all depends on draws and performance of judokas on the given day. In combat sports, it's difficult to predict," C Jivan Sharma, the coach, who is scheduled to travel with the team, told this daily. "But yes, we are expecting at least six medals and hoping for a gold as well which has eluded us so far despite participating in the four editions since the 1990 Auckland CWG," the coach added.

Tough opponents

Even as the competition is not likely to be as fierce as the Asian Games, the Indian judokas are expected to get stiff resistance from their counterparts from England, Scotland, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

"I have noticed Australia are fielding a maximum of three teams in the past few competitions. Besides, the judokas from England, Scotland, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand will be good. Shushila lost the final bout against a South African judoka in the 2022 CWG. Also, I have seen entries, England are fielding two-three judokas in a weight category, which obviously will make each weight category very competitive. But again as I said in the beginning, draws will play

INDIAN JUDOKAS LOOK TO HIT A SIX

Seven men and as many women will compete across all 14 weight categories at the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games



Tulika Maan

a major role as a favourable draw will increase the medal probability.

As per the administrative and financial approval of the sports ministry, four support staff (three coaches and a physiotherapist) will accompany the judokas for the multi-sport competition. The participants will leave for Glasgow on July 28 as the judo competition will begin on July 31 and conclude on August 2.

Women hold the edge

Given their past performances and current form, the probability of the women judokas fin-

INDIA SQUAD
Women: Shradha Chopade (-52kg), Asmita Dey (-48kg), Tulika Maan (+78kg), Yamini Mourya (-57kg), Ishroop Narang (-78kg), Unnati Sharma (-63kg) and Inunganbi Takhellambam (-70kg). **Men:** Avtar Singh (-100kg), Yash Ghangas (+100kg), Arun Kumar (-73kg), Karanjit Singh Maan (-90kg), Rohit Majgul (-66kg), Harsh Singh (-60kg) and Harsh Tokas (-81kg).

VENUE: SEC HALL

Competition dates (may change)

July 31: ● Men: -60kg, -66kg ● Women: -48kg, -52kg, -57kg
August 1: ● Men: -73kg, -81kg, -90kg ● Women: -63kg, -70kg
August 2: ● Men: 100kg, +100kg ● Women: 78kg, +78kg

ishing on the podium is more.

Shradha Chopade won gold in the 2025 Gold Coast Oceania Open in -52kg. Asmita Dey finished first in the -48kg at the Casablanca African Open last year. She also won a gold medal at the Macau Junior Asian Cup in 2023. Tulika is the most experienced campaigner in the squad and had finished second in the previous edition. The 27-year-old from Delhi was the lone Indian judoka to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics as well.

Like Tulika, Yamini Mourya is also an experienced campaigner with three medals at the continental open across age groups and senior category. Ishroop Narang, Unnati Sharma and Inunganbi Takhellambam too have won medals in the past in the prestigious events and will be aiming for a podium finish at the CWG.

African-origin athlete

Besides, Harsh Singh, Arun Kumar and Rohit Majgul are also expected to return with medals. Rohit is the first Siddi athlete to qualify for the CWG and Asian Games. Siddis are African-origin people, who were brought to India from Africa around three centuries ago. All eyes will be on Rohit when he competes at the event.

The 22-year-old has won a bronze at the 2025 Amman Asian Open and 2024 Rijeka Junior European Cup. Among men, 34-year-old Avtar Singh will be the leader of the pack with years of experience behind him.



Srihari Nataraj

Srihari eyes podium finish

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

WITH evolving scientific studies in sports, training has assumed a new dimension. Integrating sports science into traditional training is slowly adding to the longevity of players. At the same time, it is also giving people new meaning of the sport they had avidly pursued over the years. For a swimmer, this is even more critical as the demands of the sport take toll on the body and by the age of 25 or 26 the form starts waning.

Top swimmers know the real struggle starts after they peak, which is in their teens or early 20s. India's backstroke exponent and one of India's premier swimmer Srihari Nataraj knows it quite well that at 25 he is not growing younger. As he gears up for his third Commonwealth Games in Glasgow starting from July 23, the swimmer speaks to this daily from venue about his form and the new training method he has adopted to wade through the rigours of the swimming pool. He has cut down his swimming time drastically and is concentrating on other off-the-pool training rituals. In what could be his last Commonwealth Games, he

would want to leave a lasting legacy for Indian swimming behind. Last Games, he finished fifth in 50m backstroke and this time he would like to end on a high. Taking a leaf out of Australia's sprint swimmer Cameron McEvoy, Srihari is training less inside the pool and more outside it. At gym, he spends more time in strength and conditioning. Discarding his traditional training where he used to spend hours inside the pool, the swimmer says this has made him stronger and faster and has also improved his endurance. "For the past few years, McEvoy stepped away from the traditional method of swimming and he's only focused on training race specific and short distances and no overtraining, no unnecessary workouts," says Srihari. "And he only swims thrice a week and he doesn't cross two kilometres a week. Whereas for those following traditional swimming, the warm-up in each session is around one to two kilometres. Focus on one event, on short sprints and power. He has done a lot of research and he has taken inspiration from athletics where you don't see a 100m sprinter running twenty laps or jogging twenty laps at the slow pace around the track."

Though it was hard to con-

vince his coach, Srihari says he focussed a lot on the gym this year. "I have gotten a lot stronger, a lot more of the powerful. There's a lot of recovery required with this type of training and so I expect myself sleeping a lot more, find myself doing a lot more recovery work, resting, and then just lazing around. I actually have a lot of time sometimes." And like most modern sport, Srihari is using as much data as possible. He says he is swimming with SwimPal (cameras to analyse strokes and biomechanics) in Bengaluru and getting as much data and assimilating it with his training. "My entire focus now is only on one event — the 50m backstroke — and I'm training a very new way. And it's a lot more fun and enjoyable. And you know it's just something interesting and there's a lot of data behind it as with this active measurements happening." This has also led to change in diet. "I actually can't eat as much as I used to because I'm training a lot lesser," he says. "I have made some changes and you know I eat according to how much I train." Medalling in CWG would remain his goal. The national record holder in backstroke believes he can manage a better timing and hopes to step on the podium.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

CWG important indicator of lifters' form: Ex-coach Kunjarani

CHANDRA PRABHU

A FEW days ago, ace weightlifter Mirabai Chanu was named the flag bearer of the Indian contingent for the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games scheduled to begin on Thursday. Apart from being the flag bearer, the Olympic silver medallist will also lead the Indian weightlifting team of 12 athletes at the event.

However, in the lead-up to the Games, weightlifting has been marred with controversy with a few national campers, who were

scheduled to take part in the event, testing positive for banned substances. It was because of suspension of these lifters, as many as four weight categories will go unrepresented in the discipline, which in turn will affect India's medal prospects. Despite the controversy, two-time CWG gold medallist weightlifter and former national coach Kunjarani Devi strongly believes that the Indian lifters will win laurels for the country in the event. "I believe both our men and women weightlifters have the potential to win medals. Ulti-



Kunjarani Devi

mately, it depends on how they perform, how they train, and how dedicated they are," she said in an interaction facilitated by the Sports Authority of India

(SAI). For Chanu, the 2022 gold medallist in the 49kg category, the Commonwealth Games could act as a confidence booster ahead of what could be a tough year. The qualification window for the LA 28 Olympics will begin on July 27. Additionally, with weight categories changed ahead of the Games, Chanu's transition from a 48/49kg lifter to 53kg should start as soon as possible.

"Moving from one weight category to another is never easy. Transitioning requires careful planning because the level of

competition and the physical demands are different. The decision should be based on where the athlete has the best chance of winning a medal. If Mirabai performs best in the lower weight category, she should continue there. If Bindyarani Devi, (58kg lifter) is stronger in the higher weight category, she can compete there. The objective is to maximise India's medal opportunities. Our goal should be to ensure that India does not lose medal opportunities in any weight category," she explained.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

CHENNAI GM: GUKESH GOES DOWN AGAIN

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

WORLD Champion D Gukesh suffered a third defeat at the Chennai Grand Masters, this time at the hands of M Pranesh in the sixth round of the tournament. If he loses in the tournament's last round to Hans Niemann, the world champion will fall out of the elite 2700 bracket, a level generally considered as chess' elite. As soon as he lost to his younger compatriot, he rushed past the fans to mull over his thoughts.

In contrast, Pranesh went to the hall to interact with fans where live commentary and simultaneous display was on. When the game was on, it looked like Gukesh could score a win, but the world champion erred more than once with his calculations and Pranesh made the most of these opportunities to register a sensational win, his first in the tournament.

Pranesh who is know in



D Gukesh | MGD1

chess circles as "Baby-faced Assassin" lived up to his reputation by inflicting a shocking defeat upon the world Champ.

"I am happy to beat Gukesh. It is certainly the biggest win of my career," said an elated Pranesh after the game. Known as the 'Baby-Faced Assassin' in chess circles, lived up to the billing as he beat Gukesh in 39 moves. The World No 47, who is coached by RB Ramesh, again showed his killer instinct to one and all. "It (game against Gukesh) was bit shaky but I think it worked really well.



M Pranesh | MGD1

Like last year also I had a similar game with Abhimanyu Purnanik. Engine said it was winning for him but I managed to wreck him," said Pranesh.

Pranesh insisted that he was confident that he could beat Gukesh as they had played together right from the under-13 age group. "I was confident and believed that I can beat him. I had confidence from the way I play. We were already playing when we were young. So I have beaten him there (Under-13 and so on). And that gave the confidence," revealed

EXPRESS READ

Shooters face China test ahead of Asian Games

HANGZHOU: Indian shooting contingent will have one final opportunity to measure itself against the world's best before turning its focus to the Asian Games when it competes at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou, China on Wednesday. With the Asian Games less than two months away, the Hangzhou World Cup assumes added significance. Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar are some of the Indians who'll be taking part.

