



Sachin's portrait unveiled in MCC Museum at Lord's
A portrait of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled in the MCC Museum at Lord's before the start of the third Test between India and England here on Thursday.

Bengaluru brouhaha resonates in distant Delhi
If ever there was a perfect tussle for power, the Karnataka example would fit to a 'T'. What began as a sustained bout of shadow boxing in the summer of 2023 as a resurgent Congress stormed to power in the south-western state

India makes it to global top-10 tech markets
India ranks among world's top-10 tech markets in 2025, particularly standing out in terms of talent availability, with its top six cities making the top 10 list for tech talent acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region, a report showed on Thursday.

'The 100' review: A riveting thriller with heart and heft
RK Sagar returns to the silver screen with 'The 100,' a compelling investigative thriller directed by Raghav Omkar Sasidhar. Based on real-life events, the film marks a strong comeback for Sagar, who is best known for his iconic TV role as RK Naidu

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WINDOWS



Three children drown in pond in Haryana's Kaithal

KAITHAL: Three children drowned after slipping and falling into a pond in Kaithal, the police said on Thursday. The victims, cousins aged between eight and nine years, were playing near the pond in Saran village when the incident occurred on Wednesday. The soil around the pond had become slippery due to recent rains, which caused the children to allegedly lose their footing and fall in. A girl playing nearby alerted the locals, who quickly rushed to the pond and attempted to rescue the children. By the time they were taken to the hospital, it was too late to save them, officials said.

Hasina indicted in 'crimes against humanity' case

DHAKA: Bangladesh's deposed premier Sheikh Hasina formally indicted in crimes against humanity case, local media reports. Bangladeshi prosecutors at the International Crimes Tribunal have formally charged former prime minister Sheikh Hasina of crimes against humanity during the mass uprising in the country last year. Besides Sheikh Hasina, the country's former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-IGP Chowdhury Mamun are also named as co-accused.

Texas floods: 120 dead, over 170 missing

TEXAS: The toll of the catastrophic flood that hit Texas on July 4 has risen to 120, as a search continues for missing people. There were more than 170 people still unaccounted for, according to figures provided by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, suggesting the death toll could still rise significantly. Searchers have not found anyone alive since Friday. Search and rescue team members look for missing people amid fallen trees by the Guadalupe River in Hunt, Texas. Officials in flood-stricken central Texas on Wednesday again deflected mounting questions about whether they could have done more to warn people.

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Exercise not the problem, timing is: SC to EC on SIR

Top court asks EC to consider Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards in Bihar electoral roll revision

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the Election Commission of India on the timing of the Special Intensive Revision drive in poll-bound Bihar saying it went to the "root of democracy and power to vote" while rejecting the argument that the poll panel did not have any power to carry it out. The ECI also justified the

exercise and said Aadhaar wasn't a "proof of citizenship". A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi questioned Dwivedi over the exclusion of Aadhaar card in the SIR drive in Bihar and said the ECI had nothing to do with citizenship of a person and it was the Ministry of Home Affairs' domain. Dwivedi responded while referring to Article 326 of the

Constitution and said every voter has to be an Indian citizen and "Aadhaar card is not proof of citizenship". Top court asked EC to consider Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards in Bihar electoral roll revision Justice Dhulia said, "If you are to check citizenship under SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, then you should have acted early; it is a bit late." The bench, in the meantime, rejected the submission

of the petitioners' counsel that the ECI did not have power to conduct any such exercise in Bihar for it was mandated under the Constitution and the last such exercise happened in 2003. While referring to the petitioners' contentions, the bench said the ECI had to answer three questions as the SIR exercise in Bihar went to "root of democracy and power to vote". The questions of the pe-

tioners, including political parties and their leaders aside from civil society members and organisations, deal with the ECI's power to conduct such an exercise and its timing. Dwivedi said with passage of time, electoral rolls need to be revised to look into inclusion or exclusion of voter names with the SIR being the one exercise to do it. He asked if the ECI did not have the power to revise the



electoral roll then who did. The poll panel, however, assured the top court of not leaving out anyone from the voter list without an opportunity to be heard.

4.4 earthquake hits Har, tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

► The epicentre was 3 km northeast of Jhajjar and 51 km west of Delhi. It struck at a depth of 10 km at 9.04 am
► In Delhi, panic gripped neighbourhoods soon after the tremors were felt and people gathered in the open

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 struck near Jhajjar in Haryana on Thursday morning, sending tremors across the Delhi-NCR region. The epicentre was 3 km northeast of Jhajjar and 51 km west of Delhi. The earthquake struck at a depth of 10 km at 9.04 am, the National Centre for Seismology said. Besides Jhajjar, the tremors were felt in neighbouring Rohtak and Gurugram districts, Panipat, Hisar and Meerut. "It was a strong jolt. I think this is the first time in my life that it felt so strong," said an elderly man in Jhajjar. Many rushed out of their homes when the tremors hit, he said. In Delhi, panic gripped neighbourhoods soon af-



ter the tremors were felt and people gathered in the open. People ran out of their homes, many of them barefoot and still in their nightwear. Sultan Khan, a resident of Vikaspuri, said the experience was unnerving. "We suddenly felt the ground shaking and ran out of our house. We realised later that it was an earthquake. Many stayed outside for a

while after the tremors were felt, fearing that more might follow. "We have been standing outside for the past 45 minutes because we are afraid that a stronger earthquake might strike next," another Vikaspuri resident said. "It rained heavily last night, so we were all fast asleep. But as soon as the tremors hit, we rushed out of the house in fear," he said. Similar scenes played out in Noida and Greater Noida. Neelam Sharma, a resident of Kendriya Vihar in Greater Noida, said she was in the kitchen making breakfast for her family when she felt the tremors. "The floor shook and when I looked outside the window, my neighbours were already standing outside and talking about the earthquake," she said.

NO VACANCY FOR CM POST IN K'TAKA: SIDDARAMAIAH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said there was "no vacancy" for the CM's post as he was very much in the chair, debunking talks of a possible change of leadership in the state. Siddaramaiah claimed that he would complete his five-year tenure as chief minister and brushed aside talks of him paving the way for his deputy D K Shivakumar to take over later this year. When reporters asked about any change of leadership in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said, "Is there any vacancy for chief ministership? I am very much here before you. I am the



chief minister of Karnataka. That is what D K Shivakumar has said, and I am also saying it... There is no vacancy." There has been speculation of Siddaramaiah stepping down amid some sections of MLAs pitching for Shivakumar for the CM's post. Siddaramaiah is in the national capital and is expected to meet the top leadership of the Congress, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

People punished Indira: Tharoor slams Emergency

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

SENIOR Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has criticised the Emergency declared by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, saying the people of the country responded clearly to the excesses of that period by voting her party out of power by a large margin. In an article published on the measure, which lasted between 25 June 1975 and 21 March 1977, in the Malayalam daily Deepika on Thursday, the Congress Working Committee member termed it 'a dark chapter' in India's history and recalled



Indira Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi's notorious acts, including forced sterilisation campaigns and the merciless demolition of slums in New Delhi. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was seen as having endorsed harsh actions, Tharoor said, criticising the country's first woman prime minister -- whom the Nehru family and the Congress regard as the Iron Lady of India -- on the matter.

Tennis player shot dead by father in Gurugram

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GURUGRAM

State-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was allegedly shot dead by her father on Thursday at their double-storeyed home in upscale Sushant Lok here, police said. The 25-year-old, who was shot in the back while cooking, died on the spot, officials said. Her father, 49-year-old Deepak Yadav, has been arrested and his .32 bore licensed pistol recovered



from his possession, they said. Why he did so is still unclear. The father allegedly fired more than five bullets. Her mother was in the ground floor and Radhika, who played tennis for Haryana, was in the kitchen

on the first floor when the crime took place, officials said. A police team reached the house took the body into custody. "We are questioning the family members. A probe is underway and the picture will be clear soon," said Inspector Vinod Kumar, SHO of the Sector 56 police station. The family lives in Sushant Lok-Phase 2, Sector 57. The father, police said, is a resident of Wazirabad village.

No provision to shut meat shops on Kanwar Yatra: MCD

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said on Thursday that there is no provision to shut meat shops on the kanwar yatra routes under the DMC Act, 1957. The statement came a day after Culture and Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra said that meat shops will remain shut on kanwar yatra routes, saying that the decision was taken by the Delhi government and the MCD. The annual kanwar yatra begins in the month of shravan, or saawan. It begins tomorrow and will culminate on July 25. In a written reply to a question in the MCD House, the civic body said that under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, there is no provision to shut meat shops on the routes



of the kanwar yatra. However, in the past few years, it has been observed that owners of these establishments voluntarily keep their shops closed during the annual pilgrimage. "(MCD's) regional offices have been directed to run a special campaign against illegal animal slaughter and sale of meat in the open to ensure that the religious sentiments of anyone are not hurt," the written reply said during the monthly House proceedings.



Centre revises SMILE scheme to provide beggars 'life of dignity'

SMILE adopts a four-pronged approach: survey and identification, outreach and mobilisation, rescue and shelter, and comprehensive resettlement to promote long-term rehabilitation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Centre has revised SMILE, its flagship rehabilitation programme for beggars, with an annual budget of Rs 37 crore, to ensure they move toward self-reliance and a life of dignity. Officials emphasised that the revised SMILE scheme marks a shift from punitive responses to a rights-based, rehabilitative approach that offers structured support to

help vulnerable individuals. The updated SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme adopts a four-pronged approach: survey and identification, outreach and mobilisation, rescue and shelter, and comprehensive resettlement to promote long-term rehabilitation and restore social dignity to the country's most marginalised groups. The scheme will be implemented in cities focusing on

pilgrimages, sites of religious importance, historical landmarks and tourist areas across the country in partnership with the state administration and relevant organisations. According to the revised guidelines of the scheme, religious trusts and shrine boards will also play a significant role in implementing the scheme at pilgrimage and religious sites. The Centre has earmarked Rs 100 crore over three years for the scheme: Rs 30 crore

for 2023-24, Rs 33 crore for 2024-25, and Rs 37 crore for 2025-26. The funds will be released in three instalments: 30 per cent for survey and mobilisation, 50 per cent for shelter and rehabilitation, and 20 per cent based on verified progress and reintegration status. The government aims to rehabilitate 2,500 individuals in the first year, 6,000 in the second, and 8,000 in the third. Each shelter home has been allocated an annual budget of Rs 48.7 lakh to cover opera-

tional costs, including food, staffing, counselling, skilling, and awareness campaigns. Municipal bodies and district administrations will conduct detailed surveys to profile beneficiaries based on factors such as age, gender, legal status, and health conditions. The data collected will be uploaded to a national portal under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for real-time monitoring. Once identified, individu-



als will be offered spot counselling and will be mobilised into shelter homes, either existing facilities under the DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission) or rented shelters where required. Each shelter home, with a minimum capacity of 50 individuals, will provide food, clothing, hygiene kits, bedding, toilets, and recreational activities such as yoga.

