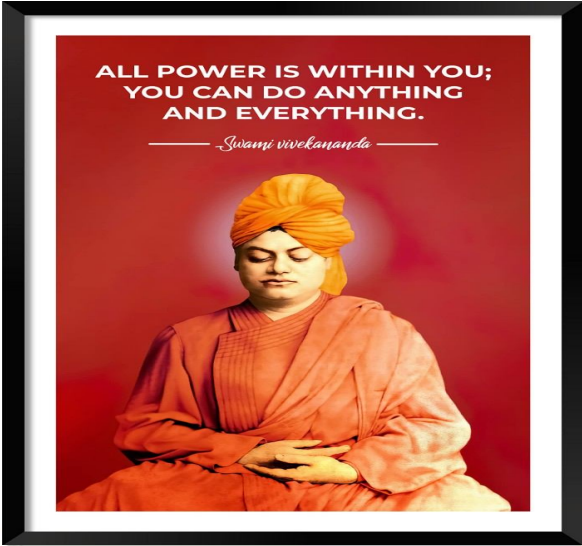
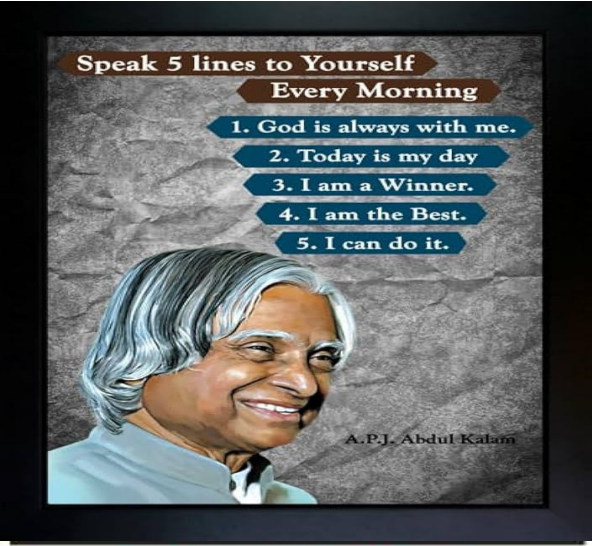




MMC Commissioner Receives 23 Prajavani Applications



Hyderabad: The Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) Commissioner T Vinay Krishna Reddy received a total of 23 applications through Prajavani conducted on Monday, covering issues related to engineering and town planning departments. Four applications were related to

civic and infrastructure in engineering department while 19 applications pertained to town planning-related issues. The applications received through Prajavani are being referred to the departments' concerned for examination and necessary action, with a focus on addressing

citizens' grievances and providing timely civic services. The Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation remains committed to strengthenments' concerned for ing citizen grievance redressal and ensuring that public concerns are addressed through coordinated departmental action.

Congress high command faces tough call on Konda Surekha as BC groups rally support

Hyderabad: Amid the political unrest in the ruling party, triggered by Forest Minister Konda Surekha's daughter Konda Sushmitha's comments against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, two questions are dominating discussions in Gandhi Bhavan, the party headquarters. Will the high command approve the removal of Surekha from the Cabinet? If she is removed, who will replace her? These questions are being widely debated within the party and political circles too. Several MLAs have demanded strict action against the Minister. SC Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman and Animal Husbandry Minister Vakati Srihari have also criticised the conduct of Surekha and her daughter. Party sources said the State leadership was firm about taking stern action against the Minister.



However, some leaders believe it may not be easy for the high command to act against her as she is a woman and belongs to the BC community. The issue has assumed significance as the Congress government is already facing criticism over its failure to fulfil its promise of implementing 42 per cent reservations for BCs. Besides, some BC organisations have rallied behind Surekha and warned of consequences if she is removed from the Cabinet. "It will not be easy for the high command to take a decision. It could prove counterproductive in the long run," a senior party leader said.

TPCC Disciplinary Committee Chairman Mallu Ravi has already said there is no time frame for taking a decision. However, there is speculation within the party that action could be initiated against Surekha after Revanth Reddy to Hyderabad on Monday. Unconfirmed reports suggested that AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan was seeking the opinions of senior MLAs and Ministers before taking a decision.

Farmers Losing Land to Airfield Raise Concern

Hyderabad: Former Minister T Harish Rao criticised the Revanth Reddy government over the notification issued for 121 liquor brands, questioning its delay in releasing job notifications for unemployed youth. He stated that lakhs of job seekers were waiting for employment opportunities while the government was moving swiftly on liquor-related notifications. "Why is there such urgency for the liquor business when there is none for job notifications?" he asked.



Harish Rao said educated youth were completing degrees and post-graduation programmes while waiting for government jobs, but the government was instead expanding liquor outlets and brands to increase revenue. He also accused the government of

failing to fulfil its promise of two lakh government jobs and alleged that fee reimbursement and Rajiv Yuva Vikasam had failed to deliver. "Job notifications nil, liquor notifications full—is this the Praja Palana promised by Revanth Reddy?" he asked.

Revanth Reddy Slams Centre, Alleges Discrimination against Telangana

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Monday slammed the Central government for denying permission to him to visit the US due to political reasons. "What is the meaning of political reason? It is nothing but I belong to Telangana and Congress," he said. Owing to political reasons, the Centre is stopping investments to Telangana and reluctant to cooperate with Telangana in its development, he alleged. Also Read - Alair Revenue Inspector Caught in Rs.14,000 Bribe Case "It's unfortunate. We will not tolerate this discrimination," he said, registering a protest against the Central government. He said the Centre cannot run the gov-



ernment in a dictatorial manner. These incidents would hamper the relationship between the State

and Central governments. The issue would be raised in the Lok Sabha by Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and party MPs in Rajya Sabha and at other forums. Also Read - Telangana BJP Chief Begins 48-Hour Fast Demanding Reimbursement of Tuition Fees Addressing a press conference at Telangana Secretariat, he said he planned to visit the US to invite representatives of the best universities and sport academies apart from attracting investments during Telangana Rising summit to be conducted on December 7, 8

and 9. In spite of applying for a visit to the US officially, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denied permission. However, the Ministry accorded permission to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to visit US to promote State's investment policy in the name of Vibrant Gujarat policy. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi constantly highlights Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, why the Central government is biased in granting permission to Telangana Chief Minister's visit to the US to attract investments, he asked.

Naidu Thanks Modi, Nitin Gadkari for Kharagpur-Amaravati Highway Approval

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari following the approval of the 1107-km long Kharagpur-Amaravati greenfield highway. The project includes a 457 km four-lane stretch passing through the southern state, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 32,000 crore. The Chief Minister said the landmark project will establish a link between Andhra Pradesh and

Eastern India. "On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Ji for approving the 1,107 km Kharagpur - Amaravati corridor!" said Naidu in a post on X late on Sunday. According to the CM, the corridor will slash logistics costs for Andhra's farmers and industry to accelerate greenfield capital city Amaravati's rise as a premier economic hub. Further, he noted that it will create new opportunities across trade, agricul-



ture, manufacturing and employment.

Jogi Ramesh Condemns Attempts to Politicise Family Dispute



Vijayawada: Former Andhra Pradesh Minister and YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh on Monday strongly condemned attempts to politicise a personal dispute involving his son Rajeev and daughter-in-law Meghana. He said family matters were being deliberately used to target him politically and malign his family. Speaking to the media, Ramesh said he had performed his responsibility as a father and grandly conducted Rajeev's marriage. After marriage, differences arose between the couple. Also Read - Akhila Priya Launches Outreach Programme in Hyderabad The family sincerely wanted them to live together and made several efforts to bring about reconciliation. However, as the dif-

ferences increased, Rajeev filed a divorce petition. Ramesh said Meghana was like his own daughter and expressed pain over the developments. He said a complaint was filed this month and an FIR was registered against 11 members of his family. He objected particularly to references to religious conversion in the FIR. "Is it wrong if my wife reads the Bible or listens to the teachings of Jesus Christ?" he asked. He said his family respects all religions, visits temples in Tirupati and has also performed religious rituals and yagnas. Also Read - Radhakrishnan, Naidu Unveil Non-GMO Popcorn Hybrid Seeds in Eluru He alleged that his family was being subjected to a deliberate campaign of

misinformation. Fake videos, audios and AI-generated content were being circulated for the past month, including through the iTDP X handle, he said. He questioned why certain media organisations were repeatedly broadcasting private family matters and causing mental distress. Ramesh said BC leaders were being targeted and asked why politics should be taken to such a personal level. Also Read - Ongole Steps Up Development Works as City Marks 150 Years He alleged that MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad had intervened in the matter and said his in-laws had met the MLA. He pointed out that he had never spoken about Krishna Prasad's personal life. "Which family does not have personal issues? Have there never been family issues in the families of NTR, ANR or Chiranjeevi?" Ramesh asked. He urged Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh to stop using family disputes for political purposes.

Telangana BJP Chief Begins 48-Hour Fast Demanding Reimbursement of Tuition Fees



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Monday began a 48-hour hunger strike demanding that the Congress government release pending dues of students' tuition fee reimbursement scheme. Rao, who began the fast at the party office here, said the pending dues to the tune of Rs 12,000 crore have put the future of about 20 lakh students at stake. The dues rose to Rs 12,000 crore as Rs 8,000 crore was already pending when the previous BRS government demitted office in December 2023, he said. The private colleges are withholding the certificates of students in view of the dues, he said. Also Read - Alair Revenue

Inspector Caught in Rs.14,000 Bribe Case The colleges are not able to pay salaries to their staff members in view of the non-payment of funds under the scheme, he said. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of BJP, has collected the signatures of five lakh students in colleges, which shows their anger, he said. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is handling the education portfolio, but the department has been thrown to the wind, he alleged. The BJP leader demanded that Revanth Reddy give up the education portfolio in view of his alleged failure to address people's problems. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Slams Centre, A l l e g e s

Discrimination against Telangana Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is provoking the country's youth, should come to Hyderabad and answer the people on the pending dues of the fee reimbursement scheme, he said. Though permission was sought to organise the fast at the Dharma Chowk, a place where protests are usually organised in the city, the government denied the permission, BJP said. CM Revanth Reddy has earlier announced that the state government would deposit Rs 2,400 crore towards fee reimbursement into bank accounts of students in advance from this academic year. He said Rs 250 crore was already made available for payments.

