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The school gets new amenities on the orders of CM Revanth Reddy

Khammam District, August 6 ; Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stood by the Gopalapuram School in Khammam district . Rs. 25 lakhs were sanctioned for the construction of the school rooms. The CM ordered the Collector to

take immediate action in this regard. On the orders of the Chief Minister, Khammam Collector Diwakar visited the school.CM Principal Secretary Sridhar spoke to the teacher Indira. He directed that new classrooms be constructed in place of the dilapidated buildings.

On this occasion, the officials congratulated the teacher for her efforts in the development of the school. Funds were immediately released on the orders of the CM. With these funds, the Gopalapuram Government Primary School will continue on its development path.



Mahesh Kumar Goud denies rift with CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad : 06,august;Rejecting speculation of differences within the Telangana Congress, TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted that he shares a cordial relationship with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and dismissed reports suggesting the AICC-ap-

pointed Coordination Committee was creating a divide between the party and the State government.Geographic ReferenceResponding strongly to reports that the Chief Minister was keeping him under surveillance, Goud challenged those making the claims to release

any supporting evidence. Powered By VidCrunch“A section of the media has reported that the Chief Minister is maintaining surveillance on me. If there are any videos or audio clips, they should be released. What is this dadagiri (intimidation) and blackmail politics? I am not afraid,” he said.Hyderabad local newsReiterating that he enjoys a cordial relationship with the Chief Minister, Goud said they speak over the phone every day and discuss all important issues. He was speaking to media persons in Hyderabad on Thursday. Goud also objected to reports claiming that the

AICC-constituted Coordination Committee was widening the gap between the Telangana Congress and the State government. The committee held its maiden meeting in New Delhi last week.He said the committee was formed to discuss existing flagship programmes and consider new initiatives. It would also review shortcomings in government programmes by taking into account the views and suggestions of senior leaders. According to him, such a mechanism is a regular practice in the Congress. Goud said all major decisions concerning both the party and the government would be taken with

the committee’s approval. However, he clarified that this did not mean Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had to seek the committee’s approval on a daily basis.“He has to respect the party’s opinions,” he said.The AICC constituted the Coordination Committee in March this year to ensure smoother coordination between the Telangana Congress and the State government. The move followed complaints from party leaders over the lack of coordination between MLAs and Ministers, as well as between the party cadre and legislators.The committee comprises Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka,

Harish Rao should explain about occult practices: Mahesh Goud



Hyderabad, August 6 : TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud made sensational comments on former minister Harish Rao . He demanded an explanation from him regarding occult worship. He said that the temples visited by Harish Rao were famous for occult worship. He asked him to explain why he performed the puja there. Mahesh Goud spoke to the media at Gandhi Bhavan today (Thursday). He clarified that he had not insulted him. He said that they should not be afraid of legal notices.No false propaganda was done against Harish Rao.Mahesh Goud said that he did not lie about Harish Rao. He said that if anything hap-

pens, he will fight in court. He clarified that he did not spread false propaganda against Harish Rao. He demanded that he tell why he went to those temples. He said that the people decided in the elections who is good and who is poor for this state. He clarified that they do not have superstitions. He said that they should know about the sacrifices of the Congress. He said that the opposition parties have the opportunity to criticize them. There is no gap between me and the CM: Mahesh Kumar Goud Mahesh Kumar Goud has clarified that there is no gap between him and CM Revanth Reddy. He said that

he and the CM talk on the phone every day. He said that he spoke to the CM on the phone yesterday as well. He said that the Chief Minister does not need to tell everything to the Coordination Committee. He made it clear that they respect the CM. He said that the party and the government are not different.. Revanth Reddy is the Congress Chief Minister. Aravind and Sanjay are young children.. Mahesh Kumar Goud challenged the CM to release his audio and video recordings if he has the courage. He said that he and the CM have a good relationship. He made it clear that there is no room for complaints in Congress.