UP conversion racket

Razing of structures on govt land by mastermind enters day 3

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALRAMPUR

THE district administration here has removed around 80 per cent of illegal constructions on government land allegedly encroached upon by Jalaluddin alias Chhangur Baba, the 'mastermind' of a religious conversion racket nabbed by the Uttar Pradesh ATS, an official said on Thursday.

He informed reporters that eight bulldozers have been deployed to clear the

encroachments, covering an area of around one acre.

"The action began on Tuesday and is still underway. On the first day, 20 per cent of the illegal construction was demolished. By Wednesday, 80 per cent of the illegal construction was demolished," the senior official said, adding that it would continue till the land is completely free of encroachment.

Additional Superintendent of Police Vishal Pandey said a complaint was received that Chhangur Baba had

In the initial probe, it has come to light that the activities of the accused Jalaluddin are not only against society but also against the nation: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

grabbed government land in Madhyapur village, and a probe found the allegation to



be true. Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on

Wednesday secured a week-long custody of Jalaluddin alias Chhangur Baba and his

associate Neetu alias Nasreen.

Four people had been arrested in connection with the case. While Chhangur Baba and Nasreen were arrested last Saturday, two other co-accused, Naveen alias Jamaluddin and Jalaluddin's son Me-hboob, were arrested in April.

The police have alleged that the accused acted in an organised manner to convert individuals from Hindu and other non-Muslim communities to Islam. Investigators

allege that the racket targeted poor labourers, widows, and vulnerable individuals, who were allegedly coerced, misled with financial incentives, or manipulated through marriage proposals.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said, "In the initial probe, it has come to light that the activities of the accused Jalaluddin are not only against society but also against the nation."

Asserting that there will be no leniency in matters related to law and order in the

state, the chief minister had said that properties of the accused and others linked to his gang would be seized, and strict legal action would be taken against them.

The case, registered at the ATS police station in Gomtinagar, Lucknow, includes charges under BNS Sections 121A (waging war against the state), 153A (promoting enmity), 417 (cheating), 420 (fraud), and provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act, 2021.

Several HP roads closed for traffic due to downpour

Mandi, which was ravaged by 10 cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides, leading to the death of 15 people in the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, saw 138 roads closed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA

HEAVY rain in the past few days has led to the closure of 245 roads, including the Mandi-Dharampur stretch of the National Highway-3 that connects Attari in Punjab with Leh in Ladakh, officials said on Thursday.

Mandi, which was ravaged by 10 cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides, leading to the death of 15 people in the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, saw 138 roads closed while 124 transformers and 137 water supply schemes were affected.

According to the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC), a total of 192 transformers and 740 water



supply schemes were disrupted in the state on Thursday morning.

Isolated places in Sirmour and Bilaspur districts were lashed by heavy rain. Dhaulakuan was the wettest in the state, recording 168.5 mm of rain since Wednesday evening, followed by Bilaspur, 120.4 mm.

Low to moderate rains occurred in several parts of the state. Manali received 46 mm of rain, Jubbarhatti 44.2 mm, Nagrota Suriya 42.4 mm, Poanta Sahib 38.4 mm, Sujanpur Tira 37.5 mm, Jaton Bar-rage 34.6 mm, Nahan 34.1 mm and Guler 32.8 mm.

The local weather office has issued a yellow alert of heavy rainfall at isolated places in the state from Sunday to Wednesday. It also warned of low to moderate flash-flood risk in parts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour districts.

Two arrested for pelting stones at Rajdhani Exp

Following an extensive search operation, RPF personnel apprehended Mohd Lateef and Mohd Saeem, who admitted to throwing stones at the train while under the influence of alcohol

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KANPUR

TWO men have been arrested for allegedly pelting stones at the New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express near Chandari railway station here, a senior Railway Protection Force official said on Thursday.

Three coaches of the train were damaged in the incident. "A probe was launched immediately after the incident," Assistant Security Commissioner of Railway Protection Force (RPF) Vivek Verma told PTI. Following an extensive search operation, RPF personnel apprehended Mohd Lateef and Mohd Saeem, who admitted to throwing stones at the train while under the influence of alcohol. Verma said authorities are checking the criminal



background of the accused and investigating their possible involvement in other stone-pelting incidents.

In light of the incident, security arrangements at Kanpur Central railway station and nearby areas are being intensified.

According to officials, several cases of stone pelting on trains have been reported in recent months along the stretch between Kanpur Central and Chandari. In another incident, A

22-year-old man was found dead under suspicious circumstances near a hotel on the Etah-Kasganj road early Thursday, police said.

The man identified as Anshul was found critically injured by the roadside around 3 am.

After being notified by passersby, police reached the scene and rushed the victim to Etah Medical College, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, officials said.

According to Kotwali Dehat Station House Officer (SHO) RK Singh, Anshul was a resident of Amapur town in Kasganj district.

"His family said he had left home on Tuesday evening, saying he was going to Etah market. However, they were unaware how he ended up on the Etah-Kasganj road instead of the Etah-Sahawar-Amapur route," Singh said.

The body has been sent for postmortem. Police are investigating all possible angles for further leads, he added. Preliminary probe suggested that Anshul may have been hit by an unknown vehicle, SHO Singh said.

However, the family has raised suspicion on the body being found at the spot and circumstances leading to his death.



Raj University students demand union elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR

PROTESTERS demanding restoration of student union elections at Rajasthan University asserted their demand uniquely by placing cut-outs of prominent political leaders who launched their political careers through student politics.

They used the cut-outs of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and other leaders to voice their demands.

Student leader Shubhm Rewad, who has been spearheading the protest, said that the university administration and the state government should permit the elections.

"The state government claimed that student union elections were not producing any outcomes. But today, we are standing here with the

cut-outs of those leaders who emerged from student union elections," he told reporters.

Besides Ashok Gehlot and Shekhawat, cut-outs of Hanuman Beniwal, Satish Poonia, Rajendra Rathore, Ashok Lahoti, Harish Chaudhary and other leaders were also placed at the protest site.

Reacting to the protest, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot called for the immediate restoration of student union elections.

"Rajasthan's youth have been demanding student union elections for a long time, but the BJP government is disappointing them," Gehlot said.

The Congress leader said that there should be no obstacles in conducting these elections. He also said that during his tenure, the polls were postponed (in 2023) due to the state assembly elections.

UP Int'l Trade Show: Roadshow in Hyd today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

AHEAD of the third edition of the UP International Trade Show 2025, the state government is organising mega roadshows across India's key industrial hubs, and the next event is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on Friday.

This event will present Uttar Pradesh's strengths in trade, investment, exports, and innovation to stakeholders in southern India, the government said in a statement on Thursday.

Minister for MSME, Khadi and Village Industries, Handloom and Textiles, Rakesh Sachan, will outline the state government's forward-looking vision at the event, it said. "The primary objective of this mega roadshow is to showcase the state's Export



Vision 2025. The event will witness participation from foreign diplomats, embassy officials, international buyers, trade organisations, industry leaders, and startup representatives," it stated.

"Uttar Pradesh's delegation will present a comprehensive picture of the state's industrial progress, infrastructure development, investor-friendly ecosystem, and policy-driven governance," it added. The government said key sectors such as MSME, One District One Product (ODOP), textiles, electronics, electric vehicles, IT, agro-based industries, and food

processing will be prominently featured, highlighting their immense potential.

"The roadshow will serve not only as an opportunity for investors and industry leaders, but also as a vital step in connecting Uttar Pradesh's indigenous products to global platforms," it said.

These roadshows are being held in preparation for the UP International Trade Show (ITS) 2025, scheduled from September 25 to 29 in Greater Noida.

The aim is to engage and invite industry leaders and foreign representatives to actively participate in the event. After the successful launch in New Delhi, upcoming roadshows are planned in Bengaluru (July 18), Mumbai (July 25), and Ahmedabad (July 30), it added.

Man, sister arrested with heroin worth Rs 70 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

A brother-sister duo were arrested with 550 grams of heroin worth Rs 70 lakh on the outskirts of Jammu city on Thursday, police said.

They said the accused have been identified as Gurjeet Singh and his sister Navneet Kour from Tanda village in RS Pura.

During routine checking at the Balol checkpoint in the Miran Sahib area, police intercepted two people travelling on a scooter and recovered 550 grams of heroin from them. Their scooter was seized, police said. The recovered contraband is valued at Rs 70 lakh in the international market.



An FIR has been registered against the siblings at Miran Sahib police station under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, they said. According to police, the mother of the two accused was arrested in a drug peddling case by Punjab Police in June.

The interrogation of the accused is expected to provide further leads on the drug supply chain and distribution network, police said.

The source and destination of the drug consignment are yet to be ascertained. A financial investigation has also been initiated to trace the proceeds of the illegal narcotic trade, they said.

UP woman kills hubby with lover's help; both arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE
UNNAO

A woman and her lover allegedly killed her husband by slitting his throat and dumped the decapitated body from a drain in Kanchankheda village here, following which the duo was arrested, police said on Thursday.

Sheeba (24) and Farman alias Chunna (26) were arrested on Wednesday.

During interrogation, both the accused confessed to having killed Imran (28) in connivance with Farman's friend Rafiq Qureshi, police said.

Police received information about blood stains near a drain culvert in the village and initiated an inspection that led to the recovery of the decapitated body from the drain. A case was registered,



and the body was later identified as that of Imran, a resident of Akhlaq Nagar under Gangaghat police station limits. The body was identified from the mobile phone and documents found in the pockets.

Circle Officer (CO) Bighapur Rishikant Shukla said that Sheeba and Far-

man were in a relationship for a long time, and ongoing disputes with the husband prompted them to plan the murder.

The accused allegedly intoxicated Imran before slitting his throat with a knife, the officer said, adding efforts were on to nab the third accused, who is absconding.

Sutlej-Yamuna Link issue will be resolved soon: Saini

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

HARYANA Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has expressed confidence that the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) issue will be resolved soon, asserting that the Punjab government has also sought a solution to the problem.

Saini made the remarks after attending a high-level meeting here on the SYL issue convened by Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Wednesday. The chief minister said a meaningful discussion took place in a cordial atmosphere in the meeting which was also attended by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. It was decided that the next meeting

will take place on August 5, a state government release said. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Chief Minister Saini said meaningful discussions were held in the meeting. He said the chief minister of Punjab also acknowledged that this issue should be resolved as it has remained pending for far too long. Saini expressed confidence that a positive outcome will be achieved on this issue. He said that Punjab and Haryana are like brothers, and even today, they share a common space with mutual respect and harmony.

He added that discussions in the next meeting are expected to lead to a better solution and yield positive results.

Redressing every citizen's grievance is govt's top priority: Adityanath

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GORAKHPUR

GRIEVANCE redressal must be both result-oriented and people-centric, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Thursday.

The chief minister made the remarks at a Janta Darshan programme at the Gorakhnath temple where he met around 200 people and heard their grievances. Many persons, including women, raised issues related to land disputes and illegal encroachments, it said.

