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Parliament Erupts Over Operation Sindoor Amid Trump's Claims

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the government's charge in the Lok Sabha on July 28, declaring Operation Sindoor a success

LBC News Network

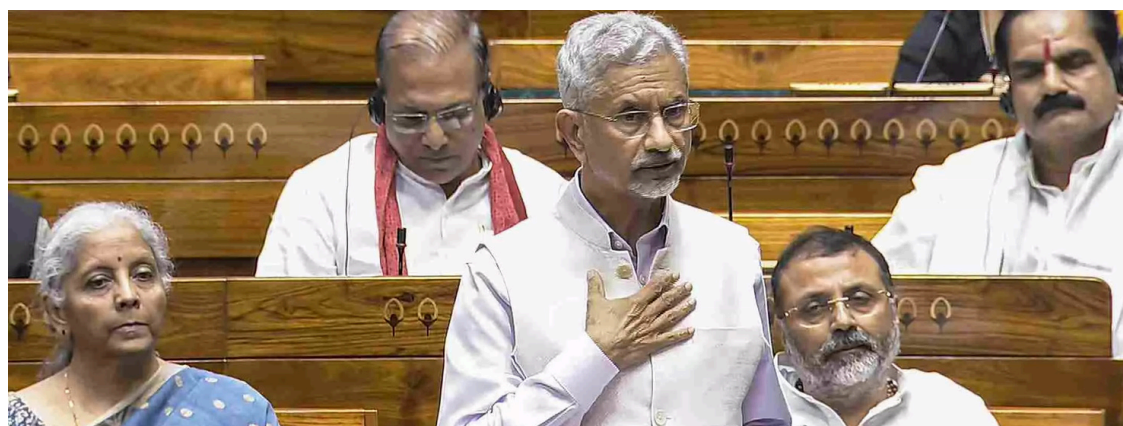
Visakhapatnam

A scorching debate on "Operation Sindoor," India's cross-border counter-terror operation following the devastating April 22nd Pahalgam terror attack, engulfed both Houses of Parliament this week.

The discussion, sparked by the attack that claimed 26 lives, rapidly devolved into a fierce political confrontation, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hailing the government's decisive response and the Opposition, primarily the Congress, demanding clarity and questioning strategic choices, especially amid repeated claims by US President Donald Trump of having brokered a ceasefire.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the government's charge in the Lok Sabha on Monday, July 28, declaring Operation Sindoor a success that achieved its pre-decided political and military objectives.

He stated that the operation, which began on May 7th, involved precision strikes on nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), neutralizing over 100 terrorists, trainers, and handlers, largely linked to



External affairs minister S Jaishankar speaks during a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor

Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Singh vehemently denied any external pressure, particularly from the US, for the pause in action, asserting that Pakistan's DGMO initiated contact on May 10th appealing for a halt.

He warned that Operation Sindoor was merely "paused" and would resume if Pakistan engaged in any future misadventure.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the Lok Sabha on July 29, reinforced that "no leader in the world told India to stop its Operation" and vowed to continue Operation Sindoor until terrorism is eradicated from Pakistan.

He underlined India's resolve to respond on its own terms,

highlighting overwhelming global support for India's actions.

Home Minister Amit Shah, speaking in the Rajya Sabha on July 30, launched a blistering attack on the Congress, accusing them of surrendering parts of Kashmir and pledging the BJP government's commitment to reclaim PoK.

He also confirmed the elimination of the three terrorists directly responsible for the Pahalgam attack in a related counter-terror mission, "Operation Mahadev," praising the coordination of Indian intelligence and security agencies.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi initiated the Opposition's offensive in the Lok Sabha, directly questioning the government's failure to prevent the Pahalgam attack and demanding accountability from the

Union Home Minister. A central point of contention was US President Donald Trump's assertion, made reportedly 29 times, that he brokered a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, directly challenged Prime Minister Modi to publicly refute Trump's claims, daring him to exhibit "50% courage of Indira Gandhi," who, he argued, defied US President Richard Nixon and the US seventh fleet during the 1971 war.

