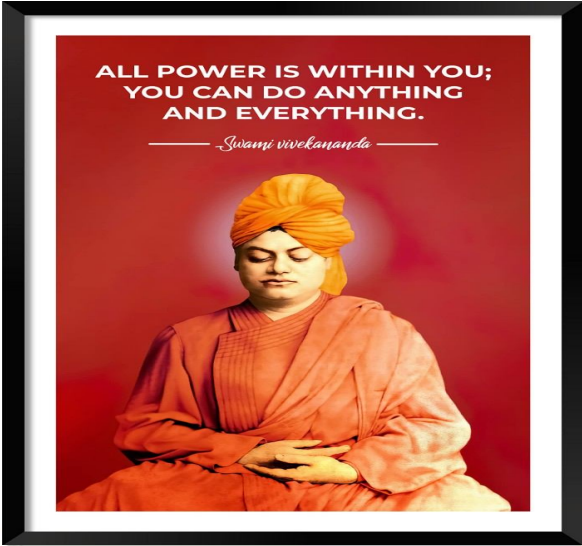
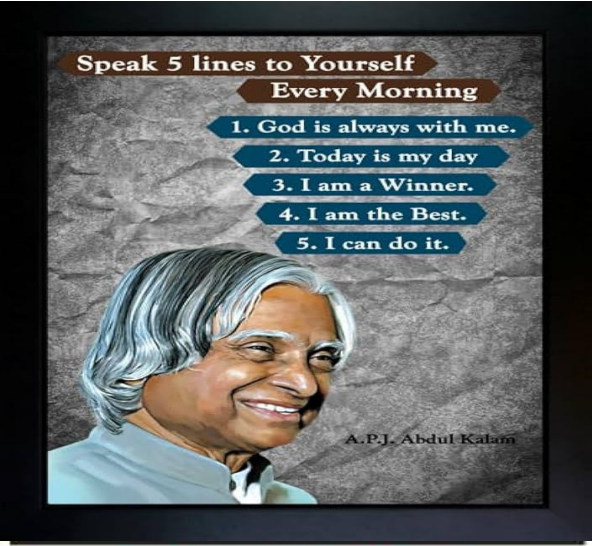




Nara Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone For 1,000-bed Private Hospital



Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh on Monday laid the foundation stone for a 1,000-bed private hospital here. The facility will be built in two phases and comprise the main hospital campus and an adjoining nursing college. The company will invest Rs. 2,000 crore in five years in phases to set up the hospital, which will create jobs for 9,000 people once fully operational. The hospital campus will be set up on 9 acres and a nursing college on 2.5 acres. It will also house a paramedic training centre, a research laboratory and an artificial intelligence centre. The first phase, with 650 beds, is expected to become operational by October 2028.

TPCC Chief Hails 1,000 Days of Congress Govt



Hyderabad: With the blessings of the people, the State government has completed 1000 days in governance, which is a milestone, said TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud here on Monday. "Big boost was accorded to education and health sectors during 1000-days in governance," he said in a post on 'X' and extended best wishes to the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Ministers, people's representatives, and Congress cadre. Also Read -

TGHRC Orders Action Over Illness of Girl Students at Bellampalli BC Gurukul School



Hyderabad: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC), headed by chairperson, Dr. Justice Shameem Akther passed an order regarding the reported illness of girl students of a BC Girls Bellampalli, Mancherial district. The Commission took suo-motu cognizance of a news report dated July 24, 2026 regarding suspected food poisoning among the students. On examination of the report submitted by the Collector and District Magistrate, Mancherial, the Commission noted that the affected students received medical treatment, recovered and were discharged, and that medical evaluation did not establish food poisoning or any severe health complication. The Commission recommended that the Collector ensure that hostel authorities exercise due care in the preparation and serving of food and strictly comply with prescribed health, hygiene and food-safety standards to prevent recurrence of such incidents. With the above recommendation, the Commission closed further proceedings in the case.

Sanjay Jaju Asks Departments to Resolve Pending Railway Projects Issues Swiftly

Hyderabad: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju asked the departments concerned to work in close coordination to resolve pending issues related to ongoing railway projects in the State at the earliest. Chief Secretary held a review meeting on Monday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat with South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Special Chief Secretaries Vikas Raj, Naveen Mittal and other senior officials to review various issues concerning railway projects in Telangana. Also Read -

Youth Cong Activists Protest at BJP Office in Hyderabad, Throw Black Colour at Rear Gate The meeting discussed the progress of railway projects in the State, issues being faced in their implementation, land acquisition, administrative approvals required from various departments and the support to be extended by the State Government for timely execution of the projects. The Chief Secretary emphasised that railway connectivity is crucial for the economic, industrial and regional development of Telangana. He directed



the departmental officials and District Collectors to expedite the resolution of pending issues and ensure that the railway projects are completed within the stipulated timelines. Also Read - Rajanarsimha

Reviews Performance of Govt, Private IVF Centers Officials informed the Chief Secretary that DPRs for 17 railway projects covering 2,023 km, with an estimated cost of Rs.50,870 crore, have been submitted to the Railway Board. Special focus on pending issues The meeting reviewed around 21 issues, including construction of railway underpasses and overbridges, approach roads, widening of roads, doubling of railway lines and improvement of public transport connectivity to Charlapalli Railway Station, among others.

Veligonda Project A Bhagiratha Effort To Bring Krishna Waters To Drought Lands

Markapuram: After dedicating Phase-1 of the Veligonda Irrigation Project to the nation on Monday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu termed the project as a "Bhagiratha effort", as tunnels were carved through the hills to bring Krishna waters to drought-hit lands. Addressing the farmers after the inaugural session, the Chief Minister said that the project would usher in development to the region and transform Veligonda into a "golden hill" that would bring light to people's lives. Also Read - AP Police Raid 121 Spas in Vizag, Detect



Prostitution Racket "We gave our word, completed the project and brought the Krishna waters. From now on, we will create wealth," he said. Addressing farmers who fought drought, fluoride contamination and generations that had waited for water, Naidu

said the arrival of Krishna waters would give them a new lease of life. Naidu said Veligonda represented the resolve to defeat drought, three decades of struggle and confidence in the future of farmers. It also marked an end to fluoride-related hardships and a new history written by the Krishna River on drought-hit land. Also Read - Vizag: Nara Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone For 1,000-bed Private Hospital He said

the Krishna River, originating from the abode of Mallanna at Srisailem, was offering a water tribute to the land where Chennakesava resides in Markapuram. Naidu said water was being brought from Kollam Vagu in the Srisailem reservoir through gravity, creating an opportunity to store 53 TMC. With a total project cost of Rs 10,200 crore, the first phase was completed at an expenditure of Rs 7,983 crore, said the CM, adding that twin tunnels spanning 18.8 kilometres and feeder canals extending 21.8 kilometres were completed as part of the works. Also Read -

Devotees Offer Scorpions to Lord Venkateswara at Kodumuru Temple Naidu said Rs 768 crore in compensation was disbursed within 48 days to 6,206 displaced families, adding that he wanted displaced families to be equally happy as those benefiting from the project. Despite financial difficulties, another Rs 169 crore would be paid, recognising the hardships and needs of the displaced families, said Naidu. By extending the cut-off date, Rs 2 lakh each would be provided to youth who had attained the age of 18. Also Read - Vizag: City Police Raid 121 Spa

Youth Cong Activists Protest at BJP Office in Hyderabad, Throw Black Colour at Rear Gate



Hyderabad: Youth Congress activists on Monday held a protest at the Telangana BJP's office here, throwing black colour on the office rear gate, to condemn the alleged 'shuddhikaran ceremony' at the venue where AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a rally in Uttarakhand's Haldwani. The Youth Congress workers raised slogans against BJP and the Centre and burnt an effigy targeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah outside the BJP office at Nampally here. Also Read - Sanjay Jaju Asks Departments to Resolve Pending Railway Projects Issues Swiftly The workers, led by

Telangana Youth Congress president Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy, sought the resignation of Shah over the alleged use of pellet guns during the CJP-led protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi last month, against the NEET question paper leak, a Congress release said. Reacting to the protest at the BJP office, Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar asked what the policemen were doing when black colour was applied to the gates and an effigy was burnt. Also Read - Rajanarsimha

watching tamasha when the BJP office was being attacked in broad daylight? Are you working like a stooge?" Sanjay Kumar asked in a statement. Noting that the patience of BJP should not be considered a weakness, he warned that Congress leaders will not be able to move freely if BJYM decides to pay back. He demanded that the Congress leadership should respond to the issue. The Union minister spoke to top police officials over the phone and sought to know why policemen were missing, the statement said. Sanjay Kumar, who sought a clarification, urged the police officials to arrest those who are responsible

India Wants To Expand, Diversify Trade With Iran



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday that India wants to "expand and diversify" trade basket with Iran in the "times to come" and that it will continue to support all efforts aimed at ensuring lasting peace in West Asia. Modi held talks with Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the SCO summit in this capital city of Kyrgyzstan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian that India seeks to expand and diversify trade with Iran while supporting efforts to ensure lasting peace in West

Asia. "Met President Masoud Pezeshkian in Bishkek. Reiterated our commitment to strengthening India's long standing friendship with Iran across diverse sectors," the prime minister said on social media. Also Read - Delhi: 10-Year-Old Dies After Teacher Makes Her Stand In Sun For Not Bringing A Book "We want to expand and diversify our trade basket in the times to come. We had a discussion on the prevailing situation in the region. India will continue to support all efforts aimed at ensuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Iranian President Masoud

Pezeshkian that India seeks to expand and diversify trade with Iran while supporting efforts to ensure lasting peace in West Asia. lasting peace," he said. Modi also held a separate bilateral meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. "A wonderful meeting with Prime Minister of Armenia, Mr. Nikol Pashinyan on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Bishkek," the prime minister said. "India-Armenia cooperation is all set to grow in defence, IT, space, education, pharmaceuticals and more. We are equally certain to deepen trade and investment linkages in the times to come," he said.