The chief minister took serious note and directed officials to take swift and strict action. He stressed that resolutions must be prompt and effective.

For those seeking financial assistance for treatment of serious illnesses, Adityanath as-

sured them that lack of money would not hinder anyone's medical care.

He instructed the administration to expedite the preparation of cost estimates for patients concerned and submit them to the government immediately so that funds could be released without delay.

Taking serious note of the alleged suicide attempt by a lekhpal in this district, CM ordered a high-level investigation into the matter.

Subhash Meena, a lekhpal (revenue official), suspended over bribery allegations allegedly consumed a poisonous substance at his premises in Dhaulana Tehsil of this district on Wednesday.

Taking cognisance of this incident, the chief minister ordered a high-level probe by the

divisional commissioner and inspector general of police of Meerut Zone.

Meena's suspension on June 3 followed the villagers' allegations of demanding money for land records.

"On July 7, the CO Chakbandi had filed a chargesheet in allegations against the lekhpal," said Dhau-lana SDM Shubham Srivastava.

"The suspended lekhpal's condition is stable," he added. Sources suggest that "a significant sum of money was allegedly being demanded from both the lekhpal and the private employee to settle the registered report".

Police are investigating the complainant.

The lekhpals staged a protest at the hospital here following the suicide attempt.

Hapur lekhpal suicide attempt: CM Yogi orders high-level probe



‘Won’t tolerate dereliction of duty when it comes to loss of human life’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has issued notice to DCP rank police official underlining a “deeply disturbing state of affairs” in the investigation of a 2007 murder case.

Judicial magistrate Bharti Beniwal said dereliction of duty in a case involving loss of human life cannot be tolerated.

“It is indeed unfortunate that a young man aged about 30-35 years was found dead on July 30, 2007, under suspicious and clearly incriminating circumstances, yet

Court issues notice to DCP rank police official underlining a deeply disturbing state of affairs in the investigation of a 2007 murder case

no FIR was registered by the police officials concerned,” the court said.

The post mortem report showed that the victim had a ligature mark around his neck and a grievous injury on the back of the head, being clear indicators of homicidal death, but the local police did not take any steps to register a case or initiate an investigation, the order added.



The judge continued, “The present case reveals a deeply disturbing state of affairs and highlights the utter apathy and gross negligence on

the part of police machinery in dealing with a heinous case of murder.”

Statements of four witnesses that came on record showed that the victim was employed at Mohan Hotel, Ajmeri Gate, and was murdered inside its premises.

“It has also come on record that the body was shifted to a nearby drain (nala) in an attempt to hide the crime. Shockingly, despite having sufficient material, including statements, post mortem findings, and scene of crime information, no FIR was ever registered by the then station house

officer (SHO) or the assistant commissioner of police (ACP) concerned,” the court said.

Retired ACP Dinesh Kumar, who was posted then as SHO of Kamla Market police station, said he “came across” the inquest report while perusing police station records and thereafter sought permission from the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), central (district), for registering an FIR.

“It is also noted with grave concern that a complete police record has not been placed. Even after registration of the FIR, no steps

were taken by the police to even visit the witness/suspect and it appears that even the registration of the FIR was a mere formality,” the court pointed out.

The conduct of then police officials was found to be “highly suspicious”, appearing either of a “wilful inaction” or a “deliberate attempt to shield the culprits”.

“Such a dereliction of duty in a case involving loss of human life cannot be tolerated. Let notice be issued to DCP central (district) to apprise the court about the list of SHOs, inspectors’ investigation and ACP concerned

from the date of death of the deceased till the date of registration of FIR,” the court ordered.

The court issued a notice to the joint commissioner of police, central range, to look into the matter, fix accountability and take appropriate departmental and legal action against the erring police officials. Further, a compliance report was directed to be filed within three weeks, aside from the police being told to investigate the case from the angle of possible complicity or collusion of then police officials from the police station.



Respect Modi as my guru: CM Rekha Gupta

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as her mentor on the occasion of Guru Purnima, saying he has instilled in people the spirit of “Nation First”. Gupta, along with Lt Governor V K Saxena inaugurated DDA’s Aarambh Pustakalaya at Adhchini Village in south Delhi.

“Today on Guru Purnima, I am remembering PM Modi for his teachings. I rever him as my guru. I want to congratulate him for the successful tour of five nations in eight days. He has achieved success for India on global stage and brought us recognition,” she said. Gupta said he was conferred highest civilian awards of the countries he visited.

‘CONVICT SPREAD HATE’ Court holds man guilty in 2020 riots case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sentenced a man to three years imprisonment on charges of promoting enmity and public mischief during the February 2020 riots.

Additional sessions judge Parveen Singh observed the convict did not deserve leniency as during the tense period, he “added fuel to the already simmering tensions” by spreading hate messages towards the Muslim community, and inducing people to commit crime against them.

The July 8 order said, “The fact, that during the tense period of February 2020, the convict had added fuel to the already simmering tensions by spreading mes-



sages which were intended to promote enmity and hatred for Muslim community and induced the members of the group to commit crime against Muslims, calls for no leniency and makes the offence very serious in nature.”

The man, however, would be released as he had already undergone imprisonment of

residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) on June 5.

Solanki was sentenced to three years of concurrent simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000 for each offence.

“However, the fact remains that the convict has already undergone the imprisonment of more than three years, which is the maximum punishment which could be awarded for offences punishable under Sections 153-A and 505 of the IPC,” the court held.

Solanki, the court said, was already incarcerated for over three years and had to be released subject to payment of the fine.

Narco syndicate member held with Rs 7 cr heroin



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI Police’s Crime Branch has arrested a key member of a national-level narco-syndicate and seized heroin worth approximately Rs 7 crore, an official said on Thursday.

The accused, Gaurav (24), a resident of Rohini in Delhi, was arrested on June 28 following a tip-off. The official said 405 grams of heroin and over 1,000 suspected contraband pouches were recovered from his possession.

“Gaurav was caught red-handed while attempting to deliver the narcotics consignment on a scooter, which was also seized,” said the officer.

The officer further said

that during interrogation, Gaurav revealed the name of his associate and supplier, Vanshu, who is currently absconding.

Efforts are underway to apprehend Vanshu and trace other members of the syndicate.

The syndicate was deeply involved in the supply of smack to drug addicts in the national capital. Gaurav, a school dropout, initially assisted his relatives in selling illicit liquor.

In 2023, he came into contact with Vanshu during a marriage function and subsequently began procuring heroin for distribution to a select group of addicts. Further investigation is in progress to identify the source and destination of the contraband.



Constable, girlfriend nabbed for running opium racket

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has arrested an army constable, his girlfriend, and an accomplice of his for allegedly running an opium racket, ferrying consignments from Manipur to Rajasthan, an officer said on Thursday. The constable had taken leave to carry out his smuggling activities, he said.

He, along with his girlfriend and another accomplice, was travelling in a car that was stopped near Kalindi Kunj. A thorough search led to the recovery of 18 packets of opium concealed beneath the floor of the vehicle, the officer said. “The modus operandi involved using personal leave periods to travel under the radar and move narcotics discreetly. The car was specially modified to create hidden compartments beneath the flooring,” the officer said.

Police also seized an army-issued licensed pistol found stashed beneath the floor, he said.

Rain brings Delhi to standstill, several roads unnavigable

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A heavy rain overnight and showers Thursday morning left commuters and office-goers in the national capital negotiating with waterlogged roads, pothole-ridden stretches, and long snarls.

From ITO to Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-Jaipur highway (NH-8) and Madhuban Chowk, heavy traffic was reported for hours.

The city struggled to drain excess water and manage vehicular flow. The Shadipur area saw a bumper-to-bumper jam till late afternoon, with motorists reporting delays of up to an hour. Traffic from Nangloi towards Najafgarh and vice versa came to a standstill.

The Delhi Traffic Police in a post on X informed the public that traffic was affected on both carriage-ways from Nangloi towards Mundka and vice versa on



the Rohtak Road due to waterlogging, potholes, and road/sewer repairing by the Public Works Department.

Near Dhaula Kuan, Rajokri and Mahipalpur, vehicles were seen crawling for kilometres.

A particularly troubling point was the Zakhira Railway Underpass on Road No 40, where severe waterlogging led to diversions.

“Traffic from Shastri Nagar-KD Chowk is diverted towards Chaudhary Nahar Singh Marg and vice versa,” the traffic police wrote on X in a post.

Gurugram issues ‘work from home’ advisory

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GURUGRAM

CORPORATE offices and private institutions were advised to allow their employees to work from home on Thursday, a day after torrential rain led to massive traffic snarls and waterlogging in the high-rise city that was brought to its knees.

The downpour left the Narsinghpur stretch of the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway and places near Basai and Golf Course Extension Road submerged. The road in front of the parking lot near Rajiv Chowk, Sheela Mata road, Sadar Bazaar, Bus Adda road and roads in nearby colonies were also flooded.

Waterlogging was also reported from Basai Chowk, Khandsa, Sanjay Gram Road, Sohna Road, Subhash Chowk and Sectors 30, 31, 40, 45, 47, 51, 22, 23, 4, 5, 12, 13 and 48.

There was a 7 to 8-km-long queue of vehicles on National Highway 48 from Narsinghpur to Rajokri in Delhi on Wednesday night.

ation, all corporate offices and private institutions in the district are advised to guide their employees to work from home on July 10 so that traffic congestion can be avoided,” it said. Rain brought Gurugram to a standstill on Wednesday evening, with roads and several residential areas inundated and traffic gridlocked.

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I will retire in 2027, subject to divine intervention: VP



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

VICE President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said he will retire in August 2027, “subject to divine intervention”. He made the remarks while addressing an event at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) here. “I will retire at the right time, August 2027, subject to divine intervention,” he said in a lighter vein.

Dhankhar’s five-year term as the 14th Vice President ends on August 10, 2027.

A senior lawyer, he was serving as the governor of West Bengal when he was elected as the Vice President after being fielded by the BJP-led NDA. Addressing the gathering, Dhankhar said India’s rise as a global power must be accompanied by the rise of its intellectual and cultural gravitas.

Jal Shakti Minister’s focus on sustainability

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI



JAL Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Thursday said the focus of the Jal Jeevan Mission must now shift from infrastructure delivery to sustainability as he called for robust systems to ensure continued water supply and quality in rural areas.

“The next phase of this journey is sustainability,” the minister said while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day national workshop on the operation and maintenance (O&M) of rural water supply schemes. Launched in 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission has provided tap water connections to over 15 crore rural households.

Paatil said this milestone is a result of the government’s strong commitment to ensuring basic amenities for all.

However, he stressed that sustained access to safe drinking water now depends on building resilient systems

backed by effective policies and local engagement. The national workshop has brought together representatives from states and union territories, district magistrates, engineers and policymakers. Their participation, Paatil said, signals a unified resolve to strengthen the mission’s long-term impact. Highlighting the importance of community involvement, the minister noted that five women in every village have been trained in water quality testing. “This not only ensures local monitoring but also empowers women and builds trust within communities,” he said. Paatil added that the government’s goal is not merely to complete schemes but to ensure that they are high-quality, well-maintained and sustainable.