Gandhi further alleged a lack of "political will" and operational freedom for the armed forces, claiming this resulted in the loss of "five planes."

He further suggested that the government misunderstood the nature of the conflict, stating that India was fighting "Pakistan fused with China militarily," a warning he claimed had

been previously ignored.

He pointed to revelations from CDS Anil Chauhan and defence attaché Captain Shiv Kumar that indicated political constraints on military actions.

The debate was also marked by sharp political barbs. BJP leaders subtly criticized Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who had led a diplomatic delegation for Operation Sindoor but reportedly declined to speak on the issue in Parliament.

PM Modi indirectly hinted at Tharoor being "sidelined" for effectively representing India's stance globally.

In the Rajya Sabha, a heated exchange between Leader of the House J.P.

Nadda and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge led to Nadda withdrawing a controversial remark.

The intense parliamentary session underscores the deep political divisions on national security matters and the continued scrutiny of the government's approach to cross-border terrorism.

IN
VOGUE

The Sacred Month of Shravan

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Visakhapatnam

Shravan Masam, also known as Sawan, holds immense religious and spiritual significance for Hindus worldwide. It is the fifth month in the Hindu lunar calendar, typically falling between July and August in the Gregorian calendar, coinciding with the rejuvenating monsoon season in India.

This sacred period is primarily dedicated to Lord Shiva, the "Destroyer" and "Transformer" in the Hindu Trinity, and is revered as one of the holiest months of the year.

Historical and Mythological Relevance

The deep reverence for Shravan Masam is rooted in ancient Hindu scriptures and mythology. The most prominent legend associated with this month is the Samudra Manthan (the churning of the cosmic ocean). According to this epic tale, when gods (Devas) and demons (Asuras) churned the ocean to obtain the elixir of immortality (Amrit), a deadly poison known as Halahala emerged.

This poison threatened to annihilate the entire universe. To save creation, Lord Shiva compassionately consumed the poison and held it in his throat, which turned blue, earning him the epithet Neelkanth (the blue-throated one).

It is believed that this monumental act of sacrifice occurred in the month of Shravan. To soothe the intense burning sensation caused by the poison, gods offered

Shiva water from the sacred Ganga, initiating the tradition of offering water to the Shiva Lingam during this month.



Another significant legend connects Shravan with Goddess Parvati's penance. It is believed that Goddess Parvati observed severe fasts and performed rigorous penance during Shravan to win Lord Shiva as her husband.

Pleased by her devotion, Lord Shiva granted her wish in this very month. This makes Shravan an especially auspicious time for unmarried women seeking a suitable life partner.

Practices and Rituals during Shravan

The month of Shravan is characterized by heightened spiritual practices, devotion, and austerity. Devotees engage in various rituals: Many Hindus observe fasts throughout the month, or at least on specific days.

Mondays (Shravan Somvar) are considered exceptionally auspicious for fasting, as Monday is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Unmarried women observe "Solah Somvar Vrat" (16 consecutive Mondays of fasting) starting from Shravan.

Tuesdays are observed as "Mangala Gauri Vrat" by married women for the well-being and longevity of their husbands. Fasting is believed to purify the mind and body, strengthen

willpower, and bring devotees closer to the divine. It often involves abstaining from certain foods like non-vegetarian

items, onion, garlic, and alcohol, and adopting a sattvic (pure and wholesome) diet of fruits, milk, and specific vegetables.

Devotees perform elaborate pujas (worship rituals) to Lord Shiva. Key offerings to the Shiva Lingam include Panchamrit (a sacred mixture of milk, ghee, curd, honey, and sugar), Bilvapatra (Bael leaves, considered extremely sacred to Lord Shiva), and Ganga Jal (Holy water from River Ganga, symbolizing purification and gratitude for Shiva's sacrifice).