Maheshwaram DCP Reviews Crime Control Measures at Monthly Meeting

Hyderabad: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. The proverb aptly describes the situation of students in government colleges. While the Telangana Congress government has been making tall claims of promoting sports to produce international-level athletes, the ground reality is different. From government polytechnics and government junior colleges to government degree colleges, all the institutions are facing a severe shortage of physical directors. Of the 45 physical director posts sanctioned in government polytechnics, only three are working, leaving 42 vacant. Similarly, one out of three physical director posts is vacant. The situation is worst in government junior colleges. Only 10 out of the



total 332 sanctioned physical director posts are currently filled. As for government degree colleges, only 21 physical directors are working against the total sanctioned strength of 132 posts. Despite such a large number of vacancies, the State govern-

ment has not initiated any steps to fill them through direct recruitment. This lack of physical directors is hitting the students. The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education had earlier directed all colleges to mandatorily implement sports, Yoga,

and meditation classes regularly, and integrate them into their official timetable, with at least one class per week. However, the government junior colleges hardly have physical directors to conduct any physical activity among students. K Suresh, general secretary, Telangana Gazetted Junior Lecturers Association on 475, says they have made several representations to the government seeking recruitment of physical directors, but there is no headway. "Due to a shortage of physical directors, we junior lecturers have been conducting physical activity sessions once every Saturday. But to nurture sports talent from a young age, the colleges need physical directors," he adds.

Hyderabad: Silt, poor lighting raise safety concerns on Barkas-Pahadi Shareef road

Hyderabad: Poor road sweeping and inadequate street lighting on the busy Barkas-Pahadi Shareef stretch have emerged as major safety concerns, with accumulated silt on the carriageway posing a risk to motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders. The road, which falls under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), witness considerable traffic throughout the day including commuters and visitors travelling towards the Baba Sharfuddin Dargah at Pahadishareef, and the RGI Airport. However, improper sweeping has resulted in a thick layer of silt accumulating along portions of the carriageway. "The road is not being swept properly and silt is accumulated on the carriageway. Two-wheeler riders are the worst affected as their vehicles can skid suddenly. The civic authorities should take



immediate steps to clear the silt," said Tabrez Khan, a resident. Residents also pointed to inadequate lighting at several sharp curves and junctions along the stretch. The poor visibility becomes particularly hazardous after dark, when motorists have limited time to react to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction or negotiate bends safely. Moizeuddin, a local resident, said the

lack of proper lighting compounded the problem. "There are sharp curves and important junctions on the Barkas-Pahadi Shareef road, but lighting is inadequate at several places. During the night, motorists struggle to clearly see the road and approaching vehicles. This can easily lead to accidents," he said. Residents pointed out that the area was earlier under Jalpally munici-

pality and was subsequently brought under the GHMC. Despite the change in civic administration, they alleged that basic road maintenance, including regular sweeping and adequate lighting on important roads, remained inadequate.

They urged the GHMC to conduct regular mechanical and manual sweeping, remove accumulated silt and install or repair streetlights at

Why Hyderabad patients are forced to buy more medicines than prescribed

Hyderabad: Almost everyone in Hyderabad might have experienced this! You walk into a medical shop with a prescription and you will be invariably told that only a single strip is in stock. If your physician prescribes just three or four pills, you are forced to buy the entire strip because the chemist refuses to cut it. Worse still, if you need more than one strip, you might have to pay in advance for a second strip, and visit the medical shop again by spending extra time, money and energy.



through the treatment on the hapless customer.

For lakhs of patients with tight household budgets, the compulsion to buy entire strips, whether for short-term antibiotic courses or chronic management, becomes a systematic out-of-pocket waste.

The friendly neighbourhood medical shop owner and call center executive of the retail pharma chain blame drug regulatory authorities for making their life

difficult whenever they cut a strip of medicine. Meanwhile, patients are left frustrated, helpless and unhappy.

Recently, the union Ministry's Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) had urged pharmacies to dispense exact prescription quantities rather than forcing full-strip purchases. The DCC maintained that the consumers should not be penalized or forced to buy surplus medication.

The DCC recommenda-

tions, however, triggered a major push-back. The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), which represents druggists and chemists, cited legal and operational hurdles. "Under current regulations, information such as the batch number, manufacturing and expiry date are printed only at the outer strip. When a pharmacist cuts a blister pack to sell loose units, that critical information is lost. The drug regulators do not allow chemists to keep unlabelled loose tablets," AIOCD said.

It is not financially viable for a small medical shop owner to take back leftover medicines, since pharma companies and distributors accept expired or unsold stock returns only in full, intact strips," says T Srinivas, a senior office bearer of Druggists Associations in Hyderabad.

Centralized community kitchen, sponsored by SCCL, inaugurated in Mancherial

Mancherial: A modern centralised community kitchen, managed by the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, was formally inaugurated by MLA Kokkiralra Premasagar Rao on the premises of the Old Medical College here on Monday. The facility, sponsored by SCCL under its CSR initiative at a cost of Rs 8 crore, will provide breakfast to around 50,000 students from government schools and colleges in Mancherial, Peddapalli and Jagtial districts. Speaking on the occasion, Premasagar Rao said it was laudable that both the foundation and SCCL had come forward to provide thousands of poor students with quality food. He said human resources were the wealth of the State and



that the government was committed to shaping students into diamonds by providing better amenities. The legislator thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for establishing the kitchen in the district. Collector Kumar

Deepak, who accompanied Premasagar Rao, said the facility, equipped with modern automated machines, would be able to address the nutritional needs of 42,450 students in schools and 6,650 junior college students across the three districts. Representatives of the

foundation said that 5,600 idlis, 3,000 dosas and 3,600 puris would be prepared every hour at the kitchen between 4 am and 7 am. The breakfast would then be delivered to the schools and colleges in special vehicles before 8 am. The food would remain hot for up to four hours.

Hyderabad man lies on Gowliguda road in protest against potholes

Hyderabad: In an unusual protest against poor road conditions, a man lay down on the busy road at Gowliguda bus stand, drawing attention to the growing problem of potholes in the city.

The protester, Feroz, said he was agitated over the deteriorating condition of the road and wanted to highlight the difficulties being faced by motorists and pedestrians. In a video that has gone viral on social media, Feroz is seen lying on the road as a mark of protest.

Two policemen who reached the spot tried to persuade him to move aside to prevent disruption to traffic on the busy stretch. They reportedly assured him that the road would be repaired by the following morning. However, Feroz argued that the condition of the road had been deteriorating for several days and that motorists were being put to consider-



able inconvenience. Several roads in the southern parts of Hyderabad have developed potholes following the recent rains. The road near the Puranapul cremation ground is among the stretches where commuters are facing severe problems. "The entire stretch is riddled with potholes. Commuters, particularly two-wheeler riders, are finding it difficult to

negotiate the road," said Shaker Ali, a local resident. A similar situation prevails on the Jalpally road, where a truck carrying a road roller reportedly overturned after one of its tyres landed in a large pothole. "The potholes have become a serious hazard for motorists. There is a constant fear of accidents, especially at night," said Dinesh Kumar, a resident of

Sriramnagar Colony.

Even in the heart of the city, the situation is no different. At Khaja Mansion Junction, Masab Tank commuters have been complaining about damaged roads and potholes.

Residents alleged that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) often undertakes patchwork repairs,

AIMIM leader stabbed to death in Hyderabad's Falaknuma

Hyderabad: An All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader was stabbed to death in Hyderabad's Falaknuma area, officials said on Monday. The deceased has been identified as 60-year-old Mahboob Ali. The incident occurred late Sunday night. The officials said that the motive for the murder was not immediately known.



According to initial information, the AIMIM leader was stabbed in Wattepally, Falaknuma police station area, on Sunday night. Officials said that a group of five to six people attacked Ali.

They added that the attackers surrounded him near the Almas Hotel and attacked him with knives and sickles. The AIMIM leader was seriously injured by the multiple stab wounds. The perpetrators fled the scene after the incident.

The officials said that

following the incident, Ali fell on the road and was like that for about 15 minutes. He was then taken to a hospital; however, he died during treatment.

Upon receiving information about the attack, Falaknuma police arrived at the scene and began an investigation. In an official statement regarding the incident, the police said, "Three special teams have been formed to apprehend the suspects. The motive for the murder was not immediately known."

Following the incident,

AIMIM MLA Mohammed Mubeen met with the bereaved family and expressed his condolences. "Deeply saddened and shocked by the brutal murder of Marhoom Mahboob Ali Sahab, AIMIM Worker, who was attacked by unidentified assailants with deadly weapons at Alam's Hotel, Wattepally," Mubeen wrote in a post on X.

The MLA reached the police station and met with police officers and demanded strict and immediate action against those responsible for this crime. "We urge the

Government of Telangana and Hyderabad Police to strengthen patrolling, crack down on anti-social elements, and take stringent action against the growing menace of drugs and violent crime, so that the safety and security of every citizen is ensured," Mubeen added.

Police said that an investigation is currently underway and information is being gathered from the eyewitnesses and the family of the deceased. Further details are awaited.

