



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

P10



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

P6



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

P11



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

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WINDOWS

Minor girl murdered, probe underway

BENGALURU: A 14-year-old girl was found allegedly murdered at her residence in Bengaluru South district, police said. The girl, a sixth-grade student, had stayed home from school that day in Tavarekere town. Her parents, daily wage labourers from Koppal, were away at a construction site when the incident occurred, police added. According to preliminary reports, unidentified individuals entered the house and attacked the girl with sharp weapons, inflicting multiple injuries. Her parents discovered her body upon returning home in the evening. A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Police suspect sexual assault based on the condition of the body, but said confirmation awaits the post-mortem report. Superintendent of Police, Ramanagara, R Srinivas Gowda said the investigation is ongoing and more details will come to light after the post-mortem.



Newborn kidnap attempt foiled; one held

RAICHUR: An alleged attempt to kidnap a newborn from the government hospital in Raichur was foiled by alert attendants and visitors, police said on Thursday. A group of individuals—reportedly in saris—entered the Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in the early hours of Wednesday and targeted the maternity ward on the fourth floor, taking advantage of the fact that most attendants were asleep. One of the suspects allegedly attempted to abduct a newborn, but nearby attendants grew suspicious and intervened. The person, disguised as a woman, was caught after a brief scuffle and handed over to the police. Two others are believed to have been part of the group involved in the attempted kidnapping, but they managed to flee the scene, police added. Eyewitnesses expressed concern over the absence of home guard personnel, who were reportedly not on duty at the time of the incident. The apprehended suspect was later handed over to the Market Police Station by the public. An investigation is underway.

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

4.4 earthquake hits Har, tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

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

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

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



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

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

NO VACANCY FOR CM POST IN K'TAKA: SIDDARAMAIAH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

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



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

People punished Indira: Tharoor slams Emergency

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

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



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

Tennis player shot dead by father in Gurugram

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GURUGRAM

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



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

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

Centre to check inflated hospital bills due to insurers

NEW DELHI: India plans to bring an existing health insurance claims portal under the finance ministry and insurance regulator to curb overcharging by healthcare providers, a government source told Reuters. Healthcare costs in India are projected to rise by 13 percent in 2025, exceeding the global average of 10 percent, and up from 12 percent recorded a year earlier, according to professional services firm Aon's Global Medical Trend Rates Report. An analysis by the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) found that hospitals are inflating treatment costs for patients and overcharging those with higher covers, the source said earlier this week. This has driven insurers to charge higher health premiums, making coverage less affordable for some, the source said, requesting anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media. Finance and health ministries did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment. "Strict supervision" of the National Health Claims Exchange - the platform that acts as a gateway between insurers, healthcare providers and patients - will improve the 'collective bargaining power' of insurance companies to set treatment rates, the source said.

MAKING A SPLASH



Locals enjoy water from the swollen Belavadi lake flowing through a road in Chikkamagaluru district on Thursday

No provision to shut meat shops on Kanwar Yatra: MCD

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



Obscene videos

HC directs Prajwal to seek fresh bail in trial court; orders decision within 10 days

BENGALURU: The High Court on Wednesday directed former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna, the prime accused in the sexual assault and obscene videos case, to approach the trial court for seeking a second round of bail and directed the lower court to decide the matter in 10 days. Earlier, the trial court and higher courts had outright rejected the bail petitions of Prajwal Revanna, who apart from being the grandson of

Deve Gowda is the son of JD(S) MLA and former minister H.D. Revanna. The Bench, headed by Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar passed the order noting that he can approach the High Court once the bail plea is rejected in the Sessions Court. Senior Advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, who is representing Prajwal Revanna, argued that the High Court has the authority and option to directly hear the bail matter, instead of sending it to the trial court. He further



submitted that the High Court itself could decide on the bail plea. However, the Bench directed him to approach the lower court and seek remedy there first. Prajwal Revanna in his fresh bail petition claimed that there had been a change of circumstances since

the rejection of his bail plea last year and his plea could be considered now. The Bench directed the trial court to decide on the matter within ten days following the request in this regard by Prajwal Revanna's counsel. The former JD(S) MP, on June 24, pleaded before the Karnataka High Court to grant him bail, citing delay in trial proceedings and changed circumstances since his custody began. Prajwal Revanna is facing serious charges, including alleged

sexual assault, repeated rape, blackmail, criminal intimidation, and more. Counsel for Prajwal Revanna, senior advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, had submitted to the court that his client should be granted bail now, as there has been a change in circumstances since the last order denying bail was passed. He further argued that there has been a significant delay in the trial court proceedings, which in itself is sufficient ground to consider bail.