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

Hyderabad: The DRF teams of Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) began demolition activity at Anjaiah Nagar in Gachibowli on Monday, after a few hours of pause. Hydraa and CMC officials took a decision after a joint inspection of the adjacent apartments. They noticed another seven-storeyed apartment had also been impacted and partially damaged after an illegal apartment collapsed on it, and decided to demolish it on Sunday itself. However, keeping in view the poor night visibility and the disturbance to residents of neighbouring apartments, the demolition was postponed to Monday. Hydraa deployed a high-reach hydraulic machine 'Bahubali' to demolish the high-rise structure in an effort to avoid damage to adjacent structures. Gachibowli



Photo: Surya SridharThe heavy-duty, advanced machinery, popularly nicknamed the 'Bahubali' machine, was used by Hydraa in several times during the demolition of high-rise structures. But rain which was continued on Monday, hampered demolition of the structure. In an official statement, the Hydraa stated to avoid disturbing the sleep of residents in the Anjaiah Nagar surrounding areas, the Hydra halted demolition work during the night. The operations resumed



under the joint supervision of CMC and Hydraa on Monday. Demolition activities were back underway using the 'Bahubali' high-reach machine, it added.

CMC orders demolition of unauthorised under-construction buildings in Cyberabad

Hyderabad: Two days after a seven-storeyed illegal apartment collapsed and two workers were killed at Anjaiah Nagar in Gachibowli, the Commissioner of Cyberabad Municipal Corporation G Srijana on Monday directed the Town Planning and enforcement teams to identify and demolish unauthorised under-construction buildings that fall under specified categories. In a press statement, the Commissioner directed officials concerned to identify under-construction buildings on plots below 75 sq. yards where construction exceeded 7 metres in height, and buildings on plots above 75 sq. yards constructed without any building permission, irrespective of the height of construction.



She too directed the teams that all under-construction buildings identified under these categories shall be taken up for demolition through enforcement drives, it said. Further CMC official also instructed that such cases shall be identified irrespective of the

source of detection, whether through citizen complaints or suo motu detection by the concerned field teams, according to the official statement. The number of demolitions out under these categories will be monitored on a daily basis

from today to ensure continuous enforcement and accountability. The officials were directed to maintain strict field-level monitoring, promptly identify such constructions and take necessary enforcement action, added the press statement.

Several Tollywood celebrities give up voting rights in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Are you among the 46 per cent of Hyderabad residents who encountered a counterfeit product in the last 12 months? According to a survey by the Authentication Solution Providers' Association (ASPA), conducted by Crisil Intelligence, 91 per cent of Hyderabad residents have come across a counterfeit product at least once in their lifetime. Hyderabad recorded the highest share of consumers in South India who reported encountering counterfeit products, followed by Chennai and Bengaluru. The findings were part of the ASPA-Crisil State of Counterfeiting in India 2025 report, released at the "Fake Free India" event here on Monday. ASPA stressed the need for greater consumer awareness and easier product verification mechanisms to help people identify counterfeit products. The survey covered 1,639 consumers across nine Indian cities and six key sectors, including apparel, FMCG, automotive parts, consumer



durables, healthcare products and agro-products. Consumers estimated that nearly 29 per cent of products available in local markets could be counterfeit. About 74 per cent believed counterfeiting had increased in their region over the past year. Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru recorded the highest shares of consumers who had encountered counterfeit products in the past 12 months. Hyderabad recorded 46 per cent, while Chennai and Bengaluru recorded 39 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. A similar survey was conducted in 2022. Compared to the earlier findings, the latest survey showed that 53 per cent of consumers identified online aggregator apps as the primary source of counter-

feit products. The perception was particularly high for apparel, at 71 per cent, followed by consumer electronics at 70 per cent and healthcare products at 60 per cent. Local retail outlets were perceived as the main source of counterfeit agrochemicals by 75 per cent of consumers and also accounted for a significant share in healthcare products at 63 per cent, the report said. Impact of counterfeiting Counterfeiting affects brand owners, distributors, retailers, consumers and the government. It can lead to revenue losses, damage to brand reputation and a decline in consumer confidence. Why counterfeiting? Several factors contribute to counterfeiting, including demand-supply mismatches, limited

adoption of authentication and traceability technologies, reluctance among brands to raise consumer awareness and low adoption of anti-counterfeiting measures. ASPA president Ankit Gupta said brands were earlier hesitant to discuss the counterfeit menace when it was brought to their attention. However, managements were now more willing to acknowledge the problem and initiate measures such as consumer awareness campaigns and anti-counterfeiting initiatives.

International Consumer Policy Expert Bejon Kumar Misra said counterfeiting was not merely an intellectual property issue or a problem for brands, but also a consumer protection concern. Consumers must be empowered with simple, accessible and affordable means to identify, verify and report suspicious products, not merely be told to buy genuine," he said, stressing the need to turn the fight against counterfeiting into a national consumer movement.

After a few hours of pause Hydraa begin demolition activity at Anjaiah Nagar

Hyderabad: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken former Minister Karumuri Nageswara Rao to Gandhi hospital in Secunderabad for medical a check-up after being arrested in connection with AP liquor transport scam. The ED officials arrested Rao from his residence in Kondapur here, in connection with the Rs.195-crore liquor transport scam case. He had been evading arrest after both the Telangana High Court and the Supreme Court rejected his anticipatory bail and pre-arrest bail petitions, sources in the ED disclosed. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Slams Centre, Alleges Discrimination against Telangana The case pertains to Nageswara Rao's alleged manipulation of tenders awarded for the transportation of liquor for the AP State Beverages Corporation Limited between 2020 and 2024. The ED registered a case following evidence that he had taken a Rs.28-crore bribe from liquor traders



during the YSRC government's tenure. According to the agency, the then government paid Rs.35 per km for transporting liquor, against the norm of Rs.13. The ED also alleged irregularities in the award of contracts for liquor transport. Also Read - Telangana BJP Chief Begins 48-Hour Fast Demanding Reimbursement of Tuition Fees The ED case, registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, is based on a case lodged by the AP CID following a vigilance department inves-

tigation into alleged irregularities in liquor transport contracts. The ED says the ex-minister used his influence to secure sub-contracts. The ED had previously arrested his son Sunil Kumar in the case for allegedly acting as facilitator. It also arrested Vasudeva Reddy, former MD of the AP Beverages Corporation, and Kasireddy Rajashekar Reddy. Also Read - Hyderabad Police Arrest Man Absconding Since 2021 in 3 Cases Sunil Kumar was arrested in June on charges that he allegedly received Rs.15

crore in kickbacks to facilitate sub-contracts for a liquor syndicate. ED officials said they escorted Nageswara Rao to the agency's office in Basheerbagh for questioning with regard to the money-laundering aspect of the liquor scam. Officials reportedly questioned him on whether his involvement in the tender process was influenced to favour certain entities. As per the evidence collected, the enforcement case information report (ECIR) was distinct from the main liquor scam case.

BRS seeks immediate repeal of GO 97 in support of polytechnic students' stir

Hyderabad: With the polytechnic students continuing their agitation against GO 97 for more than a week, the BRS demanded that the Congress government immediately withdraw the order which was issued bringing polytechnic colleges under the Young India Skill University. The party has already extended its support, and its BRSV student wing staged protests in solidarity with the students across the State. Speaking to the media here on Monday, former MP B Vinod Kumar said the party found students' concerns were justified after examining the issue in detail. He observed that the Skill University Act and GO 97 appeared contradictory and the



move created apprehension among students, particularly those from poor and middle-class families. The senior BRS leader pointed out that the Skill University was envisaged on a PPP model, and had no AICTE recognition at present.

"The BRS is not opposed to the Skill University, but the existing polytechnic system should continue independently under the State Board of Technical Education," he said. He demanded that the government review GO 97 and retain the poly-

technic system under the 1982 education framework. He also sought special colleges to facilitate engineering admissions for polytechnic students through ECET.

BRSV president Gellu Srinivas Yadav announced that students would write letters to the Chief Minister on August 26 seeking repeal of GO 97, followed by submission of representations to the District Collectors on August 31. Students said the government should stop experimenting with their education and continue the existing system, citing the withdrawal of a similar measure in Andhra Pradesh.

TGHRC Orders Action over Lack of Basic Amenities in Government Schools

Hyderabad: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC), headed by its chairperson Dr. Justice Shameem Akther has passed an order concerning the reported lack of adequate infrastructure and basic amenities in government schools across Telangana. The Commission took suo motu cognizance of a news report published in vernacular daily on July 3, 2026, which highlighted the shortage of classrooms and basic facilities in government schools, including reports of students attending classes under trees,



in verandahs and community buildings. The report also raised concerns regarding inadequate toilet facilities, against Telangana Pursuant to the Commission's directions, reports were obtained from the authorities concerned regarding the position in Adilabad, Jangaon, Nalgonda and Suryapet districts. The reports revealed that several government schools continue to have infrastructure defi-

ciencies, including dilapidated classrooms, classrooms requiring major and minor repairs and shortage of toilet facilities. In Nalgonda district, the District Educational Officer inspected the school at Vootkur Village, Nidamanur Mandal, referred to in the report. It was reported that students had temporarily been made to sit under trees during repairs to damaged tin-roof

classrooms following heavy rains. Demanding reimbursement of Tuition Fees The Commission also noted that sanctioned construction had earlier not materialised due to non-availability of suitable land. The Commission observed that such deficiencies directly affect the safety, health, dignity and educational environment of students. It further observed that the Right to Education under Article 21A of the Constitution necessarily includes a safe and conducive environment for children to pursue their education.

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

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

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



among the UP-linked appointments. She represented Amethi in the Lok Sabha and defeated Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in 2019, before losing the seat in 2024. Her return to a key organisational position brings a known campaigner with substantial experience of UP politics into the party's central structure.