Former Soldier Dies After Throat Slit By Chinese Kite String In Jammu

Jammu: A former soldier was killed after his throat was slit by a Chinese kite string or 'manja' while he was travelling through the Ring Road in Jammu.

Naib Subedar (Retd) Lakhvinder Singh sustained critical injuries after coming into contact with the killer string while passing through Bishnah area on a two-wheeler late Sunday, PTI reported on Monday morning citing officials.

They said the retired soldier was immediately shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries. Singh was returning to his home in R S Pura after finishing work at an industrial unit in Bari Brahmana, where he was employed as a private security guard, they said.



The sale and use of 'manja' is banned by the authorities and several shopkeepers were arrested in recent past across Jammu for clandestinely dealing with the material. The latest death has sparked concerns over the enforcement of the ban, with residents demanding

strict action against those selling and using the prohibited string.

The officials said police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation is on to identify the culprits and bring them to book.

Earlier this year, in a similar incident in Lucknow, an ex-serviceman was grievously injured when the Chinese kite string became entangled around his face while he was returning hFormer Soldier Dies After Throat Slit By Chinese Kite

String In Jammu at Slit By Chinese Kite String In Jammu on a scooter.

Apart from injuring or killing commuters, especially those on two-wheeler. Earlier this year, in a similar incident in Lucknow, an ex-serviceman was grievously injured when the Chinese kite string became entangled around his face while he was returning hFormer Soldier Dies After Throat Slit By Chinese Kite wheelers, Chinese 'manja' maims and killed thousands of pigeons, crows, owls, endangered vultures, and other birds each year, according to PETA India. The thread is made of sharp material or coated with finely crushed glass, metal, or other substances, making it dangerous.



New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped inside a sleeper bus in Delhi's Kashmere Gate area, following which police arrested the driver and conductor, police said. According to police, the incident occurred on the night of August 4 when the girl left home without informing her family after a disagreement, intending to visit her cousin in Noida. Due to heavy rain and darkness, she got off at Pari Chowk along the way. She then allegedly signalled to the empty sleeper bus passing by to stop. After the bus stopped, the driver and conductor told her they were heading towards Noida Sector-63; trusting them, she boarded the bus. The accused allegedly gang-raped her and threatened her before abandoning her on Ring Road near the Kashmere

Gate bus terminal late at night, police said. The victim is a resident of Mainpuri district in Uttar Pradesh and is an 11th-grade student. After receiving the complaint, the Kashmere Gate police began an investigation, which led to the discovery that both suspects were at a bus parking lot in the Timarpur area following the incident. Acting on this information, the police team arrested the driver, Kuldeep, and the conductor, Sandeep. According to a preliminary probe, the accused were driving the empty bus towards Timarpur. En route, they encountered the female student at Pari Chowk. The bus travelled a distance of approximately 47 kilometres from the intersection to Kashmere Gate. Due to the curtains installed inside the sleeper bus, activities aware of the alleged incident taking place inside. The police have also seized the bus for forensic examination.

within were not visible from the outside; consequently, no passersby along the route led to the discovery that both suspects were at a bus parking lot in the Timarpur area following the incident. Acting on this information, the police team arrested the driver, Kuldeep, and the conductor, Sandeep. According to a preliminary probe, the accused were driving the empty bus towards Timarpur. En route, they encountered the female student at Pari Chowk. The bus travelled a distance of approximately 47 kilometres from the intersection to Kashmere Gate. Due to the curtains installed inside the sleeper bus, activities aware of the alleged incident taking place inside. The police have also seized the bus for forensic examination.

Unite For Cauvery Issue, Save TN From Becoming Desert: DMK Leader Duraimurugan

Mumbai: Search and rescue operations were underway for the second day on Thursday at the site of a landslide in Mumbai, where two people were still feared trapped under the debris, officials said. The landslide struck a row tenement located near a hillock in the Sakinaka area in the early hours of Wednesday following heavy rains, claiming seven lives and leaving seven others injured. Soil and boulders from the adjoining hillock fell on three shanties in Gaushiya Chawl in Ashok Nagar locality of Chirag Nagar. The deceased have been identified as Mohamad Samir Ansari (14), Sahil Husen Abdul Kazi (19), an unidentified person aged around 45, Aban Arif



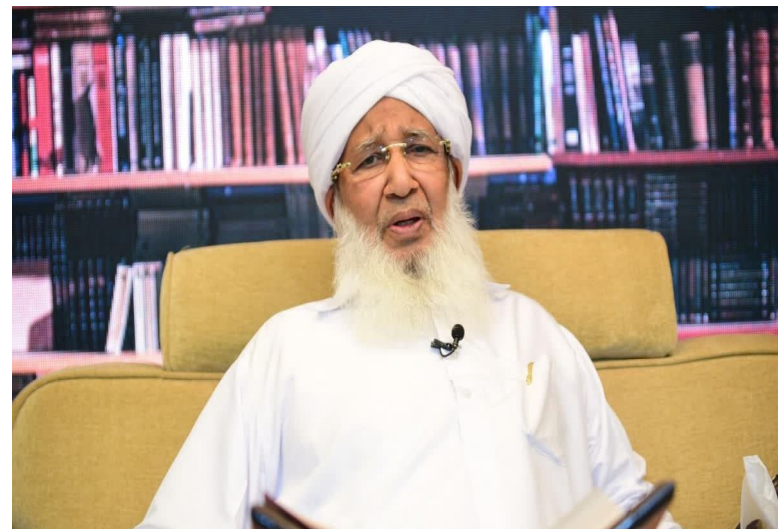
Shaikh (2); Manat Arif Shaikh (4), Marjina Arif Shaikh (27), and Viket Ramesh Yadav (27). As per the officials, a couple of people were still

feared trapped in debris, but the rescue operation remained challenging due to the site's narrow access, which also restricted the use of heavy machinery.

Teams comprising personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire brigade and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

(BMC) continued the search and rescue operation at the site for the second day, a civic official said. Residents of adjoining shanties have been evacuated, and the civic administration has made arrangements for their temporary accommodation. The BMC said it had been issuing warnings and conducting awareness drives in areas vulnerable to landslides and rockfalls, particularly during the monsoon. Meanwhile, Mumbai Mayor Ritu Twade has announced compensation of four lakh rupees for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to each person who sustained injuries in the Kurla incident. (With inputs from agencies).

Keralam: Islamic Scholar Says Women's Public Appearances Will Cause 'great Destruction'



Kochi: Following a controversial circular saying "women should not be present on public platforms", Islamic scholar Kanthapuram A P A b o b a c k e r Musliyar on Sunday said women should remain confined to their homes. The Kanthapuram faction of the Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama, the state's premier council of Sunni-Shafi Islamic scholars, last week said religious celebrations and programmes should remain within prescribed boundaries. In a recent circular, Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama president E Sulaiman Musliyar and general secretary Kanthapuram A P A b o b a c k e r Musliyar directed that women should not share stages with men or appear in public spaces maintained their honalongsides them. The circular drew criticism, with several women political leaders speaking out against it

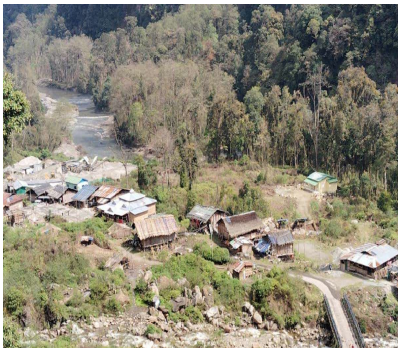
Speaking at an Islamic conference in Kochi on Sunday, Kanthapuram said bringing women onto public platforms would lead to "great destruction" and claimed that Islam prescribed purdah for women to prevent this. "It is precisely recognising that bringing women onto public platforms in this manner causes great destruction that Islam mandated purdah for women. The Holy Quran states that women should live confined within their homes and must not make public appearances," he said. Kanthapuram said such views had been taught by knowledgeable religious scholars, particularly leaders of Samastha, for the past 100 years. "Thereore, you must understand that it is because all knowledgeable people, especially the leaders of Samastha, taught this here for 100 years that the women in this country have maintained their honour and dignity," he said. He said religious scholars who had studied the religion had an obligation to speak on the issue and would continue to do so despite objections. "When this is said, if leaders of any other organisation or Samastha leaders object to not make public appearances," he said. Kanthapuram said such views had been taught by knowledgeable religious scholars, particularly leaders of Samastha, for the past 100 years. "Thereore, you must understand that it is because all knowledgeable people, especially the leaders of Samastha, taught this here for 100 years that the women in this country have maintained their honour and dignity," he or question it, we have studied the religion and therefore have an obligation to say it. We will say it and continue to say it. No one can make us stop," he said.