Good news.. Rs. 994 crores deposited for sorghum farmers



Hyderabad, August 6 ; Telangana Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao announced that Rs. 994 crore has been deposited to sorghum farmers . He clarified that cash has been deposited directly into the accounts of 1.01

lakh farmers. He mentioned that Telangana has brought a model sorghum purchasing system as an example for the country. He revealed that they are purchasing sorghum at a record level with MSP. He said that they are providing a remunera-

tive price for every grain grown by the farmer.Purchase of fertilizers with Aadhaar..Minister Tummala commented that the implementation of FFS is being expanded to ten more districts. He said that fertilizer sales are being monitored digitally. He said that fertilizers are being purchased with Aadhaar. He revealed that they have real-time stock information. He said that the FFS system will check black marketing. He said that special orders have been issued to the officials on the expansion of oil palm. He suggested that oil palm seedlings be provided to the

farmers immediately. Encouragement for young innovators.. Minister Tummala ordered that there should be no delay in setting up the drip. He directed that farmers in the villages should be made aware of this. He stated that the government is providing full encouragement to young innovators. The Minister honored the winner of the Handloom Hackathon-2026. He congratulated student Vaggu Sriram, who won the national first prize. Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao unveiled an innovative 'Ergonomic Back Support' for weavers

I will fight till the end for the oppressed: Kavitha



Hyderabad, August 6: TRS President Kavitha said that they are at the forefront of achieving social justice in Telangana. Speaking at the Social Justice Telangana Sankalpa Sabha

organized in Saroornagar today (Thursday), she criticized the major political parties for not working for social justice till now. She revealed that this meeting will mark the beginning of a new

history in Telangana and will bring change in the lives of many people.Kavitha said that everyone is afraid of social justice, but this is a fight for righteousness. She expressed her concern that the BCs in the state are in a terrible situation. She accused the Congress government of keeping the bill providing 42 percent reservation for BCs pending with the President. Union Minister Kishan Reddy and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy write love letters to each other, and questioned why this friendship is not visible in getting the BC bill approved. Kavitha warned that if the BC bill is not approved in the next budget

session, she will go to Delhi after Sankranti and launch a movement. Kavitha said that caste discrimination still persists in Telangana. She made it clear that even though she was born in an upper caste family, she would fight for the oppressed till the end. She called on all those belonging to the upper castes to take inspiration from the thoughts of Buddha and fight for social justice in Telangana. Kavitha demanded that the statue of Professor Jayashankar be installed on Tank Bund in Hyderabad and that the state government write a letter to the Center to announce the Padma Bhushan award to him.

PM Modi’s 2025 foreign visits cost Rs 187 crore: Govt data

New Delhi, August 6 ;Over Rs 180 crore was incurred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to 23 countries including the US, the UK, France, China and Japan in 2025, according to data shared by the government. According to the country-wise and year-wise data shared in a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the figure for the year 2026 so far stood at nearly Rs 74.58 crore. This includes the visit undertaken to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand from July 6 to July 11.In their query, MPs Sanjay Singh and V Sivadasan asked the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for country-wise details of the foreign visits undertaken by the prime minister since 2021; and the total expenditure incurred on such visits since 2021, year-wise and visit-wise.Minister of State for External Affairs

Pabitra Margherita shared the data in an annexure attached with his response.“The details of foreign visits undertaken by the Prime Minister since 2021 and total expenditure incurred on each foreign visit, year-wise and visit-wise are placed at Annexure-I. For reference purposes, expenditure on Prime Minister’s foreign visits earlier was INR 10,74,27,363 (USA, 2011), INR 9,95,76,890 (Russia, 2013), INR 8,33,49,463 (France, 2011) and INR 6,02,23,484 (Germany,2013). These figures show actual expenditure without adjusting for inflation or currency fluctuations,” he said. According to the data, nearly Rs 187 crore was incurred on Prime Minister Modi’s visit to various countries in 2025.The expenditure on visit to individual countries last year stood as — France (Rs 25,59,82,902), the US (Rs 16,54,84,302), Saudi



Arabia (Rs 15,54,03,792.47), Brazil (Rs 17,72,22,144), China (Rs 10,59,90,561) and the UK (Rs 9,91,55,061.39) among other countries .Other countries that Modi visited in 2025 include Mauritius, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Canada, Croatia, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Namibia, Maldives, Japan, Bhutan, South Africa, Jordan, Oman and Ethiopia..In July 2025, the government had also shared data on the prime minister’s foreign visits in a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha,

according to which the total expenditure figures related to his foreign trips from 2021 till 2024 stood at nearly Rs 295 crore.The cumulative figures for the other four years are about Rs 109 crore (2024) spanning 16 countries, including Russia, Ukraine, the US and Brazil nearly 93 crore (2023), Rs 55.82 crore (2022) and Rs 36 crore (2021).In 2021, Modi visited Bangladesh (Rs 1,00,71,288), the US (Rs 19,63,27,806), Italy (Rs 6,90,49,376) and the UK (Rs 8,57,41,408), according to the data.