Verma, a two-term former MP from Dhaurahra, has direct electoral experience with victories in 2014 and 2019, though she narrowly lost in 2024. Her elevation gives the BJP another woman leader familiar with the electoral dynamics of central UP. Mansoor, a professor and former vice-chancellor of

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

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

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

40 Hospitalised After Chlorine Gas Leak At Nagpur Water Treatment Plant



Nagpur: Forty people have been hospitalised after a chlorine gas leak at a water treatment plant in Maharashtra's Nagpur in the wee hours of Monday, police officials said. The incident occurred at around 1:00 am at the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran's Godhni Municipal Council Water Treatment Plant in the Godhni area of Nagpur, when chlorine gas began leaking from a 900-kg capacity cylinder. As the gas spread rapidly across nearby residential localities, widespread panic gripped the area, with several residents developing cough and breathing difficulties, prompting the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to launch an immediate rescue operation. Local police personnel,

along with administrative officials, swiftly alerted residents living in the immediate vicinity and advised them to evacuate to safer locations. Some affected people were immediately rushed to Sparsh Hospital in Zingabai Takli and Mayo Hospital for treatment. "During the rescue operation, a 200-meter radius around the site was designated a 'no-man's-land' and barricaded; residents were advised to leave their homes and were relocated to a safe area," Hareesh Kalshekar, Police Inspector, Mankapur Police Station, said. "Currently, 90% of the leak has been stopped, and 40 people are undergoing treatment in the hospital. Additionally, 12 people have already been discharged," Kalshekar said.

Upon receiving the alert, the Nagpur Municipal Corporation Fire Department dispatched two water tenders along with personnel equipped with breathing apparatus to the site. Employees of Orange City Water (OCW) were also called in, and a team from the National Disaster Force (NDRF) was deployed at the site. The police inspector further ensured that the situation is "under control" and there is "no need to panic". He also informed that a dog died in the incident. The joint rescue operation concluded around 5:30 am after the intensity of the leakage decreased. Emergency personnel from the NDRF, Fire Department, and OCW successfully moved the 900-kg chlorine cylinder and submerged it into a

Assam In Final Stage Of Partner Selection To Build Satellite: Himanta

Guwahati: The Assam government is in an advanced stage of evaluation to select a partner from the private sector to launch its own satellite, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. Claiming that Assam will be the first state in India to have its own earth observation system, he said the satellite will come up under the 'DBLOTT model' - Design, Build, Launch, Operate, Train and Transfer. "Earlier this year, we invited Expressions of Interest to select an implementation partner under the DBLOTT model. Following strong interest from India's private space



sector companies, we are now in the final and critical stage of partner selection, with dedicated committees evaluating the pro-

posals," Sarma said in a social media post on Sunday. He said 'AssamSAT' marks a landmark shift --

from Assam being a user of satellite data to an active participant in the space-tech ecosystem, enabling faster and evidence-based governance. While presenting the state budget for 2025-26, the then Finance Minister Ajanta Neog had announced that the state government would have its own satellite, which would help collect data for implementation of critical socio-economic projects, besides keeping surveillance on its border. "In collaboration with IN-SPACe (Indian National

Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) of the Department of Space, Government of India, we would like to set up our own satellite, ASSAM-SAT, to ensure a continuous, reliable flow of data for the implementation of critical socio-economic projects," she had said in her budget speech. Neog had said the satellite would also help in providing dedicated "In collaboration with IN-SPACe (Innow in the final and critical National ated services for agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure development and border security management and police operations.

Bengal Govt Announces 20% Reservation For Agniveers In Civil Defence, Police, Fire, Forest Depts



Kolkata: Chief Minister Anusree Banerjee on Sunday announced a 20 percent reservation for Agniveers in the state police, fire services, forest department and civil defence, asserting that the military training received by Agniveers would be useful in maintaining law and order, handling emergencies and responding to disasters. The announcement comes after similar measures in several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, where governments have announced reservation for Agniveers in police and other government jobs. Addressing a Central government event in Garden Reach, CM Adhikari said, "We have allocated a 20 percent quota for 'Agniveers' in the state police, fire services, forest department, and civil defense." Bengal To Form 200-Member 'Arjun Bahini' The state is also setting up a 200-member disaster response force

called 'Arjun Bahini', which will be formed in September. The force will be trained and equipped to strengthen quick-response and rescue operations during emergencies, the chief minister said. Adhikari said Agniveers would eventually be recruited into the force, but the first batch would not be available until January. In the meantime, 200 ex-servicemen have been inducted through the Sainik Board. Of these, 100 personnel will be stationed in Kolkata, 50 in Darjeeling and 50 in Sagar. "We have also initiated collaboration with the Sainik Board regarding ex-servicemen. A new 200-member disaster management team, named 'Arjun Bahini,' is being formed this September," Adhikari said. He said the force, which was planned after the Taratala incident in Kolkata, would be equipped with modern machinery to respond quickly to disasters. Further, the CM said, the deploy-

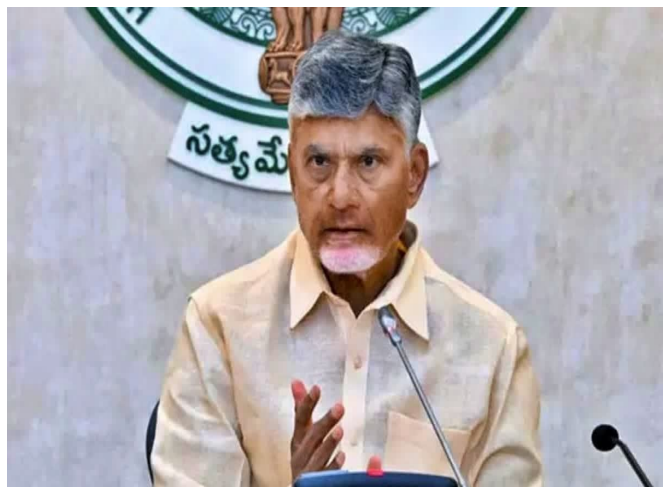
ment has been planned keeping in mind the different risks in handling urban emergencies in Kolkata, landslides in Darjeeling and cyclones in the coastal Sagar region. NCC Training To Return To Schools, Colleges The government is also working to reintroduce National Cadet Corps (NCC) training in schools and colleges across West Bengal, CM Adhikari said. "NCC opportunities were earlier available only in selected educational institutions. Now planning to expand the programme to encourage discipline and a sense of patriotism among students from an early age," the chief minister said. "Training in NCC and its certification will also help students who are seeking to join the armed forces and paramilitary services. The certification is also expected to provide an additional qualification for recruitment in the state police and fire services," he added.

Andhra Pradesh Plans New PSU To Manage Monazite And Rare Earth Minerals

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is preparing to establish a new public sector undertaking focused on rare earth minerals and beach sand projects, with particular emphasis on the handling and processing of monazite, a radioactive mineral found in beach sands. The proposed AP Rare Earth Corporation is expected to function as a subsidiary of the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC). Officials have drafted a proposal for the new entity, which will be responsible for managing monazite extracted from beach sand mining areas in the state. Andhra Pradesh has 17 beach sand lease areas extending from Srikakulam to Krishna district. One lease has been reserved for Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Central Public Sector Undertaking, while the remaining 16 have been allocated to APMDC. Of these 16 leases, tenders for three have already been invited and awarded to Alluvial Heavy

Minerals Limited, an Adani Group company.

Atomic Energy has assigned the responsibility



APMDC plans to invite tenders for the remaining 13 leases. Beach sands contain several valuable minerals, including ilmenite, rutile, sillimanite, zircon, garnet and monazite. Monazite, however, is radioactive and comes under the supervision of the Union Department of Atomic Energy. Its processing, sale and related activities are governed by specific regulations. The Department of

for handling monazite to IREL and Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML), a Kerala government undertaking. The Andhra Pradesh government now plans to ensure that monazite recovered from the state's beach sand leases is managed through a state-owned public sector undertaking. The proposed AP Rare Earth Corporation is being created for this purpose. The corporation is also

expected to select a technical partner for the processing and value addition of monazite. The proposed process will involve producing rare earth oxides and thorium from monazite, with further processing for applications in the nuclear sector. The initiative is expected to generate significant revenue for the corporation. The Mines Department is also preparing a policy titled 'AP Titanium and Strategic Mineral Mission', covering beach sand mining, Project Developer and Operator (PDO) and Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) models, and the establishment of a dedicated corporation for monazite management. Officials are expected to submit the proposal to the state government within the next one to two weeks. The policy and corporation will be implemented after Cabinet approval.

The government plans to use two different models for mining operations

across the remaining beach sand leases. Under the Project Developer and Operator (PDO) model, six leases will be developed by selected companies. The PDO will undertake beach sand mining and mineral separation and establish a mineral separation plant. The company will process and add value to minerals such as ilmenite, rutile and sillimanite, which are used in titanium production, and establish the required processing facilities. At least 10% of the market value of these minerals will have to be paid to APMDC. The monazite recovered during the process, however, will be handed over entirely to APMDC. Another six leases will be developed under the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model. APMDC will select a company to form a joint venture, under which the company will undertake beach sand mining, mineral separation, processing and value addition.

APMDC will pay the

Journalist, Who Reported On Ram Temple Donation 'Theft', Moves SC Against FIR In Road Rage Case



New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court by a journalist, who flagged alleged irregularities in the handling of donations at Ayodhya's Ram temple, challenging an FIR lodged against him by Ghaziabad police in an alleged road rage case. The plea by journalist Abhishek Upadhyay claimed that the FIR is based on concocted allegations against him and is an attempt to harass him for his independent journal-

istic work. In the plea, he has contended that the FIR copy has not been supplied to him and that the police were forcing nearby shopkeepers to delete the CCTV visuals of the relevant time. Upadhyay sought quashing of the FIR, or in the alternative, its investigation be transferred to an independent agency other than the Uttar Pradesh Police. "The Petitioner apprehends imminent arrest and further physical

harm and states that, in view of the aforesaid sequence, he is not in a position to safely approach the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad." He apprehends that he may be arrested or subjected to physical harm by planted goons of the state machinery in the State of Uttar Pradesh before he can obtain effective judicial protection," the plea said. "He is therefore seeking quashing of the impugned FIR and in alternative ready and willing to join the investigation and cooperate with the Investigating Agency in accordance with law with a request that present FIR as well as other FIRs filed against him because he reported on the Ramjanmabhumi donation theft issue, may

please be directed to be investigated by Delhi police or Central Bureau of Investigation," his plea said. The FIR has been lodged against Upadhyay in Ghaziabad over an alleged road rage incident, which he has claimed was planted in connection with his reporting on alleged corruption in Uttar Pradesh. Upadhyay, who runs a YouTube channel, claimed a police team reached his residence late on August 20 and told him that a case had been registered at Indirapuram police station following allegations of road rage and abusive behaviour. According to Upadhyay, the alleged incident took place on August 18 near Shipra Mall in Ghaziabad, when a motorcyclist allegedly touched his car. He said the man subsequently called the police emer-

A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis



Bhubaneswar: The hands that once bore the brunt of challenging situations have overcome all those to string together seeds, beads and dreams today. Children who had little interest in school now hold books, learn new skills and imagine a different future. Across several settlements in Bhubaneswar, 135 children, including a few youths, are creating eco-friendly seed rakhis under an initiative by Ashayen, a not-for-profit organisation that works for the uplift of children. Made with thread, beads, rice, black gram, green gram and other natural materials, the rakhis are designed to leave behind a plant rather than plastic waste after the festival. The initiative covers around five settlements, including those near Bhubaneswar railway station, Damana and Pandara. The children have already produced nearly 1,000 rakhis, priced between Rs 10 and Rs 200. These are being sold near apartment complexes and at

prominent intersections across the city. A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis The proceeds are divided among the participating children and deposited in bank accounts opened in their names, allowing them to earn while learning the value of saving and self-reliance. For the children, the thread of Raksha Bandhan is no longer binding only a brother and sister. It is also connecting their aspirations with a more secure future. Every rakhi they make seems to carry an assertion that they are building a new future with the head held high. Ashayen supports the children not only by training them to make rakhis but also through education, mentoring and activities intended to help them become self-reliant.