MAN HELD FOR POSTING VOYEURISTIC VIDEOS; CM VOWS STERN ACTION

BENGALURU: A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly posting voyeuristic photos and videos of women on his social media accounts, police said on Thursday. Taking serious note of the incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government would take stringent action against such acts. The accused, identified as Gurdeep Singh, is a hotel management graduate from KR Puram in Bengaluru. He was arrested by the Banashankari police following a complaint by a student, who alleged that a video of her—recorded inappropriately and without her consent—had been uploaded to one of Singh's social media handles. The video went viral, leading to the girl being harassed and teased, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police Lokesh Jagalasar said the accused is currently unemployed and that legal action will be taken. Reacting to the incident, Siddaramaiah said he was deeply pained by it. "This is not the Karnataka we stand for. Several such incidents have been reported in recent days, and our government has taken immediate action—offenders have been arrested. We are closely monitoring such activities," the Chief Minister said in a post on 'X'.



IN BRIEF

One fisherman dead, another missing as boat capsizes

MURUDESHWAR : A routine fishing expedition turned tragic on Thursday morning when a fishing boat capsized in rough seas near Murudeshwar in Uttara Kannada district, leaving one fisherman dead and another missing. According to police, four fishermen had ventured into the sea aboard a gillnet boat owned by Janardhan A. Harikanth. The boat is believed to have overturned due to high waves around Murudeshwar's fishing zone. Madhav Harikanth, 45, was pulled from the water and rushed to hospital but succumbed despite efforts to revive him. Another fisherman, 26-year-old Venkatesh Annappa Harikanth, remains missing. A search operation by the police, Coastal Security Force, local fishermen, and residents is underway. Two other fishermen — Anand Annappa Harikanth and another crewmember — managed to swim to safety and are reportedly unharmed.

Advanced health platform to transform cardiac care

BENGALURU: Omron Healthcare, a global leader in innovative home health monitoring solutions, has expanded its collaboration with Tricog Health, an AI-driven cardiac care company, to launch KeeboHealth- an advanced connected health platform designed to transform remote cardiac care and accelerate progress toward OMRON's ambitious 'Going for Zero' vision - a world with zero cardiovascular events. KeeboHealth is a ground-breaking digital health ecosystem that leverages state-of-the-art AI technology, real-time data analytics, and home-based monitoring to empower healthcare providers and patients in managing heart conditions more effectively. The data flows in real-time to Tricog's AI engine, which continuously monitors heart health, flags early warning signs, and instantly alert medical teams when intervention is needed. This proactive system helps detect heart issues before a patient's condition deteriorates, significantly reducing the need for hospitalizations.

Traffic cop held for accepting bribe

Mangaluru: A traffic constable from Kadri Traffic Police Station in Mangaluru has been arrested by Karnataka Lokayukta officials after he was caught red-handed accepting a ₹5,000 bribe from a complainant seeking the release of his vehicle. The complainant had approached the station after a vehicle registered in his father's name was involved in a minor accident near Nanthoor Junction. Constable Tasleem (badge no. CHC 322) allegedly demanded ₹50,000 to release the vehicle and later insisted on at least ₹5,000 to proceed. According to sources, the complainant was also asked to sign a declaration stating the vehicle had already been returned, even though it had not. When he refused and approached Lokayukta officers, a trap was laid. On July 10, Tasleem was apprehended while accepting the bribe.

Man kills father, brother over property dispute

Hassan: A 47-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly killing his father and brother over a property dispute in Holenarasipura taluk of Hassan district, police said. The deceased, Deve Gowda (70), had recently sold his property. His son, Mohan Gowda, was reportedly upset that he had not received a share of the proceeds, police added. In the early hours of Thursday, Mohan returned home in an inebriated state and allegedly attacked his father and elder brother, Manjunath Gowda (50), with a sharp weapon, killing them both.

'Women entrepreneurs catalysts in India's \$5 trillion economy ambition'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

AS India intensifies efforts to become a \$5 trillion economy, women entrepreneurs are being recognised as key drivers of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This was the central theme at a two-day national workshop inaugurated in Bengaluru on Thursday, jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and the Ubuntu Consortium.

Former Chief Secretary and Ubuntu Founder-President K. Ratnaprabha recalled the programme's



launch during the COVID-19 lockdown, when hundreds of women entrepreneurs faced busi-

ness setbacks. "We offered digital training, and the results were transformational. Since 2022, over

3,300 women across India have been trained under the Ubuntu-UN ESCAP collaboration. Many have gone

on to build digitally enabled enterprises," she said. UN ESCAP South Asia head Mikiko Tanaka pointed out

that while women constitute nearly half of India's population, they account for only 14% of business ownership and 20% of the 58.5 million MSMEs. "Digital skills, access to finance, and visibility remain significant barriers," she said. "Without timely intervention, women risk being excluded from the digital transformation."