Devika, Prannoy lose on Day 1 of China Masters

CHANGZHOU: Devika Sihag put up a spirited fight before going down in three games, while HS Prannoy bowed out after a straight-game defeat on the opening day at the China Masters here on Tuesday. Devika lost 19-21, 21-19, 13-21 to World No 20 Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in the women's singles. Senior shuttler Prannoy, on the other hand, suffered a 10-21, 14-21 defeat against Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao.

As deputy, I have to play responsibly: Tilak

HARARE: The fall of early wickets in the UK and Ireland did not give middle order batters like him the license to go all guns blazing from the get go, said India T20 vice-captain Tilak Varma, insisting that his play is based on conditions. "When you have a VC attached your name, team must have given me that after due deliberation. I want to take the same responsibilities that the management gives me, I'm playing according to that," he said.

French flair, Puducherry spirit: Olympian Prithika's tale

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Panaji

"MUTTON BIRIYANI," and "Kari Kuzhambu" (Meat curry in Tamil) are dishes that may be unheard of in France. But for two-time Olympian Prithika Pavade, they are her favourite dishes.

While she could dabble around in her broken Tamil, Prithika has all the promise to become a star. The southpaw,

making her UTT debut this season, has been the silver lining in what was a disappointing campaign for the PBG Pune Jaguars. Her appetite for such dishes comes out of her Indian upbringing in Paris. Born in a family that moved to France from Puducherry in 2003 — a year before she was born — Pavade returned to the country of her roots once again for her UTT debut. "Last year, they



Prithika Pavade in action | UTT

asked me if I wanted to come and I saw it as a really great opportunity but due to a tight schedule, I couldn't make it. I thought to myself, 'Okay this year is the perfect moment for me to come back.' I also wanted to play UTT because everybody who played this league told me really good things about it," she said. Her return to the country as a professional is not the first. In 2024, the French World No 33

had taken part in 2024 WTT Star Contenders in Goa. Prithika also said she visits her grandparents in Puducherry for her holidays. But for her parents — Vijayan, a hotel steward in Paris, and Suguna, a supermarket worker in the suburbs, life was not the easiest when they moved to the new country. Tuesday's result: Kolkata T hunder Blades 8-7 U Mumbai.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

HI names 20-member team for World Cup

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

HARMANPREET Singh will skipper the 20-member men's hockey team for the upcoming World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands. **Squad:** Goalkeepers: Mohith HS, Suraj Karkera; **Defenders:** Jarnanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh (c), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Yashdeep Siwach; **Midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad; **Forwards:** Dilpreet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Sukhjeet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Abhishek.

PUBLIC NOTICE				
 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068				
The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Kolluru Chandra Sekhar/ H No 22 6384 Medipalli Ntpc Q No 19 9 17 Pts Karimnagar, Yottingar Yottinganagar- 505215/ TBHYD00007144920/ LBHYD00007157247	(As Described In The Loan Document/ Property Document Covering All That The Residential Flat No.G-3, on Ground Floor, Having A Built Up Area 900 Square Feet (Including Common Areas), Along With Undivided Share of Land Admeasuring 25.00 Square Yards Or Equivalent To 20.9 Square Meters, In The Building Name Known As "Sai Krishna Homes", Constructed On Premises Municipal Bearing No.1-18-70/3 Ptn No.1160107345 (Old No.1-18/70), on Plot No. B-25, In Survey No.194, Situated At "Narayanapuram, M.e.s. Colony, Alwal Village, Under Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Alwal Circle, The Then Malkajgiri Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Now Newly Formed As Alwal Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District, And Bounded As Follows: Owned By Kolluru Chandra Sekhar Bounded By : North: Staircase & Parking Space South: Neighbour's House East: Flat No. G-2 West: Flat No. G-1	29/06/2026 Rs. 28,72,547.68/-	16/05/2026
2.	D V P Ramesh Babu/ Lakshmi Sujana/ 3-4-103/E/202 Medha Rejoice Radha Krishna Nagar Attapurmedha Rejoice Rangareddy Hyderabad - 500048/ LBHYD00005540552	Schedule "A" Property All That The Land Admeasuring Ac.5-37 Guntas, In Survey Nos.184/A, 184/A And 184/E, Situated At Kismathpur Village, Gandipet Mandal (Previously Rajendranagar Mandal), Ranga Reddy District And Bounded on North: Land In Survey No.180. South: Road And Electricity Sub-Station. East: Land In Survey Nos. 186 And 179. West: Land In Survey No.148. Schedule "B" Property All That The Villa No.27 Admeasuring 235.55 Square Yards or 196.94 Sq. Meters, With Built-up area of 3110 square Feet Consisting of Ground + 2 Upper Floors And Porch For Car Parking's In Survey Nos. 184/A, 184/E And 184/E, Situated At "Aadhyas Adavari", Kismathpur Village, Gandipet Mandal, Bounded By: Jagir Municipal Corporation, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State, Which Is More Clearly Delineated In The Plan Annexed Herewith By Showing It In Red Color And Bounded on: North: Villa No.26 South: Villa No.28 East: Villa No.42 West: 40' Feet Wide Road	22/06/2026 Rs. 1,13,99,625.00/-	03/06/2026
3.	Kiran Salani/ Enem Shipping Agencies India Pvt Ltd/ M Gunasheela/ Mamata S Enclave Yopal/ Plot No 25 S S Enclave Yopal, H No 19-68/41/4 Brindavan Colony Dr A S Roo Nagar Kapa Near Carnival, Hyderabad, Rr te Hyderabad - 500087/ LBHYD00002338886	(As Described In The Loan Document/ Property Document Covering As Described In The Loan Document/ Property Document Covering All That The Semi Finished Building on Plot Bearing No. 25, Consisting of Ground Floor: 1407 Sft., First Floor: 1454 Sft & Second Floor: 513 Sft, In Survey Nos. 131 Part & 134 Part, Admeasuring: 177 Sq. Yards., or 147.95 Sq.mtrs., Situated At "Yopal Village", Under Ghmc, Alwal Circle, Malkajgiri Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, A.P., And Bounded on The: Bounded By: North: Plot No. 23 South: 50'-0" Wide Road. East: Plot No. 26 West: Plot No. 24	22/06/2026 Rs. 17,55,708.99/-	03/06/2026
4.	Gujjala Deepika Reddy/ Gujjala Venodhar Reddy/ Plot No 40 Phase 1 Aprana Palm Grove Kompally Nr Palm Grove, Hyderabad Hyderabad- 500013/ LBHYD00004736581/ LBHYD0000543420	Schedule "A" Property: All That The Lands Lying And Forming Part of Sy. Nos.333, 336,337,338,349 & 351, Totally Admeasuring Acres - 2.32 Guntas Out of Acres 4.37 Guntas, Situated At Pipeline Road Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur, Medchal Malkajgiri District, T.S., Bounded By: North: Road & Neighbour's Land South: Neighbors Complex East: Neighbors Complex West: Part of Land In Sy No. 336, 337, 338 Schedule "B" Property All That The Plot Bearing No. 812 on 8th Floor (Eighth Floor Above The Cellar) of Block "C" of "Shweta Aryan" Having Super Built Up Area [Including Common Area] of 1914 Sq. Ft Along With Two (2) Car Parking Area Admeasuring 200 Sft, With Proportionate Undivided Share In Land of 75.5 Sq. Yards In Lands Lying And Forming Part of Sy.Nos.333,336,337,338,349 & 351, Out of An Extent of Acres - 2.32 Guntas of Land Out of Total Extent of Land Admeasuring 4 Acres And 37 Guntas, Situated At Pipeline Road, Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State And Bounded By: North: Open To Sky South: Flat No.811 East: Flat No.807 West: Open To Sky	22/06/2026 Rs. 42,35,764.23/-	03/06/2026
5.	Devarakonda Anantha Surekha/ Bandari Shivapada/ 9-55/60 Plot No 60 Keshav Nagar Colony Road Number 03 Near Medipally Mandal Medchal N T R Statue Hyderabad, Hyderabad Medchal Malkajgiri District Hyderabad- 500092/ LBHYD00006295908 / TBHYD00006285035 / TBHYD00006289974 / TBHYD00006295772	Schedule of Property All That The Piece And Parcel of The Plot No. 122 (Northern Part), In Survey Nos. 45/Part And 47/Part, Admeasuring An Extent of 155 Square Yards, or Equivalent To 125.4 Square Meters, Situated At "Ailims Enclave" Mahadevpur Village, Bibinagar Mandal, Yaddari Bhongir Revenue District., Telangana State, G.P. Mahadevapur, Regn. Sub-Dist-Bibinagar, Regn. Dist-Nalgonda, M.P.P. Bibinagar, Z.P.P. Yadari Bhongir, Under S.R.O. Bibinagar, Bounded As Follows:-North: 30' Wide Road, South: Plot No. 122 (Southern Part), East: 30' Wide Road. West: Plot No. 122 (Western Part). Schedule of Property All That The Piece And Parcel of The Plot No. 81, In Survey Nos. 45/Part And 47/Part, Admeasuring An Extent of 267 Square Yards., or Equivalent To 223.212 Square Meters., Situated At "Ailims Enclave" Mahadevpur Village, Bibinagar Mandal, Yaddari Bhongir Revenue District., Telangana State, G.P. Mahadevapur, Regn. Sub-Dist-Bibinagar, Regn. Dist-Nalgonda, M.P.P. Bibinagar, Z.P.P. Yadari Bhongir, Under S.R.O. Bibinagar, Bounded As Follows:- North: Plot No. 80. South: Plot No. 82. East: Plot No. 83 And Plot No. 84. West: 30' Wide Road.	22/06/2026 Rs. 28,39,547.50/-	03/06/2026
6.	Bimannapally Sai Krishna/ Padakotti Madhav/ 3 1 12 137 36 1 Nagalaxmi Nagar Mallapur Rangareddy- 500051/ LBHYD00005869051	Schedule of The Property Flat All That The Residential Flat No. G-5, H.No.9-141-G5/1829, Ptn No. 2000009275; In Ground Floor, of "Sri Raghavendra Residency", Admeasuring 1073 Sft., of Plinth Area & Car Parking 100 Sft., (Including Common Areas) Along With Undivided Share of Land Admeasuring 32.44 Sq. Yards., or 27.11 Sq. Mtrs. Out of Total Land Admeasuring 660 Sq. Yards., or 551.7 Sq. Mtrs., Constructed on Plot No.29, In Premises Bearing No.9-631/H/5, In Survey Nos.141 & 143, Situated At Ward No. 0, Block No.9, Ballypally Village And Municipality, Medipally Malkajgiri, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, And Bounded on The North: Open To Sky South: Open To Sky East: Open To Sky West: 5'-0" Wide Corridor; (As Delineated In The Plan Annexed Hereto And Shown In Red Color) Total Complex Boundaries: North: 25' Wide Road South: Neighbour's Land East: 25' Wide Road West: Plot No.7.	22/06/2026 Rs. 31,58,193.00/-	03/06/2026
7.	Gunja Anil Kumar/ Ummadi Leena Kumari/ Plot No. 6 7 26 27, Near Peddamanna Temple, No Chengi Cherla Keesara, 26/Uu, Hyderabad- 500051/ TBHYD00007514062 / TBHYD00007514063	(As Described In The Loan Document/ Property Document Covering All That The Open Plot No. 6, 7, 26 And 27, In Survey No. 26/UU, Admeasuring 976 Sq. Yds., or 815.93 Sq. Mtrs., Situated At Chengicherla Village Bodupally Municipal Corporation, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District., And Bounded By: Bounded By : North: Plot Nos. 5 And 28. South: 30' Wide Road. East:30' Wide Road. West: 30' Wide Road.	22/06/2026 Rs. 2,74,70,745.98/-	03/06/2026
8.	Manisha Kumar/ Rakesh Kumar/ F No 502 Plt No. 21 Salketan Apt. Jubilee Enclave Kondapur Harsha Toyota Show Room, Hyderabad Hyderabad- 500084/ LBHYD00002980626	A-Schedule Land All That Land Admeasuring Ac. 4-01 Guntas, In Survey Nos: 197, 198, 199, 200 And 201, Situated At Nizampet Village & Grama Panichayath, Bachupally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District (Previously Quthbullapur Mandal, Ranga Reddy District), Telangana State, More Particularly Delineated In The Plan Annexed Hereto And Bounded By: North: Land In Survey Nos. 193, 194 & 196 South: Land In Survey Nos: 202 & 203 East: Ambur Cheruvu West: Land Left For Road Widening And Then Road B-Schedule Flat All That The Residential Flat No. 702, With A Built-up area of 1520 Sft. (Including Common Areas And Amenities) on Seventh Floor In Block-B of The Residential Apartments, Namely, "Aditya Vist Lagoon" Apartments And 1 (one) Car Parking Slot Along With An Undivided Share of Land Admeasuring 62.70 Square Yards Out of Ac. 4-01 Guntas, In Survey Nos: 197, 198, 199, 200 And 201, Situated At Nizampet Village & Grama Panichayath, Bachupally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, More Particularly Delineated In The Plan Annexed Hereto And Bounded As Follows: North: Open To Sky South: Open To Sky East: Open To Sky West: Corridor And Partly Open To Sky C-Schedule Properties The Amenities And Common Areas In Which Vendees Shall Have Proportionate, Undivided And Impartable Share Are Staircases, Terraces, Corridors, Pathways, Common Roads, Lifts, Generators, Electrical Transformer, Panel Boards, Club House, Swimming Pool, Water And Sewerage System, Including Water Tank And Sumps, Bore-well Motors, Pumps, Security Rooms, Etc.,	22/06/2026 Rs. 91,25,010.	