‘Advanced artillery gun system exemplary mission mode a success’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

IN line with the steps to modernise the Army’s artillery regiments and enhance operational readiness, indigenously-made Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) will replace the vintage and smaller calibre guns, with the Defence Ministry on Wednesday calling the project an “exemplary mission mode success”. ATAGS is designed

In line with the steps to modernise the Army’s artillery regiments and enhance operational readiness, indigenously-made Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) will replace the vintage and smaller calibre guns



by Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, a laboratory of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). The ministry shared a post on X along with a video showcasing ATAGS, whose maximum range is 48 km.

“We started this project in the year 2012. And, within a span of 12 years, we could complete the total process of design to manufacturing, testing and induction,” said

ARDE Director A Raju in the recorded video. The key features are its quite advance system, he said, adding, ARDE is playing a crucial rule in “Atmanirbharta of our nation”.

Earlier on March 26, the Defence Ministry had signed contracts with Bharat Forge Limited and Tata Advanced System Limited for the procurement of 155mm/52 Calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) and High Mobility Vehicle

6x6 Gun Towing Vehicles respectively at a total cost of about Rs 6,900 crore.

The 155 mm/52 calibre ATAGS will replace the vintage and smaller calibre guns and enhance the artillery capabilities of the Indian Army.

The timeline for delivery of 307 ATAGS is expected to be five years, Raju said.

The ministry in its post said, “ATAGS, @DRDO_India’s flagship artillery system, is spearheading the #In-

dianArmy’s artillery modernisation, an exemplary Mission Mode success.”

“It brings together #DRDO, the Indian Army, and both public and private sectors to strengthen #AatmanirbharBharat in defence. With its all-electric drive for gun laying and ammunition handling, #ATAGS ensures reliable, maintenance-free performance even in the toughest mountain and desert terrains,” it said.

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Bengaluru brouhaha resonates in distant Delhi

If ever there was a perfect tussle for power, the Karnataka example would fit to a 'T'. What began as a sustained bout of shadow boxing in the summer of 2023 as a resurgent Congress stormed to power in the south-western state has continued to pop up, at the most inappropriate of times for the ruling dispensation and much to the delight of the Opposition who have rubbed it in, almost at will. The two contenders – one the incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the other his fiery and influential deputy, D K Shivakumar have for the present decided to bare their real intentions, stop pretending, and indulging in typical Congress party doublespeak, thereby letting it out all in the open. With south India still refusing to be 'Modified' to the extent the saffron headquarters wants in New Delhi and

elsewhere, the dramatic high which the GOP experienced two years ago when they wrested control in Bengaluru is no more evident in the silicon city. Propped up by well-wishers and a motley set of mutt leaders brazenly exhibiting a cocktail of casteist and religious power, both Shivakumar, the crisis manager and the go-to man for Congress for a few years and his senior competitor Siddaramaiah have not let anything pass in their battle for the gaddi. With loyalties split within the cabinet as groupism is rampant, the CM and his deputy have had to enable the campwalas to vent out their feelings (like how a ventriloquist does) and then pretend to douse the fire that it invariably causes. One has read a host of loaded statements, directly and indirectly, made by the leaders themselves and the ubiquitous AICC heads, who

still unsuccessfully try to cover up and deflect attention from the raging controversy. It is still inexplicable why Congress is doing this. In a long time, they won with a convincing number of seats in 2023 after receiving sizeable support from the public in Karnataka, who were fed up with the ineffective rule of BJP, fighting its own battles within the party. If ever power sharing by 'rotation' was considered a doomed to fail task, the Karnataka example would add to the many that have taken place in India over the past three decades, when coalition governments, shaky right from the start, patch up just in time to seize the gaddi and convince the dissidents in their respective parties that it will be an equal tenure rule for the principal players. Invariably, betrayal and opportunistic switch of partners to stay on and make

fresh alliances to ensure their political survival have been the oft-used tactics of both regional and national parties, which are forgotten as the next elections are announced. There is a huge list in this regard for political scholars to study all over the nation. Karnataka has once again grabbed attention as the political pow-wow as of now is being played out in New Delhi, where political pundits enjoy the southern flavour of this no-holds-barred fight and come up with expert theories on how it may all end up. As far as the grand old party is concerned, it has often shown that it needs no enemies from outside, laden as it is with 'good friends' within. Going by past experiences, Bengaluru may quiver and shake for a while, but this too shall pass. Or fail, depending on which lobby you want in power.

LETTERS

MNS MLA must be punished

THIS refers to the editorial 'Politicians wreaking havoc should be duly punished' (THI July 10). Sadly, Maharashtra is witnessing political highhandedness of Shiv Sena and MNS workers, who are indulging in needless violence either in the name of 'Marathi' language or in the process of intimidating innocent people from other states. The over-focus by the MNS to teach Marathi to others is unnecessary and unwarranted. Its MLA slapping and punching a non-local in the MLA canteen over the quality of 'dal' served there, has brought the reputation of the Shiv Sena and MNS combine several notches down in the public eye. The wanton vandalism of the toll booth showed the rowdy and uncouth behaviour of the opposition in Maharashtra in dismal light; and the government must take to task these lawbreakers so that they would not dare to repeat such acts again.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Publicly humiliate all law-breaking leaders

Politicians displaying a troubling disregard for constitutional norms and democratic principles is not only condemnable but is also indicative of a larger political conspiracy due to its inability to reconcile with failures. Recently, the way MNS members are resorting to violence in the name of linguistic pride in an increasingly polarised and identity-driven political climate is deplorable. Similarly, politicians taking law into their lands at the drop of a hat and going on a rampage on a false notion is dangerous. It is time to draw a line and unequivocally warn people triggering mob frenzy. Strict action should include arrests, fast-track trials and publicly damning the perpetrators. The courts, police and civil society must unite in ensuring this does not spiral into another round of violence. Only then, can hate violence and mob violence on one pretext or the other can be put to an end

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad-3

Mandate semi-circular layout of classrooms

IT is commendable that some schools in Kerala have given up the traditional row-based seating arrangement in favour of a semi-circular layout in classrooms inspired by Vinesh Viswanath's debut Malayalam film Sthanarthi Sreekkuttan. The film portrays school life in a rural setting in Kerala. The time has indeed come to actualise the idea of semi-circular configuration of classrooms to foster friendship and fellowship among students. This innovative adaptation would de-congest the classroom, create a more congenial atmosphere for interaction and learning and enable schools to do without pigeonholing students as 'front-benchers', 'middle benchers' and 'backbenchers' and students to imbibe the spirit of equality and companionship and camaraderie and value cooperation more than competition. Further, it would do away with getting seats depending on height or supposed brilliance or based on names in alphabetical order. In the new classroom configuration, all students get the teacher's attention in equal measure and no student feels neglected. From now onwards, the governments and private school managements would do well to design and build new schools, keeping in mind creation of enough space for the semi-circular layout of classrooms.

G. David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)

Identify Nipah cases on urgent basis

PATIENTS recovering from Nipah infection, which has become endemic in north Kerala, have been disease-free and without post-infection sequelae thus far. However, two persons continue to be bed-bound in a vegetative state, as an aftermath of Nipah encephalitis. This has cast a gloom on Nipah survivors and is worrying healthcare providers. The unfavourable long-term effect of the infection renders the identification of the source of the dreaded viral infection even more crucial.

Dr. George Jacob, Kochi

No way to treat history-making women cricketers

INDIA'S women's cricket team has just made history by winning their first T20 series in England. Alas, what has been the nation's reaction? A passing cheer. Had it been the men's team, headlines would scream the achievement and there would be celebrations on the streets. Why must women work twice as hard for half the recognition? This win isn't just about cricket—it's about respect, equality, and breaking old patterns. The question is: will sponsors and fans now stand behind them—or simply scroll past? If victory abroad doesn't earn lasting support at home, what will? Let's not just clap today. Let's commit to change. Because real progress isn't in trophies—it's in the way we value them.

Hasnain Rabbani, Mumbai

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

BBMP to spend Rs 2.88 crore on stray dog feeding project

BENGALURU: In a first-of-its-kind move, the government, which has long supported the Indira Canteen initiative to feed the urban poor, is now extending its compassion to Bengaluru's stray dog population. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced a new project to provide nutritious meals to stray dogs across its 8 zones and has floated a tender worth Rs 2.88 crore.

BBMP Special Commissioner Vikas Kishore Suralkar stated that the initiative aims to reduce stray dog attacks, especially on children, by ensuring that the animals are well-fed. He added that pilot programs conducted in a few wards have shown promising results. In these test runs, meals were provided to around 100 dogs over a period of 2-3 months, helping curb aggressive behaviour.

The BBMP plans to serve calorie-rich meals such as egg rice and chicken rice to stray dogs. These meals will be distributed in collaboration with local restaurants and food providers.

According to the tender notice issued via the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, proposals are being invited to provide cooked food to stray dogs across all 8 BBMP zones.

Read more at
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

TRIUMPH OF IDEOLOGICAL LOYALTY

SURGICAL STRIKE



K. KRISHNA SAGAR RAO

A few moments in public life restore our collective faith in the possibility of justice. One such moment arrived with the elevation of my senior party colleague, N. Ramchander Rao, as the State President of BJP Telangana. It is more than just a political appointment. To me, it is a triumph of ideological loyalty over expediency, of consistent service over opportunistic maneuvering.

In a political climate where party affiliations shift faster than breaking news tickers, and ideological loyalty is treated as an inconvenience, this development feels like a powerful counter-narrative. Rao's rise is not sudden. It is a result of over four decades of unwavering commitment to the same ideological framework, to the same party, and to the same larger purpose.

Four decades of consistent commitment:

I have known him for over 12 years, not just as a party colleague but as someone I have had the privilege to work with closely, especially during our time as spokespersons for BJP Telangana. While he was senior and I was new to the role, we collaborated on many party assignments, media campaigns, crisis communications, press conferences, strategic outreach efforts, and I always admired his clarity, composure, and deep-rooted ideological conviction. He is not a man of noise, but of substance. And in a political age addicted to instant gratification, his trajectory reminds us that meaningful leadership is not a sprint but a long, committed climb.

Rao began his political life as a spirited student leader with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in Osmania University campus. In the turbulent political environment of student activism in the 1980s, ideological clarity was not a convenience, it was a conviction. And he held onto it like a torch in the dark.

From those early days to holding responsibilities as the official spokesperson of the BJP, State General Secretary, Member of the Legisla-

tive Council, and now as the State President, his climb has been both principled and patient. He did not hop across parties when times were tough. He did not rebel when the tides were not in his favour. He stayed, served, and strengthened the party when there was little visibility and even lesser reward. He believed in the ideology, in the organization, and in the vision of a stronger India led by principled politics.

Ideology is not a costume: In contemporary politics, ideology has become a fashion statement, worn one day, discarded the next. It has become something leaders wear on stage and take off in the green room. But for those of us who take public life seriously, ideology is not a costume, it is our character.