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Many Aspects Of Donation 'Theft' Probe Done, Chargesheet To Be Filed End Of Next Month:

Tezpur/Hyderabad: Government of India introduced the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) in April, 2023 with a target to make our border villages sound in infrastructure and strong from defence perspective. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the programme from remote Kibithoo village in Arunachal Pradesh way back in 2023 and then the second phase on 20 February in 2026 from a border village in Assam. The programme covers all areas located in Indian states bordering international neighbours. The VVP redefines remote frontier settlements by officially calling every border area "the first village of the country" instead of the "last village". Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced this paradigm shift to ensure that border communities receive priority development and are viewed as frontline centres of national pride and growth. The primary motive of the programme was to stop outward migration from the border villages by transforming

isolated areas into self-sustaining, prosperous centres by boosting local infrastructure and turning the frontier settlements into populated security assets. Historically treated as last villages, the areas suffered severe economic neglect leading families to abandon them, now by upgrading infrastructure and creating livelihoods, the government aims to keep those strategic communities/places thriving. However, from the ground of the border villages in Arunachal Pradesh, a contrasting picture is seen. ETV Bharat presents what the residents of border villages in Zemithang (Tawang district) and Limeking and Taksing (Upper Subansiri district) said over telephonic conversation and their preparations for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. Arunachal Pradesh shares a border of 1,080 to 1200 kilometres following the McMahon Line. The Chinese used to create controversies from time to time claiming parts of Arunachal Pradesh, calling it South Tibet as their own. Despite international dispute Indian



Government has been maintaining strong stand on Arunachal Pradesh and warning the Chinese side of no aggression. In Zemithang of Tawang district in western Arunachal Pradesh, roads, electricity, healthcare, clean drinking water, and welfare initiatives by the Army have brought visible changes to daily life. On the other hand, in the Limeking-Taksing region in the east of Upper Subansiri district, despite the presence of schools, community halls, and other government infrastructure, population has been steadily declining. Many youths have left in search of education and employment. Together, these two contrasting realities raise an

important question for border development — is building infrastructure alone enough to strengthen border villages or is employment equally necessary to retain people in their villages? Located very close to the India-China border, Zemithang is one of the most important border settlements in the country. The presence of the Indian Army and ITBP is an integral part of daily life here. According to village head 'Wangshu', travelling in the region used to be extremely difficult as people had to walk long distances, cross streams, and use unsafe bridges. "Earlier, even reaching the Army post was difficult. We had to walk, cross water bodies, and use risky bridges. Now vehicles can reach even remote points. Roads have improved and electricity has also reached the village," he said. According to him, there is a huge difference between the past and the present. Along with road and electricity connectivity, imp

rovements in healthcare, drinking water, and other infrastructure have made daily life in this border village much easier, he said. MyIn Zemithang, the role of the Indian Army is not limited to border security. Under the Gajaraj Corps' 'Operation Sadbhavana', several initiatives have been taken in healthcare, clean drinking water, livelihood support, and social development. The village head Wangshu said, the Army plays a crucial role in meeting the medical needs of local people. The ITBP also provides healthcare services and organises medical camps from time to time while providing veterinary services when required, he added. Another important aspect of Zemithang's development is tourism. The natural beauty of 'Gorsam Chorten', the Zemithang valley, and the local cultural heritage have created potential to attract tourists. Tourism has also opened new livelihood opportunities for local people. Home stays, food services, local products, and businesses linked to traditional are creating new sources of income for villagers.

Will Odisha MLAs See A Salary Hike? Parliament Panel Backs Pay Revision Of

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's legislators could be in line for a salary and allowance revision, with a Parliamentary Joint Committee examining and reportedly suggesting revision of the existing pay structure and perks available to the MLAs during its visit to Bhubaneswar on Sunday.



The panel held detailed discussions with Odisha Assembly Speaker, Parliamentary Affairs Minister and senior officials of the state legislature on the remuneration, allowances and facilities provided to sitting legislators and former members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, and understand the existing system in the state and assess it against the arrangements followed by Parliament and other state legislatures.

The committee, headed

by Rajya Sabha member Birendra Prasad Baishya, first met Speaker Surama Padhy. It subsequently held separate discussions with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Assembly Secretary Satyabrata Raut and senior officials of the state legislature.

During the meetings, the committee examined the existing salary structure and various allowances provided to sitting MLAs in Odisha. The panel also discussed the

pension and other benefits available to former legislators.

Officials of the Odisha Assembly reportedly placed before the committee a detailed comparative statement on the salaries, allowances and other facilities available to Members of Parliament and legislators in other states. The comparison covered various components of the remuneration and benefits provided to elected representatives and former legislators.

The committee observed that there is a need to examine and consider changes in the existing salary, allowances and related facilities provided to Odisha's sitting and former legislators, government sources said.

The visiting delegation included committee chairman Baishya and MPs Vijay Kumar Dubey, Beena Devi, K Gopinath, Babu Singh Kushwaha and Richard Vamila h m a n g i a . Parliament Director Bhattacharya Joshi was also part of the delegation.

The visit is part of the committee's efforts to gather information from different state legislatures on the remuneration and facilities provided to elected representatives. The inputs gathered during such consultations are expected to help the committee

Time Of Strategic Churn, Threat Perception Evolving: Admiral Swaminathan As INS Nipun Commissioned Into Indian Navy

Mumbai: Amid the ongoing crisis in West Asia, Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Monday said this is a period of significant strategic churn, with the maritime environment becoming increasingly contested. "The threat perception is constantly evolving, manifesting in newer forms of challenge and complexity," he said. Admiral Swaminathan was speaking after the commissioning of the deep-sea diving vessel INS Nipun into the Indian Navy in Mumbai. This is the second such deep-sea diving vessel commissioned into the Indian Navy.

In his address after commissioning, amid the crisis in West Asia, Swaminathan said, "The induction of this capability today, apart from its ceremonial significance, is an opportunity for us to reflect upon our unifying purpose to build and maintain robust operational and combat capability that safeguards India's security and maritime interests at all times and at all places. We are living through a period of significant strategic churn. The maritime environment is becoming increasingly contested. Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) further enhance the vessel's operational capabilities by enabling diver moni-



capacity of 10,500 tonnes. The ship has the capacity to support diving operations up to 300 metres. It also has the capability of providing rapid submarine rescue. It can also be deployed for disaster relief and humanitarian operations. The name 'Nipun' is derived from Sanskrit and signifies "one who is adept, capable, and well-versed in a particular discipline". The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art diving equipment and has the capability to undertake deep-sea saturation diving. A side diving stage has also been provided to facilitate diving operations. Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) further enhance the vessel's operational capabilities by enabling diver moni-

toring and salvage operations. In addition, 'Nipun' can serve as the mother ship for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), facilitating the evacuation of personnel from submarines during emergencies. With nearly 75 per cent indigenous content, the vessel's delivery marks another milestone in the Indian Navy's efforts towards indigenous shipbuilding and aligns with the Government's vision of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. 'Nipun' is a purpose-built platform designed to support a wide spectrum of diving and underwater operations. Equipped with modern diving systems and underwater intervention capabilities, the vessel enable 'Nipun' to function as an integrated platform for complex underwater operations.

can provide sustained support to divers operating in demanding conditions at sea and augment the Navy's submarine rescue capabilities. The ship incorporates modern systems for navigation, platform management and precise station keeping, along with specialised facilities for Bharat. 'Nipun' is a purpose-built platform designed to support a wide spectrum of diving and underwater operations. Equipped with modern diving systems and underwater intervention capabilities, the vessel enable 'Nipun' to function as an integrated platform for complex underwater operations.

What Action Has RSS Taken Against Those Spreading Hate: Jamiat On Bhagwat's US Remarks

New Delhi: Prominent Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind on Sunday said if RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat truly believes in the views on diversity he has aired in the US, he should openly distance himself from those who spread hatred and take effective action against them. Maulana Arshad Madani, who heads a faction of the Jamiat -- referring to Bhagwat's remark that if any Hindu thinks that there should be no Muslims in Bharat, he will not remain a Hindu -- questioned if that was the case, why the RSS doesn't expel such people from its organisation. Addressing events in the US, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief said that unity in diversity is in Bharat's DNA, underscoring that it has to be

celebrated, respected and accepted. He also said that if any Hindu thinks that there should be no Muslims in Bharat, he will not remain a Hindu. Reacting to the remarks in a post in Hindi on X, Madani said, "Who exactly are these people who spread hatred against Muslims and Christians, support mob lynchings and violence, call for economic and social boycotts, target mosques, madrasas and educational institutions, and cast doubt on the citizenship and constitutional rights of Muslims? What action has the RSS taken against them so far?"

"Speaking of unity, brotherhood, and respect for all religions in America is commendable, but the real need



for this message is in India today," Madani said. If Mohan Bhagwat truly wants to put this idea into practice, he should openly distance himself from those who spread hatred and take effective action against them to prove that this isn't just a statement to be made abroad, he said. "India does not belong to any one religion; it is the shared homeland of those who follow all religions. The truth of any idea is not proven by

speeches, but by its implementation," Madani said. Therefore, the question is straightforward -- "When will action be taken against those who spread hatred, and when will the protection of equal rights enshrined in the Constitution be visible on the ground?", the Jamiat chief asked.

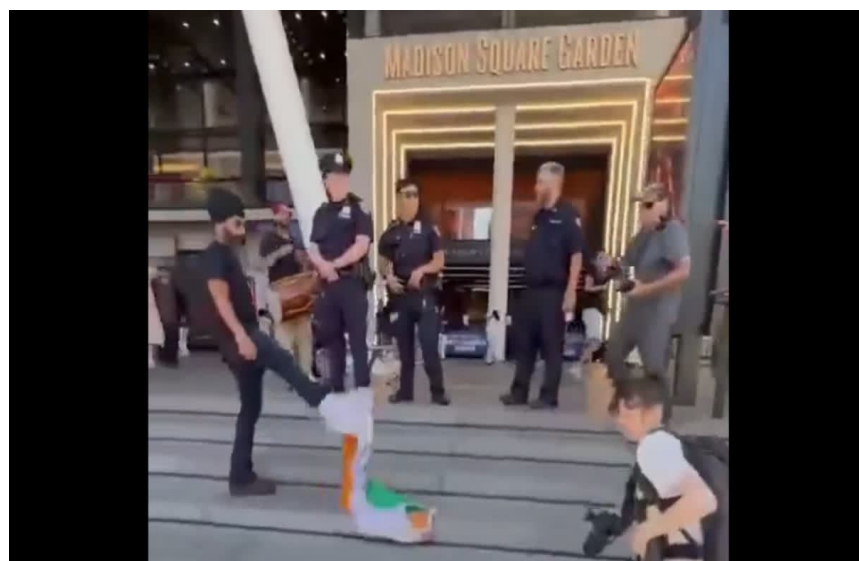
The opposition on Sunday accused Bhagwat of indulging in doublespeak over his

'Don't Abuse Our Nation, Will Cost You Dearly': Rijiju Warns NY Protesters 'Desecrating' Indian Flag

New Delhi: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday took serious exception to protesters allegedly desecrating the Indian flag outside the New York venue where RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addressed an event. Posting a purported video of the protest on the social media platform 'X', Rijiju said, "We always said, you have freedom to criticise RSS, BJP or government. But don't abuse our nation."