WEAVING THE BANARASI WAY

DESIGNER JAYANTI REDDY SPEAKS TO CE ABOUT ON HER LIFELONG LOVE FOR BANARASI TEXTILES, WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WITH WEAVERS, AND REIMAGINING HERITAGE FOR THE MODERN WARDROBE



TEJAL SINHA

LONG before it became her signature, Banarasi weaving was Jayanti Reddy's first love, the fabric she instinctively gravitated toward as a child. That enduring fascination now takes centre stage in her latest collection, the *Banarasi Edit*, a love letter to one of India's most iconic textile traditions. For her, this is more than revival, it's reinterpretation, an attempt to bring Banaras textile into a contemporary narrative without losing its soul. In a conversation with *CE*, the designer traces her lifelong relationship with handwoven textiles, reflects on the quiet grandeur of Hyderabad, and the years spent alongside weavers in Banaras — learning looms, *zari*, and card-punching firsthand and more.

Excerpts

When did handwoven textiles become central to your designs? Textiles have always been at the heart of my creative language. Growing up in India, I was constantly surrounded by extraordinary craftsmanship — whether in heirloom *sarees*, temple architecture, or the quiet artistry of local weaving

traditions. Over time, I realised that handwoven textiles were not just fabrics, but living narratives of culture, patience, and legacy. As my brand evolved, I became increasingly drawn to preserving these narratives while presenting them through a more contemporary lens. Handwoven textiles offered me the perfect medium — they carry history, yet they also possess an incredible versatility that allows them to feel relevant, powerful, and timeless in modern wardrobes.

What continues to challenge you creatively after establishing such a strong design identity? The largest creative challenge is constant evolution without losing authenticity. Once a brand develops a clear identity, there's a responsibility to remain true to its core while still surprising your audience. For me, that means continuously reimagining heritage textiles, silhouettes, and craftsmanship in ways that feel fresh, emotionally resonant, and culturally respectful. I'm deeply inspired by pushing boundaries — whether through sustainability, unconventional textile pairings, or reinterpreting traditional Indian couture for a new generation. Creativity, for me, lies in honouring the past while continuing to design for the future fearlessly

What inspired the *Banarasi Edit*? The *Banarasi Edit* is deeply personal for me. Ever since I was young, Banarasi textiles were always my first choice. Even as a child, I was instinctively drawn to the richness, grandeur, and artistry of a Banarasi weave. To this day, when it comes to choosing a *saree*, my first instinct is always Banaras. The edit was

Jayanti Reddy

born from that lifelong admiration. Banaras represents one of India's most extraordinary textile legacies, and I wanted to celebrate its beauty in a way that felt both reverential and relevant. More than revival, this collection was about reinterpretation — bringing the magnificence of Banarasi craftsmanship into a contemporary narrative while preserving the soul, elegance, and authenticity that make it so timeless.

How does the city influence your design style? Hyderabad has profoundly shaped my design perspective. It is a city where regal history, old-world craftsmanship, and contemporary sophistication coexist beautifully. From its architecture and pearls to its understated

opulence, Hyderabad embodies a kind of refined grandeur that deeply resonates with my aesthetics. That influence often reflects in my work through rich detailing, layered storytelling, and a sense of elegance that feels both rooted and modern. The city constantly reminds me that tradition and innovation can exist in perfect harmony.

How closely do you collaborate with weavers during the design process? My relationship with Banarasi weaving and this whole process goes back a long way! Earlier in my career, I spent days at a time in Banaras working closely with weavers, understanding every layer of the process firsthand. From studying the intricacies of the textile itself, to witnessing how the looms functioned, learning the card-punching process, selecting *zari*, and truly understanding the immense craftsmanship behind each weave — it was an invaluable part of my journey as a designer. Those experiences gave me a profound respect not just for the textile, but for the artisan communities who sustain this extraordinary legacy. Today, while technology has made the process far more seamless and efficient, with much of our communication and development happening remotely, our involvement remains just as strong. We continue to work very closely with artisans, supporting them at every stage, ensuring that their craftsmanship is preserved, celebrated, and meaningfully sustained.

DARSHITA JAIN

SOFT melodies, honest lyrics and a thoughtful mix of classical influences and contemporary indie music have helped Garvit and Priyansh carve a space for themselves in India's independent music scene. Over the years, the singer-songwriter duo has built a loyal following with songs that feel deeply personal yet relatable. Tracks like *Kahe Mose*, *Theher Ja*, *Raaziyan*, *Rang* and *Jiya Mera* have resonated with listeners for their warmth and emotional depth. During their recent visit to Hyderabad for their *Kahe Mose India Tour*, the duo sat down with *CE* to talk about their journey, the stories behind their music and everything they've learnt along the way.

Talking about their first time performing in Hyderabad, the duo shared, "This was our first time performing in Hyderabad, and it was a great experience for us and everyone watching."

The overwhelming response from listeners was what eventually brought them to Hyderabad. "We were not sure if we were going to perform in Hyderabad. However, we received a lot of requests on Instagram and really wanted to add a couple of cities in South India, which is how Hyderabad became a part of the tour," Priyansh expressed.

For Garvit and Priyansh, one decision changed the course of their careers. Moving to Mumbai together in 2022 gave them the chance to build a studio, spend every day creating music

and grow together as artists. "When you actually live together, you make songs together every day and learn a lot. I think we both became the turning point of our journey," Garvit expressed.

Although *Kahe Mose* became their breakout hit, they insist they never chase trends or write songs with the hope that they'll go viral. Reflecting on the song's success, Priyansh narrated, "For us, every song is the same, and with *Kahe Mose*, people started connecting with it, whether it was the chorus or the second half. We also got the biggest endorsement we could have ever received from Arijit Singh *dada*, and I think that elevated the song's journey even more."

Their creative process is equally uncomplicated. "There are a lot of processes, but what we recently started focusing on is finding the right composition. We create a lot of melodies and keep the one that fits or the one we like the most. Then we work on the lyrics and the situation, trying to capture the soul through the melody and add more



soul to the lyrics," Garvit stated.

Even as music trends continue to change, the duo remain focused on creating songs they genuinely connect with. Sharvit thought on why soulful music continues to find listeners, they shared, "We never make music thinking about trends. We make music that we like."