Flowers, Dhatura, Bhang, and various other items are also offered. Chanting powerful mantras like the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra and the Shiva Mantra ("Om Namah Shivaya") is highly recommended. Meditation on Lord Shiva is believed to enhance spiritual growth and inner peace.

Shiva temples across India witness a massive influx of devotees, especially on Shravan Mondays.

Special abhishekams (ritual bathing of the Shiva Lingam) are performed throughout the month. In North India, millions of devotees, known as Kanwariyas, undertake arduous pilgrimages, carrying pots

of holy water from the Ganges and other sacred rivers on their shoulders to offer to Shiva temples, often covering hundreds of kilometers on foot.

Importance and Relevance

Shravan Masam holds profound importance for several reasons:

It is considered a period of heightened spiritual energy, ideal for self-reflection, introspection, and purification of the mind, body, and soul.

Acts of devotion, charity, and self-discipline performed during this month are believed to yield powerful spiritual benefits. Devotees believe that sincere prayers and disciplined worship during Shravan can fulfill wishes, bring prosperity, good health, and a harmonious married life.

The month coincides with the peak monsoon season, symbolizing renewal, growth, and fertility.

Farmers traditionally offer prayers for a bountiful harvest, reinforcing the connection between nature and divine blessings.

The emphasis on fasting, meditation, and a sattvic lifestyle aligns with contemporary values of mindfulness and wellness, promoting better physical health and mental peace.

In essence, Shravan Masam offers Hindus a cherished opportunity to deepen their faith, reconnect with ancient traditions, and seek the blessings of Lord Shiva for well-being and spiritual upliftment.

-LBC Editorial Team

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”
– Oscar Wilde

Utility Numbers

Police	100	Reservation Enquiry	1345
Fire	101	Disha	112
Ambulance	108		
Rail General Enquiry	131		

Vizag Tapped as AP’s Growth Engine by CM Naidu in Singapore

Naidu sought crucial investments across diverse sectors

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Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu concluded a significant multi-day visit to Singapore, actively pitching Visakhapatnam as the state's primary growth engine and a key investment hub for the future.

Engaging with global firms like Keppel Corporation, GIC, and Wilmar International, Naidu



sought crucial investments across diverse sectors including IT, data centers, healthcare, real estate,

and industrial development. During his interactions, the Chief Minister highlighted Visakhapatnam's

potential, citing Google's existing MoU for a data center in the city.

He also stressed the importance of a comprehensive master plan for Vizag to accommodate future investments and manage urban infrastructure effectively.

Naidu's visit aimed to re-establish strong ties and position Visakhapatnam as a premier destination for global businesses.

The City Sees Over 52,000 Driving Licenses Suspended for Helmet Violations in First Half of 2025

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Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam has emerged as a leader in stringent traffic enforcement, with over 52,000 driving licenses suspended between January and June 2025 due to helmet non-compliance.

This staggering figure represents the highest number of suspensions for helmet violations across Andhra Pradesh, underscoring the city's robust efforts to enhance road safety.

Despite increased awareness campaigns and



enforcement drives leading to better helmet usage among primary riders, pillion riders continue to disregard this critical safety measure.

Officials emphasize that wearing ISI-marked helmets is mandatory for both riders and pillion passengers, as non-compliance contributes to

a significant portion of road crash fatalities.

Fines of ₹1,035 are being levied, and repeat offenders face the risk of permanent license cancellation. Authorities are committed to sustained vigilance to ensure full compliance and reduce accident-related casualties.

City Air Quality Prompts Urgent Call for Action from GVCF

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Visakhapatnam

The Greater Visakhapatnam Citizens' Forum (GVCF) has issued a strong appeal for immediate action to combat the city's worsening air pollution.