How was the verdict given unilaterally

New Delhi, August 6 : The Supreme Court has questioned how a unilateral (ex parte) verdict can be given when the notices are not received by the right person. It has expressed deep displeasure over the Telangana High Court’s verdict cancelling the election of Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy. It has commented that it will direct the High Court to conduct a fresh inquiry. Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy won as Gadwal MLA in 2018 on behalf of BRS. DK Aruna filed an election petition in the High Court, claiming that the affidavit submitted by Krishnamohan Reddy was riddled with errors and seeking to cancel his election and declare him as an MLA. After lengthy arguments, the High Court issued a sensational verdict in August 2023 declaring Krishnamohan Reddy’s election invalid. It ordered that DK Aruna, who came next in the election, be considered an MLA from



December 12, 2018. Krishnamohan Reddy, who submitted a false election affidavit, was fined Rs. 2,50,000. Krishnamohan Reddy challenged the High Court verdict in the Supreme Court on August 31, 2023. The petition came up for hearing before a bench of Justice B.V. Nagaratna and Justice R. Mahadevan on Thursday. Senior advocates Adityasondhi and Mohit Rao, arguing on behalf of Krishnamohan Reddy, said

that the notices issued by the High Court were not received by their client but by a person named B. Anantha Reddy, yet the High Court gave a unilateral verdict. He said that the allegations of concealing assets were meaningless. 'Before filing the election affidavit, we sold the land in question through a registered sale deed.The bank accounts have only Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 18,000. The High Court, which gave notices to other

respondents through newspapers, has shown discrimination in the case of Krishnamohan Reddy,' they alleged. DK Aruna's lawyer Bina Madhavan intervened and said that the notices were sent to the address mentioned in the affidavit through registered post. According to the General Clauses Act, when the notices are sent to the correct address, it should be considered as the receipt of the notices.

EDITORIAL

Strengthening India's Public Health Law

To promote greater uniformity across the country, the Government of India has proposed model legislations such as the Model Public Health Bill, 1987, the National Public Health Bill, 2002, and the National Health Bill, 2009. While these draft laws address issues such as sanitation, water supply, markets, food safety, and the control of communicable diseases, they are not comprehensive enough to deal with emerging challenges such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emerging infectious diseases, climate change, environmental pollution, and rapid urbanization. Traditional public health laws have largely followed a command-and-control approach based on the principle that governments may impose certain restrictions on individual freedoms to protect public welfare. Public health is not merely a system for treating diseases. It is both the science and the art of preventing disease, extending life expectancy, and promoting health through the collective efforts of society. Public health laws define how governments, local bodies, and communities should work together, while specifying their powers and responsibilities. At the same time, these laws must protect fundamental rights such as personal liberty, privacy, and property rights, placing appropriate limits on governmental authority. Organizations including the American Public Health Association (APHA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have identified essential public health functions such as disease surveillance, sanitation, food safety, safe drinking water, health education, and disease prevention as the foundation of a healthy society. Although these services are often invisible to the public, they form the backbone of every health system. Weak public health systems inevitably lead to preventable diseases and avoidable deaths. Public health outcomes depend not only on healthcare services but also on sanitation, drinking water, environmental protection, education, nutrition, and urban planning. This is why strong legal frameworks are essential for effective public health governance. Public health legislation generally falls into two categories: Infrastructure laws, which establish public health institutions and authorize data collection, inspections, licensing, and regulatory enforcement. Intervention laws, which provide legal authority for measures such as prohibiting tobacco sales to minors, enforcing food safety standards, and implementing quarantine during infectious disease outbreaks. India's ability to manage public health emergencies continues to be constrained by outdated laws, a shortage of trained public health professionals, and weaknesses in implementation. Under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, legislative powers concerning public health are divided between the Union and the States. Subjects such as hospitals, sanitation, and drinking water primarily fall under state jurisdiction, whereas population control, mental health, food safety, communicable disease control.



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I, KOPPU JAYASUDHA W/O KOPPU MUNENDAR (Old Name), Age:45 yrs, R/o. H.No. 1-3-233, Krishna Nagar, Jagtital, Telangana, have changed my name as GUDURI JAYASUDHA, W/O. KOPPU MUNENDAR (New Name).