When asked to recommend one song to someone hearing their music for the first time, both instantly chose *Theher Ja*. Smiling, they shared, "*Taaki woh log bhi thair jaaye humare paas.*" (Smiles)

With a Netflix project and their first album in the works, the duo have plenty to look forward to. Yet, they say what keeps them returning to the studio every day isn't success or recognition, but the simple joy of making music. "I think the feeling of *sukoon* and happiness we get from making music, and even listening to our own music, keeps us going because it always uplifts our mood. New music keeps inspiring me, and sometimes even a single element is enough to make me think we can create something amazing with it. I start working on it, make him listen to it, and then we begin creating music and magic together," the duo concluded.



Garvit and Priyansh

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to cityexpresshyd@newindianexpress.com with the subject line 'Know Your City Quiz'. Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Thursday.



1

What is typically offered as Bonam during Bonalu?

2

According to a recent ASI inscription discovery, Bonalu can be traced back to which year?

INSIDE



PAGE 3

DECODING WOMEN'S HORMONAL HEALTH

SHREYA VERONICA

FOR generations of readers, Ruskin Bond's stories have been a gateway to the joys of literature. His gentle, evocative writing has found a place not only on bookshelves but also in school textbooks, introducing young readers to his timeless storytelling. Now, Ruskin's autobiography *Lone Fox Dancing* has reached Telugu readers as *O Ekantha Jeevi Brathukata*, translated by noted writer Dasari Amarendra and published by Tirupati Kiran. At a recent book reading session at Kathatitam in Hyderabad, *CE* spoke to Amarendra about the experience of translating one of India's most beloved authors.

For Amarendra, translation begins with admiration. A writer of short stories and essays himself, he says he only chooses books that he believes deserve a wider audience. "Whenever I come across a remarkable book, I feel it should be available in Telugu too," he says. To him, translation is the deepest way of understanding a work. "Reading, discussing and writing about a book helps you understand it, but translation takes you behind every line and nuance. It lets you understand what the author is truly trying to say," he adds.

His relationship with

Ruskin Bond's writing spans more than five decades. Amarendra first read *The Room on the Roof* in 1971 and was deeply moved by it. Years later, when publisher Tirupati Kiran suggested translating Ruskin's autobiography, curiosity soon turned into passion.

What fascinates him most about Ruskin is his unwavering commitment to writing. "Very few writers in India survive solely through their writing. Ruskin decided early in life that he wanted to be a writer and remained true to that decision. He believed in words and never compromised them," Amarendra shares.

He also admires Ruskin's simplicity and optimism. Despite growing up in difficult circumstances and facing financial struggles, Ruskin remained content with who he was. "His honesty and frankness are what I admire the most. I also see a bit of myself in his journey," he narrates.

Several moments in *Lone Fox Dancing* res-

onated with Amarendra personally. Ruskin's reflections on loneliness, friendship and growing up reminded him of his own life. "I felt as though I was living in the places he described and reliving those memories with him," he says.

Surprisingly, Amarendra found the translation process effortless. "To me, Ruskin Bond is first a child at heart, not merely a celebrated author. Though I have never met him, I feel I understand him through his writing," he notes. He credits Ruskin's simple, elegant English for making the work enjoyable. "I felt as though I was walking beside him through different stages of his life. There

was immense joy in translating this book," he adds.

At 73, Amarendra says he wants to spend the next few years reading, travelling and translating. While he has no specific project in mind, he admits he would like to translate another of Ruskin's shorter works.

For publisher Tirupati Kiran, the project was a personal dream. "Ruskin Bond and I share the same birthday, and I grew up reading his books," he says. Keen to introduce international literature to Telugu readers, Kiran acquired the translation rights and entrusted the work to Amarendra. Meeting Ruskin in person and presenting him with the Telugu edition, he says, remains one of the proudest moments of his publishing journey.



Dasari Amarendra



epaper.newindianexpress.com

BOOK NOOK



The Sixth Faction by Veronica Roth

The book follows Beatrice Prior's buried secrets, as a mysterious boy and an underground rebellion begin to unravel, she must decide whom to trust in a world where every decision comes at a cost.



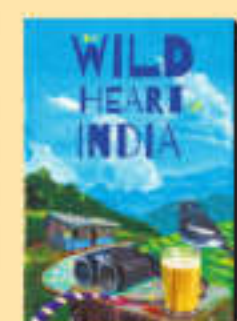
How the Chilli Became Hot by Sudha Murty

Princess Chilli doesn't know how to control her tongue. She is confronted with her behaviour when a grand feast is arranged and realises that beauty alone isn't enough.



Off With Their Heads by Mandira Shah

A dystopian novel, Off With Their Heads, follows Elle, Sameer, Pariza, and Neil, who are sceptical of the bigger and faster AI device. They are invited to join a resistance movement when murder enters the campus.



The Wild Heart of India by TR Shankar Raman

The book brings together vivid encounters with wildlife, landscapes, and the people who live alongside them. Through journeys into fragile ecosystems, the narrative explores the tension between conservation and human survival.



HANDMADE BEAUTIES

An artisan arranges handcrafted floral decorations at the Bonalu Handicrafts Mela 2026, held at the HMDA Grounds in Hyderabad | VINAY MADAPU

QUICKFIX

MOMO DELIGHT

INGREDIENTS

- Maida: 2 cups
- Oil and black pepper: 1 tbsp each
- Cabbage, carrot, and onion (finely chopped): 1 cup
- Garlic and ginger (grated): 1 tbsp
- Water: as needed
- Soy sauce and salt: to taste

METHOD

- Mix maida and salt, add water, and knead into a soft dough; rest for 20 minutes. Heat oil, sauté garlic and ginger for a minute.
- Add onion, cabbage, and carrot; cook for a few minutes. Stir in soy sauce, salt, and pepper; cook until slightly dry.
- Place a spoonful of filling in the centre, fold and seal the edges to shape the momo
- Steam for 10–12 minutes and serve hot with chutney.



Contributed by Sehar Malhotra, Bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Dermacare

NEAT Everyday Aloe Vera Gel delivers instant cooling, hydration, and soothing care for skin and scalp. Its lightweight, non-greasy formula absorbs quickly without leaving a sticky residue, making it ideal for everyday use.

● WHERE: <https://www.neateveryday.com/>



Party

Make a statement with this Desigual Abstract Printed Bodycon Midi Dress that celebrates bold patterns and contemporary elegance.

● WHERE: Mynta



Haircare

Xtovia's Bond Surface Repair Mask is an intensive restorative treatment formulated to deeply repair and strengthen damaged hair. Powered by the brand's proprietary technologies NanoEncap™, CutiClone™, and LipidMimic™, it helps repair surface damage, smooth the hair cuticle, and replenish the hair's natural lipid barrier.

● WHERE: <https://xtovia.com/>



Grooming

Salve Group has announced the launch of its advanced skincare solution - Parasoft Foot Cream. Designed to deliver intense hydration and repair, the product is specially developed for individuals dealing with dry, rough, and cracked feet.

● WHERE: <https://salvepharma.com/>

Fashion

With its flattering fit and fluid silhouette, the Sky Dress from 'Evirose' European Summer Collection 2026 is designed for brunches, holidays, summer soirées, and destination celebrations.

● WHERE: <https://evirose.in>



Jewellery

An exquisite expression of rarity and refined craftsmanship, the Tanzanite Beads Diamond Necklace, Ring and Earrings by Mohar Fine Jewellery captures the enchanting beauty of one of the world's most coveted gemstones.

● WHERE: <https://moharjewels.com/>



Menswear

Redefining contemporary groomswear, Laromani Wedding Collection 2026 seamlessly blends age-old Indian craftsmanship with modern, sharp silhouettes.

● WHERE: <https://laromaniofficial.com/>



Footwear

Bright, playful, and effortlessly chic, the Daisy Mae Colourful Cushioned Sliders by House of Vittu are designed to bring comfort and artistry together.

● WHERE: <https://houseofvittu.com/>



Storytelling

Khushiyan by Laksh Maheshwari explores fundamentals of human life.

● WHEN: July 25, 8 pm

● WHERE: Bhaskara Auditorium, Ambedkar Colony



Music

Dive into soulful tunes and vibrant energy with Band Varnam.

● WHEN: July 25, 9 pm

● WHERE: Urban Mayabazar, LB Nagar



Streetwear

Upgrade your streetwear game with trendy Korean baggy pants from Technosport, designed for a relaxed, oversized fit and all-day comfort. Featuring a wide-leg silhouette and modern minimal style, these pants are perfect for casual outings, travel, or everyday wear.

● WHERE: <https://www.technosport.in>

Comedy

I am Italian, but it's not my fault, a stand-up comedy show by Christian Giacobbe will be held.

● WHEN: July 25, 730 pm

● WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Gachibowli



NOW STREAMING FITBIT

REGIONAL



GURTHUKOSTUNNAYI (Telugu, series)

Santosh is set to wed his childhood sweetheart – if her grudge-holding dad doesn't stop it. Then a freak accident wipes his memory before the big day.

Cast: Viraj Ashwin, Yashashree Rao, Viva Raghav

● Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

LUCKY (English, series)

When a multi-million-dollar heist goes sideways, con artist Lucky is forced to go on the run. Pursued by both the FBI and a ruthless crime boss, Lucky must fight for her life and find a way out.

Cast: Anya Taylor-Joy, Timothy Olyphant, Annette Bening

● Watch on: Apple TV

HEARTSTOPPER FOREVER (English)

It's a new school year for the Truham-Higgs gang. As Nick and Charlie's relationship deepens, their thoughts turn to life after the last bell rings.

Cast: Kit Connor, Joe Locke, William Gao

● Watch on: Netflix



SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix	₹ 199/month
Prime Video	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar	₹ 899/year
Zee5	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten	₹ 299/month
Aha	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV	₹ 299/month

CAN'T STEP OUTSIDE? EASY WAYS TO COMPLETE 10,000 STEPS INDOORS

Rainy days, extreme heat poor air quality, or a packed work schedule often make it difficult to step outside for a walk. But that doesn't mean you have to give up on your daily movement goals. With a little planning, you can stay active and even complete 10,000 steps without leaving your home. While 10,000 steps is not a magic number, it is a practical goal that encourages people to move more and spend less time sitting. The key is to look for opportunities to stay active throughout the day.