Citing a recent report, GVCF President Sohan Hatangadi highlighted a concerning 29% surge in PM10 pollution levels since 2017, placing Vizag as the second-worst performer among 130 cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The forum attributed this deterioration to "administrative inaction and a shocking lack of political will," pointing out that only ₹39.6 crore of the allocated ₹129.4 crore under NCAP has been utilized.

The GVCF demands full and immediate release of NCAP funds, a revised and transparent city clean air action plan with citizen oversight, strict enforcement against polluters, and real-time air quality monitors across all zones.



Vizag Metro Project: ₹6,250 Crore Tenders Invited for Phase 1

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Visakhapatnam

The long-anticipated Visakhapatnam Metro Rail Project has taken a significant step forward with the Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (APMRCL) inviting e-tenders for the Phase 1 construction.

Valued at ₹6,250 crore, this crucial phase will cover 46.23 km across three corridors, including a 20.16 km double-decker flyover and 42 elevated stations.

This innovative design is a highlight, promising efficient urban planning.

The project, to be



executed on an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) basis, aims for completion within 30 months, with the double-decker section targeted for 24 months.

This development marks a major milestone in enhancing urban connectivity and easing traffic congestion in Visakhapatnam, promising a modern and

efficient public transportation system for the city.

District officials are expediting land acquisition to ensure timely progress, while a virtual pre-bid meeting is scheduled for August 12 to address potential bidders' queries. The tender submission deadline is September 12.

CITY STORY RISES

AP Govt Approves Adani's Request to Cancel Two Hydro Projects

The decision follows a formal request from the company, citing "local issues"

LBC News Network
Visakhapatnam

The Andhra Pradesh government has officially cancelled two major pumped hydro storage power projects (PSPs) awarded to Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL).

The decision follows a formal request from the company, citing "local issues" primarily stemming from unresolved boundary disputes between Andhra Pradesh and neighboring Odisha, which severely hindered essential survey and investigation activities



crucial for project development.

The cancelled projects are the 1,200 MW Kurukutti and 1,000 MW Karrivalasa PSPs, both located in Parvathipuram Manyam

district. AGEL had approached the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) with its request, which was approved after detailed examination. The company also sought a

refund or adjustment of facilitation charges paid, to be applied against its other active projects in the state, including the 1,000 MW Pedakota and 600 MW Raiwada PSPs.

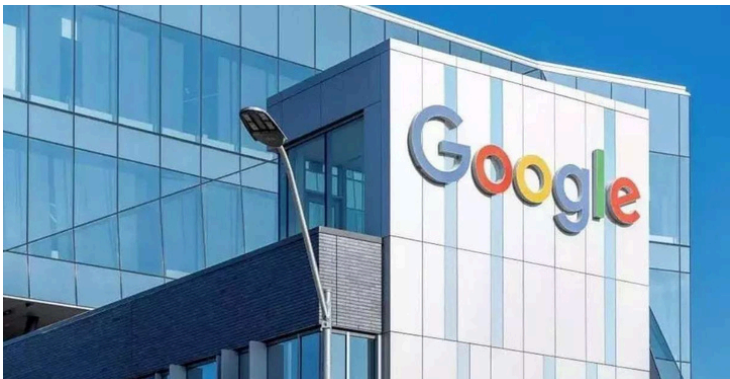
This cancellation highlights the complexities of large-scale infrastructure development amidst inter-state border disputes and the importance of clear land ownership, along with potential local opposition.

AP Secures \$7.9 Billion Data Center Deals with Google, Sify

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Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh has announced two landmark data center agreements with global tech giant Google and Indian ICT firm Sify, collectively bringing in \$7.9 billion in investments and adding 1.55 gigawatts (GW) to the state's data infrastructure.

Google will invest a substantial \$6 billion to establish a 1 GW data center in Visakhapatnam, with \$2 billion specifically allocated for renewable energy to power the facility. This project is poised to be



Asia's largest in terms of scale and capital. Concurrently, Sify has committed \$1.9 billion for a 550 MW data center.