A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children

Bhubaneswar Children Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis "Our sole objective is to steer these children away from the wrong path and connect them with education and the mainstream of society," Ashayen president Ratnakar Sahu said. V Lakshmi Reddy, one of the young rakhi makers, is currently pursuing an ITI course. She said the initiative had given the children an opportunity to work together and earn some money while producing something beneficial to the environment. "I am studying at an ITI now. All of us make rakhis together using different kinds of seeds. By selling them in the market, we are able to earn some money," Lakshmi said. A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis A Rakhi That Grows: Bhubaneswar Children

Weave Seeds And Dreams Into Eco-Friendly Rakhis (ETV Bharat) She believes seed rakhis also offer a meaningful alternative to expensive, decorative products that often become waste soon after the festival.

"Many costly rakhis are available in shops, but people remove them after wearing them for a day and often throw them away. When the rakhis we make are discarded, the seeds can germinate and grow into plants. This will also help keep the environment beautiful," she said. Ashayen Centre coordinator Subhadra Sethi too said the experimentation with seeds seemed a sustainable alternative to plastic rakhis. "Everyone is making different kinds of rakhis from seeds which will not damage the environment," Sethi said. Around 135 children from nearly five settlements in Bhubaneswar are making the rakhis. Almost 1,000 pieces have been completed so far. They are sold mainly near apartment complexes and at different intersections. The money earned is deposited in the children's respective bank accounts. The rakhis are priced between Rs 10 and Rs 200, she informed. With every seed threaded into a rakhi, these children are creating more than a festive ornament. They are earning, saving and returning to education probably with a promise

Athawale Demands Sedition Charges Against Those Demanding End To Reservation



Mumbai: Union minister and Republican Party of India (Athawale) chief Ramdas Athawale on Sunday demanded that sedition cases be registered against those opposing or seeking abolition of reservation, which he called a constitutional right. In a statement, Athawale

claimed protests against quota, including those announced at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, had brought the issue back into focus. He alleged that campaigns were also being run on social media seeking the removal or changes to the quota system. "Opposition to reserva-

tion is opposition to the Constitution. Those taking an anti-reservation stand are anti-constitutional, and stringent action of sedition should be taken against them," Athawale said. He said some people were demanding the abolition of reservation. According to him, reser-

vation cannot be abolished as it is a constitutional right. Delhi police on Sunday said no permission has been granted to any individual or organisation to hold a protest or gathering at Jantar Mantar over reservation reforms and warned people against assembling there based on "misleading" social media posts. A large number of protesters had gathered at Jantar Man. Athawale said he said some people were demanding the abolition of reservation. According to him, reser-

Delhi Plans Inter-State Transfer Of Undertrial Gangsters, High-Risk Prisoners

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has prepared a plan to transfer undertrial gangsters, organised criminals and high-risk prisoners from the capital's jails to prisons in other states whenever the need arises. For this, the government will implement the Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Act, 2025, in Delhi. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the objective is to enable inter-state transfer of such prisoners while keeping jail security, law and order, and public interest in mind, and to strengthen cooperation among states in tackling organised crime. Under the Delhi Government's proposal, undertrial gangsters, organised criminals and other high-risk prisoners can be transferred from one state's prison to another with the mutual consent of the states concerned or approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The move is also expected to make the criminal justice system more effective and improve prison management. Major Gap In Existing Law A large number of hardened and notorious criminals are lodged as undertrials alongside convicts in Delhi's prisons. In May 2026, authorities identified 188 members of 26 gangs in Delhi, of whom 107 gangsters had been arrested. Such hardened undertrial prisoners continue to engage in vio-



lent activities, including targeted killings, extortion, gang rivalry, threats and organised criminal conspiracies, even from inside prisons. Under the existing system, such undertrial gangsters and notorious criminals cannot be transferred from Delhi's prisons to those in other states. The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950, provides for the transfer of convicted prisoners only. Meanwhile, undertrials are held under special remand warrants issued by the concerned trial courts, while their transfer is governed by the Prisoners Act, 1900, which permits transfer only within the state. Amendd System To Be Implemented In Delhi To address this legal gap, the Punjab government had introduced the Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Act, 2025. The amendment received the President's assent on April 21, 2025. It provides for the transfer of

undertrial prisoners from one state to another to maintain security, law and order, or the public interest. Judicial proceedings, wherever necessary, will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. The same amended framework is proposed for implementation in Delhi, allowing serious and high-risk undertrial prisoners to be transferred to prisons in other states, depending on the circumstances. Some hardened undertrial criminals misuse welfare and correctional facilities available in Delhi's prisons to influence the trial process and expand their criminal activities. Even while in prison, they may use local networks and contacts with other gangs to expand their alliances. There have also been instances of gang wars and retaliatory actions among such prisoners. The Delhi

government believes that transferring such hardened and notorious undertrial prisoners to prisons outside Delhi could reduce their ability to influence witnesses and disrupt court proceedings. It could also help curb their criminal activities and reduce serious threats to citizens' lives, liberty and property. Model Prison Law Also Provides For Transfers Section 20 of the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023, provides that a person serving a prison sentence or death sentence, or a person imprisoned for failing to pay a fine, maintain peace or provide security for good behaviour, may be transferred to a prison in another state by order of the state government with the mutual consent of the other state's government. Section 20 also provides for the inter-state transfer of undertrial prisoners, for which the trial court's consent is

Row Over Gor's Remarks: Cong Slams PM For 'Avoiding Media Questions' At G7 Meet

New Delhi: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor's remarks on India's purported request for no-question media interaction after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with President Donald Trump at the G7 summit in France have provided the Congress with much grist to take a swipe at the Prime Minister. Gor on Sunday claimed that when PM Modi met President Donald Trump in Evian-les-Bains in eastern France on June 17, India's Ministry of External Affairs had requested the United States that the media persons should not be allowed to ask questions to the leaders. Wasting no time, the Congress pounced on Gor's comments to criticise PM Modi for avoiding questions from journalists, questioning India's global image and press freedom. "Why is Modi so afraid of press freedom — at home and abroad?" asked Congress publicity chief and MP Pawan Khera, sharing a video on X showing Gor mak-



ing the comments while speaking at an event in New Delhi on Sunday. Gor said the MEA had conveyed to the US officials that while the leaders could address the media persons after the meeting, they should not be taking any questions. Trump, however, had forgotten the request and had taken. "It is painful to see what India has been reduced to under Narendra Modi. Once a formidable force. Today, taken for granted," he said. This is not

the first time the Congress has targeted Modi for not taking questions from the media. In May this year, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and Congress questions for almost 45 minutes after meeting Modi, the US Ambassador to India said. Referring to PM Modi as a "compromised PM", Khera, in a post on X, said: "Trump didn't forget what Narendra Modi said. He just didn't listen. A compromised PM is not taken serious-

ly." "It is painful to see what India has been reduced to under Narendra Modi. Once a formidable force. Today, taken for granted," he said. This is not the first time the Congress has targeted Modi for not taking questions from the media. In May this year, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had accused the PM of avoiding taking questions during a briefing in Norway.

Iran's President Says US Memorandum Is Best Path Out Of Stalled War, And

Tehran: Iran's president defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of a stalled war. Meanwhile, the new head of the Islamic Republic's top security body warned, in a more forceful tone, of retaliation if neighboring countries support U.S. threats to further sanction Tehran.

Pakistan's army chief planned to travel to Tehran on Monday, Iranian media reported. A Palestinian man was beaten by an Israeli settler outside his home, and Israel's military said they were pursuing a stabbing suspect in a separate attack, the latest violence in the occupied West Bank. An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed a child, according to a local hospital.