"Listen carefully... Do not insult our flag and my country. It will cost you dearly," the Union minister said. In the video posted by Rijiju, one of the protesters can be seen desecrating the Indian flag outside Madison Square Garden in New York while others raised pro-Khalistan slogans.

Addressing over 6,000 members of the Indian-



American community and interfaith leaders at Infosys Theatre in the iconic Madison Square Garden on Saturday, Bhagwat gave a clarion call to embrace diversity and support communities. He said unity in diversity is in Bharat's DNA, asserting that it has to be celebrated, respected and accepted.

Before Bhagwat delivered his keynote address, interfaith leaders emphasised the message of oneness, unity and diversity, kindness, compassion and the need to help one another.

The speakers included Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, the chief executive officer of the Rabbinical Assembly;

Reverend Adriene Thorne, who is the eighth senior minister of the historic Riverside Church in New York City and the first African American woman to hold the position; as well as Talib M Shareef, the president and Imam of the historic Masjid Muhammad, also called 'the Nation's Mosque', in Washington, DC.

Nearly 5 Lakh Devotees Undertook Amarnath Yatra This Year Despite Adverse Weather Conditions: J-K Govt



Srinagar: Around 4.80 lakh devotees completed the Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir this year despite disruptions caused by adverse weather conditions, the government said on Sunday. "From July 3 to August 28, approximately 4.80 lakh devotees had darshan of Baba Barfani. Adverse weather for more than 10 days posed serious challenges. Around 82% of pilgrims had darshan within the first 20 days; and 95% within the first month," an official statement released by the Director of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) following the successful conduct of the 57-day Yatra, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday felicitated officers of Amarnath Shrine Board, Civil Administration, Army, CAPFs, J&K Police, BRO, medical profes-

sionals, service providers, and other stakeholders at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar. Sinha said the pilgrimage is a celebration of collective resolve that transformed hardships into duty, challenges into opportunities, and service into a form of spiritual practice.

LG Sinha expressed gratitude to the officers, security personnel, sanitation workers, pony operators, pithu bearers, palanquin carriers, langar volunteers and medical staff who "ensured a smooth, secure and dignified Yatra despite difficult terrain and adverse weather." "The achievement was not the success of any single institution or department but of 'Team Jammu Kashmir' as a whole," Sinha said.

The LG thanked civil society groups, political parties and religious

leaders who provided all the support to the Yatra, and reaffirmed that the discipline, energy and coordination shown during the pilgrimage should now become an enduring part of Jammu & Kashmir's development ethos.

"I am confident that every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir fulfilled his/her moral responsibility towards this Yatra, directly or indirectly, and elevated the rich cultural tradition of the Union Territory before the entire country. The sacred Yatra reflects India's Sanatan tradition and its ethos of humanity, coexistence and collective service. Pilgrims from across the country returned home carrying not just a religious experience, but also the message of the region's culture and hospitality," he said. As per the official statement, 54,000 service

providers were registered, including 31,000 pony operators, pithu bearers and palanquin carriers, 6,400 tent and shop operators and 7,700 langar volunteers.

"Around 1.87 lakh pilgrims availed palanquin and pony services with medical facilities being provided at 93 places along the route, with 595 clinical beds and 26 oxygen booths. A total 1,430 doctors and nursing personnel were on round-the-clock duty, supported by 48 ambulances," it said. For sanitation, 7,900 toilets were installed and maintained by as many sanitation workers as part of a zero-waste Yatra initiative. The pilgrim-holding capacity was raised to 63,000 within the Yatra area and 54,000 across Jammu and Kashmir divisions, the government added.

US Strikes Iranian Rocket Launchers On Strait Of Hormuz In First Military Action In Week

Washington: U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz in their first military action in a month on Sunday, breaking a lull in fighting during an intermittent war that has lasted more than six months. Iran swiftly vowed to retaliate for what it called a deadly attack.

Forces with the Revolutionary Guard Corps were observed preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into the strait, according to Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for the U.S. Central Command. The U.S. military last week completed clearing sea mines from the strait's international shipping routes. Semiofficial news outlets in Iran reported sounds of explosions near Larak island on the strait. The Guard in a statement carried by Iran's state broadcaster noted "the martyrdom and injury of several of our fighters and compatriots." Later, Iranian state television showed what it said were ballistic missiles being fired by Iran at U.S. bases in Jordan in response to the American strikes. Jordan's armed forces



said they intercepted eight missiles that penetrated the country's airspace early Monday. A return to open conflict would be dangerous for the region, where Iran has targeted U.S. military bases and infrastructure in Gulf countries since the war began on Feb. 28. The last time the U.S. military confirmed targeting Iran was on July 29, when it announced a "heavy wave of strikes" on dozens of Revolutionary Guard targets including coastal surveillance and defense sites. On Aug. 1, President Donald Trump said he would order the military to hold off on new strikes at the urging of Gulf allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The US had turned to economic pressure as it comes just days after the Trump administration said it would turn its focus to increasing economic pressure — rather than military action — to try to end its war with Iran. The shifting strategy centers on threats to punish any country or entity that continues to conduct business with Tehran. Sunday's attack was a "fatal mistake by the Trump regime during the economic war" and the enemy will pay the consequences militarily and economically, a Guard spokesperson, Gen. Hossein Mohebi, said in a statement carried by Iranian media. The U.S. turn to using sanctions came as the administration weighs

diminished munitions stockpiles after months of war, sparking concerns that the prolonged conflict could undermine U.S. military readiness in other parts of the globe.

As the conflict grinds on, Trump's talk of finding a quick end to the war also appears to be fading. He stressed last week that he's "not in a hurry" to get Iran back to the negotiating table, and he continues making the case that the Islamic Republic's leadership is on the ropes.

Appointments to Iran's senior security leadership in the past month, however, have signaled Tehran's defiance after weathering decades of sanctions as well as a lack of tolerance for dissent at home.

Trump has consistently emphasized that the U.S. and Israel campaign has been devastating for Iran's navy and air force. Iranian officials have said the country has suffered \$270 billion in direct and indirect damage. Israeli military strikes in the first weeks of the war wiped out much of the theocratic government's leadership structure.

Iran leans on the strait

Death Toll Rises To 44 After An Overloaded Ferry Capsized On A Zimbabwe Lake

Harare: The death toll has risen to 44 a day after an overloaded ferry capsized on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe, police said. Police said on X that the bodies had been retrieved from the lake that forms part of the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. But police did not update how many people were injured or missing after Tuesday's disaster involving a ferry operated by a government agency. The ferry capsized while carrying at least 114 adult passengers and five crew members, according to Zimbabwe's disaster management agency. The agency said Tuesday that 77 people had been rescued.

It was not clear how many people were on the ferry because the figures only included those who bought tickets, and children below ticketing age could have been on board. State broadcaster ZBC reported that children were among the dead, though authorities didn't immediately give those details. The ferry had a carrying



capacity of 90 people, according to authorities. It is used to take people from rural communities around the lake to the town of Kariba on the shore. Mutema Murombedzi, a local member of Parliament, posted a video Tuesday of what she said were people on shore waving at the ferry when it started its journey. Some of the people were expressing concern whether the aging ferry could handle strong waves, according to the video. Kariba is the

largest man-made lake in the world by volume and was created in the late 1950s and early 1960s by building a dam on the Zambezi River. The huge lake is now more than 200 kilometers (124 miles) long and up to 40 kilometers wide in places. The official border between Zimbabwe and Zambia is in the middle of it.

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Trump Says Secret Service And The Military Wanted Him Off Air Force One In Turkey Due To Threat

Washington: President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he slipped away from Air Force One after a trip last month in Turkey because the Secret Service and military wanted him on a "different plane" due to a threat that he insisted didn't scare him. Trump downplayed the extraordinary nature of the subterfuge involved in his flight, which saw him stow away in an airport catering container to sneak onto another plane while Air Force One was sent into the sky, essentially



as a decoy. He also downplayed the risk to the people — White House officials, security and support staff, and reporters — he left on the plane. "They wanted me to go on a different flight, different plane," Trump told reporters

after returning from an event in Ohio, saying he had little choice in the matter. "I guess there was a threat out there. I didn't really ask too much about it," he said. "I get a lot of threats."