A strong ideological foundation is not meant to restrict, but to refine. It helps leaders make decisions that are consistent, communities feel represented, and policies remain rooted in purpose. That is why parties like BJP are not just electoral vehicles, they are ideological missions. And leaders like Ramchander Rao are its long-distance runners.

The great political betrayal-Party-hopping as a culture:

Let us talk about the rot.

We are now living in an era of political restlessness. Leaders jump from one party to another like changing outfits for an evening function. One day, they are condemning a party's ideology, and the next, they are its star campaigners. They have mastered the art of ideological amnesia, conveniently forgetting what they stood against, to now claim what they never believed in.

It has become commonplace to see people jump from one extreme of the political spectrum to the other. Even from extreme Left to extreme Right. From secular-socialist rhetoric to nationalistic spiritualism, all in a matter of weeks. They swing across ideologies like it is all part of some harmless political game. But it is not. It is an insult to the electorate, a mockery of democracy, and a brutal erosion of trust in public life.

Let me be clear, party-switching is not illegal, nor is it unconstitutional. But it is ethically troubling and democratically corrosive. People elect representatives based on what they say they stand for. If that representation is betrayed for personal



N. Ramchander Rao

It has become commonplace to see people jump from one extreme of the political spectrum to the other. Even from extreme Left to extreme Right. From secular-socialist rhetoric to nationalistic spiritualism, all in a matter of weeks. They swing across ideologies like it is all part of some harmless political game. But it is not. It is an insult to the electorate, a mockery of democracy, and a brutal erosion of trust in public life.

advancement, the very foundation of democracy begins to crack.

When newcomers claim seniority:

What is even more disturbing is that many of these party-hoppers come in with high demands. They do not enter with humility. They enter with a sense of entitlement. They want top leadership roles, ticket assurances, and strategic visibility at events on stage. In contrast, those who have spent decades in the trenches of party work are often asked to wait, to watch and adjust.

This creates not just internal imbalance but ideological dilution. It undermines the value of loyalty. It tells young political aspirants that you do not need to commit long-term, you just need to switch at the right moment to get ahead.

And let us not pretend this is a one-off issue. This trend is widespread across parties. However, as a senior member of BJP Telangana, I find it more important than ever to raise a red flag within my own ecosystem. Because we must hold ourselves to a higher standard. BJP is not just a political party, we are a movement, we are a party with a difference. And movements are sustained not by influx, but by integrity.

My own journey-Loyalty without expectation:

I speak not just as an observer, but as a participant in this journey.

I have served BJP for over twelve years as its chief spokesperson in Telangana. Through changing leadership, shifting political equations, and intense public scrutiny, I have remained in the same role. Many have asked me why? Why not ask for something bigger? Why not negotiate for a more powerful post? Why not jump to a party that offers me more?

Believe me, I have had many such invitations. Roles in State Government. Higher party positions in other political parties. More visibility, more comfort, more responsibilities, more growth, more opportunity. However, I did not flinch for a minute to reject these offers.

I stayed. Not because I lack ambition, competence, but because I value allegiance. I believe in the BJP's ideology, deeply, emotionally, and intellectually. I did not join this party to climb a ladder. I joined to help rebuild a nation.

And I know I am not alone. There are thousands like me across the state and this country. Competent, highly educated and passionate individuals, who chose

BJP not for convenience, but for conviction to its ideology. I have spoken on thousands of media platforms regionally and nationally, worked at the ground level during elections, during crises, and represented the party with pride. But unfortunately, many feel sidelined when they see only those who have switched from other parties walking into high tables.

It is disillusioning. It sends a disheartening signal to the youth who look up to us, hoping that loyalty and long-term service still mean something. It creates confusion about what politics truly rewards, loyalty or leverage?

Rao's elevation-A beacon of hope:

And that is why at this moment, Ramchander Rao's elevation is so important.

It tells us that ideological loyalty is not dead. That the party still recognizes those who have walked with it, not just those who arrive when the weather is good. That substance still matters. That the long road one has taken, the prime years of youth one has spent in contribution to the party, is not a wasted one.

I commend the national and state leadership of BJP for this bold and correct choice. Among several worthy contenders, they chose a man who did not just work for the party, he embodied the party. It shows that in BJP, eventually, commitment gets its due. Even if it takes time, even if it takes patience, it does arrive.

And let this appointment also be a signal to the silent majority within the party, those working quietly, tirelessly, thanklessly. You are being watched. You are being valued. Your time will come.

A word to the youth-Ideology is still worth it:

To every young Indian who dreams of entering public life, here is my sincere advice, do not trade long-term credibility for short-term advantages. Politics is not a job switch. It is a life commitment. Join a party only if you believe in its principles. Stay not because it is easy, but because it is right.

The new culture of open houses, where every party accepts anyone, regardless of past contradictions, might seem welcoming. But it also weakens our democracy if there are no ideological filters. Politics without ideology is power without actual purpose.

If we want to create leaders with character, we must

create political journeys that reward conviction. Let us not normalize disloyalty. Let us not glorify the art of switching sides. Let us, instead, uphold the power of staying rooted.

Politics of integrity:

At this juncture, we must reflect on the kind of politics we want for our nation. The integrity of politics directly influences the integrity of the nation. If we continue to allow opportunists, criminals, and power-seekers to define political discourse, we risk hollowing out our democracy.

It is the responsibility of every political party, including ours, to create space for young people, competent professionals, nationalists, and individuals with strong ideological leanings who have no criminal or corrupt background. These are the people who can elevate public life. These are the people who must be encouraged, mentored, and empowered.

Politics should not be the last resort for the unemployed. It must be a first career choice for the able, the educated, the ethical, the patriotic and the inspired. This transformation is not only necessary, but also urgent. Because the quality of a nation's politics is the truest indicator of its national character. And we must not let it fall into mediocrity.

Closing thoughts-The real seniority:

Ramchander Rao did not demand seniority, he earned it. He did not threaten to exit to gain attention. He chose to stay even when it was not rewarding. That is what makes this elevation beautiful. It is poetic justice in an era that often forgets to reward integrity.

To my senior colleague Ramchander Rao, I extend my hearty congratulations. May your tenure inspire a new generation of leaders who do not just seek positions but pursue principles and stay rooted in the ideology of the party.

Let us show that loyalty is not a weakness. That conviction is the real currency of politics.

This, to me, is the real triumph. The triumph of ideological loyalty.

(The author is the chief spokesperson of BJP, Chairman for Nation Building Foundation, a global expert in Emotional Intelligence and a Harvard Business School certified Strategist)

pressure rises. Staying in the water for too long can lead to hypothermia, a condition where a person's core body temperature drops dangerously low. Shivering may begin within minutes in cold water.

As far back as 1969, researchers found even experienced swimmers could struggle after just a few minutes in cold water. Recently one of us (Sam Cornell) had to provide first aid at an ice bath venue in Sydney. A young man collapsed after staying in an ice bath for ten minutes.

baths don't always actively supervise patrons or monitor a person's time in the ice bath. They may leave their customers to self-regulate, assuming people will know to get out of the water before they pass their body's limits. What are the risks?

Cold water immersion triggers a powerful physiological response. Gasping occurs and breathing becomes rapid and uncontrollable. Heart rate spikes. Blood

recent years, with the proliferation of commercial cold plunge centres, there's been an explosion in people using ice baths recreationally. Many people are even setting up their own ice baths at home. Social media shows serene influencers meditating through the pain, claiming it boosts mental health, serotonin, testosterone, and their metabolism. But does the evidence stack up?

Ice baths can reduce mus-

cle soreness after intense training. However, the effect is modest and short-lived. Some research shows cold water immersion can improve mood after a single exposure in young, healthy people, but other research doesn't find these benefits. Most claims about mental health, testosterone and weight loss aren't backed by strong evidence. Rather, they're anecdotal and influenced by influencers.

Businesses offering ice

Ice baths are potential health risks

But the benefits are questionable and, importantly, ice baths can have health risks – particularly for people who have limited experience using them.

Cold water immersion isn't a new concept. The "frigidarium" – a room with a cold plunge pool or bath – was a feature in most Roman bathhouses. For decades, athletes have used cold water immersion, such as swims in cold water, for recovery. But in

FARMERS ARE BACKBONE OF NATION: SHIVRAJ SINGH

- The Union agriculture minister hails farmers as the nation's true strength and emphasizes empowering women to lead dignified lives
- Appreciates natural farming methods, suggesting they could become a national model, and highlights the potential for small-scale farmers to achieve higher yields using modern technology
- Presents a bank linkage cheque worth Rs 437.09 cr to 53,746 SHG members, supporting women's empowerment and financial inclusion

PUTAPARTHI (SRI SATHYASAI DISTRICT)

UNION minister for agriculture, farmers welfare, and rural development Shivraj Singh Chouhan said farmers are the true strength of the nation and called for the empowerment of women to rise above poverty and lead dignified lives.

Addressing an interactive session with farmers and women self-help groups (SHGs) at Pedaballi village in Puttaparthi mandal, the minister said that the farming community, which feeds the entire country, is a source of national pride and plays a crucial role in India's development.

The event was also attended by state agriculture minister K Atchannaidu and district collector T S Chetan.

Commending the local farming practices, the

Union minister appreciated the natural farming methods suggested by district collector Chetan, stating: "Natural farming involves lower costs and higher profits. It can become a model for the nation. By using modern technology, higher yields can be achieved even on small landholdings, opening many opportunities for small-scale farmers." On women empowerment, minister Chouhan praised the efforts of SHG women, highlighting their progress: "Our sisters are becoming self-reliant and stepping forward to lead dignified lives without depending on others. Their commitment to overcoming poverty and standing tall in society is commendable."

He recalled launching the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' during his tenure as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, underscoring his



Union minister for agriculture, farmers welfare, and rural development Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with state agriculture minister K Atchannaidu hands over a bank linkage cheque for Rs 437.09 crore to be distributed to 53,746 SHG members from Puttaparthi, Anantapur and other parts of the undivided district, at a programme at Pedaballi in Puttaparthi mandal on Thursday

commitment to women's empowerment. "Serving farmers is akin to serving God," he added.

As part of the event, a bank linkage cheque worth Rs 437.09 crore was distributed to 53,746 SHG members from Puttaparthi, Anantapur, and other parts of the undivided district.

Earlier in the day, the minister inspected a mixed crop cultivation field practising organic farming in Pedaballi and also visited a photo exhibition highlighting the impact of drought on crops.

Several senior officials, including joint collector Abhishek Kumar, joint secretary, Union ministry of agriculture Perni Devi along with local farmers and SHG members.



Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inspects mixed crop field in Peaballi

Food processing CIC set for launch at Tirupati

INCUBATION CENTRE IS THE FIRST IN THE STATE

- The Rs 3 cr facility will be inaugurated by Union minister Chirag Paswan along with AP minister Bharath
- It can process 20 tonne fruits daily and produce pulp and juices

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI TIRUPATI

A state-of-the-art Common Incubation Centre (CIC) for food processing, established at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Tirupati at a cost of Rs 3 crore, is set to be inaugurated on July 13. The facility will be formally launched by Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan, alongside Andhra Pradesh Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing, TG Bharath.