START YOUR DAY WITH MOVEMENT

Instead of reaching for your phone after waking up, spend 10 to 15 minutes walking around your home. You can walk through the hallway, balcony, or even march in place while listening to music or catching up on the news.

TURN HOUSEHOLD CHORES INTO EXERCISE

Vacuuming, sweeping, mopping, dusting, and organising your home all involve walking and movement. These activities may not feel like a workout, but they contribute significantly to your daily step count.

WALK DURING SCREEN TIME

Watching television or attending long online meetings does not always require you to stay seated. Walk around the room during advertisements, take calls while pacing, or march in place during virtual meetings where your camera is off.

TAKE MOVEMENT BREAKS

If you work from home, avoid sitting for long hours. Set a reminder every hour to get up and walk for three to five minutes. These short breaks improve circulation, reduce stiffness, and add hundreds of extra steps by the end of the day.

MAKE INDOOR WORKOUTS COUNT

Low-impact cardio sessions, dance workouts, aerobics, or even walking workouts available online can quickly increase your daily steps while improving fitness.

INVOLVE THE FAMILY

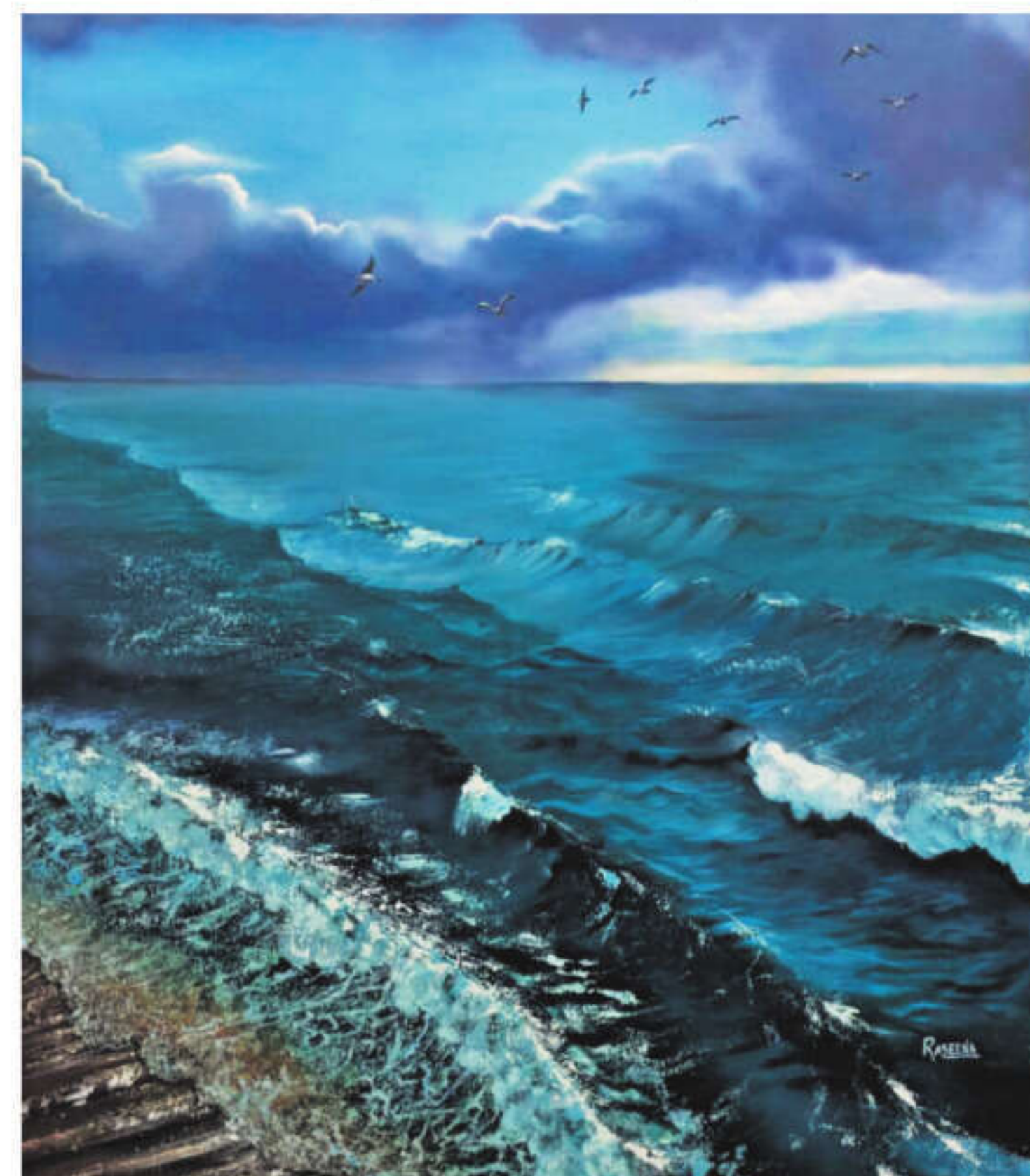
Walking games with children, dancing together, or simply taking a few laps around the house after dinner can make movement more enjoyable and easier to maintain.

Reaching 10,000 steps and staying active is always possible with a little creativity and consistency.



By Chandana Jagadeeshan, fitness expert, cult—a fitness and wellness platform

ARTCORNER



REBIRTH AND RUINS

Artist Dr Lakshmiresh Umeshan paints a reflection on nature's ability to flourish despite decay and the passage of time.

WEDNESDAY
22.07.2026

Actress Shamita Shetty's recent health revelation sparked conversations on endometriosis and perimenopause, as experts explain symptoms, diagnosis, hormonal changes and timely treatment

DARSHITA JAIN

FOR years, actress Shamita Shetty believed that the pain she experienced was just another part of being a woman. It was only after living with persistent symptoms and struggling to get the right diagnosis that she discovered she had endometriosis and was also going through perimenopause. Her story has resonated with many women who continue to dismiss severe period pain, fatigue and hormonal changes as something they simply have to live with. Experts say recognising these symptoms early can make a significant difference to health and quality of life.

One of the biggest reasons for delayed treatment is that many symptoms are normalised. Explaining why this happens so often, Dr Vimee Bindra, obstetrician and gynaecologist at Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, says, "Delayed diagnosis is common because symptoms such as painful periods, fatigue and pelvic pain are often dismissed as a normal part of menstruation. Greater awareness among women and healthcare providers is essential for timely diagnosis and treatment."

Hormones also play an important role in why these conditions can feel so confusing. Dr Vidya Tickoo, consultant endocrinologist and diabetologist at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, explains, "Although they do so in distinct ways, hormones are crucial in both endometriosis and perimenopause. Endometriosis is an estrogen-responsive disorder; changes in estrogen can exacerbate pain and bleeding, and it increases the growth and inflammation of endometrial tissue outside the uterus. Declining ovarian function and increasingly unpredictable levels of progesterone and estrogen during the perimenopause cause symptoms like hot flashes, irregular periods, sleep disturbances, and mood

Decoding women's hormonal health



swings."

Many women wonder where normal period pain ends, and something more serious begins. Dr Vimee narrates, "Mild menstrual cramps that improve with routine pain relief are generally normal. However, severe pain that disrupts daily life, worsens



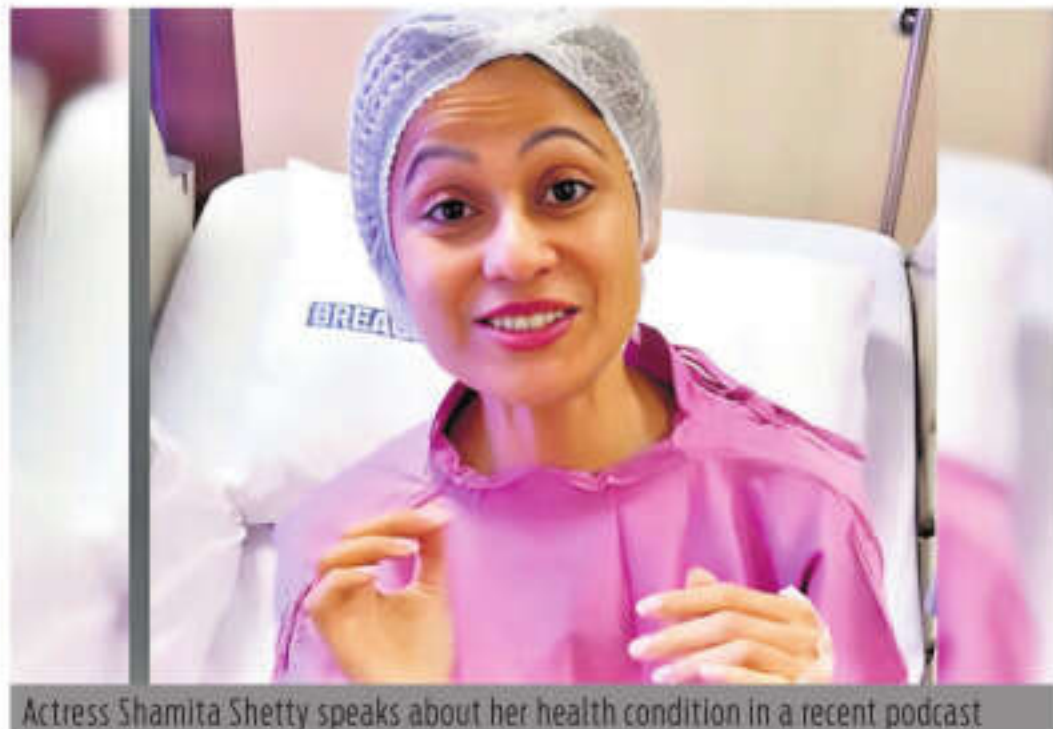
Perimenopause is typically associated with irregular cycles, hot flashes and mood changes, while endometriosis causes persistent pelvic pain. Both conditions can coexist

Dr Vidya Tickoo

over time, persists beyond menstruation, or is associated with painful intercourse, bowel movements or infertility should never be ignored and requires medical evaluation."