His comments confirmed a report that first appeared in The Washington Post saying that Trump, following a NATO summit last month, was spirited onto a different plane because of a credible threat from Iran. The action was kept secret for weeks,

until the newspaper's story. "I think actually the plane that I flew on was at greater risk," Trump said Tuesday, who did not provide many details about the action. But he said the incident did not scare him. "I don't worry about anything, to be honest," Trump said. "Whatever it is. You know my attitude? Whatever!" Presidents often take secret trips — but not like this. Commanders in chief have sometimes kept overseas trips covert for security reasons, with

US Plans To Sanction Another Bank In Effort To Clamp Down On Iran Transactions: US Treasury Secy Bessent



Asheville: President Donald Trump's administration plans to impose sanctions on another bank this week as it intensifies efforts to economically isolate Iran, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told The Associated Press on Sunday. "This is going to be financial violence if we have to," Bessent said in the interview. "We are showing people that we know who you are, you know who you are, and this has got to stop." Bessent spoke with the AP ahead of Group of 20 meetings in Asheville, North Carolina, where he will huddle individually with his counterparts from the world's major and developing economies to encourage cooperation against Iran. He said he plans to focus on encouraging economic growth in his meetings, which are taking place as he faces scrutiny for an unusual bond buyback program and his approach to \$40 trillion in U.S. debt, and he defended the Treasury's decision to exclude certain reporters from covering the event. Bessent did not name the bank that would face sanctions this week. His comments come after the Trump administration signaled that it would shift from military strikes to economic pressure during a war that recently reached the six-month mark, promising what it called an "eco-

economic D-Day" against a country that has already weathered decades of punishing sanctions. The US is trying to squeeze Iran. However, hostilities between the U.S. and Iran flared on Sunday. U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz in their first military action in a month, breaking a lull in fighting. Iran vowed to retaliate for what it called a deadly attack. In addition, the administration has mostly relied on warnings rather than new sanctions against Iran's trading partners. There's also the question of how Trump will handle China, which is Iran's biggest trading partner and leading buyer of its oil. Bessent told the AP he would speak to his Chinese counterparts at the G20 meeting and "all options are on the table" in terms of sanctioning Beijing for its continued purchases. But he rejected the idea that the administration was reluctant to confront China, calling it "a completely false narrative that the media picked up on." He insisted that China and the U.S. agree on the need to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Treasury's first official action in this campaign of economic pressure was a proposed rulemaking on Friday, which would, if final-

ized, sever the Emirati branches of Banque Misr, Egypt's second-largest bank, from access to the U.S. financial system.

In stopping short of imposing sanctions on the Egyptian bank, the Republican administration appeared to be signaling its reluctance to penalize major trading partners that do business with Iran, including China and India.

Treasury restricted media access to G20 meeting

The Treasury barred certain reporters from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg News from covering the G20 meetings. The Times said it was "not just another disturbing effort by the administration to undermine independent journalism, but a blatant attempt to evade public scrutiny." Treasury officials have not explained their decision. Bessent defended the exclusion by telling the AP that "it has nothing to do with point of view."

Bessent faces scrutiny on bond market. Bessent said he wanted to focus on growth at the summit with his counterparts. "The world has this mountain of debt, and we do have to grow our way out of it because you know there are many countries that have very large budget deficits, but they also have zero growth," he said.

Bessent surprised financial markets earlier this month with an unusual intervention into the bond market that sparked criticism that the administration has not done enough to address fiscal issues. The move — which occurred on the same day the U.S. debt topped \$40 trillion — was seen as a way to try to put a cap on rising bond yields, which have pushed up borrowing costs for consumers.

Some of the sharpest criticism came from Stan Druckenmiller, CEO of Duquesne Family Office LLC — a former boss of Bessent's in the 1990s — who wrote in The Wall Street Journal that the Treasury Department was on "the wrong side of that trade" and needed to do more to address the

Bangladesh Sees No Risk In Joining Mecca Pact: State Foreign Minister



Dhaka: Bangladesh on Sunday said it saw no risk in joining the Mecca defence pact with Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan, asserting it would not restrict Dhaka's engagement with other partners. Signed on August 7, the 'Makkah Joint Defence Agreement' establishes a framework for collective deterrence and stipulates that an armed attack on any one of the three countries would be considered an attack on all three. State Minister for

Foreign Affairs Humairun Kobir's statement during a media briefing came days after Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman told Parliament that Bangladesh would positively consider joining the Mecca defence, if invited, and said it was an internal matter of "our Muslim family" with no scope for others to be concerned about it. "This is a unique pact that presents new opportunities," Kobir told reporters at the Foreign

Ministry after Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Zafer bin Abiyah called on him. Kobir added Bangladesh was currently holding discussions on this matter and "those discussions are progressing positively with all bilateral partners." "A country like Bangladesh must approach foreign policy and security cooperation in a highly integrated and flexible manner, aligned with the dynamics of the current international political

system," he said. Kobir said, in line with this approach, "we will balance our international relations." "Entering into one specific sphere within today's volatile or crisis-driven international political climate does not mean you cannot contribute to other alliances or fields. It does not restrict your scope," the minister said. He said he held a series of bilateral meetings including with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud during his Jeddah visit last week and the pact was an issue of his discussions while his interlocutors' response was "positive, very positive." Earlier on Thursday, replying when an independent lawmaker sought clarification on Dhaka's stance about joining the 'Mecca Pact', Foreign Minister Rahman told Parliament, "We view this pact positively." The defence treaty is an "internal matter of our family, the Muslim family" and "there is no scope for others to be concerned about it," Rahman said.

The child behind the curriculum



The Supreme Court's recent observations on the introduction of a third language in Class IX have brought an important educational question into focus. The debate surrounding language policy is often shaped by political, cultural and constitutional considerations, but there is another perspective that deserves equal attention: the child who must ultimately experience the policy in the classroom. Children's intellectual and cultural development, broaden communication and deepen their understanding of India's diversity. The question, therefore, is not whether multilingual learning has value, but when and how it should be introduced. A curriculum cannot be designed merely by deciding what children ought to learn; it must also consider their age, developmental readiness and existing academic demands. Every educational policy ultimately reaches the child as a classroom experience, and its success must, therefore, be judged not only by its objectives, but by how meaningfully the learner is able to absorb it.

Right Time to Learn Children possess a remarkable capacity to learn languages, particularly when exposure begins early and occurs naturally. In the formative years, language learning can become part of everyday communication rather than another subject to be mastered for examinations. Educational policy must distinguish between learning a language and preparing to pass an examination in it. The former can broaden a child's world; the latter may add to an already crowded academic burden.

The transition to secondary education is already demanding for many students. By Class IX, academic expectations rise as schools begin preparing children for Board examinations and families become increasingly conscious of future academic choices. When additions are made without examining the overall workload, even well-intentioned reforms can reduce the time available

for meaningful learning, recreation and personal development. Beyond the Language Debate, the pre-occupation raises a question that extends beyond the three-language policy. How often do we examine educational reform from the perspective of the child who must experience it? Curriculum decisions are frequently judged by the knowledge and skills they seek to introduce. Less attention may be paid to whether students have adequate time, preparation and developmental readiness to engage with them meaningfully. New knowledge, technologies and competencies will inevitably enter classrooms. Yet every addition occupies time and demands attention. Unless existing requirements are reviewed simultaneously, continuous additions can leave students learning more subjects but understanding fewer of them deeply. The quality of education cannot, therefore, be measured by the quantity of content in a syllabus. A well-designed curriculum requires careful choices about what should be taught, at what stage and for what purpose. Reform should also create space for deeper learning and recognise that childhood itself has educational value.

One Policy, Different Classrooms India's educational landscape is marked by considerable diversity in resources, linguistic backgrounds and access to trained teachers. While some schools may be equipped to introduce an additional language effectively, others may struggle with shortages of qualified teachers, suitable textbooks and instructional time. The success of any language policy, therefore, depends as much on preparedness as on intention.

The challenge is particularly significant for students in rural and under-resourced schools and for children who move between States because of their parents' employment. A language familiar in one region may be entirely new in another. Students also enter

classrooms with different levels of exposure and linguistic ability. Applying an identical requirement without recognising these differences can unintentionally widen educational inequalities.

Uniform educational goals need not always require uniform methods of implementation. Schools must be adequately prepared, teachers must be available before new requirements are introduced, and students should receive sufficient time to adapt. Educational reform succeeds when policy is translated into meaningful learning in every classroom, not merely when it is formally included in the curriculum. Equal expectations can produce unequal burdens when the circumstances in which children learn are different. Child at the Centre Before introducing a new subject, language or requirement, policymakers must consider not only its educational value but also the age at which it should be introduced, the preparation required and the burden students are already carrying. A sound curriculum should challenge children intellectually without overwhelming them emotionally. This requires consultation with teachers, educationists, child-development professionals and counsellors who understand how children learn and respond to academic pressure. Teachers, in particular, can provide valuable insights into classroom realities that may not always be visible at the policymaking level.

Flexibility is equally important. Educational policies must recognise differences in linguistic background, learning ability and institutional resources rather than assuming that every child begins from the same point. Periodic assessments should examine not merely whether a policy has been implemented, but how students are experiencing it. Can it identify unintended difficulties before they become entrenched?