The incubation centre has been developed under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, as part of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. It is one of 76 such centres being established across the country with a total outlay of Rs 205.95 crore.

The centre at IIT Tirupati is focused on the processing of fruits and vegetables, and



The Common Incubation Centre for food processing at IIT Tirupati



A view inside the facility

was developed under the coordination of Prof KSMS Raghava Rao, Professor of Chemical Engineering, with strategic guidance from IIT Tirupati Director Prof KN Satyanarayana. With the proactive efforts of faculty and technical staff, the facility has now been fully procured, commissioned, and made operational.

Currently, this is the only facility of its kind in Andhra Pradesh. It aims to support agricultural entrepreneurs in transforming perishable produce such as tomatoes, mangoes, and citrus fruits into value-added products like pulp, jams, and pickles. The first operator at the centre will be entrepreneur Rajendranath Reddy.

While small-scale production has already begun, the

facility is also envisioned as a research hub. It provides hands-on opportunities for students pursuing MS and PhD programmes in food technology at IIT Tirupati's Department of Chemical Engineering.

The centre is equipped to process up to 20 tonnes of fruits per day, including mango, anjeer (fig), guava, and more. Its processed outputs – juices, pulp, and preserves, will be marketed under IIT Tirupati's in-house brand, 'Swastha'.

Looking ahead, the institute plans to collaborate with private companies through formal agreements to ensure higher value realisation for farmers. Entrepreneurs with their own food brands will also be encouraged and supported in utilising the facility.

Damodar vows stringent action against those responsible



HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Health Minister C Damodar Raja Narsimha on Thursday visited the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) Hospital and directed the officials to provide better treatment to the patients. The Minister inquired about the health condition of the victims who consumed the adulterated toddy. The minister visited the wards in which the patients were undergoing treatment and inquired their whereabouts and told them that they will overcome this in a couple of days.

The minister instructed the NIMS Director Dr N Beerappa to provide better medical services to all the victims. Speaking to the media, the minister said that 33 people were receiving



treatment at NIMS and all of them are stable. He also said that four patients are undergoing dialysis and added that everyone was likely to be discharged in four to five days.

The Minister said that the government would conduct a full investigation into the incident and strict action would be taken against those responsible. Action

would be taken to prevent such incidents from recurring. It may be mentioned here that six persons died and several others were admitted into hospitals after they consumed adulterated toddy in the depots near Kukatpally area. The police had also booked cases and arrested five persons responsible for the adulteration of the toddy.

33 out of danger, recovering in NIMS

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

FOUR out of 33 persons, who consumed adulterated toddy and were admitted in the NIMS Hospital, are under dialysis and undergoing treatment under the supervision of the expert team of doctors. All the 33 patients in the NIMS hospitals are out of danger and safe.

According to the officials, six more patients, who consumed toddy, were admitted in the hospitals on Thursday.

These patients were brought to the hospital with complaints of vomiting and diarrhea. According to the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) Director Dr N Beerappa, 33 patients were undergoing treatment in the hospital and all of them were safe.

Five persons died after consuming the adulterated toddy in various shops on Monday and Tuesday in the Kukatpally area. There were no deaths reported on Thursday and the officials are hopeful

of recovery of patients within three to four days. The patients were brought in with symptoms including dizziness, acute gastroenteritis, diarrhoea, and low blood pressure. According to the officials, four patients were undergoing dialysis and all necessary medical care is being provided.

The situation is being closely monitored by the expert multi-speciality team, said Dr Beerappa. The Excise office had sealed the toddy shops and arrested five accused, including Nagesh Goud, Batti Srinivas Goud, T Srinivas Goud, K Kumar Goud and Teegala Ramesh.

The Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao had said that the government would take stringent action against the people involved in the adulteration and ensure such incidents do not occur again.

The Health Minister C Damodar Raja Narsimha also visited the hospital on Thursday and inquired about the health condition of the patients.

Centre carrying out massacre in the name of Op Kagaar: TPCC chief

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud has alleged that the Union government is carrying out a massacre in the name of the Operation Kagaar.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said that despite the Maoists declaring readiness for dialogue, the Union government has initiated a ruthless operation, resulting in deaths of women and children. "Under the guise of Operation Kagaar, the Centre is trying to hand over forest mineral wealth to corporate entities. It is unfortunate that Operation Kagaar is still ongoing," he said.

The TPCC chief took part in the reopening ceremony of the CPI Makkdom office here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, he paid rich tributes to the legacy of poet-revolutionary Makhdom Mohiuddin and used the platform to deliver a scathing critique of the current political scenario in the country. Mahesh Kumar Goud described Makhdom as a symbol of literary brilliance and revolutionary politics. The TPCC leader also expressed disapproval of the Union government for labelling individuals who voice opposition to the imbalanced policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration as urban Naxalites.

"The very next day after I spoke against Operation Kagaar at a round table meet, I was branded as an urban Naxalite and anti-national," Mahesh Kumar Goud said. He stated that the secular forces must strengthen to safeguard the nation's future.

"There is a dire need to protect democracy in the country. It is unfortunate that the Election Commission has turned into a tool favoring select individuals, this is a dangerous development,"

the TPCC chief said. Mahesh Kumar Goud also criticised the BJP-led Centre for weakening constitutional bodies. "Since coming to power, the BJP has systematically undermined institutions. The Election Commission is one such casualty. Even honest officials within the institution are now being forced to bend under political pressure," he remarked. The TPCC chief also voiced serious concern over the functioning of the Election Commission.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-AUCTION NOTICE			
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (http://ireps.gov.in/) for the allotment of Deluxe Pay & Use Toilet Contracts on BOT, RMT & MOT Basis, at following Railway stations/locations:-			
E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Sites	
PaynUse07-2025	25.07.2025 at 12:00 Hrs.	Delhi (DLI) 1 Site, Anand Vihar (ANVT) 01 Site, Panipat (PNP) 01 Site, Shivaji Bridge (CSB) 01 Site & Patel Nagar (PTNR) 01 site Total 5 Sites.	
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen		https://ireps.gov.in/	
All bidders who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module- Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details- A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism. The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding round. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.			
Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query	Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055. Email: sanitationcell@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084		
No.: 7PUB/TN/Pay&UseToilets/Auction/2022 Dated: 09.07.2025		2081/2025	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

PM-USHA funds must drive inclusive growth in higher edu: APSCH vice-chairperson

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI TIRUPATI

THE vice chairperson of AP State Council of Higher Education Prof K Rama Mohan Rao said that universities have a key role in ensuring that funds under the PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) scheme are used strategically to transform institutions into centres of inclusive excellence.

He was speaking at a one-day workshop on 'Gender-Inclusive and Equity Initiative' held at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV) on Thursday. Prof Rao said the state is being mapped into thematic clusters based on regional priorities, with a special focus on skilling women and girls in areas aligned with local livelihood opportunities.

The workshop, organised under the Union Ministry of Education's PM-USHA initiative, aimed to explore ways to empower women through targeted academic and livelihood-based interventions. Principals from government degree colleges across several districts participated, discussing strategies for implementing gender-inclusive

training programmes across Andhra Pradesh.

State project director of RUSA-AP Dr N Bharat Gupta stressed the importance of structured planning and measurable outcomes. "The goal of RUSA isn't just to provide funding. It's about enabling impactful, evidence-based reforms in higher

- SPMVV holds workshop on 'Gender-Inclusive and Equity Initiative'

education," he noted.

SPMVV vice-chancellor Prof V Uma welcomed the Rs 100 crore sanctioned to the university under PM-USHA, calling it a timely support during a period of financial constraints. "We need to focus on training women from neighbouring areas based on their unique socio-economic needs," she said.

CMD of the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)-Kerala Dr Usha also spoke. Registrar Prof N Rajani and Academic Guidance Officer Dr Ch Tulasi coordinated the event.

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)			
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in/) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:-			
E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots	
Parking-30-2025	25.07.2025 at 11:00 Hrs	New Delhi) PG Side, Karnal (Cycle-Scooter-Motorcycle-Car) = Total 02 Sites.	
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen		https://ireps.gov.in/	
All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:			
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Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query		Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055. Email: pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084	
No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 09.07.2025		2080/2025	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

The last time the Indian team had a worse ranking was in December 2016 when it was placed at 135. India's best ever ranking was 94 in February 1996

NEW DELHI

THE Indian men's football team slumped to its lowest ranking in nine years as it dropped six places to 133rd

INDIA 133RD IN FIFA RANKINGS, WORST IN NINE YEARS

in the FIFA chart issued on Thursday, courtesy two losses in June.

India lost to Thailand (0-2) in an international friendly on June 4 before suffering a defeat to lower ranked Hong Kong (0-1) in an Asian Cup qualifying round match, leading to head coach Manolo Marquez's parting of ways with

the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The last time the Indian team had a worse ranking was in December 2016 when it was placed at 135. India's best ever ranking was 94 in February 1996.

The Indian team currently has 1113.22 rating points as against 1132.03 previously. It occupies the 24th place

among 46 Asian countries led by Japan (17th rank).

Nothing has been going right for the Indian men's team. The loss against Hong Kong has put the side in a difficult position in its bid to qualify for the 2027 Asian Cup.

The team logged just one win from its last eight matches under Marquez's

tutelage, the lone victory coming against Maldives in March. This year, India have so far played four matches, out of which they have won one, drew another, and lost two. The poor results prompted the return of former skipper and iconic striker Sunil Chhetri to the squad but that has done little to improve the team's

fortunes. India's next scheduled international match is an away fixture against Singapore in the third round of Asian Cup qualifiers in October. World champions Argentina leads the overall chart of 210 countries, followed by Spain, France, England, Brazil, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Croatia.



Double strike from Nitish leaves England at 83 for 2

Ollie Pope could have been dismissed in the very next ball but Gill could not latch on to a tough chance at gully

LONDON

INDIA all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy struck twice in an eventful over to leave England at 83 for two at lunch on day one of the Lord's Test here on Thursday.

On expected lines, Prasidh Krishna made way for Jasprit Bumrah as the sole change in the Indian playing eleven.

Ben Stokes, only for the second time in the Bazball era, opted to bat in a home game.

The trio of Bumrah, Akash Deep and Mohamed Siraj did ask a few questions but England opening duo of Ben Duckett (23 off 40) and Zak Crawley (18 off 43) survived the first hour of play, reaching 39 for no loss in 13 overs.

Due to the unique slope, the Indian bowlers understandably took some time to get used to the up and down nature of the ground while running in.

Bumrah bowled from both Pavillion End and Nursery End while Akash Deep, who took a match haul of 10 at



Edgbaston, bowled with the new ball from Nursery End.

Captain Shubman Gill could have brought back Akash Deep after the first hour, instead he gave the ball to Reddy from the Nursery End and he did not disappear.