Iran seeks to get past this stalled phase Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian defended a recent memorandum of understanding as the best way for the country to move beyond what he described as a situation of "neither war nor peace." "There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation,"

Pezeshkian said in a speech published by state-run IRNA early on Sunday. "The supreme leader sets the policies, and we will follow that path." The deal known as the Memorandum of Understanding that U.S. President Donald Trump signed in June set a 60-day deadline for ending the war with Iran and reaching an accord on its nuclear program. That period ended last week, but no signs of compromise have emerged, especially on the crucial issue of reopening the Strait of Hormuz, vital to global shipping. Pezeshkian also linked the agreement to Iran's economic prospects, saying the country couldn't attract investment in this stalled phase. Nearly six months into the war with the United States and Israel, Iran's economy is suffering under sanctions and a naval blockade. Iran's security chief warns neighbors not to join any sanctions. Meanwhile, the hard-line new leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council warned Tehran's neighbors against joining the new U.S. effort to hurt Iran's economy. "If (Trump)



wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," Mohsen Rezaei said in an interview with the state broadcaster that aired Saturday. Rezaei was named this month as part of senior appointments widely seen as hardening Tehran's political and military stance. His interview with IRIB is his most extensive public statement since then. Rezaei said Iran would target oil-shipping routes out of the Persian Gulf — alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz — if neighbors join what he described as the economic war against Iran. Pakistan's army chief will visit Tehran. Pakistani Field Marshal Asim Munir will lead an

official delegation traveling to Tehran on Monday, Iranian state television reported, citing Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baghaei. regional officials said that the visit was part of Islamabad's ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions between the United States and Iran, and urge both countries to return to the negotiating table. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Iran executes man arrested during January's protests. The judiciary's Mizan news agency reported on Sunday the latest execution connected to the protests, identifying the man as Majid

Former Diplomat Raises Concerns About The SIR Process As He Is Asked To Furnish Additional Details In Punjab



New Delhi: Retired diplomat Navdeep Suri, a former Indian high commissioner to Australia, took to X to express his exasperation with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process after he was asked to produce additional documents. Taking to X, the former diplomat, who was Indian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, said he was asked to furnish extra proof as discrepancies were found in his details from the 2003 electoral roll. Suri, who is undergoing the SIR process in Punjab, wondered how ordinary citizens were faring in establishing their citizenship, given he was a government official who had represented India in multiple countries. "I happen to have documents other than voter ID and Aadhaar card. But can't help asking: If I have trouble establishing my citizenship after representing India in three countries, what's the fate of the common citizen?" he said on X. Reaching out to the Election Commission of India on X, Suri said that he went to the Booth Level Officer and submitted his Voter ID and Aadhaar card. He said he "was assured that everything is in order" but then got a message "from a volunteer saying some details don't match with SIR in 2003!" He said that he spoke to the BLO and was told

that he had to collect the notice. "And then come again with unspecified documents that show I am an Indian citizen. Replied that I was not in India in 2003, so they've asked for passport as proof." Responding to a query on X from another user, he noted, "Documents uploaded in 2026 don't match my details from 2003. Weird because I was at the Indian High Commission in London in 2003 and didn't participate in the SIR." Work has been ongoing across over a dozen states and Union territories to verify and revise electoral rolls, including through house-to-house verification. The effort is aimed at cleaning up the electoral rolls by eliminating duplication, updating addresses, and removing names of those deceased. In Punjab, voters whose names do not appear in the draft electoral roll have been given the option of submitting their claims, along with the prescribed declaration and supporting documents, for inclusion from August 13 to September 12. The state collected and digitised nearly 1.94 crore enumeration forms, out of the total electorate of 2.14 crore, with the rest categorised as absent, shifted, dead, or duplicate. Some prominent citizens have gone public with their SIR experiences. Former Navy Chief

Admiral (Retd.) Arun Prakash had posted a complaint on X after receiving an Election Commission notice during the revision of electoral rolls in Goa. Te former Navy chief, 82, and his wife were asked to appear in person some 18 km away from their house on separate dates. They too had submitted forms to the booth-level officer. The Election Commission of India said at the time that the no Work has been ongoing across over a dozen states and Union territories to verify and revise electoral rolls, including through house-to-house verification. The effort is aimed at cleaning up the electoral rolls by eliminating duplication, updates of those deceased. In Punjab, voters in the draft electoral roll have been given the option of submitting their claims, along with the prescribed declaration and supporting documents, for inclusion from August 13 to and digitised nearly 1.94 crore enumeration forms, out of the total electorate of 2.14 crore, with the rest categorised as absent, shifted, dead, or duplicate. Some prominent citizens have gone public with their SIR experiences. Former Navy Chief

Zambia President Hichilema Has Been Reelected For A Second Term

Lusaka: Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema has been reelected for a second five-year term, the Electoral Commission of Zambia announced early Tuesday. He was declared the outright winner of last Thursday's presidential election without the need for a run-off, having secured 61.4% of the 5 million votes cast.

According to the commission, Hichilema won with 2,965,326 votes and his closest competitor was opposition leader Brian Mundubile, who won 1,856,217 votes, which was about 38% of the total vote. "I therefore declare, Hichilema Hakainde S, to be president-elect of the Republic of Zambia this 18th day of August, 2026," commission chairperson Mwangala Zaloumis said. In a statement issued Tuesday, Hichilema welcomed the results and thanked Zambians for the reelection, but also reached out to those who voted for the opposition. "To those citizens who preferred the ideas presented by our opponents,



we hear you, and we will continue to work for you to ensure that every Zambian benefits from the development we are delivering," he said in a statement. There was no immediate reaction from opposition leader Mundubile.

Hichilema's victory follows a closely watched election which saw the vote counting suspended last Friday and then restarted hours later under heightened security after the commission said there had been attacks against some polling station officials and some ballot papers had been stolen. The government also confirmed that several

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

Union, said the election was largely peaceful, but said the "broader electoral process took place in an environment that limited fundamental freedoms."

"Late legal changes, legal uncertainty, and unequal campaign conditions distorted the playing field," said Michael McNamara, chief of the EU observation mission. In a pastoral statement, the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed concern over the deployment of the army during the vote counting. "The maintenance of order during elections is constitutionally and statutorily the

At Least 30 People Killed In A Landslide At A Landfil In Capital Of Guinea

Conakry: A mountainous heap of refuse collapsed at the largest landfill in Guinea's capital of Conakry early on Sunday, killing 30 people, according to the central government. Authorities said that heavy rains, which started at around 2 a.m., washed over the refuse at Dar Es Salam — the largest landfill in Conakry — and triggered a landslide that buried nearby shacks. A search and rescue operation was underway to find survivors. Six people were seriously injured, and several homes were destroyed. The site, an open-air waste dump which is the largest in the city, had been designated for closure on Sunday, accord-



ing to Lt. Col. Baldé Mamadou Balo, the sanitation officer for the military engineering battalion. Locals living around the landfill had been given eviction notices, which forced many to leave the area, but many others were

still around at the time of the disaster, according to authorities. "We will ensure that the remaining families are relocated elsewhere," Dienabou Touré, the minister of territorial administration and decentralisation, said at

the scene. Guinea is mineral-rich with huge deposits of bauxite — the largest in the world — and also has iron ore, gold, diamonds and minerals. However, according to the World Bank, 43.7% of the population lives below the national

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

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



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

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

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

Counting the uncounted—why India's migration survey matters



The first dedicated comprehensive migration survey in India in nearly two decades is a chance to gain insight into a segment of the workforce that is key to the economy but has largely been ignored in policy-making. The migrant workforce became visible when India went under lockdown during the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020. Pictures of labourers walking hundreds of kilometres to reach their villages had a profound impact on policymakers. The crisis not only exposed their vulnerability; it also showed a clear opportunity to build our knowledge of those who make modern India tick. The issue is not just about migrants being uncounted. The assumption that people live, work, access welfare, and build their lives in one place continues to shape public policy today. However, more and more Indians are moving between districts, States and cities to find work, pursue education and seek opportunities. While mobility is emerging as a key part of India's development narrative, policies based on permanence are lagging behind. Therefore, the government's decision to carry out a nationwide Migration Survey from July 2026 to June 2027 by the National Statistics Office (NSO) is important. It will provide the most comprehensive migration survey in almost 18 years, after the National Sample Survey's special migration round in 2007-08. Rapidly evolving labour markets, urbanisation trends and economic aspirations make this an important time to understand one of the most critical but under-researched aspects of modern-day India.

Scale And Patterns
 India's migration is far greater than what is realised. According to Census 2011, nearly 38 per cent of India's population consisted of migrants, with 45.6 crore counted in 2011 compared with 31.5 crore in 2001. The growth of about 45 per cent was significantly higher than the overall population growth of about 18 per cent over the decade, highlighting mobility as a key aspect of economic change.

annually, making labour mobility one of the most significant demographic changes in India. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 showed that almost 28.9 per cent of Indians were migrants. The migration rates were 47.9 per cent among women and 10.7 per cent among men. The survey's success will depend not on the data collected, but on whether institutions and welfare systems become portable, inclusive and responsive to the workers who keep India's economy moving. The main motivation for women migrants is marriage and for men, it is work, but these answers do not necessarily tell the whole story. Women who migrate after marriage are often involved in the labour force, informal labour and care work, but their economic role is rarely included in the official discourse. Although people often think of migration as movement across State borders, the vast majority of migration takes place within States. Over 80% of migrants are estimated to move within their States, highlighting the significance of intra-State movement between villages, towns and emerging urban centres. Migration and labour force patterns are undergoing seasonal, circular and temporary shifts, which are poorly represented in existing data sources.

Counting Matters
 This statistical invisibility has dangerous implications. When Covid-19 struck, the lack of regular stock-taking of migrants and the absence of databases posed challenges to relief activities and highlighted the shortcomings of welfare systems based on fixed places of residence. The cost of inadequate migration data goes beyond welfare delivery. Lack of migration data skews urban planning, workforce projections, infrastructure investments, and skill development plans. Both cities and the people who live and work within them need reliable information to plan housing, public transportation, healthcare facilities and educational services that effectively meet the needs of residents.

tions that go beyond demographic accounting. It is designed to record seasonal and short-term migration, return migration, employment characteristics, housing situation, income fluctuations and intentions to migrate. This information may contribute to understanding migration's impact on labour markets and local economies. Some key indicators include the duration and frequency of migration, reasons, job type and wages, social security enrolment (e-Shram, EPFO, ESIC), health insurance coverage, portability of ration card, housing tenure and safety, exposure to climate shocks (drought, flood, heat waves). Household sampling frame includes specific modules for short-term, seasonal and return migrants. It will classify migrants by place-of-birth, place-of-enumeration, and length of stay and also will measure industry, occupation and earnings to differentiate economic migration from social migration. State-level results are anticipated 6-9 months after the completion of fieldwork, and microdata and dashboards will be made public. But it is not just about counting movements; it is about understanding vulnerabilities. Do migrants have higher wages than they did previously? Are they able to secure healthcare, insurance and social security? Do migrants have access to secure work and to a decent life? How many people are still outside of urban services, but play an important role in the city economy? Data collection without investigating the outcomes will only give a partial picture. Climate, Politics, Labour Markets

The survey also comes at a time when migration trends are beginning to change due to climate change. In many regions of India, unreliable rainfall and frequent droughts, causing groundwater depletion and reduced yield, are making rural livelihoods precarious. Migration has become a way of life for many households as a means of coping with environmental and economic uncertainty.