These strategic investments, aligned with Andhra Pradesh's IT & Global Capability Centers (GCC) Policy 4.0, aim to transform the state into a

significant digital hub, targeting 6 GW in total data center capacity over the next five years.

The deals are expected to create numerous job opportunities and solidify Andhra Pradesh's position in India's booming digital economy.

CM Naidu to Lay Foundation for Grand Gandikota Tourism Project

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Visakhapatnam

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is set to lay the foundation stone for a prestigious ₹78 crore Gandikota tourism project on August 1st.

This significant development, under the Central government's Swadesh Darshan Scheme, aims to transform the "Grand Canyon of India" into a world-class tourism destination.

The project, located in YSR Kadapa district, will focus on enhancing the fort and gorge experience.

Plans include improving pedestrian trails, adding viewing decks, implementing special lighting, and developing stay facilities near the gorge.

This initiative underscores the state's commitment to boosting tourism, attracting more visitors, and creating local employment opportunities in the region.



AP Government Forms Key Committees for Partnership Summit 2025

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Visakhapatnam

In a significant move to ensure the successful conduct of the 30th Partnership Summit 2025, the Andhra Pradesh government has constituted several high-level committees.

The summit, scheduled for November 14 and 15 in Visakhapatnam, aims to accelerate the state's economic transformation and industrial growth, aligning with the ambitious "Swarna Andhra@2047" vision for a developed and prosperous state.

A crucial Group of Ministers (GoM), led by



IT, Electronics and Communication Minister Nara Lokesh, has been formed to oversee and guide the summit's planning and execution.

This GoM includes Ministers T.G. Bharath, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Kandula Durgesh, P. Narayana, and Kondapalli Srinivas. Additional committees

have also been established to manage various aspects, including protocol, security, cultural arrangements, and media coordination, ensuring a seamless and productive event designed to attract significant domestic and global investments to Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Shanka Brata Bagchi Ignites Youth with "Nava Samaja Nirmanam" Session

LBC News Network

College



M. Deepthi, a first-year M.Sc student of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College, participated in the state-level table tennis championship competition organised by MRSP Table Tennis Academy in Visakhapatnam on the 12th and 13th of May and emerged as the runner-up.

On this occasion, College Secretary and Correspondent Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, UG & PG Principal Dr. G.S.K. Chakravarty, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. BRS Lakshmana Reddy congratulated the student.

B.Com STUDENT SECURES 2ND RANK AMONG the toppers from Andhra University

LBC News Network

College



We're overjoyed to announce that PERAPU TRINADH MANIKYAM, a remarkable student from Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College's B.Com (2022-2025) program, has secured the prestigious 2nd rank among the toppers from Andhra University!

His hard work and dedication have paid off in the most commendable way. His journey to this achievement has been a testament to his resilience and determination. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the teachers and parents who have been his guiding lights throughout this journey. Congratulations! The future holds great promise, and we are confident you will continue to shine brightly.

Students secure top ranks in APPGCET-2025

LBC News Network

College



Students from Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College's UG department secured top ranks in APPGCET-2025. Doddi Lakshmi Meghana achieved the first rank in the Psychology section, with Kunapamula Benny Paul securing the fourth, and Muskan the sixteenth rank in the same section.

K. Kusuma earned the sixteenth rank in Political Science, while Ashwini secured the ninth rank in Economics. Secretary and Correspondent Dr. G. Madhu Kumar congratulated Yashaswini on her remarkable achievement.

Department of Chemistry conducts Faculty Forum

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College



The Department of Chemistry (UG) successfully conducted a faculty forum on 19th July 2025, showcasing a diverse range of scientific topics presented by its esteemed faculty members. The session was informative, engaging, and demonstrated the department's commitment to academic excellence and contemporary scientific relevance.

Inter student bags medals in swimming

LBC News Network

College



B.P.L. Preethi, a first-year intermediate student at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya Junior College, has made a remarkable achievement by winning three gold and two silver medals at the inter-district swimming competitions organized by the AP Amateur Aquatech Association. The event took place at the Aqua Sports Complex on July 19th and 20th.