The first breakthrough was a rather lucky one with Duckett gloving a short ball on the leg side to wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant.

Ollie Pope could have been dismissed in the very next ball but Gill could not latch on to a tough chance at gully.

The last ball of the over produced the wicket of

Crawley. It was a beauty that seamed away from length, inducing an outside edge on the way to the keeper.

Though the crowd capacity at the hallowed ground is little over 30,000, it seemed the whole of London was flocking to the venue with a sea of fans emerging from the St. John's Wood tube station close by.

Test cricket may be struggling for a regular attendance in some nations, but the sell out crowd in this series so far has reaffirmed the fact that the traditional format continues to thrive in this country.

Novak reaches a record 14th Wimbledon semifinal

LONDON: At least Novak Djokovic could laugh about it immediately afterward.

Yes, he took what he called a "nasty" and "awkward" fall on his second match point at Wimbledon on Wednesday. Yes, he slid into the splits and ended up face-down on the Centre Court grass. And, yes, those sorts of things aren't ideal for a 38-year-old seeking an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title.

Still, Djokovic dusted himself off and took the next two points, reaching the semifinals at the All England Club for a men's-record 14th time with a 6-7 (6), 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 victory over No. 22 seed Flavio Cobolli to set up a showdown against No. 1 Jannik Sinner.

"Obviously, (my) body is not the same today like it was before," Djokovic said at his news conference, "so I guess the real impact or effect of what happened, I will feel tomorrow. So let's see. I'm hoping in the next 24, 48 hours, that the severity of ... what happened is not too bad, that I'll be able to play at my best and free of pain in two days."

That's when he will take on three-time major champion Sinner, who didn't play like someone dealing with an injured right elbow while using terrific serving and his usual booming forehand to beat 10th-seeded Ben Shelton 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4.

"It's going to take the best of me at the moment to beat Jannik. I mean, I know that," said Djokovic, who has lost his last four meetings with Sinner, including in the French Open semifinals last month.

Djokovic is 2-0 against Sinner at Wimbledon, eliminating him in the 2023 semifinals and 2022 quarterfinals.



Against Cobolli — like Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy — the late-match tumble was not the only thing that was far from smooth for Djokovic. He served for the opening set at 5-3 but got broken at love.

He later was a point from owning that set before first-time major quarterfinalist Cobolli came through.

Djokovic did stretches and breathing exercises at changeovers. He whacked his shoe with his racket after one miss in the fourth set. He seemed bothered at times by the bright sun above Centre Court.

He also showed off all of his considerable skills, accumulating 13 aces, holding in 19 of 21 service games, using a drop-shot-lob-drop-shot combination to take one point and limiting his unforced errors to 22 — half as many as Cobolli.

On Friday, Djokovic will try to reach his seventh consecutive final at the All England Club and get closer to equaling Roger Federer's men's mark of eight trophies there. The other men's semifinal is two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, who defeated Djokovic in the 2023 and 2024 finals, against Taylor Fritz.

Sachin's portrait unveiled in MCC Museum at Lord's

LONDON: A portrait of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled in the MCC Museum at Lord's before the start of the third Test between India and England here on Thursday.

The portrait, which has been painted by Stuart Pearson Wright from a photograph taken by the artist at his home 18 years ago, will remain in the MCC Museum until later this year and will then be relocated to the Pavilion.

"As the work progressed, so did Pearson Wright's approach, eventually ending with oil on abraded aluminium. The abstract background illustrates Tendulkar's timelessness, unrestricted by any era or specific location," a release said.

Pearson Wright has previously painted portraits of Kapil Dev, Bishan Singh Bedi, and Dilip Vengsarkar.

Tendulkar was quoted as saying, "It's a huge honour. In 1983, when India won the World Cup, it was my first introduction to Lord's."

"I saw our captain, Kapil Dev, lift the trophy. That moment sparked my cricketing journey. Today, with my portrait going up inside the Pavilion, feels like it's come full circle. When I reflect on my career, it brings a smile to my face. This is truly special."

"Unlike the previous paintings, which were full-length, the portrait of Tendulkar is a larger-than-life image of his head and shoulders," the release added.

"The Lord's Portrait Programme has been running in its current



form for three decades, but MCC has been collecting art and artefacts since the Victorian period, opening a dedicated museum in the 1950s making it the oldest sporting museum in Europe.

"The Long Room Gallery is the oldest and most iconic gallery in sport. The Club currently houses around 3,000 pictures, nearly 300 of which are portraits."

Pearson Wright said: "It was clear that MCC didn't want this portrait to be in the same format as the previous Indian cricket portraits I made, so a fresh approach was taken with this one." "I decided on a composition which focused more on Sachin's head and also using a heroic larger-than-life size scale to give the painting a sense of gravitas and power."

"I have often painted a portrait with an abstract background, often a plain colour, rather than paint a rendition of an interior or exterior space. This is largely to give focus to the subject's features and to minimise a context which might define the subject in some way."

Principal, staffer held for menstrual check of students

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has issued directives for stringent action against those responsible for the alleged stripping of girl students at a school to check if they were menstruating, Minister Girish Mahajan said on Thursday.

The minister told the legislative assembly that the CM has ordered a probe into the

incident that took place at a private school in Thane district.

Mahajan said strict action will be taken against the guilty.

One-fifth of women, girls in south Asia abstain from daily activities while menstruating: Lancet study test

Congress' Nana Patole raised the matter in the Lower House, expressing concerns that such an incident

Maha CM Fadnavis orders probe after Thane school staff allegedly strip girl students to check for menstruation

could take place in a progressive state like Maharashtra.

Jitendra Awhad of NCP (SP) said the school principal involved is herself a woman. The police have arrested the principal and another staffer over the alleged stripping of



the girls. Stressing that the police have already acted in

the case, Mahajan assured the House that a probe would

be conducted into the incident and strict action would be taken.

Congress legislator Jyoti Gaikwad also demanded that those guilty should not be spared. She said facilities like sanitary napkin vending machines and water are necessary in schools.

The incident took place at the school in the Shahapur area of Thane district on Tuesday after bloodstains were found in its toilet, according to the police.

It sparked outrage among the girls' parents, who protested on the school premises on Wednesday and sought action against the management and teachers involved in the episode.

The police on Wednesday night arrested the school's principal and a woman attendant who allegedly stripped the girls, studying in Classes 5 to 10, and checked their private parts for menstruation, an official from Shahapur police station said.

A case has been registered against eight persons under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 74 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 76 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe) and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

Six Naxalites held from Chhattisgarh's Sukma

The four told police that they planned to plant an IED in the jungles between Kottacheru and Gorkha villages to target security personnel but failed to do so due to increase in patrolling

SUKMA

SIX Naxalites were arrested from separate places in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, a police official said on Thursday.

Kunjam Muka (37) and Madvi Muya (30), carrying rewards of Rs 1 lakh and Rs 2 lakh, respectively, were held on Tuesday from Pilavaya village under Konta police station limits, the official said.

"Muka was active as a Jananata Sarkar head under Konta Area Committee of the outlawed CPI (Maoist). Muya was its militia commander, he added. The two were involved in firing on security forces at Banda polling booth during assembly elections in 2023 and killing a civilian in Gangrajpad village in 2024," he added.

The other four were identified as Madvi Sukka (35), Sodi Chandru (28), Muchaki Lakhma (27) and Sodhi Deva (24), who are lower



rung ultras, the official said.

"They were nabbed on Tuesday between Etegatta and Gorkha villages in Bheiji area following a tip. We seized a tiffin bomb weighing 3 kg, five detonators, cordex wire and electric

wire. The four told police they planned to plant an IED in the jungles between Kottacheru and Gorkha villages to target security personnel but failed to do so due to increase in patrolling," the official said.

"Accidents have become a common occurrence in the country. Sometimes a train accident, sometimes a bridge developing cracks right after its inauguration. The country hasn't even recovered from the plane crash when news of a bridge collapse in Gujarat came yesterday. 12 innocent lives were lost," Kharge wrote on X.

"In the name of 'governance,' the BJP leadership and government, busy only with speeches and advertising, have crossed all limits of indifference. This is the result of a leadership crisis, rampant corruption, lack of capacity to run the government, and incompetence. We hope the people of the country are watching this and will give a fitting response when

Guj bridge collapse toll 15: Oppn glare on 'BJP's loot raj'

NEW DELHI: The collapse of the four-decade-old Gambhiramujpur bridge in Gujarat's Vadodara district, which claimed 15 lives, has triggered a wave of criticism from Opposition parties.

Congress held the BJP-led state and central governments accountable, accusing them of negligence, corruption and misplaced priorities in governance. The party's president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the BJP's handling of infrastructure safety.

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the time comes." The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) also weighed in, demanding accountability and urgent infrastructure assessments across BJP-ruled states. "Every bridge, every road, every inch of infrastructure in Double Engine states must undergo immediate and thorough safety audits," the party posted on X.

Highlighting another incident in Rajasthan, AITC wrote: "After the deadly bridge collapse in Vadodara that claimed 11 lives, another glaring failure has surfaced. In Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district, the road connecting Baghwali-Jahaj to NH 52 has been completely washed away by rain." The party alleged systemic corruption, saying: "Why does this keep happening? Substandard materials are used in critical infrastructure. Funds meant for public safety are siphoned off by local BJP leaders. Contracts are handed out not on merit, but in exchange for kickbacks.

Mukesh Ambani doesn't speak Marathi, try him: BJP to MNS

NEW DELHI: BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday slammed Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray amid the Hindi-Marathi language row, saying they only beat "poor people" for not speaking Marathi. Speaking to reporters, Nishikant Dubey said, "You beat up the poor. But Mukesh Ambani lives there, he speaks very less Marathi. If you have guts, go to him. Mahim has a large Muslim population. If you have guts, go there. SBI chairman doesn't speak Marathi, try hitting him."

Nishikant Dubey further clarified that his earlier statement regarding the economy of Maharashtra has been misinterpreted. He said, "There is something which I said and which has been destroyed - Maharashtra has a great contribution in the economy of this country... What I said was misconstrued by people. But what I am saying is that we too have a contribution in the tax paid by Mumbai or Maharashtra. This has nothing to do with the Thackeray family or the Maratha. SBI and LIC, who pay tax, have their headquarters in Mumbai," he added.

Earlier Dubey strongly reacted to MNS chief Raj Thackeray's



remark. Raj had reportedly instructed his party workers to "beat but don't make a video," referring to individuals unwilling to speak in Marathi. In response, Dubey had said, "What are you doing, whose bread are you eating? You people are surviving on our money. What kind of industries do you have? We have all the mines in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. What mines do you have? All semiconductor refineries are in Gujarat." Challenging the intent behind the aggression towards Hindi-speaking people, Dubey added, "If you have the courage to beat Hindi speakers, then beat those who speak Urdu, Tamil, and Telugu too. If you're such a 'boss,' come out of Maharashtra—come to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. Tumko patak patak ke maareng."