However, solid estimates of climate-induced migration are still absent in India, and policymakers are not

well equipped to meet the future challenges of changing population patterns. The survey can bridge this important knowledge gap. The federal aspect is also significant. To fill labour shortages in construction, manufacturing, logistics and services, States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are relying increasingly on migrant workers. Thousands of migrant workers in construction, hospitality, transportation and domestic services, as well as in the platform economy, have contributed to Bengaluru's growth. At the same time, regions such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha remain significant sources of labour out-migration. Improved migration statistics can assist both origin and destination States in developing policies relating to skills, labour rights and welfare portability. India's migration survey should be more than an exercise in counting workers; it must become a foundation for policy reform. The Covid-19 crisis exposed how migrant workers were excluded from welfare systems because benefits, services and administrative records were tied to fixed locations. Survey findings should, therefore, drive portable social security, healthcare and pension entitlements, effective implementation of One Nation—One Ration Card, affordable housing near workplaces, stronger labour and occupational protections, and cooperation between source and destination States. A joint mechanism involving the Labour Ministry, NSO, States and Urban Local Bodies, supported by public dashboards, can ensure accountability. Ultimately, the survey's success will depend not on the data collected, but on whether institutions and welfare systems become portable, inclusive and responsive to the workers who sustain India's economy.

The Economic Survey 2017 also estimated that almost nine million people move between States

The Survey Should Measure
 The survey has implica-

The SIR Shake-up—how electoral rolls changed across States



The revision of electoral rolls ahead of the Assembly elections in Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal raised concerns among voters and political parties about the addition and deletion of names. Note: Data on male and female electors were obtained from the Election Commission of India. Figure 1 shows that Bihar recorded a continued increase in both male and female electors across the three elections. Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, however, recorded a decline in both groups in the latest election compared with the previous one. The fall was relatively small in Kerala but much higher in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Table 1: Percentage change in male and female electors

Note: Data obtained from the Election Commission of India. Percentage change was calculated by comparing the number of male and female electors between two successive Assembly elections. Calculations are by the authors. Table 1 confirms that the growth of the electorate slowed considerably in Bihar. Male voters increased by 8.4% and female by 11.46% between 2015 and 2020. Between 2020 and 2025, however, after SIR, the corresponding increases fell to 1.92% and 0.86%, respectively. Thus, women grew faster during the first period but much more slowly than men during the latter period. In Kerala, male electors increased by 6.1% and female electors by 4.67% between 2016 and 2021. Between 2021 and 2026, male electors declined by 0.49%, while women declined by 1.69%. The decline among women was, therefore, more than three times that among men. Tamil Nadu recorded growth of 8.07% among men and 9.74% among women between 2016 and 2021. This was followed by a decline of 9.35% among men and 8.25% among women. Although both groups declined sharply, the fall was greater among men. In West Bengal, female electors increased faster than male electors between 2016 and 2021. However, between 2021 and 2026, the number of

female electors declined by 7.28%, compared with a 6.5% decline among men. Table 2: Changes across General, SC and ST constituencies

Note: Data obtained from the Election Commission of India. Constituency-wise percentage changes were calculated separately for General, SC and ST constituencies and for male and female electors. Calculations are by the authors. Bihar has 203 General, 38 SC, and 2 ST constituencies; Kerala has 124 General, 14 SC, and 2 ST constituencies; Tamil Nadu has 188 General, 44 SC, and 2 ST constituencies; West Bengal has 210 General, 68 SC, and 16 ST constituencies throughout the study years. The constituency-wise figures in Table 2 show that gender patterns were not uniform across categories. In Bihar, both male and female electors increased in General, SC and ST constituencies during both periods. Women recorded faster growth than men between 2015 and 2020. In the latest period, however, male electors grew faster in all three categories. The relative slowdown among women was particularly visible in General constituencies, where their number increased by only 0.71%, compared with a 1.81% increase in male voters. In Kerala, both men and women declined in the General and SC constituencies between 2021 and 2026. But women's data showed a greater decline in both categories. However, ST constituencies' data showed the opposite pattern: male electors increased by 2.85%, while female electors increased by 4.58%. In Tamil Nadu, both male and female electors declined in all three constituencies between 2021 and 2026. The decline was relatively higher in the general constituencies. Men declined more than women in General and SC constituencies, while the decline among women was marginally higher in ST constituencies. In West Bengal, both groups declined across all three constituency categories between 2021 and 2026. In General constituencies, the declines among

men and women were broadly similar. In SC and ST constituencies, however, the decline among women was considerably higher than the decline among men. Table 3: Women electors changed per 1,000 men electors

Note: Data were obtained from the Election Commission of India. Net change was calculated as the number of electors in the latest election minus the number in the previous election. Women electors changed per 1,000 men electors was calculated using the absolute change in women divided by the absolute change in men, multiplied by 1,000. Calculations are by the authors. Table 3 shows the net change in the gender composition in each constituency category. In Kerala's General constituencies, the number of women electors declined by 3,764 per 1,000 men, thereby reducing the roll. In SC constituencies, the corresponding figure was 2,098 women. ST constituencies recorded an increase instead of a decline, with 1,645 women added for every 1,000 additional men. In Tamil Nadu, the decline was relatively balanced between men and women. For every 1,000 men by which the electoral roll declined, the decline among women was 902 in General constituencies, 950 in SC constituencies, and 1,059 in ST constituencies. In West Bengal, women accounted for a greater decline in all three categories. For every 1,000 male voters deleted, 1,008 female voters were deleted in General constituencies, 1,459 in SC constituencies and 1,342 in ST constituencies. The gender imbalance in the deletion was, therefore, most pronounced in SC constituencies. Bihar recorded an increase rather than a decline, but gender differences were present in all three categories of constituencies. For every 1,000 additional male voters, the number of women increased by only 352 in General constituencies, 570 in SC constituencies and 711 in ST constituencies, showing a strong male-driven electorate expansion in Bihar. Table 4: Overall

electoral gender ratio

Note: Data were obtained from the Election Commission of India. The electoral gender ratio represents the number of women electors per 1,000 men electors. Calculations are by the authors. Table 4 shows the gender ratio, which represents the number of female electors per 1,000 male electors. Bihar's gender ratio improved from 874 in 2015 to 899 in 2020, but it decreased to 889 female voters for 1000 male voters in 2025. Women, therefore, remained substantially under-represented relative to men. Kerala continued to have more women electors than men. However, its gender ratio steadily declined from 1,076 in 2016 to 1,049 in 2026, indicating that the female advantage narrowed over time. Tamil Nadu recorded a continuous improvement in its gender ratio. Its gender ratio rose from 1,015 women per 1,000 men in 2016 to 1,043 in 2026. Women increasingly outnumbered men despite the recent fall in the total electorate. West Bengal's gender ratio increased from 934 in 2016 to 959 in 2021 but declined marginally to 951 in 2026. Although the latest year's gender balance was weaker than in 2021, it remained better than in 2016. To summarise, the data analysed here reveal clear differences in the experiences of male and female electors. Bihar continued to add electors, but the latest increase was driven more by men. Kerala's recent decline was considerably greater among women, although its ST constituencies recorded growth in both groups. Tamil Nadu experienced a large decline among both men and women, but its gender ratio continued to improve because the decline among male voters was larger. West Bengal recorded a greater decline among women, particularly in SC and ST constituencies. Even though the SIR resulted in changes in the electoral roll, the large differences in voter numbers should be properly addressed. The changes in the number of electors after SIR, compared with previous elections, may be due to several factors, not only population change. Rapid urbanisation, migration for education and employment, people shifting from one place to another, deaths, and the addition of new voters can all affect the number of electors. Some people may also register in a new constituency after moving, while their names may remain on the previous electoral roll. This can lead to duplicate or incorrect entries, which may be identified and removed during the SIR process. The recently concluded State elections in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal recorded high voter turnout. Experts attribute this partly to the identification and removal of "ghost electors"—dead, shifted, absent, or duplicate entries.

India Open To Be Moved To Guwahati In 2028: BAI



Badminton Association of India secretary general Sanjay Mishra on Sunday said the 2028 India Open Super 750 tournament will be held in Guwahati as the dates will clash with the security arrangements in the National capital for the Republic Day. Top players, including Anders Antonsen, have criticized the India Open's January-February window due to New Delhi's severe winter air pollution and cold indoor stadium temperatures. The Badminton World Federation had moved the India Open to February 2-7 for the 2027 season to avoid the worst of New Delhi's winter weather, before returning it to late January for the 2028 season. In 2028, the event will be held from January 25-30, and Mishra said hosting the tournament in Delhi during that period would be difficult due to security and logistical issues. "The 2028 India Open will be held in the last week of January and due

to the tournament dates clashing with Republic Day security arrangements in the National capital, we felt that only for that year, we should shift the tournament to Guwahati. It will return to New Delhi in 2029," Mishra told reporters. Guwahati successfully hosted the 2025 World Junior Championships. Antonsen has repeatedly skipped the event and accepted mandatory fines, urging the BWF to reschedule the tournament. Mixed doubles pair of Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue, who on Sunday became the first French badminton players to become world champions, also urged BWF to host the India Open in a different window. "It was a better atmosphere compared to India Open when it's not the same, and also it's hard to breathe and the quality of the tournament is not as good as this week, so it was really good for us, and we hope that the BWF will change the month that when they

host India Open, because in January it's not very good for us," Gicquel said. BAI also said they have bid to host the 2028 Thomas and Uber Cup. "We have bid for the tournament in 2028 and we are hopeful that we will get it after the World Championships. There are other countries also in the running but we are hopeful to host it." BWF President Patama praises India for hosting 'amazing' World Championships. BWF President Khunty Patama Leeswadtrakul praised India for delivering an "amazing" World Championships, saying the country had lived up to the expectations surrounding its return to the event after 17 years. "India waited 17 years for this moment, and India made every year count," Patama said in her message at the conclusion of the BWF World Championships 2026. "The BWF World Championships 2026 have won praise from every corner of our

sport. That praise belongs to the people." Patama said BAI had hosted the championships and held the event together over many months, while the government backed the tournament and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports drove it forward. She also praised the Sports Authority of India for delivering the arena, describing the facility as worthy of badminton's biggest stage despite the demanding timeline under which it was built. For Patama, however, the players remained the central focus of the event. "The players came first, and it showed," she said, praising the accommodation, transport and facilities provided to athletes and team officials. Reflecting on the reception from Indian fans, she added: "I am proud of the fans in India, who know this sport and cheer with real knowledge. And I am proud of a country that opened its heart to the." "Thank you, India."