Highlighting grassroots efforts, former Bengaluru Deputy Mayor Hemalatha Gopalaiah cited the success of thousands of women in Mahalakshmi Layout constituency who have built businesses in catering, tailoring, and crafts.

"They are now mentoring others, creating a ripple ef-

fect," she said. Industry experts including LEXSHIP founder Padmanabhan Babu called for greater female participation in exports and the digital economy.

"Women lead only 8% of export businesses in India, compared to 40% in some countries. We must close this gap," he said. The workshop offers hands-on training in digital tools, marketing, and e-commerce.

Officials from DGFT, the Department of Industries and Commerce, and UN ESCAP participated, stressing that empowering women is essential to realising India's economic aspirations.

CM's son asserts his father will complete 5 yrs as CM

MYSURU/BENGALURU

CONGRESS MLC and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra on Thursday asserted that his father will complete a full five-year term in office. He said any decision on the leadership change has to be made by the Congress high command and MLAs. AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala has clarified that no such issue is before the party leadership for consideration.

"AICC General Secretary has said that the CM change issue is not before the high command, so why discuss it? The BJP has been saying since the time our government came to power that the government will collapse and the chief minister will be changed. If you believe what they say, nothing will happen," Yathindra said in response to a question.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he said as the government will complete 2.5 years in office in November,



some chief ministerial aspirants who are there in the Congress party may seek the position. There is nothing wrong in it. "But, ultimately, the high command and MLAs will have to decide... according to me he (Siddaramaiah) will be there for five years. I'm answering this question since the government came to power. Such discussions (about CM) have been going on since then, but did the change happen? No..." he added.

Interestingly, his statement came on a day when Siddaramaiah, while speaking to reporters in New Delhi on Thursday, said there was "no

vacancy" for the CM's post as he was very much in the chair, debunking talks of a possible change of leadership in the state. Siddaramaiah claimed that he would complete his five-year tenure as chief minister and brushed aside talk of him paving the way for his Deputy D K Shivakumar to take over later this year.

There has been speculation within political circles, especially within the ruling Congress, for some time now about the Chief Minister change later this year, citing power-sharing agreement involving Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. PWD

Minister Satish Jarkiholi, reacting to the CM statement in Bengaluru said there is nothing new in it, as he had reiterated what he said recently here, and the media has to now put an end to speculations about the chief minister change.

Only ten per cent of legislators in the party may be discussing leadership change, Jarkiholi, who is considered close to Siddaramaiah said.

The CM's reiteration about completing a full five years term is a clear message for them. "Match close..." he added. Responding to a question about Siddaramaiah's reported statement that Shivakumar has the support of fewer MLAs, he said, "There was voting done (at the legislature party meeting) while choosing CM after 2023 assembly polls, and as Siddaramaiah got majority votes (of MLAs), he was made the chief minister.

On the basis of that, he might have said that he has the support of more MLAs."

Rising heart attacks in Hassan

Obesity, alcohol and lifestyle cited as key factors

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

WITH concerns mounting over a spate of heart attack cases in Hassan district, a technical committee has submitted a detailed study report to Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. The report, which was handed over after an in-depth analysis of recent deaths, attributes the alarming trend mainly to diabetes, alcohol consumption and family health history.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting with the committee members, Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "The technical committee's study on the 24 deaths reported in May and June shows that four deaths were not due to cardiac arrest. Among the remaining 20, 10 people died due to heart-related complications while the other 10 died specifically of heart attacks. Worryingly, 15 of these 20 victims were below the age of 45."

The report comes amid growing public anxiety that



heart attacks are on the rise in Hassan. The minister clarified that while 24 people died due to heart attacks in 2024, this year's toll so far stands at 20, which does not indicate a surge but highlights a worrying trend of younger people falling victim.

"Post-mortem reports confirm that excessive obesity was a major factor behind heart attacks among young victims," he said.

The minister highlighted that auto and cab drivers are more prone to heart-related health risks due to lifestyle factors. "We will focus on screening auto and cab drivers separately. Discussions will be held with driver associations to organise health check-ups and ECG screenings," he added.

He also noted that a majority of the deceased had a history of smoking and alcohol consumption. To improve early detection and care, ECG facilities will be made available at community health centres, and special screening for children will be initiated based on expert advice. Clearing doubts circulating in parts of the district, Minister Gundu Rao said, "There is no link between these heart attacks and Covid or Covid vaccination. Experts have confirmed this."