The early signs of perimenopause can also be easy to overlook because they vary from one woman to another. Dr Vidya expresses, "Early perimenopausal hormone changes are mild. Shorter or longer periods, heavier or lighter bleeding, new breast discomfort, increased PMS, sleep disturbances, hot flashes, or mood swings are all possible symptoms for women. If your symptoms make it difficult for you to go about your everyday life, if your bleeding is heavy or protracted, or if you experience new pelvic discomfort, heavy bleeding, abrupt weight changes, persistent exhaustion, or mood issues, you should consult with a doctor."

Living with untreated endometriosis can affect much more than monthly cycles. Dr



Actress Shamita Shetty speaks about her health condition in a recent podcast

Vimee explains, "Common symptoms include severe menstrual cramps, chronic pelvic pain, painful intercourse, heavy bleeding, painful bowel movements and infertility. Left untreated, endometriosis can significantly affect fertility, emotional wellbeing, work productivity and overall quality of life. Early diagnosis and personalised treatment help improve long-term outcomes."

At the same time, hormonal symptoms can overlap with other conditions, making proper evaluation essential. Dr Vidya states, "Perimenopause can be mistaken for thyroid issues and other endocrine diseases (such as prolactinoma, adrenal abnormalities, or polycystic ovary syndrome). Endocrinologists differentiate between them us-

ing a focused history and biochemical testing."

Doctors also point out that endometriosis and perimenopause can exist together. Dr Vimee highlights, "Both conditions may cause pelvic discomfort and menstrual changes. Perimenopause is typically associated with irregular cycles, hot flashes and mood changes, while endometriosis causes persistent pelvic pain. Both conditions can coexist."



Left untreated, endometriosis can significantly affect fertility, emotional wellbeing, work productivity and overall quality of life

Dr Vimee Bindra

and seeking a second opinion from experts when symptoms persist can help women receive timely care instead of accepting pain as their normal.

DARSHITA JAIN

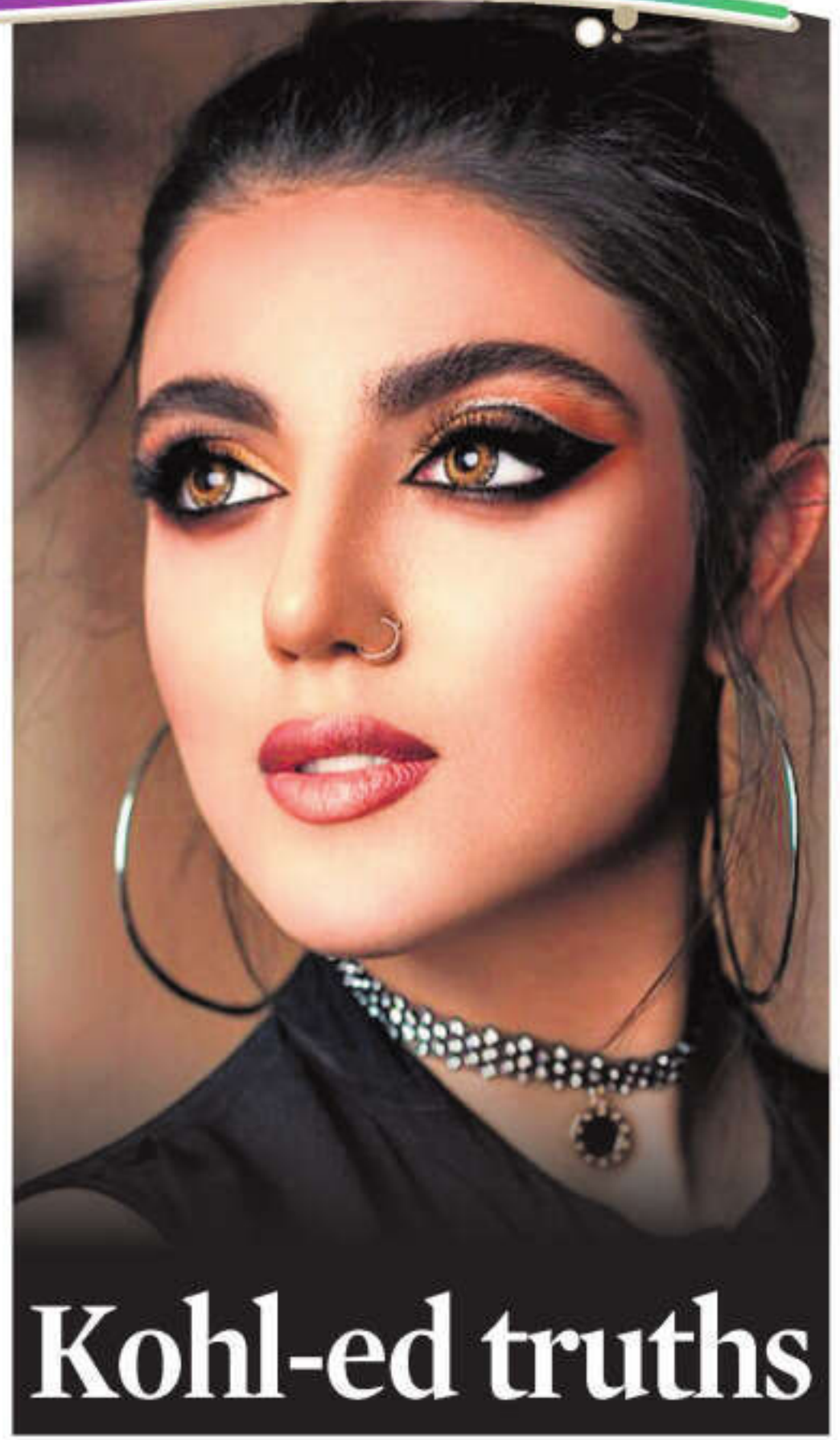
CAN wearing eyeliner, kajal or mascara every day really block the tiny oil glands in your eyelids? A viral social media reel showing a woman undergoing eyelid surgery after wearing eye makeup has left many people wondering if their everyday beauty routine could be doing more harm than good. While the video has sparked concern, eye specialists say there is more to the story. Makeup itself is not usually the problem. Instead, it is the way it is applied, removed and cared for over time that can make the difference.

Although the viral reel has led many people to question whether daily eye makeup is safe, doctors say the claim needs a bit more context. "The concept requires refinement, but it is partially true. Although wearing makeup daily does not always result in clogged oil glands, it can exacerbate meibomian gland blockage and dry eye symptoms if it is applied too close to the lash line, improperly removed, or paired with oily cleansers and poor lid hygiene," explains Dr Bhanu Prakash M, senior consultant cataract, cornea and refractive surgeon at Yashoda Hospitals.

From a makeup artist's perspective too, the products people use and the habits they adopt after applying makeup matter just as much as the makeup itself. "I think using good quality products that are actually tested and safe to use on the skin, especially in sensitive areas like the eyes, is important. Makeup should always be removed before going to bed because sleeping with it can clog pores, cause breakouts, and harm the skin if proper aftercare and skincare are not followed," says makeup artist Kiran Ved.

Understanding the role of these tiny glands also helps explain why they are so important for eye health. "The meibomian glands are tiny oil glands in the upper and lower eyelids that help prevent tears from evaporating too quickly. When they get blocked, early signs can include dry, burning, gritty, irritated, or watery eyes and eyelid redness," says Dr Bhanu.

While makeup has become the focus of the conversation, experts point out that blocked oil glands are not something only makeup users experience. "People who apply makeup are not the only ones. Although anybody can get it, those with dry eyes, blepharitis, contact lens wear, advanced age, and occasionally specific drugs



Kohl-ed truths

or environmental exposure are more likely to have it; cosmetic abuse may be an additional trigger rather than the only cause," he explains.

That is why everyday makeup hygiene deserves as much attention as the products themselves. Kiran says people often overlook the importance of cleaning the tools that come into contact with their skin and eyes. "Brushes, sponges and applicators need to be cleaned regularly because they can collect bacteria and even fungus over time. If you do not have time to wash them every day, alcohol based brush sanitisers can be used in between, but brushes should still be washed at least once a week and replaced if they are damaged or show signs of fungal growth," she explains.

Thoroughly removing makeup is another habit that experts believe should never be skipped. "Highly pigmented kajal, mascara and eyeliner often need more than one cleanse. Double cleansing is non-negotiable. Start with an oil-based cleanser or cleansing balm, then follow it with a gentle face wash. No matter how tired you are, never

Kiran Ved

sleep with makeup on. Removing it completely is just as important as brushing your teeth before bed," Kiran adds.

The way makeup is applied can also influence eye health over time. "Keep eyeliner and kajal away from the waterline,

avoid sharing eye cosmetics, replace old products regularly, and never sleep with makeup on," narrates Dr Bhanu.

Even if a blockage does occur, doctors say it can usually be treated successfully if addressed early. "Warm compresses, eyelid massage, lid hygiene and lubricating drops help most patients. Surgery is typically only recommended when conservative treatment is ineffective for a persistent chalazion or refractory blocked gland, or when the lump continues to recur or impairs vision," Dr Bhanu acknowledges.

The viral reel may have started the conversation, but experts say it should not be a reason to fear eye makeup altogether. Instead, it is a reminder that healthy eyes depend on simple, consistent habits. Choosing reliable products, keeping brushes clean, removing makeup properly every night and paying attention to early signs of discomfort can go a long way in protecting your eyes.



Dr Bhanu Prakash M

HYDERABAD DIGEST

Sindhu Hospitals partners with PRIP Hyderabad

As healthcare education increasingly shifts towards experiential and patient-centred learning, Pulla Reddy Institute of Pharmacy (PRIP), Hyderabad, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sindhu Hospitals to provide structured clinical training for students enrolled in its Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and PharmD (Post Baccalaureate) programmes. The partnership will enable students to undergo hands-on clinical training in a hospital environment, working alongside clinicians and healthcare professionals while gaining practical exposure across general medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, dermatology, and orthopedics.