Both names, KOPPU JAYASUDHA and GUDURI JAYASUDHA, belong to one and the same person, i.e., myself. Henceforth, I shall be known as GURUDI JAYASUDHA for all official purposes.

MB Failed in Mangapuram, All Eyes on Paradise’s Maalik

Mohan Babu is a versatile actor. The Pedarayudu actor is back in the limelight as he continues to bag important roles in films of late. The latest is that he was recently seen in Mahesh Babu’s nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni’s acting debut, Srinivasa Mangapuram. Expectations were high for Mohan Babu’s character in Mangapuram, but it failed to leave a mark. Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, MB’s role couldn’t make a lasting impact.

Now, all eyes are on Nani and Srikanth Odela’s much-awaited The Paradise. Mohan Babu will be seen as Shikanja Maalik. The recently released look and teaser have garnered good attention. Ever since Mohan Babu was roped in for The Paradise, there has been a strong buzz in industry circles. As the film nears completion and is all set to hit the screens on Sep-



tember 24, the hype and buzz surrounding it are only escalating. Directors like SS Rajamouli have successfully banked on Mohan Babu, cast-

ing him as Lord Yama in the socio-fantasy film Yama Donga, starring Jr NTR in the lead role. Will Srikanth Odela recreate that magic with MB in

The Paradise? Will Mohan Babu score a hit with The Paradise after Srinivasa Mangapuram failed to make an impact? Let’s wait and watch.

Massive: The Paradise Clocks 80+ Crore Biz In AP & TS?

Natural Star Nani’s The Paradise is red hot in the trade right now. The movie is registering sensational business everywhere. Mythri locked Nizam rights of the film for a whopping 37 Crore (with 2 Crore Recovery). Sithara Naga Vamsi and Paradise Producer Sudhakar Cherukuri each have a 25% stake in Nizam. Andhra Business is going on in the 35 Crore ratio. In Ceeded, the Producer is asking for 12 Crore NRA but Sobhan is ready up to 10 Crore. The Producer is not budging. Nani’s highest Pre-release Business is around 40 Crore for HIT 3. And now, we already have 82-84 Crore just from AP and Telangana. That means the movie has to do wonders at the box office and record new benchmarks in openings for a Nani-starrer. The Paradise is being planned for a September 24th release with Premieres on the 23rd in India and Overseas.



Raashi Shows Why She’s Timelessly Stylish

Raashi Khanna is serving an overdose of glamour in her latest photoshoot, proving that nearly one and a half decades in the industry have only elevated her style game. The actress effortlessly blends confidence with elegance, reminding everyone why she continues to be one of the most fashionable faces in Indian cinema. Dressed in a black lace bralette, high-waisted denim, and an oversized leather jacket, Raashi keeps it chic yet bold. Her soft wavy hair, subtle makeup, and striking poses make every frame look effortlessly glamorous. On the work front, Raashi has a good lineup of Hindi films in the pipeline. She is also set to return with the much-awaited Farzi 2, adding another exciting project to her growing pan-India filmography.

Kangana Ranaut hits back at Hrithik Roshan over Instagram comment

Actor Kangana Ranaut slammed Hrithik Roshan for making “unreasonable comments” and called him out for encouraging online trolling. Roshan recently reacted to a post on Instagram, which read “We need to apologise to Hrithik Roshan”. The post was shared following Ranaut’s recent remarks on student protests. The actor responded by stating people should not be swayed by online narratives and that he would wait for the right context and facts before taking any position. “My friend, siding with ‘A’ just cause you don’t like ‘B’ anymore is a small part of the larger systemic issue plaguing our society. I’ll wait, for when the context to it is the right one, and motivated by facts. That would be fair. But then again, who cares anymore right,” he wrote in the comment. Re-sharing the article about his response on her Instagram story on Saturday, Ranaut said the actor should rather condemn all those who are harassing and bullying her using Roshan’s name. “Dear Hrithik I am happy that you have found your perfect match, Saba Azad, and you both look great together, you are in a committed relationship and it doesn’t suit you to tease a woman like this,” she wrote. “Instead, you should condemn all those who are harassing and bullying me using your name, stop adding fuel to fire and embarrassing your partner, hope better sense prevails and you stop making unreasonable comments,” she added. Roshan hasn’t responded to the comments. The feud between both the actors dates back to 2016 when both had a dispute over whether they shared a romantic relationship, escalating into legal battles, leaked emails, and periodic public clashes. Ranaut claimed they were together for a brief period, with Roshan denying all the claims.