The health department is also considering expanding the 'Hridaya Jyoti' scheme to reach more people, while training in CPR will be organised to help respond to cardiac emergencies effectively.

The minister emphasised that experts have strongly recommended better preventive measures, including lifestyle counselling, regular screening, and wider awareness campaigns to address the growing health risk in the district.

No other distribution channel in world is wide or deep as India Post: Scindia

BENGALURU

NO other distribution channel in the world is as wide or as deep as India Post, said Union Minister for Communication Jyotiraditya M Scindia on Thursday. He urged the postal employees to work towards becoming the largest logistics organisation in the world, too. Scindia was addressing the Gramin Dak Sevaks Sammelan at K P Puttana Chetty Town Hall in Bengaluru. "India post has 1.64 lakh points of presence, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Bharuch to Tawang," he added. He said, although the post offices are getting modern tools, like handheld devices and Darpan, postal employees need to change the way they work



Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia during the inauguration of VTU-VRIF-TCOE Hub and Spoke Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Thursday

to bring in the real transformation. "Today, we have the capability of becoming the largest logistics organisation in the world. No one has the human resources to be able

to do this apart from us. But we've got to make sure that we are at the cutting edge. Which means we need to innovate. We need to think about productivity.

Google search on 'how to steal' lands gang behind bars

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHIKKAMAGALURU

IN a bizarre incident that highlights how technology is now aiding crime, police in Chikkamagaluru district have busted a gang that used Google to learn how to commit theft. The trio, who searched online for tips on how to steal without getting caught, managed to snatch three women's mangalsutras in just one hour before the law finally caught up with them. The gang — identified as Kallesh, Raju, and Basavaraj from Yavakannam village in Belagavi district — were arrested by Birur police. Police have recovered 68 grams of stolen gold jewellery and a Pulsar bike used in the crimes.

Police said the three accused had come to Kadur looking for work but, facing a cash crunch ahead of the fes-

Three mangalsutras, weighing 68 gms stolen in one hour



tival season, decided to commit chain snatching. Lacking experience, they turned to Google for help. They searched 'how to steal' and 'how to escape without leaving evidence', gathered tips online, and carefully planned their strikes accordingly.

The gang targeted women wearing mangalsutras. They would approach unsuspecting women, throw irritant powder into their eyes, snatch the chains and flee on their bike. Within a span of one hour, they committed thefts at three different places under Kadur,

Birur and Singatagere police station limits. To avoid identification, the gang cleverly changed clothes three times on the same day, exactly as they had learned online. After the thefts, they even dumped their bike into a well to destroy evidence.

Gaming federation backs State's regulatory proposal

Urges Centre to lead national-level gaming framework for effective enforcement

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a major move to curb the growing menace of unregulated online betting and gambling, the Karnataka government proposed the establishment of a dedicated Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority through a new legislation - The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Commenting on decisive step Roland Landers, CEO, All India Gaming Federation, said "A clear distinction between games of skill and chance, backed by progressive regulation, is essential to ensure consumer protection and foster responsible growth in the



online gaming sector. Karnataka, home to the largest and most vibrant gaming ecosystem in the country, has taken a significant step

forward by supporting the industry through a transparent and consultative approach. As the oldest and largest industry federation,

the All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) has consistently advocated for balanced regulation rooted in user safety and responsible

innovation. "While we applaud the state government's initiative, we also believe that state-level laws alone may not be sufficient to curb the growing menace of offshore gambling platforms, which operate beyond India's jurisdiction, offer no consumer recourse and are emerging as one of the biggest national security threat.

Addressing this challenge requires a strong national framework that brings together all relevant stakeholders - to effectively regulate and monitor the ecosystem. Only through such a unified and coordinated approach can we ensure the long-term sustainability and integrity of India's online gaming industry."

RSS has stood the test of time, says Udupi MP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

BJP MP Kota Srinivas Poojary has strongly defended the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) against recent calls for its ban by Congress leaders, stating that even former Prime Ministers Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi failed in similar attempts. "Dr B.R. Ambedkar once praised the RSS for its casteless and untouchability-free structure. Even Nehru, after initially trying to ban the RSS, invited it to the Republic Day parade," he said. Poojary criticised senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and B.K. Hariprasad for what he described as "casual and misleading" remarks against the RSS. He challenged them to visit an RSS shakha and understand its

philosophy rooted in nationalism. On state politics, Poojary took aim at the Congress government in Karnataka, warning of an impending "administrative collapse" if internal leadership issues are not addressed. "There is already talk of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being replaced. Officials are uncertain, and governance is suffering," he said. He also questioned the state's finances, alleging that there's no money left for basic infrastructure such as shoes and socks in government schools. "This government is functioning on pretence and borrowed time," he added. Poojary welcomed the High Court's stay on the state government's decision to close down Jan Aushadhi Kendras and called on the Congress to stop blocking Centre-sponsored welfare programmes.