Preethi excelled in the competitions, winning gold medals in the 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter breaststroke, and freestyle categories, as well as two silver medals. During this celebration of her success, Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, Secretary and Correspondent of the college, congratulated Preethi for her outstanding performance. She also received praise from Junior College Principal Mr. K. Someswara Reddy, Head of the Physical Education Department Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao, Major T. Brahmananda Reddy, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy, all of whom commended her for her remarkable achievements.

B.Com student wins bronze medal in Taekwondo Competition

LBC News Network

College



The 5th AP State Level Senior Taekwondo Championship was organised on the 19th and 20th of July in Repalle, Guntur district.

In these competitions, K.Bhagyaraju, a second-year B.Com student from Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College, competed in the 87 kg category and won a bronze medal in these Taekwondo competitions.

On this occasion, Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, Secretary and Correspondent, congratulated the student. UG & PG Principal Dr. G. S. K. Chakravarty, PG Vice Principal Dr. R.V.H Srikanth, Head of the Physical Education Department Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao and Physical Director Dr. B. R. S. Lakshmana Reddy participated in this program.

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Beyond Layoffs: Preparing for Tomorrow's Job Market

LBC News Network
Visakhapatnam

Mass layoffs have become an unsettling fixture in recent headlines, sending ripples of anxiety through the global workforce.

Far from being isolated incidents, these workforce reductions, particularly prominent in the tech and IT sectors, signal a profound transformation in the employment landscape, raising critical questions about job security, economic stability, and the very nature of future careers.

The recent announcement by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to lay off approximately 12,000 employees, primarily in middle to senior management, sent shockwaves across India's IT industry.

This unprecedented move by one of the largest private employers underscores a challenging market environment, driven by ongoing economic uncertainties and the accelerating integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Globally, over 80,000 technology sector employees have already lost their jobs across 169 companies in 2025, following a staggering 150,000 job losses in 2024. While companies often cite "restructuring" or "future-readiness," the underlying currents point to a shift towards leaner, more automated operations.

The immediate effect of these mass layoffs on the public is multifaceted and deeply concerning.

For the directly affected individuals, the psychological and financial toll is immense, leading to insecurity, stress, depression, and a loss of identity tied to their professional roles.

Families face sudden income loss, impacting consumer spending and, consequently, broader economic output. Beyond

those laid off, a pervasive fear of job insecurity grips remaining employees, potentially leading to decreased productivity and a cautious approach to spending, further dampening economic recovery. The social fabric also experiences strain, with increased unemployment and poverty levels contributing to a sense of instability.

The long-term societal cost extends to eroding trust in corporate loyalty and increasing demands on already strained social safety nets.

This wave of layoffs is not merely a cyclical downturn; it's a symptom of a rapidly changing job scenario. Automation and AI are no longer futuristic concepts but active participants in the workplace, automating or augmenting a significant percentage of daily tasks across various professions.

While some argue that AI will create new, more specialized roles, the immediate reality for many is job displacement.

Roles involving routine, repetitive, or information-based tasks, such as data entry, telemarketing, and even certain aspects of coding and customer service, are most vulnerable.

Companies are reorienting around AI-native teams, prioritizing automation, data, and scalable intelligence over sheer headcount. The demographic shift, with

baby boomers exiting the workforce, further complicates this dynamic, placing pressure on younger generations, particularly Gen Z, to fill evolving roles. While Gen Z brings digital fluency and adaptability, hiring managers report challenges in communication and differing expectations of professionalism. This necessitates a re-evaluation of traditional hiring and training models.

Looking ahead, the future of employment and career demands unprecedented adaptability and a commitment to lifelong learning. The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 forecasts a net increase of 78 million jobs globally by 2030, predominantly in technology, data, renewable energy, care, and education sectors.