Yashasvi Jaiswal Headbutts Asitha Fernando In A Heated Clash In Colombo



Tempers flared up on the first day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo as players from both teams got involved in a heated clash. Yashasvi Jaiswal was seen getting into an ugly verbal spat with Sri Lanka bowler Asitha Fernando. India are up against Sri Lanka in the second Test of the bilateral series in Colombo, and they chose to bat after winning the toss. The team lost the wickets of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul on a team total of 66. However, Shubman

Gill and Devdutt Padikkal scripted an important partnership after that to stage a recovery. What was the whole incident? A heated exchange took place between the players on the field after Jaiswal was dismissed. Referencing a verbal altercation with Dickwella during the second innings of the first Test in Galle, Fernando gestured for Jaiswal to head back to the pavilion after taking his wicket. Jaiswal turned around, leading to a verbal spat between

the two; during the exchange, his helmet even brushed against Fernando's forehead, though Sri Lankan captain Dhananjaya de Silva quickly intervened to defuse the situation. India make one change India opted for a solitary change in the playing XI, bringing in Saranash Jain in place of Kuldeep Yadav. During the team meeting, senior spin-bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja presented the debut cap to Indore-based Jain. Sri Lanka have also made two changes,

handing debut opportunities to Kamil Mishara and Pasindu Sooriyabandara. Although Pasindu had previously played as a concussion substitute in the last Test, this match marks his full debut. India leads the two-match series 1-0 after winning the first Test in Galle by 165 runs. After winning the toss for the second consecutive time, captain Shubman Gill announced that Saranash has been included in the team in place of left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who is

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

New Delhi: India may now receive Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 billion, according to an SBI Research report. The total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 over a three-month period. "Given the current trend, we believe that the total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 in 3 months! Overall, we believe India may now receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 bn," the SBI Research report stated. The report noted that public sector banks served as the primary drivers of this mobilisation. Citing data from the Reserve Bank of India, the report noted that FCNR(B) deposits worth USD 17.41 billion were mobilised till July 17, 2026. The total deposit inflows reached USD 20.72 billion till July 17, which included USD 1.97 billion from Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and USD 1.34 billion from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs). The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme



upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion. "We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in Aug/ Sep'26 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report added. "Our preliminary estimate indicates that an amount worth USD 10 billion on a conservative basis, in addition to baseline estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available," the report said. Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) increased by USD 7.6 billion from June 8 till July 17. Meanwhile, deposit mobilisation recorded USD 17.4 billion for FCNR(B) flows, possibly reflecting that the exchange process at the

RBI by the banks was happening gradually, accounting for roughly 44 per cent of the total amount. "The next reporting for FCA for July is for the week ended July 24 and the week ended July 31, and we expect for the next 15-day period (17 Jul-31 Jul) FCA inflows could touch USD 10-12 billion based on current trends," the report said. "This should make most of the overall FCA accruals/growth (till July end) of USD 17-20 billion post the RBI measure. The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion. "We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to

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Biharis Have Begun Investing In SIPs And Mutual Funds, But The State's AUM Remains Low



Patna: Despite an increase in awareness about investing in mutual funds and systematic investment plans (SIP), Bihar's total assets under management (AUM) continues to remain low, compared to the national average. The number of investors in the state has risen from around seven lakh in 2018-19 to 1.17 crore at present, but the state's total AUM in June 2026 stood at only Rs 84,795 crore, which is estimated to be around 1 per cent of the country's total AUM of Rs 85.76 lakh crore. This means that while a large number of investors in Bihar have begun investing in mutual funds and SIPs, their investment amounts are still not significant. Many investors have even exited their investments after some time. People in cities like Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Begusarai and Purnia have also been investing in mutual funds and

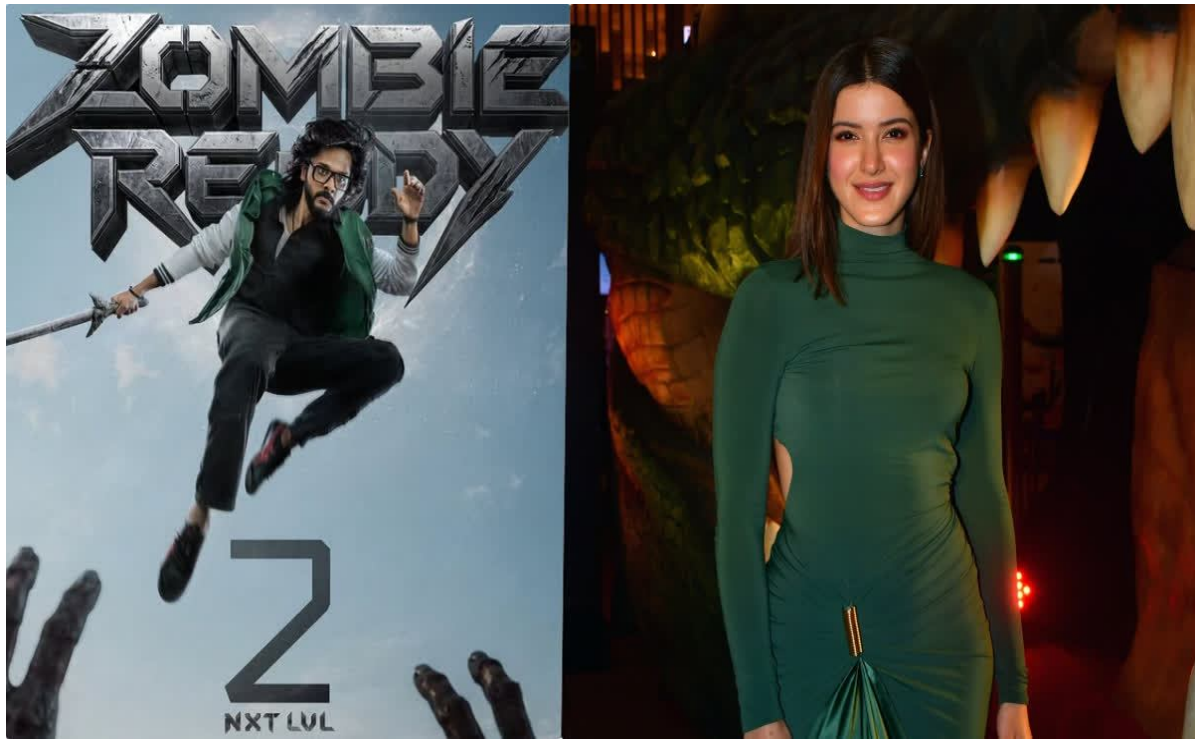
SIPs, with the small investors realising that a small SIP can grow into a substantial amount over time. However, experts say that simply starting an investment isn't enough. Staying invested over the long term is also crucial. Sources disclosed that equity funds account for 72 per cent of mutual fund investments in Bihar. This is followed by hybrid funds at 14 per cent, solution-oriented funds at 5 per cent and debt-income funds at 3 per cent. Experts say a key reason for greater equity investment is the expectation of higher returns. However, this also carries higher risks. Measuring AUM Mutual funds expert Sanjay Prasad explained that AUM can be measured in several ways. "In the context of a state, AUM helps us understand how much investors in that state have invested in the

equity markets and mutual funds," he said while underlining that despite the growing number of investors in Bihar, a major problem is that investors aren't staying long-term. "Many investors enter the stock market and mutual funds through apps but they lack adequate information. When they see losses within six months or a year, they exit their investments," he said. Prasad further stated that only 5 per cent of investors who come through apps stay for five years. Meanwhile, for those who invest under the guidance of an advisor or expert, this figure is 35 per cent. This is because advisors provide investors with investment information and encourage them to stay invested for the long term.

He said that patience is crucial in investing.

"Previously, people would invest in land or gold and then let it go for long periods. Money grew there because investors stayed put," he said. Long-term persistence is also essential in mutual funds and SIPs. A key feature of the stock market, mutual funds, and SIPs is that investments can be withdrawn if needed. "Patience is a part of life. It's not like we start something today and profits start coming in tomorrow. Any endeavor requires five or ten years of patience. Same is the case with equity," Prasad underlined. He pointed out that the number of investors in small towns has certainly increased, but the investment period hasn't. Many investors lack proper guidance. Some start investing through banks but fail to stay in the market for long. He said that there is a need to educate people that

Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl: Teja Sajja Returns For Sequel, Upendra And Shanaya Kapoor Join Action-Comedy



Teja Sajja turned 31 on Sunday and received a special birthday surprise from the makers of *Zombie Reddy*. The Telugu zombie comedy is getting a sequel, titled *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl*, with Sajja returning as the lead. The announcement comes with a glimpse that gives a hint of the madness waiting in the second chapter. In the video, Sajja is seen standing alone as thousands of zombies surround him. The sequel is being planned on a much bigger scale and will blend action, comedy and zombie mayhem. But Teja Sajja is not returning alone. Kannada star Upendra has joined the cast, while

Shanaya Kapoor is set to make her South Indian cinema debut with the film. Teja Sajja returns to the zombie-verse. *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl* is directed by Suparn S. Varma, known for projects such as *The Family Man 2*, *Rana Naidu* and *Haq*. The original film's creator, Prasanth Varma, is also closely involved with the sequel. The screenplay has been written by Hussain Dalal, Prasanth Varma and Suparn S. Varma. Gowra Hari has composed the music. Speaking about his return to the franchise, Teja said the original *Zombie Reddy* gave him the freedom to take risks and trust the audi-

ence. He credited the response to his character and the world of the first film for giving the team the confidence to dream bigger. According to the actor, the sequel takes that ambition several steps further. He said the scale, action and world created for *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl* are far more ambitious this time. Upendra and Shanaya Kapoor join the cast. One of the biggest additions to the sequel is Kannada star Upendra. The actor, known for his distinctive screen presence and unconventional films, brings another major name to the zombie franchise. The film will also mark Shanaya Kapoor's debut in South

Indian cinema. While she has already been associated with Hindi films, *Zombie Reddy Nxt Lvl* will introduce her to audiences across the southern markets. The makers are looking to make the sequel bigger not just in terms of its cast but also its world and action. Director Suparn S. Varma said the film aims to explore the idea of zombies as creatures that reflect fear around losing control and the breakdown of order. At the same time, he described the project as an unapologetically chaotic space that allowed him to experiment with a very different cinematic world.