Child-centred education does not mean lowering standards or avoiding

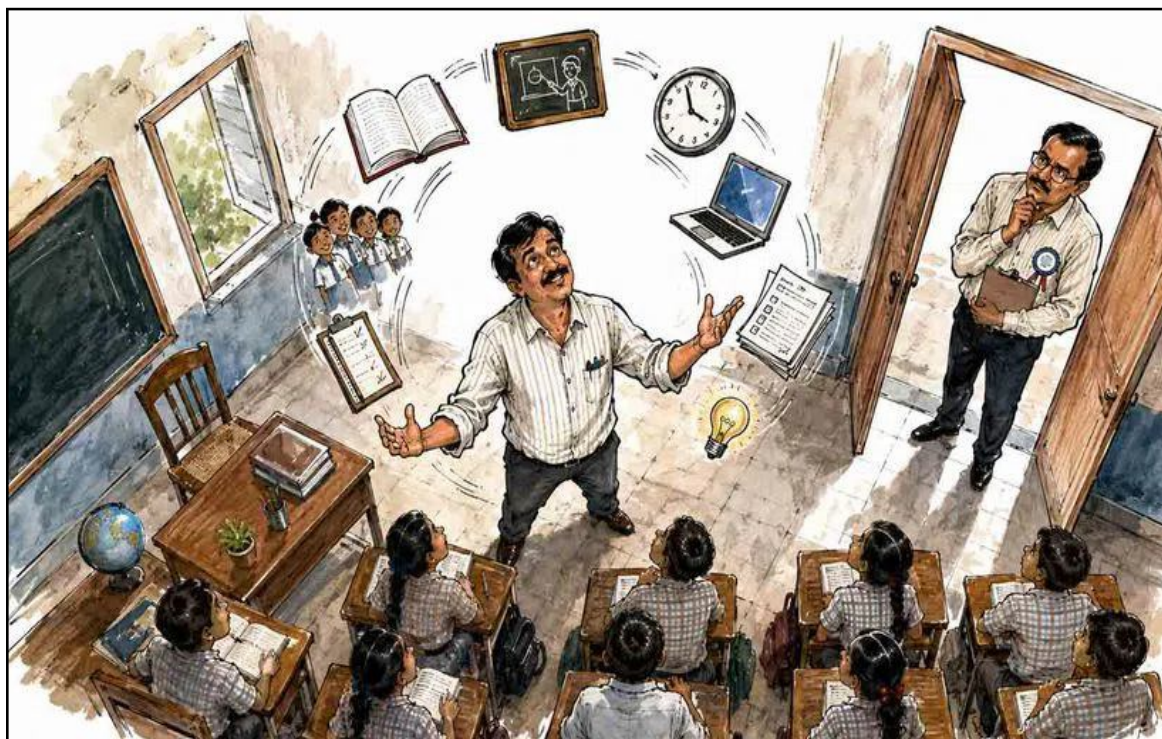
academic challenge. It means creating conditions in which children can meet high expectations without being overwhelmed. When policy begins with the needs of the learner, educational reform becomes both more humane and more effective. Rethinking Success Educational reform should ask three questions: What should children learn? When should they learn it? And how should they experience the process? The answers must reflect an understanding of childhood, developmental readiness and the pressures students already face. The purpose of a curriculum is not merely to prepare students for examinations or equip them with an ever-expanding list of competencies. It is to nurture curiosity, understanding, confidence and the capacity to continue learning throughout life.

A system that constantly adds to what children must learn, without creating space for meaningful learning, risks confusing educational ambition with undue pressure. Teachers, in particular, can provide valuable insights into classroom realities that may not always be visible at the policymaking level.

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A framework to assess teacher quality



The contemporary debate on the education landscape centres on students' learning achievement and the quality of education. Teacher quality is widely recognised as one of the most important school-based factors influencing students' academic achievement. Research has consistently demonstrated that teacher effectiveness not only affects students' academic outcomes but also has broader economic implications through its influence on the quality and productivity of the future workforce. Evidence from natural and quasi-experimental studies using value-added methods indicates that students taught by effective teachers achieve significantly better academic outcomes and experience substantial long-term benefits in adulthood, including higher educational attainment, improved employment prospects, and increased earnings. Furthermore, the 2024 Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), conducted by the OECD, emphasised the importance of effective teacher evaluation systems in enhancing teaching quality and improving student learning outcomes.

Measuring Quality Having recognised its importance, defining and measuring teacher quality remains challenging because it encompasses multiple dimensions, including subject knowledge, pedagogical skills, classroom management, and professionalism. Conceptually, teacher quality refers to the characteristics, competencies, and instructional practices of teachers that positively influence student learning and achievement. Over time, frameworks for assessing teacher quality have evolved from an emphasis on teachers' credentials to a greater focus on their effectiveness in promoting student learning.

Traditionally, teacher quality was measured through observable qualifications such as academic degrees, certification status, professional training, and teaching experience. However, empirical evidence has shown that these credentials alone are often weak predictors of teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Consequently,

contemporary approaches increasingly emphasise measures that capture teachers' actual performance and their impact on student learning outcomes. Teacher Effectiveness

The conceptualisation and measurement of teacher quality have subsequently shifted towards teacher effectiveness, focusing on the knowledge, skills, and practices that directly influence student learning. Within this perspective, teacher quality is assessed in terms of teachers' subject-matter knowledge, pedagogical competence, classroom management, professionalism, and ability to address students' diverse learning needs.

These dimensions are closely linked to the quality of education as reflected in students' learning outcomes and academic achievement. Beyond subject-matter expertise, emphasis has been placed on pedagogical content knowledge (PCK), which refers to teachers' ability to transform subject knowledge into forms that are understandable and meaningful to learners.

India, particularly Telangana, must develop and implement comprehensive teacher quality assessment frameworks that capture the multiple dimensions of effective teaching and inform evidence-based educational policy and practice. Classroom observation has emerged as one of the most widely used methods for assessing teacher quality.

Observation-based frameworks typically evaluate instructional quality, classroom management, student engagement, and teachers' professional conduct. Despite concerns regarding observer subjectivity and bias, classroom observation remains a valuable tool for evaluating teaching effectiveness.

Research has further demonstrated that specific instructional practices, including effective feedback, formative assessment, the promotion of critical thinking, and classroom discussion, positively influence students' academic achievement. In this regard, student engagement is increasingly recognised as an important indicator of teaching effectiveness and teacher quality, as engaged students are more likely to participate actively in learning

and achieve better educational outcomes.

Value-added Models

Student achievement measures have also become an important component of teacher quality assessment and teacher evaluation systems. In this context, value-added models (VAMs) have been widely used to assess teacher effectiveness by estimating teachers' contributions to students' academic achievement while controlling for prior performance and other background characteristics. VAMs provide a more objective measure of teacher effectiveness by focusing on student learning gains. Critics have raised methodological concerns regarding the reliability and validity of these models, arguing that student achievement is influenced by numerous factors beyond teachers' control, including students' socioeconomic backgrounds, prior learning experiences, family support, peer influences, and school contexts.

Consequently, many scholars recommend that student achievement measures be used alongside other indicators of teacher quality rather than as a sole basis for evaluating teacher effectiveness. Research has also examined students' evaluations of teacher quality, particularly with respect to instructional quality, student engagement, communication, and overall classroom effectiveness. Student feedback is often considered a valuable source of information because it reflects learners' direct experiences of teaching and classroom interactions. However, caution is warranted when using student evaluations as indicators of teacher quality, as students' perceptions may be influenced by factors such as personal preferences, expectations, grading practices, and other subjective considerations.

Another dimension that has gained increasing attention is teacher assessment literacy (TAL), which refers to teachers' knowledge of and ability to design, implement, interpret, and effectively use assessment processes to support and enhance student learning. As assessment plays a central role in the teaching-learning process, assessment literacy has become an important component of contemporary teacher

quality frameworks.

Furthermore, Albert Bandura's concept of self-efficacy, defined as teachers' beliefs in their capabilities to successfully organise and execute teaching tasks, has been identified as a significant determinant of teacher quality and effectiveness. Teachers with higher levels of self-efficacy are generally more confident in managing classrooms, engaging students, and implementing effective instructional strategies. The importance of continuous professional development has also been emphasised in contemporary frameworks of teacher quality. Recognised as a dynamic and ongoing process, professional development contributes to the enhancement of teachers' knowledge, skills, and instructional practices throughout their careers. In addition, the rapid advancement of digital technologies has led to the inclusion of digital competence as another important dimension of teacher quality, reflecting teachers' ability to effectively teach and learning also matters. Teacher leadership contributes to organisational learning, instructional improvement, and school effectiveness by enabling teachers to influence educational practices beyond their classrooms. Such leadership capacities can ultimately contribute to improved student learning and achievement.

Overall, teacher quality is a multidimensional construct that cannot be adequately captured by focusing on any single dimension. Contemporary teacher quality assessment frameworks increasingly acknowledge this complexity and, therefore, employ multiple dimensions—including teacher knowledge, instructional practices, student outcomes, assessment literacy, self-efficacy, professional development, digital competence, and leadership—to evaluate teacher effectiveness comprehensively.

In this context, there is a need for India, and particularly Telangana, to consider developing and implementing comprehensive teacher quality assessment frameworks that reflect these diverse dimensions and support evidence-based educational policy and practice.