However, it also warns that 39% of core job skills are projected to change by 2030. This implies that merely having a degree will no longer suffice; practical project experience, familiarity with modern AI tools, and the ability to contribute from day one will be paramount.

The emphasis is shifting from specific job titles to transferable skills. Creative thinking, empathy, critical problem-solving, and emotional intelligence—areas where machines currently fall short—are becoming "mission-critical."

Reskilling (training for entirely new roles) and upskilling (enhancing existing skills) are no longer optional but essential for career longevity.

Governments, educational institutions, and corporations must collaborate to create robust "new skilling" strategies that prepare the workforce for this evolving landscape.

This includes promoting AI fluency, fostering continuous learning mindsets, and encouraging flexible career paths, including gig opportunities and portfolio careers.

Policy makers must also consider bolstering unemployment benefits and retraining programs to cushion the blow for displaced workers.

The current mass layoffs are a stark reminder that the traditional, linear career path is increasingly a relic of the past.

While the transition may be unsettling, it also presents an opportunity for individuals to reinvent themselves and for societies to build more resilient, adaptable workforces.

The future of employment will not be about avoiding change, but about embracing it with agility, continuous learning, and a focus on uniquely human capabilities that AI cannot replicate.

-LBC Editorial Team



US Imposes 25% Tariff on Indian Imports, Trade Deal Continues

A US delegation is expected in New Delhi on August 25 for the sixth round of talks

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

US President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on Indian imports, effective August 1, citing India's high tariffs and purchases of Russian energy and military equipment.

This move comes as India and the US continue negotiations for a comprehensive trade deal, which has faced hurdles over market access for



agriculture and dairy products.

Despite the tariffs, India's Commerce Ministry stated it is studying the implications and remains

committed to a "fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial" agreement.

A US delegation is expected in New Delhi on August 25 for the sixth

round of talks, indicating ongoing efforts to resolve differences. While the immediate impact on exports is a concern, both nations aim for a broader pact to strengthen long-term economic ties.

This tariff also includes an unspecified "penalty" related to India's ties with Russia, reflecting Washington's continued pressure on nations maintaining robust economic relations with Moscow.

Gaza Faces Accelerating Famine as Malnutrition Deaths Soar

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has escalated dramatically in July, with UN-backed food security experts confirming that a "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out."

Health officials report a sharp increase in deaths due to malnutrition, particularly among children, raising grave alarms globally.

As of late July, over 150 people, including 89 children, have died from malnutrition-related causes since October 2023, with the vast majority of these



fatalities occurring in recent weeks.

Aid agencies warn that inadequate humanitarian access and the near-total collapse of essential services are severely exacerbating the crisis, leading to widespread starvation and disease across the besieged territory. Without an immediate and permanent

ceasefire and unimpeded aid flow, a catastrophic loss of life is imminent.

Reports have also emerged of dozens killed while attempting to access scarce aid deliveries, underscoring the desperate and perilous conditions faced by the population.

Intensified Fighting and Diplomatic Tensions Mark Russia-Ukraine Conflict

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Visakhapatnam

The Russia-Ukraine conflict saw renewed intensity, characterized by significant Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian military and civilian targets.

A Russian missile strike on a Ukrainian army training ground killed three soldiers and wounded 18, while frequent drone attacks targeted Kyiv, causing civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure, including a hospital and a metro station.

Civilian casualties in the first half of 2025 have reportedly increased by 54% compared to 2024. Diplomatic efforts continued amidst heightened tensions.

US President Donald Trump issued an ultimatum to Russian President Vladimir Putin, setting an August 8 deadline for peace progress or face new punitive sanctions and tariffs.



India-Maldives Relations See Significant Reset

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day state visit to the Maldives, from July 25-26, concluded with a substantial reset in bilateral ties, previously strained by the "India Out" campaign.

Attending as the Guest of Honour for Maldives' 60th Independence Day, PM Modi held extensive talks with President Mohamed Muizzu.