Red Hot Korean Girl



Ritika Nayak is quietly building a solid run in Telugu cinema. She kicked things off with Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam, which turned into a decent hit, followed it up with the successful Mirai, and now has her sights set on Korean Kanakaraju alongside Varun Tej. If the film clicks, Ritika will pull off a rare hat-trick of hits with her first three releases, a feat very few actresses manage early in their careers. Off screen, Ritika is proving she’s just as confident in front of the camera for fashion. In a recent shoot, she stunned in a bold red satin gown with a draped bodice and delicate spaghetti straps, paired with soft curls, statement earrings, and a striking red-and-black backdrop that made the look even more dramatic. Apart from Kanakaraju, Ritika also has the bilingual project Duet in her kitty, currently under production in Telugu and Tamil, keeping her firmly in the spotlight this year.

Will wipe off few players, benefit few others: Gopichand on badminton's new scoring system



New Delhi: Pullela Gopichand still remembers the disruption caused by badminton's scoring overhaul during his playing career and as the sport gears up to embrace another "tactical shift", the India coach believes a few players will be "wiped off". The 15×3 system (three games of 15 points each) will replace the current 21×3 format (three games of 21 points each) next year. The BWF said the shorter format would help in managing player workload in a crowded calendar. Gopichand recalled how he had won the All England title in 2001 under the traditional 15-point format before badminton briefly switched to the 7×5 scoring system. The experiment was abandoned within a year, with the sport reverting to the traditional 15-point scores for men and 11-point scores for women at that time. "When I won the All England, a few months later they moved from 15 to 7. It took me time because I was one of those players who was a stroke player. I wanted time to get adjusted. It took me a year to come back," Gopichand said in response to a PTI query during an interaction here ahead of the World Championships. "And then by

the time I was kind of settling in, they brought us back to the long form and it was a death blow. Because you train, you detrain, and your endurance drops. Then to go back and play 15 was impossible. These definitely make a big impact. A few players, it will wipe off, a few players might benefit." Drawing parallels with the 15×3 system approved by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Gopichand said the shorter format would place greater premium on speed, power and mental strength, particularly during the closing stages of the games. "You scoring points will be important, but you not giving away points will be even more important. The speed and the power and the focus need to be top notch. The mind will play much more," he said. According to the national coach, doubles players are likely to feel the biggest impact as shorter games will make every phase of the contest more critical. "The serve, serve-return and the attack will be even more fierce in the doubles game...people who can hold their nerves and play the strokes will be important," he said. "In singles, already you can see a bunch of youngsters playing that whether it's people like Alwi Farhan (Indonesia), Christo Popov (France). I think a lot of flat doubles kind of a game is what's being played. So I think that will be a few more players might end up coming like that. "The crucial points in the game will be the 11th and 12th points. How you take pressure at 13-14 or 15-14 will be-

come very important. There will be a lot of pressure points throughout the match." Gopichand felt the change could alter the character of the sport, with the format favouring flatter, faster exchanges over the more elaborate, stroke-heavy rallies a longer format allowed. "Players will try to be a lot safer and not too much of skills. That's one area which I think the sport will miss out on because a longer format typically gives you a little more freedom to open up your arms and play a few more strokes. Here it's going to be a lot more flat, parallel games," he said.

Not convinced by BWF's logic

Gopichand also felt the BWF could have achieved its objective of reducing player workload differently. "If they were planning to extend the tournament schedule to two weeks, they could have stayed on with the 21-point system because it doesn't make sense to shorten it and lengthen the tournament both at the same time," he said. "The purpose was to give rest to the players, and that could have been achieved by having the tournament over a 10-12-day period instead of six days. But probably BWF has its own reasons. It's very subjective." Gopichand believes veteran Indian players such as HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth might benefit from the new scoring system. "It will be better for them. We're not very sure how exactly because when speed goes up these guys have to move quicker. So training to

move quicker needs you to be a lot more agile, a lot more faster and that could lead to injuries as well. "The nuance is everything. The smaller detail is everything. If I had a choice I would pick the 15 for an older player... For some players it might be a little tough, but by and large Indian players are okay."