APS Bolarum student achievers felicitated

The felicitation ceremony to honour the outstanding achievers of classes X and XII in the CBSE Board Examination 2025-26 was held on 21 July 2026 in the Assembly Area of Army Public School Bolarum. The event was organised to celebrate the hard work, perseverance, dedication, and exceptional academic achievements of our APS Bolarum students.

La Derma Skin & Hair Clinic comes to Hyd

La Derma Skin & Hair Clinic debuts in Hyderabad with a new state-of-the-art clinic at Gachibowli. Inaugurated by Shilpa Reddy, Dr Khushbu Tania, the launch was also graced by Bollywood director Koratala Shiva, actress Madhulagna Das, and several other distinguished guests from the city's business, entertainment and social circle.



Run for SMA on Aug 9 at Gachibowli Stadium

Cure SMA Foundation of India, a parent-led registered non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), announced the 4th edition of Run for SMA 2026, scheduled to be held on August 9 at Gachibowli Stadium.

Resonance records a double victory in NEET UG 2026 results in Hyderabad



Resonance Junior Colleges, Hyderabad, has delivered an exceptional performance in the NEET 2026 results, with its students securing remarkable ranks at both the national and Hyderabad levels. Himanshu Kumar emerged as the National Topper, securing AIR 4 in the GEN-EWS category and AIR 111 in the open category, with an outstanding score of 690 out of 720 marks. Adding to this achievement, Atipamula Bhargava emerged as the Hyderabad topper, securing AIR 68 in the OBC-NCL category and AIR 268 in the open category, with an impressive score of 680 out of 720 marks.

TEJAL SINHA

BRAIN health isn't just an issue of old age, it begins in early childhood and requires care through every stage of life. On World Brain Day (July 22), observed this year under the theme 'Brain Health: Access for All', CE speaks to neurologists about protecting the brain from childhood through adulthood and into the senior years.

Building healthy brains

Dr Ranjith G, consultant neurologist at Apollo Hospitals, Financial District, says, "The first five years are crucial because the brain develops rapidly through nutrition, responsive parenting, adequate sleep, play, and a stimulating environment. Talking, reading, singing, and positive interactions strengthen neural connections, while chronic stress, malnutrition, infections, and neglect can negatively affect learning, behaviour, and overall brain development."

One growing concern is excessive screen exposure. "Excessive screen time, especially in children under five, is linked to delayed language development, shorter attention span, poorer sleep, and reduced social interaction. High-quality educational content, limited screen exposure, and active parental engagement help minimise risks while supporting healthy cognitive and emotional development," he says.

Parents should also pay close attention to developmental milestones. Delayed speech,

Brain health beyond age



Dr Ramakrishna Chowdhary Y



Dr Ranjith G

poor eye contact, limited social interaction, frequent falls, abnormal movements, loss of previously acquired skills, or persistent learning difficulties should not be ignored. "Early diagnosis and intervention significantly improve long-term developmental and neurological outcomes," he adds.

Beyond limiting screen time, he recommends simple everyday habits: "Parents should encourage daily physical activity, regular sleep, balanced nutrition, reading, storytelling, creative play, and meaningful conversations. Outdoor play, social interaction, positive family bonding, consistent routines and a nurturing home environment are essential for healthy brain growth."

The overworked brain

Stress has become an unavoi-

able part of modern work life, but Dr Ramakrishna Chowdhary Y, HOD, neurosurgery at Arete Hospitals, says chronic stress with-

out recovery can gradually affect brain function. "A certain amount of stress helps us stay alert and productive. The problem begins when there's no opportunity for the brain to recover. If someone is constantly juggling deadlines, sleeping poorly and living under pressure for months, concentration, memory and emotional control naturally begin to suffer," he notes.

Many young adults complain of 'brain fog' and forgetfulness. "In many cases, this isn't because the brain is failing — it's because it is exhausted," he explains.

Poor sleep, excessive work hours, constant digital stimulation and emotional stress are often responsible, and symptoms usually improve when these factors are corrected. However, worsening memory problems that interfere with daily life or occur alongside headaches, seizures, weakness, speech or behavioural changes require medical evaluation.

Sleep, he stresses, is the brain's maintenance period, when memories are consolidated and waste products cleared. Chronic sleep deprivation, combined with sedentary lifestyles and long working hours, also contributes to hypertension, diabetes and obesity — major risk factors for stroke and cognitive decline. "The brain relies on a healthy network of blood vessels for oxygen and nutrients. High blood pressure and diabetes damage these vessels over time, and we're increasingly diagnosing these conditions in people in their thirties and forties," he says.

His advice is straightforward: "Don't compromise on sleep. Stay physically active. Know your blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels. Choose fresh, home-prepared meals over processed foods, and make time to disconnect from work. Small, sustained lifestyle choices made in our

Dr S K Jaiswal

thirties and forties often determine how well the brain functions decades later."

Ageing well

Occasional forgetfulness is a normal part of ageing, but Dr S K Jaiswal, clinical director and HOD — neurology at Care Hospitals, Banjara Hills, says dementia is very different. He explains, "If a person frequently forgets important events, repeats the same questions, gets confused in familiar places, struggles with daily activities, or shows changes in behaviour or personality, it should not be ignored. Dementia is not a normal part of ageing."

As India's population ages, doctors are seeing more cases of dementia, parkinson's disease and stroke, alongside lifestyle conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and heart disease that increase neurological risk.

The good news, says Dr Jaiswal, is that prevention is possible at any age. He also highlights the crucial role of families in recognising early warning signs and supporting treatment through medication adherence, healthy meals, follow-up visits and encouraging physical and mental activity.

Above all, he urges people to stop dismissing memory loss as an inevitable consequence of ageing. He concludes, "While ageing can bring some changes in memory, severe memory problems, confusion or difficulty carrying out everyday tasks should never be ignored. Many brain conditions can be treated or managed better if they are detected early."

Balakrishna suffers injury during Kakinada shoot

ACTOR-politician Nandamuri Balakrishna suffered a minor leg injury while shooting for his upcoming film at the Kakinada Port. According to initial reports, the incident took place during the filming of an action sequence featuring Balakrishna and Manchu Manoj. Reports say Balakrishna slipped while performing the stunt and injured his leg. The shoot was halted immediately, and the actor was rushed to a nearby hospital in Kakinada. Doctors examined him and conducted scans to assess the injury.

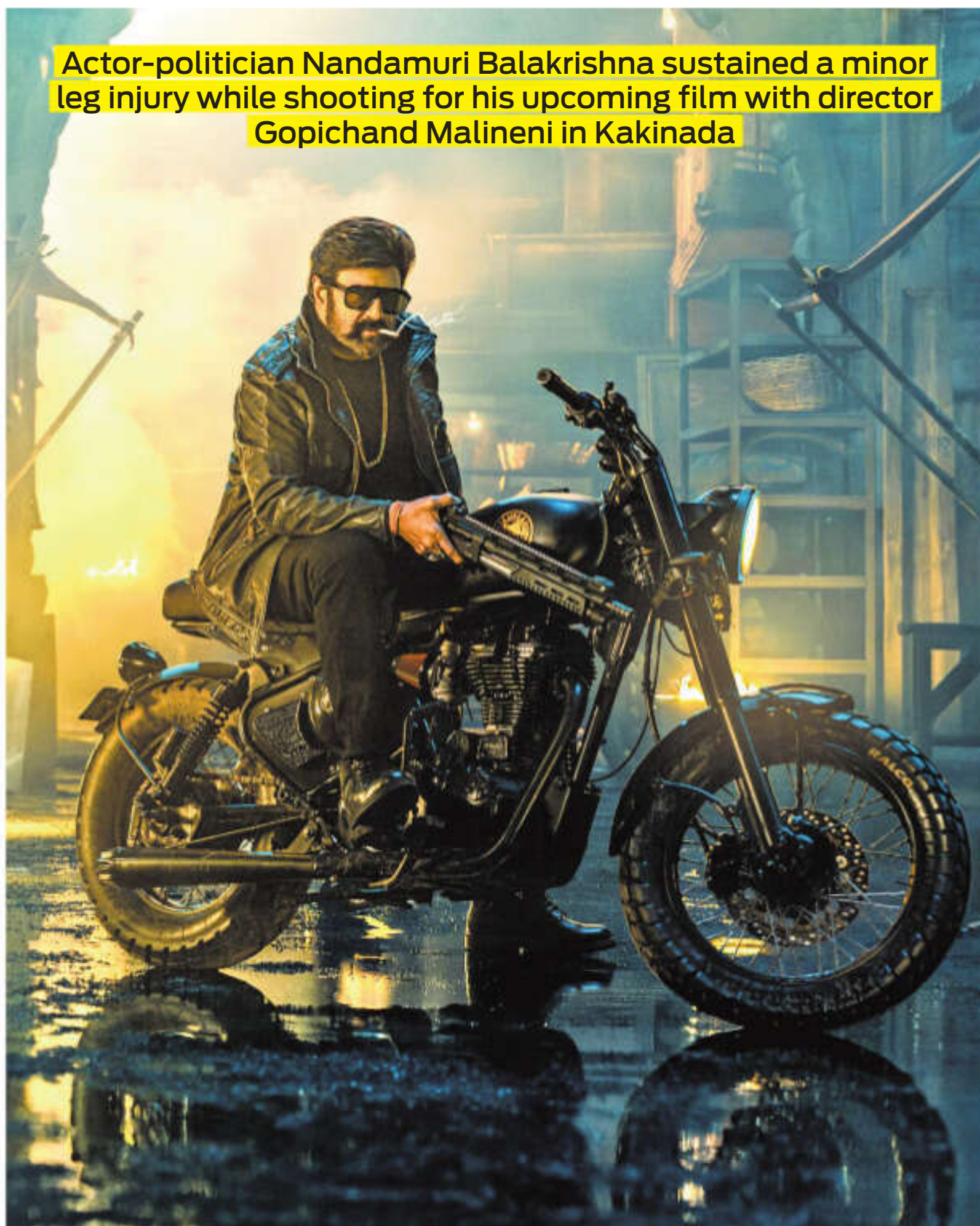
Directed by Gopichand Malineni, the film is tentatively titled *NBK111* and is currently being shot in and around Kakinada. Known for performing his own action sequences without relying on body doubles, Balakrishna reportedly chose to do the stunt himself on this occasion as well.