Key outcomes include a new ₹4,850 crore (approx. \$565 million) Line of Credit from India, an



agreement to reduce Maldives' annual debt repayment obligations by 40%, and the initiation of Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

Both leaders also committed to bolstering cooperation in defence, infrastructure, and digital connectivity, including UPI and RuPay

integration.

This visit signals a pragmatic shift, emphasizing India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and its role as a trusted partner in the Indian Ocean Region, promising a new chapter in diplomatic engagement.

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India-England Tests: Gill's batting shines, series decider looms

The series stands at 2-1 in England's favour heading into the decisive final Test

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Visakhapatnam

The five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test series between India and England has culminated in a thrilling contest, with India staging a remarkable comeback to keep the series alive.

After a hard-fought draw in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, the series stands at 2-1 in England's favor heading into the decisive



final Test at The Oval starting today.

The Old Trafford match saw India, after conceding a 311-run first-innings lead, bat resolutely to secure a

draw. Centurions Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar displayed immense grit.

Captain Shubman Gill has been a revelation,

notching a record four centuries in his debut Test series as captain – an unprecedented feat for an Indian captain and the first time an Indian batter has scored four hundreds in an away series against England.

However, India faces a significant blow with wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant ruled out of the final Test due to a foot fracture sustained in the fourth Test.

Sinner, Świątek Reign Supreme at Wimbledon

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The historic grass courts of Wimbledon witnessed new champions crowned as Jannik Sinner and Iga Świątek claimed the men's and women's singles titles, respectively.

In a highly anticipated men's final, Italy's Jannik Sinner defeated rival Carlos Alcaraz in four sets (4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4) to secure his maiden Wimbledon crown and fourth major title overall.

This victory also avenged his French Open final loss to Alcaraz just weeks



prior. On the women's side, World No. 1 Iga Świątek delivered a dominant performance to win her first Wimbledon title, overcoming American Amanda Anisimova in a commanding final.

Her powerful display

solidified her position at the top of women's tennis.

The tournament provided an array of thrilling matches and showcased the best of international tennis talent.

England Retains Women's EURO Title in Dramatic Penalty Shootout

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

England has successfully defended their UEFA Women's EURO title, triumphing over reigning world champions Spain in a thrilling final at St. Jakob-Park.

The Lionesses secured a 3-1 victory in a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1 following extra time.

Spain, who had largely dominated possession and took a first-half lead through Mariona Caldentey, appeared poised for another major title.

However, Alessia Russo's equalizer just before the hour mark, assisted by super-sub Chloe Kelly, shifted the momentum. England goalkeeper Hannah Hampton was the shootout hero, making crucial saves from Mariona Caldentey and Aitana Bonmatí.

Chloe Kelly, echoing her 2022 final heroics, netted the decisive penalty, cementing England's resilience and their status as Europe's top women's football team.



Divya Deshmukh: Women's World Cup Champion & New Grandmaster

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

In a historic moment for Indian chess, 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh has emerged as the champion of the FIDE Women's World Cup, defeating seasoned compatriot Koneru Humpy in a thrilling all-Indian final.

The Nagpur prodigy secured the prestigious title after a tense tie-break session, marking the biggest triumph of her young career.

Deshmukh's victory is even more significant as it earned her the final Grandmaster (GM) norm, officially bestowing upon her the coveted GM title. She becomes only the fourth



Indian woman, and the 88th Indian overall, to achieve this highest chess honour.

The final, held over three days, saw both classical games end in draws, pushing the contest to rapid tie-breaks.

Divya's composure under pressure was evident as she outmaneuvered Humpy to clinch the title.

This win not only signifies a personal

milestone but also highlights the rising dominance of young Indian talent on the global chess stage, drawing widespread praise from across the country.

Her remarkable journey from being unseeded to winning the World Cup has captivated chess enthusiasts worldwide.