Did Taapsee Pannu Take A Dig At Kangana Ranaut With Her Cryptic 'Hence, Proved' Post?



Taapsee Pannu appears to have responded to Kangana Ranaut's latest jibe with a short but pointed social media post. The actor shared the words "Hence, proved" on Instagram after Kangana accused her of ridiculing her upbringing and parents and called her a "sasti copy". However, Taapsee did not mention Kangana by name in her post. The latest exchange has brought their long-running feud back into the spotlight. It began several years ago and has often played out through interviews and social media posts. Taapsee Pannu shares cryptic post after Kangana's remarks. The latest episode began after Taapsee spoke about her equation, or rather lack of one, with Kangana during an interview with a newswire.

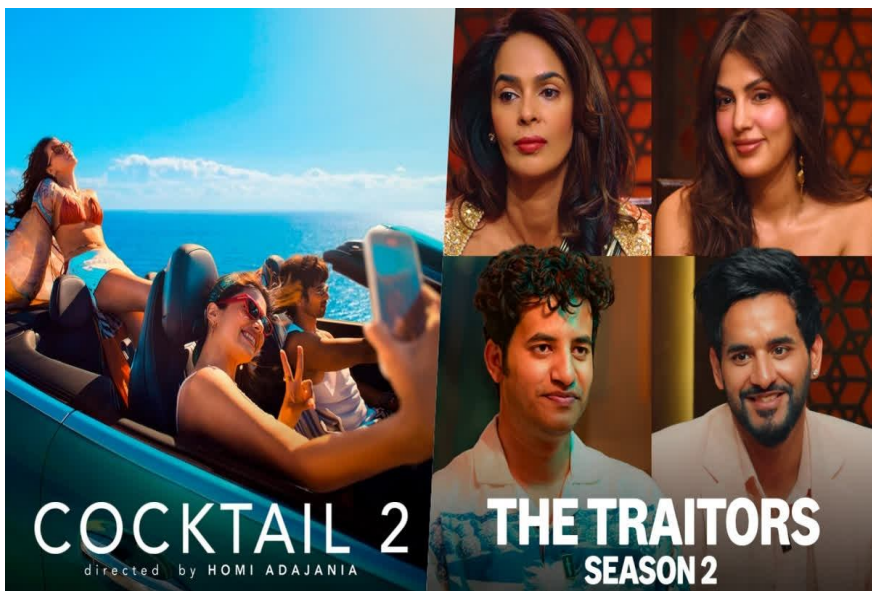
While discussing their long-running feud, Taapsee said she had never met Kangana, either before or after the issues between them began. Taapsee said her opinion about Kangana was a reflection of her own upbringing and the way she speaks and perceives things. She added that Kangana "stands by hers" and suggested that people could decide for themselves "who comes from where." Kangana appeared to take issue with the comment. In now-deleted Instagram Stories, the actor and BJP MP called Taapsee a "sasti copy" and accused her of crossing a line by allegedly ridiculing her upbringing and parents. Kangana said that she had never brought anyone's parents into an argument and questioned why Taapsee's parents could not "birth

someone original". Kangana also spoke at length about her own family background. She said she came from a renowned Rajput zamindar family and was raised by educated and distinguished parents. She added that choosing to start her career from scratch was a personal decision and questioned why her parents were being dragged into the discussion. Kangana later deleted the Instagram post. Taapsee Pannu gives a cryptic response after Kangana Ranaut's latest jibe (Photo: Instagram). Soon after, Taapsee shared a simple post that read, "Hence, proved." While the actor did not name anyone or directly explain what she meant, the timing of the post led

many to connect it to Kangana's remarks. A feud that goes back years. Kangana and Taapsee's public feud is not new. Their differences became more visible in 2019 when Kangana's sister Rangoli Chandel referred to Taapsee as a "sasti copy" of Kangana on social media. The exchange continued in 2020 amid the debate around nepotism and outsiders in Bollywood. Kangana had also referred to Taapsee and other actors as "B-grade actresses" and "needy outsiders". Since then, the two actors have occasionally spoken about each other without showing any signs of putting their differences behind them. Taapsee's next film is *Gandhari*. On the work front, Taapsee is awaiting the release of *Gandhari*.

Cocktail 2, The Traitors Season 2, Aakhri Sawal & More To Watch

The weekend is here, and there are plenty of new movies and shows to watch on OTT platforms. From the return of *The Traitors* to the romantic drama *Cocktail 2*, there is something for every kind of viewer this Friday. Here's a look at the latest OTT releases arriving this weekend, including *Aakhri Sawal*, *Don't Say Good Luck*, *Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata*, *My Best Friend*, *His Girlfriend* and *Me and more*. *The Traitors* Season 2 Release Date: Already Streaming. Streaming Platform: Amazon Prime Video. Cast: Host - Karan Johar; Contestants - Malika Sherawat, Munawar Faruqui, Shweta Tiwari, Rhea Chakraborty, Abhishek Malhan, and more. In *The Traitors* Season 2, hosted by Karan Johar at a majestic palace, a group of celebrity contestants must work together to complete challenges and build a cash prize. However, a secret few are chosen as "Traitors" to quietly eliminate the other players ("Faithfuls") each night, while the rest try to unmask and vote out the deceivers before the game ends. *Cocktail 2* Release Date: August 14. Streaming Platform: Netflix. Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Rashmika Mandanna, Kunal (Shahid Kapoor) and Diya (Rashmika Mandanna) are a couple living together for a long time who do not care



about marriage. While vacationing in Sicily, Italy, they meet Diya's old friend Ally (Kriti Sanon). Diya, who is insecure, asks Ally to test Kunal's loyalty by trying to seduce him. The plan backfires when Ally falls in love with Kunal. It then creates a chaotic love triangle that follows them back to India. *Aakhri Sawal* Release Date: August 14. Streaming Platform: Lionsgate Play. Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Namashi Chakraborty, Amit Sadh, Sameera Reddy, Nitu Chandra. The political drama film *Aakhri Sawal*, directed by Abhijeet Mohan Warang, follows a volatile young scholar named Vicky (Namashi Chakraborty) who publicly accuses his mentor, Professor Gopal

Nadkarni (Sanjay Dutt), of institutional bias after his critical thesis on the RSS is rejected. This academic dispute explodes into a nationwide televised debate touching on major Indian historical events, which ultimately uncovers a deep, buried secret that ties the professor's past to the ongoing ideological clash. *Don't Say Good Luck* Release Date: August 14. Streaming Platform: Netflix. Cast: Sunny Sandler, Melanie Lynskey, Max Greenfield, Stephanie Beatriz, Bebe Neuwirth. The movie *Don't Say Good Luck* follows Sophie Birenbaum (Sunny Sandler), a high school student who gets the lead role in her school's musical *Waitress*. As she deals with rehearsals, a

crush on her co-star and changes in her friendships, she gets heart-breaking news that her mother's cancer has returned. Sophie must cope with her mother's illness while going through the usual ups and downs of teenage life. She eventually finds comfort by expressing her feelings through her performance on stage. *Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata* Release Date: August 14. Streaming Platform: ZEE5. Cast: Kangana Ranaut, Girija Oak, Smita Tamber, Prasad Oak, Esha Dey. *Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata* is a thriller film directed by Manoj Tapadia and starring Kangana Ranaut. Set during the horrific 2008 Mumbai attacks, the plot follows a brave group of nurses and staff inside

Yash's Gangster Film Races Past Rs 30 Crore With Block Seats, Eyes Dhurandhar 2 Record



Advance booking for Yash's *Toxic: A Fairy Tale For Grown-Ups* opened on Friday, August 21, five days before the film's worldwide theatrical release on August 26. Since then, the Geetu Mohandas directorial has picked up pace across India, with Karnataka leading the charge. According to the latest tracking data, *Toxic* has recorded a Rs 21.5 crore gross in direct advance bookings for day 1. The film has sold 5,55,328 tickets across 13,591 shows. When blocked and held seats are included, the gross jumps to an impressive Rs 30.14 crore. The latest numbers show that the film has gained considerable momentum over the weekend, putting it in a strong position ahead of its opening day. View this post on Instagram. A post shared by Yash (@thenameisyash). Karnataka leads the *Toic* advance booking race. As expected, Yash's home state Karnataka remains the biggest contributor to the film's

advance sales. The film had already crossed the Rs 10 crore mark in direct bookings in Karnataka, and the region has continued to drive the overall numbers. Bengaluru is among the strongest centres, while cities such as Mysuru, Shivamogga and Raichur have also recorded high demand. The response is significant because *Toxic* is not just relying on a single language market. The film is releasing in Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and English, giving it a wide theatrical footprint. Hind market adds to the momentum. The Hindi version has also shown encouraging signs ahead of release. Trade portal Sacnilk had put the Hindi advance at around Rs 7.35 crore, with more than two lakh tickets sold. The strong pre-sales have raised expectations for the film's Hindi opening. *Toxic* was initially expected to open in the Rs 20 crore net range in the Hindi market, but the booking trend has led

to speculation that it could go considerably higher if the momentum continues. The film also has a relatively open release window in the Hindi market, with no major direct Hindi release competing for the same audience on August 26. *Toxic* also sees strong interest overseas. The film's advance booking is not limited to India. North America has also recorded a healthy response during the early phase of sales. Data showed that USA premiere bookings had crossed 163,000 dollars with 7,545 tickets sold across 260 locations and 709 shows. Texas was the strongest state, followed by California. Interestingly, the Telugu version was leading the Kannada version in the US at that stage. The Telugu version had recorded 94,706 dollars from 4,359 tickets, while the Kannada version had collected 68,246 dollars from 3,173 tickets. However, the overseas numbers were still expected to rise as more shows were opened. Major US chains had not fully opened their schedules, while the film is targeting a release across around 2,000 screens in the country. Can *Toxic* challenge *Dhurandhar 2*? *Toxic* has already moved past the advance booking figure reported for Ranveer Singh's *Dhurandhar*, which had recorded around Rs 14 crore including blocked seats on its first day of advance sales. The next major benchmark is *Dhurandhar 2*. The sequel had reportedly recorded an advance booking gross of around Rs 62.43 crore including blocked seats on its first day. *Toxic* is still some distance away from that number, but the film has several