Manchu Manoj plays the antagonist in the film, and the action sequence being filmed is said to be a crucial confrontation between the two characters. After receiving first aid, Balakrishna was taken to the hospital, where doctors reportedly advised him to rest for a few days. This marks the second collaboration between Balakrishna and Gopichand Malineni after the blockbuster *Veera Simha Reddy*.

Kajal Aggarwal plays the female lead in *NBK111*, reuniting with Balakrishna after their successful outing in *Bhagavanth Kesari*. Although Nayanthara was initially announced as the heroine, reports suggest Kajal later replaced her.

Meanwhile, Balakrishna recently launched another project with director Koratala Siva in Amaravati. Once he recovers and completes *NBK111*, he is expected to begin work on the Koratala Siva directorial.

Apart from his film commitments, Balakrishna continues to serve as the MLA from the Hindupur Assembly constituency, a seat he has won for the



third consecutive term. He also serves as the Chairman of the Basavarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute in Hyderabad.

The team has given an official statement about Balakrishna's injury: "During the filming of an intense action sequence for *#NBK111* in Kakinada, Nandamuri Balakrishna *Garu* sustained a minor muscle tear. As advised by the medical team, he will undergo a minor surgical procedure to ensure a swift and complete recovery. His unwavering dedication, discipline, and passion for cinema continue to inspire everyone on the sets of *#NBK111*," said

the statement. It further stated that it is a routine procedure. "The procedure is routine, and there is absolutely no cause for concern. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming him back to the sets very soon. — TEAM *NBK111*," added the statement.

He thanked veteran writer Satyanand for his valuable contribution to the film. "Writer Satyanand *garu's* inputs were immensely valuable to the story. We also had several discussions with Ramajogayya Sastry *garu* regarding the



Nagarjuna: Honouring release date is important

CELEBRATIONS over *Lenin's* tremendous success are still not over in the Akkineni family. Rightly so, as the film marked Akhil's first commercial success in almost a decade. The film's latest success celebration was attended by Nagarjuna, along with his sons Chaitanya and Akhil.

As part of the celebrations, the makers honoured distributors and exhibitors by presenting them with shields. "In the past, we used to celebrate a film's success by inviting distributors and exhibitors and presenting them with shields. Now, we are once again organising such a celebration for *Lenin*, which gives me a wonderful feeling. When I heard that the film is still running with houseful boards in theatres, my heart was filled with joy," Nagarjuna said at the success meet.

He thanked veteran writer Satyanand for his valuable contribution to the film. "Writer Satyanand *garu's* inputs were immensely valuable to the story. We also had several discussions with Ramajogayya Sastry *garu* regarding the

songs. I must especially appreciate our Annapurna post-production team," he said.

Nagarjuna also spoke about the worrying trend of delayed film releases in Tollywood and advised post-production teams to give ample time to colourists. "Even if we hand over the film to our colourist just two days before release, they deliver outstanding output. Imagine the quality they can achieve if they get the film two weeks in advance. I sincerely request all filmmakers to give the post-production team at least two weeks before release," he said.

He drove his point home about release delays, citing Christopher Nolan's sincerity in sticking to the release date of his recent epic drama *The Odyssey*. "They announced the release date of *The Odyssey* a year in advance and are sticking to it. We also announce release dates, but we keep postponing our films several times. Even *Lenin* was postponed a few times. I don't understand why we can't stick to the original release date. It is important that everyone honours the dates they announce," he said, also recalling the healthy prac-

tice that Tollywood once used to follow. "There was a time when we used to watch the final copy of a film almost a month before its release. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen anymore."

Speaking about *Lenin's* success, Nagarjuna praised the entire cast and crew. "Every actor has performed brilliantly. Everyone worked on this project with immense love, and the audience and fans have returned that love in abundance. Akhil has been waiting for this kind of affection and these cheers for a long time. I don't know how it feels for all of you (fans), but for me, Akhil and Chaitanya, it feels like a festival. Our home is filled with happiness," he said.

Nagarjuna concluded by thanking the audience for embracing the film. "There is no greater joy than receiving phone calls from exhibitors and distributors saying the film is doing well. It makes us even happier when they tell us they are increasing the number of shows. My heartfelt thanks to the audience and fans for making *Lenin* such a huge success," he said.

Pullman to star in *Guilty Creatures*



RECENTLY, we reported that Julia Garner is starring in an Apple TV+ series titled *Guilty Creatures*. Now, actor Lewis Pullman has joined it in a lead role. This marks Pullman's first television role since 2023's Apple TV+ series *Lessons in Chemistry*. The series is based on *Guilty Creatures: Sex, God, and Murder in Tallahassee, Florida*, a true-crime book by Mikita Brottman. Writer Sarah DeLappe is working on the screen adaptation. Also part of the project are director Craig Gillespie and showrunner Stuart Zicherman. *Guilty Creatures* explores the story of torrid love between an adulterous and God-fearing couple who commit a murder. It explores the complex lives of the couple and the emotional impact of the murder on them for 18 years. The lovers at the heart of the story are played by Pullman and Garner, according to reports.

Saailu to direct Sumanth Prabhas in his next



DIRECTOR Saailu Kaampati, who made an impressive debut with *Raju Weds Rambai*, has officially launched his second directorial venture. It stars actor Sumanth Prabhas in the lead role and was launched on Monday.

The new project marks Production No 10 of Sree Venkateswara Cinemas (Puskur Ram Mohan Rao and Bharat Narang), adding another promising film to the banner's growing slate.

For his second outing as a director, Saailu Kaampati has written a rustic entertainer that blends romance, humour and emotion. Set against the backdrop of a small town, the film promises a breezy love story filled with relatable characters, rooted emotions and wholesome entertainment.

Kidman's *Discretion* adds Josh Lucas



THE legal drama *Discretion*, starring Nicole Kidman and Elle Fanning, is expanding as Josh Lucas joins the star cast. Based on Chandler Baker's short story of the same name, *Discretion* follows the conflict between Lenny (Fanning), a summer associate with a prestigious Dallas law firm, and Sharon (Kidman), the firm's most powerful partner, after she discovers a web of Non-Disclosure Agreements that mask an uncomfortable truth. The conflict details the mentor-protégé relationship and throws questions like: who gets to keep secrets, and at what cost? Lucas plays Greg, a

lawyer and husband of Kidman's corporate law partner caught in the dark web of NDAs. A24 is producing the eight-episode series ordered by Paramount+ in October 2025.

Known for his performances in *Ford v Ferrari*, *Sweet Home Alabama*, *American Psycho* and *Lincoln Lawyer*, Lucas was recently seen in the hit series *Yellowstone*.

NAMRATA JOSHI

RANIAN filmmaker Shahram Mokri's Tajiki Persian-Russian language film, *Black Rabbit White Rabbit*, begins with a famous tenet from the legendary Russian writer Anton Chekov, "If the pistol was not going to be fired, it would not be hung upon the wall," broadly implying that any element or object consciously introduced in the narrative, should fulfil its function and not be around for no useful reason. Or else it'd be a betrayal of the reader/audience expectations.

Mokri follows the rule stringently in his bewildering film in which guns and misfired shots tie up disconnected lives, settings and events. As do white and black rabbits and some baffling doppelgängers. Not to mention a badly injured woman, recovering from a car crash, Sara (Hasti Mohammadi), who is wrapped up in bandages yet for some strange reason is moving

around with perfect ease. Not just that, she even wonders if she'd hit upon a human being once the bandages are unwrapped.

A gun deal in an antique shop, over an original Italian and its Chinese knock off, comes to an unfortunate end with an accidental death. Sara is having issues with her dominating husband only to get additionally worked up with the car company representative's assessment that the mishap may not have been due to her carelessness but tampering with the brake oil. If that weren't enough, the delivery of a gun, which Sara claims to have not ordered, creates further rift between the couple. Meanwhile, a gun does the rounds on the sets of the remake of a classic Iranian series and has Babak (Babak Karimi), the props manager, fearing it might be real and doubly worried for not having tested it earlier. Also lurking around is a young actress (Kibriyo Dilyobova) who dodges

Shot in the dark



BLACK RABBIT WHITE RABBIT

her mother to audition for a role. Acting, however, is not quite all about pulling a rabbit out of the magician's hat that she mistakenly assumes it for.

The Tajikistan-UAE co-pro-

duction had its world premiere at the Busan International Film Festival and has travelled to several other international festivals since then. The meta narrative itself has a similar roving spirit and meandering

structure to it with the action moving between varied spaces and timelines, shifting between the past and the present. Morteza Gheidi's camera adds to the momentum in the long takes as it follows and keeps

CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS

In this weekly column, the writer explores the non-Indian films that are making the right noises across the globe. This week, Shahram Mokri's Tajiki Persian-Russian language film *Black Rabbit White Rabbit*

pace with the busy characters at the shoot and captures the bustling energy and chaos of the location.

Co-written by Nasim Ahmadpour and Mokri, the surreal script plays with the audience's mind as to what is real and what is an illusion and spotlights the wonderful manipulation that the medium of cinema itself is supposed to be. The retakes and the multiple angles used for shooting the same scenes add to the visual texture. Amir Eshati's pro-

duction design doesn't just evoke the sense of place but plays a vital role in adding to the element of fantasy and simultaneously revealing the reality behind it. Breaking the fourth wall physically, as it were.

Having said that, the film, which eventually turns out to be about its own making, doesn't come together well entirely, neither on screen, nor in the audience's mind. It gets too protracted and intricate for its own good and feels populated with too many superfluous characters. Its consciously confounding nature and moving around in circles fascinates and intrigues for its visual appeal but leaves with many unanswered questions and eventually a sense of distance and disinterest in the characters and the goings-on. After a point you give up trying to solve the puzzle. An eminently watchable film that is audacious and layered but spirals out of control to turn inscrutable and challenging.