Hrithik's 20-Year-Old Son Who Makes His Music Debut With This Heavenly Place



Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan's elder son, Hrehaan Roshan, has taken his first step towards building a career of his own. At the age of 20, Hrehaan has entered the music industry with his first song, *This Heavenly Place*. The English song introduces Hrehaan as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. Coming from the Roshan family, which has a long history in Hindi films and music, Hrehaan could have easily followed his father's path into acting. However, he has chosen music as his career and is now slowly making his own identity. The entire Roshan family, with Hrithik, Sussanne, Rakesh Roshan and other family members, shared their happiness over his new journey. Hrehaan's First Song Hrehaan made his music debut with *This Heavenly Place*, an English-language song. He has showcased his singing and guitar-playing skills through the track. The song has been

produced by Sudan, while singer-songwriter Ankur Tiwari is associated with the project as A&R. The music video has been shot in a simple black-and-white style. Instead of using a big set or heavy production, the video keeps the focus on Hrehaan and his performance. The young musician appears to be taking a different route from mainstream Bollywood music. With his first song, he has presented himself as an independent artist who wants to sing and create his own music. Family Shows Its Support Hrehaan's first song has received a warm response from his family members. Hrithik Roshan shared his son's song on his X handle and expressed his faith in him. The actor said he has always trusted the wisdom Hrehaan was born with. His message showed how proud he is to see his son begin a new journey. "You were born with an innate wisdom, Ray: I

trust it so much. It makes me fearless (followed by a red heart emoji)," Hrithik wrote in the caption. Hrehaan's mother, Sussanne Khan, shared an emotional reaction to her son's music debut. She congratulated him and expressed her love and happiness over his achievement. "This Heavenly Place by @hrehaan. Today is the happiest day of my existence... You make me soooooo overwhelmed with joy and pride, my son. From here to endless passion that lives inside you as An Artist. My Heart is Overwhelmed," she wrote. Saba Azad, who is a musician herself and Hrithik's girlfriend, also praised Hrehaan's work and said she was proud of him. Veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan was another family member who celebrated the young musician's debut. He encouraged his grandson to continue moving forward and achieve greater success.

He wrote, "Music has always been the heartbeat of our family, and seeing you take the lead with your own album - writing, composing, & singing every word, is deeply moving. You are carving your own path with grace & brilliant artistry. Keep soaring, @hrehaan, my boy. Give it a listen today. Out now on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube and all music streaming platforms." Actor Pashmina Roshan also sent her best wishes to Hrehaan. Where Did Hrehaan Study? Hrehaan was born on March 28, 2006, to Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan. He is the elder of their two sons. His younger brother is Hridhaan Roshan. Before moving abroad, Hrehaan completed his schooling in Mumbai. He studied at Dhirubhai Ambani International School before later joining the American School of Bombay. He completed his schooling and graduated in May 2024. After finishing school, Hrehaan moved to Boston, Massachusetts, to study music. He joined Berklee College of Music, one of the most popular institutions for mmily member who celebrated the young musician's debut. He encouraged his grandson to continue moving forward and achieve greater success.

usic education. He reportedly received a merit-based scholarship while getting admission to the college. At Berklee, Hrehaan has been learning more about music and working on his skills.

Sonam Wangchuk Responds To Aamir Khan's 3 Idiots Denial, Salman Khan's Viral 'It's Done Bro' Remark



Activist and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk has reacted to recent comments by Bollywood stars Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, and his responses have ranged from a playful dig to a more measured take. The activist bagged headlines after he backed students protest over NEET paper leak in June- July 2026. Wangchuk recently appeared on a podcast, where he was asked about Aamir's denial that his character Phunsukh Wangdu in the 2009 film *3 Idiots* was based on him. He also reacted to Salman's now-viral "Sonam, it's done, bro" remark, which the actor had made while urging him to end his hunger strike. Sonam Wangchuk jokes about Aamir Khan's 'memory loss' The discussion around

Aamir began after actor Omi Vaidya, who played Chatur in *3 Idiots*, claimed that the film's Phunsukh Wangdu character was inspired by Wangchuk. Aamir later dismissed the claim as "wrong". Wangchuk, however, had his own explanation for why Aamir may not remember their interaction in the same way. During the podcast, Wangchuk referred to videos that had resurfaced showing Aamir watching one of his speeches. He joked that the actor may have forgotten their meeting because he was dressed as his Ghajini character at the time. "In the videos that resurfaced, he was watching my speech in his Ghajini outfit. Maybe because he was in the 'Ghajini outfit', he may have encountered short-term memory loss. He may

have forgotten our meeting after 15 minutes. So, I'm not surprised," he said. Wangchuk went on to reveal that his interaction with Aamir was more detailed than a brief meeting. According to him, the two had discussed several ideas, which could have later influenced the film. "They say he gets too immersed in his characters. So, maybe he was too immersed in the Ghajini character when he saw me receive an award at an award function he also attended. Otherwise, we discussed a lot of ideas," Wangchuk said. At the same time, he made it clear that he was not claiming that the entire Phunsukh Wangdu character was copied from his life. Instead, he described his possible connection to the character as an influ-

ence or inspiration. "That's what we call an influence or an inspiration, right? Maybe he went with all those ideas to his writers and changed the script. There was already a script. Maybe he did it subconsciously, and maybe the writers didn't know where it came from. I don't have any issue with that, whatever the case may be," he said. Sonam Wangchuk reacts to Salman Khan's 'it's done, bro' remark Wangchuk also addressed Salman Khan's comments during the podcast. In June, Wangchuk began an indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in solidarity with students protesting over the alleged NEET paper leak. Salman later spoke about the student protests and urged them

Toxic Box Office Collection Day 5: Yash Film Crosses Rs 200 Crore In India Despite Sharp Drop After Massive Opening



: Yash's action thriller, which opened with a massive Rs 101.10 crore net in India, has crossed the Rs 200 crore mark in five days. However, the daily collections have dropped steadily after the record-breaking opening. As of day 5, *Toxic* is running across 13,946 shows, but the declining daily numbers suggest that its huge opening-day rush has not translated into the same level of momentum through the week. As of day 5 live figures, *Toxic* has earned Rs 18.37 crore net in India, taking its total India net collection to Rs 209.47 crore. Its India gross collection stands at Rs 249.93 crore. These are live figures and the final

day 5 numbers are yet to be reported. The day-wise trend makes the fall clear. *Toxic* opened with Rs 101.10 crore on Wednesday. It collected Rs 37.65 crore on Thursday, followed by Rs 27.20 crore on Friday and Rs 25.15 crore on Saturday. On Sunday, day 5 live collections stood at Rs 18.37 crore. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Yash (@thenameisyash) *Toxic* crosses Rs 200 crore net Crossing Rs 200 crore net in India within five days is still a major milestone. *Toxic* became only the second film in Yash's career to cross Rs 100 crore net on its first day, following *KGF Chapter 2*. The bigger

question now is how much the film can add after the extended opening weekend. Its day 5 live collection of Rs 18.37 crore is less than one-fifth of its day 1 figure. The film's strong opening also came despite mixed reactions. While Yash's performance, action and the film's visual style have found appreciation, the long runtime and narrative have divided audiences. *indi* drives business, *Kannada* shows stronger occupancy. The Hindi version has been one of *Toxic*'s biggest contributors. It opened at around Rs 55 crore net on day 1, giving Yash his biggest-ever opening in the Hindi market. By day 4, the Hindi version

had crossed the Rs 100 crore net mark. The language-wise data from day 4 also showed a different picture when it came to occupancy. Hindi had the highest number of shows, with around 4,525, but *Kannada* was recording stronger occupancy despite running on fewer screens. On day 1, the South state contributed around Rs 30.50 crore. The day 2 figure dropped to approximately Rs 10.75 crore, while the overall India gross fell from Rs 120.75 crore on day 1 to Rs 45.10 crore on day 2. This makes the coming weekdays particularly important. The film needs stronger holds to turn its huge opening into a sustained

Mallika Sherawat Criticised For Mentioning Rhea Chakraborty's Jail Time On The Traitors 2

Mallika Sherawat and Rhea Chakraborty are among the contestants participating in *The Traitors* Season 2. Ahead of the reality show's premiere, a clip from the upcoming season has surfaced online, showing Mallika and Rhea involved in a heated argument. Several netizens have criticised Mallika for bringing up Rhea's time in jail during the argument. In the clip, Rhea appears to defend another contestant after he makes a comment about Mallika's "comeback". Rhea says, "I don't think that was something so bad." Mallika then responds to her and brings up Rhea's past. "Oh, this is your comeback? Who is he to comment on that, Rhea? Is this game about comeback? I would also say, 'Oh Rhea, you were in jail. This is the big comeback for you?'" Mallika says. Rhea appears visibly upset by the remark. The clip has received several reactions on social media, with many viewers calling out Mallika for making a personal comment about Rhea's past. One user wrote, "That was disrespectful." Another commented, "Dragging personal things into a TV show is somehow getting glorified?" A third user said, "It's not baddie behaviour insulting someone going personal; it's hypocrisy and rudeness at its peak. It's rather pathetic behaviour when you don't have anything left to say, just go personal seriously." Another netizen criticised Mallika's behaviour, writing, "Disrespecting doesn't equate to being baddie." However, Mallika also received support from some viewers. One fan wrote, "Damn Mallika Sherawat, you legend", while another wrote, "The OG baddie." A third fan commented, "Loving Mallika, I'm excited to watch it." Another viewer reacted to the clip by saying, "Wow Mallika."



first season of the reality show featured drama, strategy and betrayals, with Uorfi Javed and Nikita Luther emerging as the winners after identifying the last remaining Traitor, Purav Jha. For the second season, Karan Johar is returning as the host. The celebrity line-up includes Aaditya Kulshreshtha (Kullu), Abhishek Malhan, Ansh Chopra, Dalip Tahil, Harman Singha, Ikka Singh, Karan Singh Magic, Krystle D'Souza, Mallika Sherawat, Munawar Faruqi, Parul Gulati, Prish and Ranveer Brar. Rhea Chakraborty, Rida Tharana, Sahil Salathia, Shahneel Gill, Shalini Passi, Shweta Tiwari, Soundous Moufakir and Tanya Puri are also part of the show. In *The Traitors*, contestants are divided into Faithfuls and Traitors. Three contestants are



secretly chosen as Traitors and must eliminate the Faithfuls without revealing their identities. The Faithfuls, meanwhile, have to identify the Traitors and eliminate them to win the game. The *Traitors* Season 2 will premiere on Prime Video on August 13.