Who after Satwik-Chirag?

Gopichand has admitted India does not yet have a clear answer to who fill the men's doubles void once Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty move past their peak.

Asked how India plans to build a supply chain in men's doubles beyond its top pair, Gopichand did not offer a ready roadmap. "It's a very valid question. I think we need to get the best players coming together, playing together, some system like that needs to be there. We are very democratic in that set-up. "We used to have five academies, or four academies, five years back. Today there are 500 academies — 5,000 independent players and 5,000 independent minds. When it comes to doubles, that compounds the problem," he said. He acknowledged that very few players, who consider themselves strong in singles, are willing to experiment in doubles.

"Very rarely do we have a decent singles player pick doubles if he is good at it. Not very often do you see that switch...it could be good talent for singles but exceptional talent for doubles."

ISSF Shotgun Referee Course begins in New Delhi



Hyderabad: The ISSF Shotgun Referee Course commenced in New Delhi on Monday reaffirming the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) commitment to developing internationally qualified technical officials for the sport of shooting. The five-day course, running from August 3 to 7, 2026, serves as a premier training and certification platform for match officials. The course is being conducted by ISSF-nominated instructor Mr Nooruddin Alyasi of Bahrain, who is being assisted by Mr Amar Jang Singh of India. Attracting participants from three countries—India, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka—the programme highlights its international significance and provides an excellent platform for technical officials from the region to exchange knowledge and best practices. The inaugural session was attended by Pawankumar Singh, Secretary General, NRAI, and Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Secretary, NRAI, who welcomed the participants and set the vision for the initiative. Highlighting the strategic importance of the programme, Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, President, NRAI, said, "Hosting the ISSF Shotgun Referee Course in New Delhi is a pivotal step toward building a robust and self-reliant technical

infrastructure in India. A strong pool of internationally certified match officials is just as critical to the growth of the sport as the development of our athletes. This course will ensure our competitions at every level are governed by the highest global standards, further elevating the sport of shotgun shooting in the country and across the region." Pawankumar Singh, Secretary General, NRAI, added, "NRAI has been placing special emphasis on the development of shotgun shooting in India, and strengthening our pool of qualified shotgun referees is an important part of that vision. For many years, we have had a shortage of trained referees, and even for several domestic competitions, we had to rely on officials from outside the country. "Through this ISSF Shotgun Referee Course, we will be able to develop more technically qualified referees who can serve in different regions of India and support the conduct of competitions at the grassroots, national, and international levels. Their expertise will play a vital role in identifying and nurturing talent while ensuring that competitions are conducted in accordance with the highest international standards. I sincerely thank the International Shooting Sport

Federation (ISSF) for extending its support and providing this referee course in India. This initiative will significantly strengthen India's technical officiating capacity and contribute to the long-term growth of shotgun shooting in the country." The ISSF Shotgun Referee Course is designed to equip participants with comprehensive knowledge of the latest ISSF Shotgun Rules, competition procedures, range operations, referee responsibilities, safety protocols, and decision-making during high-stakes competitions. The programme seamlessly combines classroom instruction with practical training to ensure participants gain the technical competence required to officiate at the highest level. The course forms a cornerstone of NRAI's long-term vision to strengthen the country's technical workforce and produce internationally recognised referees capable of meeting the rigorous demands of global officiating. Following written and practical assessments, the course will conclude on August 7, 2026. Successful participants will be eligible to obtain the ISSF Shotgun Referee Licence, subject to fulfilling the ISSF licensing requirements, enabling them to officiate at ISSF-recognised competitions across the world.

Jasprit Bumrah injury raises questions over BCCI Centre of Excellence's sports science team