"There is something which I said and which has been destroyed - Maharashtra has a great contribution in the economy of this country... What I said was misconstrued by people. But what I am saying is that we too have a contribution in the tax paid by Mumbai or Maharashtra. This has nothing to do with the Thackeray family or the Maratha. SBI and LIC, who pay tax, have their headquarters in Mumbai," he added. The controversy began when some traders in Mumbai were allegedly attacked by MNS workers for not speaking Marathi. The MNS had been demanding that traders and shopkeepers in the city speak Marathi, leading to tensions between the two groups. The police have been working to maintain law and order in the city and prevent any further escalation of the situation. -- ANI

‘The 100’ review: A riveting thriller with heart and heft

SUHAS SISTU

RK Sagar returns to the silver screen with ‘The 100,’ a compelling investigative thriller directed by Raghav Omkar Sasidhar. Based on real-life events, the film marks a strong comeback for Sagar, who is best known for his iconic TV role as RK Naidu in Mogali Rekulu. With Dhanya Balakrishna, Lakshmi Gopalaswamy, and Kalyani Natarajan in key roles, the film hits theatres. Let’s see how it fares at box-office.

Story:

At its core, ‘The 100’ follows Vikranth, a principled and determined IPS officer, as he unravels a complex case rooted in reality. The film is more than a regular whodunit—it seamlessly layers family dynamics, emotional depth, and socially relevant themes,



all while maintaining a tight grip on its investigative narrative. The thrilling

climax, shot against a rain-drenched backdrop, adds intensity and brings the

story to a powerful close.

Performances:

RK Sagar owns the role of Vikranth, delivering a mature and grounded performance. His portrayal, reminiscent yet evolved from his television stint, feels authentic and impactful. Misha Narang, Dhanya Balakrishna, Lakshmi Gopalaswamy, and Kalyani Natarajan provide strong support, each adding substance to the story with their well-etched characters and convincing performances.

Technicalities:

Director Raghav Omkar Sasidhar impresses with sharp writing and focused direction. The screenplay is taut, and the pacing ensures engagement throughout. Cinematography enhances the mood, especially during the intense climax. The background score

is a standout element, heightening tension and emotion in key scenes. Rich production values add polish to the film’s execution.

Analysis:

The 100 is not just a thriller—it’s a smartly made, emotionally layered film that speaks to both fans of the genre and general audiences. It strikes a fine balance between drama, suspense, and emotion. With meaningful storytelling, commendable performances, and technical finesse, it makes a lasting impact. RK Sagar’s return is not just nostalgic; it’s triumphant. ‘The 100’ delivers on all fronts. RK Sagar’s commanding screen presence, combined with a gripping story and strong direction, makes it a must-watch thriller. A compelling entertainer with heart and heft—go for it!



Prabhas wishes producer SKN on birthday

Rebel Star Prabhas conveyed his birthday wishes to producer SKN, who celebrated his birthday this Monday. SKN recently met Prabhas on the sets of ‘Raja Saab’, where the star personally wished him

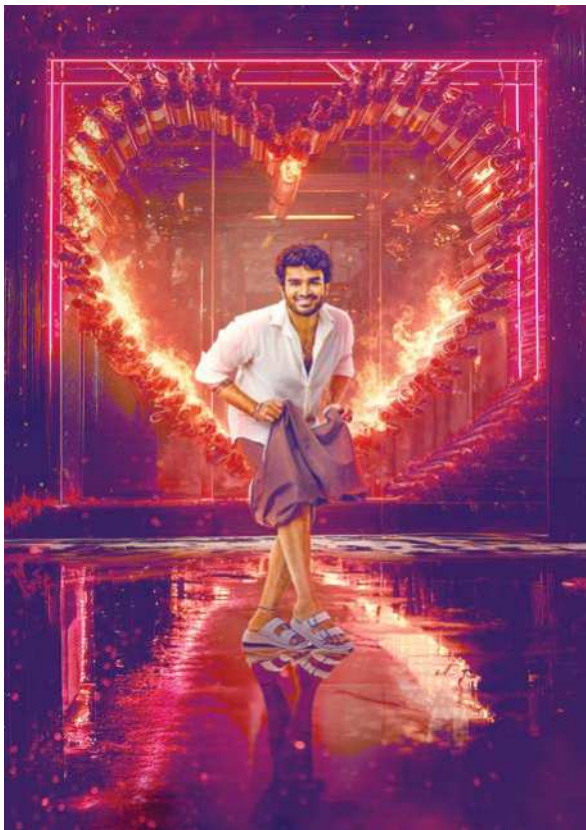
on the occasion. Sharing the moment, SKN posted a photo with Prabhas on social media. The stylish new look of Prabhas in the photo has gone viral, drawing attention from fans. Many of Prabhas’ followers

also took to social media to extend birthday wishes to SKN. SKN is serving as the Creative Producer for ‘Raja Saab’, which is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on December 5th.

Kiran Abbavaram’s ‘K-Ramp’ Diwali release

Young and talented actor Kiran Abbavaram is starring in the upcoming film ‘K-Ramp’, marking his 11th project as a lead. The film is being jointly produced by successful producers Rajesh Danda and Shiva Bommak under the banners of Hasya Movies and Rudransh Celluloid. Yukti Thareja plays the female lead, while Jain Nani is directing the film.

Moving at jet speed, the team recently completed a crucial schedule in the scenic locations of Kerala. The visuals shot here are expected to be a visual feast on screen. The first-look poster of Kiran Abbavaram, released earlier, received a tremendous response from audiences. With the shoot now in its final stage, ‘K-Ramp’ is getting ready for a grand theatrical release this Diwali.



‘The Paradise’ team wishes Raghav

Team Natural Star Nani, Srikanth Odela, Sudhakar Cherukuri, and SLV Cinemas’ global actioner ‘The Paradise’ extends birthday wishes to Raghav Juyal, unveiling a striking BTS video.

Natural Star Nani’s highly anticipated global action spectacle ‘The Paradise’ has been making waves on the internet ever since the first look of the film was released. Directed by the talented Srikanth Odela, following the massive success of ‘Dasara’, ‘The Paradise’ is being crafted on an ambitious scale. Following the launch of the ‘Raw Statement’ glimpse, the intrigue surrounding the film has only grown stronger. Now, the makers have onboarded yet another incredible talent, Raghav Juyal, and wished him on his birthday with a striking BTS video.

In the video, Srikanth Odela is seen describing Raghav’s character—his brutal nature and distinctive look. The actor appears visibly excited to learn about his role in the movie.

Raghav Juyal is indeed an exceptional talent with a distinct on-screen presence.

Having delivered impressive performances in films like ‘Kill’, ‘Gyaarah Gyaarah’, among others, he is now all set to deliver yet another memorable act in ‘The Paradise’ alongside Natural Star Nani.

Amid ongoing speculation about his role alongside Shah Rukh Khan in ‘King’, Raghav now adds another feather to his cap by joining the cast of this pan-India project with Nani, helmed by Srikanth Odela.

Raghav Juyal is truly on a roll with major pan-India films in 2026. ‘The Paradise’, slated to hit screens on March 26, 2026.

The makers are currently in talks with a Hollywood studio for a potential collaboration and will be sharing updates soon. ‘The Paradise’, releasing in eight languages—Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, English, and Spanish—aims to deliver the unexpected, setting a new standard and raising the bar for cinematic excellence. With its universal appeal, the film will have a pan-world release and put Indian cinema on the global map.

Dhanush’s ‘#D54’ launched with Puja

National Award-winning actor Dhanush has cemented a strong market in Telugu cinema, following the sensational success of his recent blockbusters, particularly ‘Kuberaa’. Building on that momentum, the actor’s 54th film has been officially announced today. The film ‘#D54’ is being helped by Vignesh Raja, best known for his critically acclaimed thriller ‘Por Thozhil’. It is produced by Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh under Vels Film International, in collaboration

with Think Studios.

The film was formally launched today with a pooja ceremony. The regular shoot also commenced today. The announcement poster features Dhanush in a sharp, formal look, standing near a fire, hinting at the film’s intense tone. Billed as an intense action drama with a distinctive storyline, the film promises to resonate with a broad audience, cutting across regions.

Actress Mamitha Baiju, known for her lively performance in ‘Premalu’, has been

cast opposite Dhanush as the female lead. The stellar ensemble cast also includes powerhouses like KS Ravi-kumar, Jayaram, Karunas, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Prithvi Pandiarajan, and others.

The film also brings together a strong technical team. Theni Eswar is on board as the cinematographer, GV Prakash Kumar handles the music, Sreejith Sarang takes charge of editing, and Mayapandi oversees art direction.

The script has been co-written by director Vignesh

Raja along with Alfred Prakash, and is expected to deliver a compelling blend of action, emotion, and intrigue.

The film is being mounted on a massive scale across multiple locations, blending intense drama with stylish storytelling. With Vels’ commitment to delivering high-quality content across India, ‘#D54’ is envisioned as an absolute theatrical experience for audiences.

Stay tuned for more updates as this exciting journey unfolds!

‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ trailer officially released



Presented by Hombale Films, Cleem Productions’ ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ is set to offer a unique cinematic experience with visual wonder and a powerful story. The much-awaited trailer of ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ has been released—and it is stunning.

The trailer, which begins with a sequence of Hiranyakashipu performing a severe penance for a boon from Lord Brahma, is gripping throughout. Prahlad, devoted to Vishnu, faces opposition from his atheist father, Hiranyakashipu. The trailer gives goosebumps with the arrival of ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’, an incarnation of Vishnu who comes to save Prahlad.

With epic visuals and a stunning background score, this trailer is a visual marvel. The film has reached the next level. Never

before has this iconic story from Indian history been portrayed so beautifully.

Producer Shilpa Dhawan said, “We are ready to unveil the epic story of Shri Narasimha and Shri Varahula! Every frame, every moment, every heartbeat has brought this great story to life. The roar of Narasimha is coming.”

Director Ashwin Kumar added, “The first animated feature trailer of the ‘Mahavatar Cinematic Universe’ has been unveiled with His grace. The divine journey has begun. The vision of Cleem Productions—a new-age media house for audiences—and the dream of preserving the culture and heritage of India through the screen is alive.”

Hombale Films and Cleem Productions have officially announced the lineup for this

ambitious animated franchise, which will span a decade and showcase the various incarnations of Lord Vishnu:

- ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ (2025)
 - ‘Mahavatar Parasuram’ (2027)
 - ‘Mahavatar Raghunandan’ (2029)
 - ‘Mahavatar Dhavakadhesh’ (2031)
 - ‘Mahavatar Gokulananda’ (2033)
 - ‘Mahavatar Kalki Part 1’ (2035)
 - ‘Mahavatar Kalki Part 2’ (2037)
- ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ is directed by Ashwin Kumar. Presented by Hombale Films under the banner of Cleem Productions, Shilpa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai are producing this dynamic partnership, aiming to deliver a cinematic marvel. The film is releasing in 3D in five Indian languages on 25th July 2025.