New Delhi: A glaring communication disconnect between the Centre of Excellence's (CoE) sports science and medical team and the senior national men's selection committee has come into sharp focus once again, with Jasprit Bumrah's absence from the Test series against Sri Lanka emerging as the latest example. It has been learnt that national selection committee was initially made to believe that Bumrah will be available for the Sri Lanka series, starting August 15, before it was realised that his injury is more serious than what was expected. There was a virtual meeting between the top officials of CoE, including VVS Laxman, and head of selection committee Ajit Agarkar on Monday to discuss the injury management issue of centrally contracted players. While injuries are a part and parcel of sport, the performance of the sports science team at the state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence with all modern amenities available, hasn't been something to write home about. The BCCI has been without an official head of sports science since Nitin Patel's exit, and the department's recent functioning suggests it has done little to justify the vacuum at the top. Hence the focus is on CoE's interim sports science head Dhananjay Kaushik, who is currently running the show at the Bengaluru High Performance Centre. While his credentials are beyond doubt, questions have emerged over the rehabilitation timelines being set for players and whether the prescribed 'Return to Play' protocols are being adhered to consistently in every case. In case of Harshit Rana, the question remains that how did the sports science team declare him fit when he was distinctly overweight which once again led to



recurrence of his hamstring injury? There was a popular T20 specialist batter from one of the southern states, who was reportedly "overweight" when he arrived in England. But every India player before tour report to CoE for mandatory tests. Why didn't CoE report that particular batter? Washington Sundar's fitness has also been pretty dodgy and this is not the first time that he has had hamstring issues and that is a worrying trend for a young spinner. Did the sports science team take cognisance of Washington's repeated breakdowns? The question also arises if Nitish Kumar Reddy got a green light from the CoE and BCCI to independently train under freelance fast bowling coach Stefan Jones to increase his bowling speed from late 120kmph to mid 130s? Did sudden burst of increased speed affect Reddy's hamstring. "The safest thing is to

rule a player out but is the current sports science staff at CoE doing enough to get top players on park on time. Selectors were assured Bumrah will be available for at least one Test. "Now they have been conveyed that Sai Sudharsan is batting in the nets for 75 minutes and is showing signs of good recovery after suffering a foot injury. But what if selectors are later told that Sai won't be fit in time for the first Test against Sri Lanka," a BCCI official tracking developments at CoE told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Will Kamlesh Jain's performance be part of BCCI Review?

Another person whose role is being re-looked at is Indian team physio Kamlesh Jain. The former Bengal Ranji team physio, who later worked at NCA and India A team, has been with the team for close to five years and is known to be very popular with the players.

But with a spate of injuries rocking the Indian team, it is understood that his role in the Team India set-up is also being looked at. A review meeting is on cards since the England debacle and it won't be surprising if Kamlesh Jain's role is also discussed and deliberated upon by men who matter. It is understood that head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Agarkar are waiting for the BCCI review meeting which will also involve CoE's Head of Cricket VVS Laxman and secretary Devajit Saikia (as convenor). Now that Gambhir will be in Sri Lanka for next three weeks, it is not known whether the supposed Review Meeting will take place physically or virtually. There is also a question as to why the meeting wasn't held in July when both Gambhir and Agarkar were in India and available for a face to face discussion with the BCCI secretary.

Williams sisters headline Cincinnati Open doubles wild cards



Cincinnati: Serena Williams and Venus Williams have been awarded a doubles wild card for the Cincinnati Open, which runs from August 13 to 23. This will mark their first match together since the 2022 US Open. As a doubles team, the Williams sisters have won 14 Major titles and three Olympic gold medals. They last took the court for a doubles match together at the 2022 US Open and will be playing the Cincinnati Open for the first time as a team. For Serena, Cincinnati will mark the latest stop in her return to competition after nearly four years away from the tour. The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion re-

turned to competition for the first time since the 2022 US Open at Queen's Club in June, teaming with Victoria Mboko in doubles before making another doubles appearance in Berlin alongside Karolina Muchova. She then returned to singles at Wimbledon, where she pushed 20-year-old Maya Joint to three sets before falling in the opening round. Venus has also received a singles wild card along with Sloane Stephens, Taylor Townsend, Darja Vidmanova, Elvina Kalieva, Caroline Dolehide and Lois Boisson. Venus owns a 12-10 Cincinnati Open record, having reached the

semifinals in 2012 and quarterfinals in 2019. The 46-year-old first played on the WTA Tour in 1994, and has won 49 career singles titles, including seven Majors and the 2000 Olympic gold medal. She held the WTA No. 1 ranking for 11 weeks. Stephens, a Cincinnati semifinalist in 2013, returns for the first time since 2023. The 33-year-old American has won eight titles, including the 2017 US Open, and has been ranked as high as No. 3 in the world. Townsend, winner of the 2023 Cincinnati doubles title, made her first WTA Tour final in Austin and climbed back inside of the Top 100.