IN BRIEF

IISc quantum research park to lead India's tech drive: Min

BENGALURU: Minister for Science and Technology, N.S. Boseraju, has projected the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc) Quantum Research Park as a potential cornerstone of India's emerging quantum technology sector, with the state government committing ₹48 crore towards its development.

During a visit to the IISc campus in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Minister Boseraju engaged in extensive discussions with scientists and experts to chart a roadmap for quantum ecosystem development in the state and beyond. He emphasised the state government's resolve to position Karnataka as a frontrunner in quantum research and innovation.

"The Quantum Research Park at IISc has the potential to lead India's quantum mission. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Karnataka is fully committed to fostering a robust quantum technology ecosystem," the Minister said.

The ₹48 crore grant is being used to build state-of-the-art infrastructure, including cutting-edge laboratories, high-precision instrumentation, and incubation facilities for start-ups and innovators in the quantum domain. Boseraju assured that the state is ready to provide additional support as needed and would consult with the Chief Minister on further initiatives.

Professor Arindam Ghosh, head of the Quantum Research Park, noted that Bengaluru's vibrant academic, industrial, and R&D ecosystem makes it an ideal hub for quantum advancement. He advocated the formation of an international advisory committee to guide long-term strategic planning, with the goal of enabling a "Quantum Advantage Driven Economy" by 2035.

As part of its broader vision, the Karnataka government will host the country's first Quantum India Bengaluru Conference on July 31 and August 1, aiming to position the city as India's 'quantum capital.' The visit was also attended by Raichur MP G. Kumar Naik, KSTePS Director Sadashiva Prabhu, IISc Director Prof. G. Rangarajan, Prof. Akshaya Nayak, and senior officials from the Department of Science and Technology.

ED raids Cong MLA's properties

Bengaluru: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids on five locations in Bengaluru on Thursday morning, including properties belonging to Congress MLA Subba Reddy. The raids were carried out in connection with alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Subba Reddy, who represents the Bagepalli constituency in Chikkaballapur district, has been under the ED's scanner over suspected foreign asset holdings and undisclosed international financial transactions. The searches targeted his residences and properties reportedly owned by his family and business associates. According to sources, the investigation focuses on bank accounts and real estate holdings in foreign countries including Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Germany. Officials arrived in five vehicles around 7 AM and began searching Subba Reddy's house near Marathahalli, Bengaluru, accompanied by a team of seven additional personnel.

The raids were still ongoing by afternoon, with ED officials examining bank documents and digital records from the MLA's home and offices. When questioned by the media, Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameashwara claimed he was unaware of the ED action against Subba Reddy.

BBMP to spend Rs 2.88 crore on stray dog feeding project

THE MUNICIPAL BODY PLANS TO SERVE CALORIE-RICH MEALS SUCH AS EGG RICE AND CHICKEN RICE TO STRAY DOGS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

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

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

The BBMP plans to serve calorie-rich meals such as egg rice and chicken rice to



stray dogs. These meals will be distributed in collaboration with local restaurants and food providers.

According to the tender notice issued via the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, proposals are being invited to provide cooked food to stray dogs across all 8 BBMP zones. The contract will initially run for one year on an outsourcing basis, with a possibility of extension for another year depending on service quality and results, as decided by the BBMP Chief Commis-

sioner. All service providers registered with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are eligible to participate in the bidding process. A detailed menu has already been prepared, ensuring that each meal provides between 700 to 750 calories.

Bidders are required to maintain a kitchen within BBMP limits and select feeding locations for dogs in consultation with BBMP volunteers. Post-distribution, they must clean the feeding area and submit a

report detailing the number of dogs fed and the food served.

The BBMP emphasized that the initiative is not just about animal welfare, but also about public safety,

aiming to reduce conflicts between humans and stray animals by addressing the root cause—hunger.

This innovative project is expected to stir both debate and interest as Bengaluru continues to explore humane ways of managing its growing stray dog population.

Notice issued to CM's wife, top cops in MUDA case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a fresh twist to the controversial Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, the Karnataka High Court has issued notices to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife B.M. Parvathi, her brother B.M. Mallikarjunaswamy, the Director General of Police, and the Inspector of Vijayanagar Police Station in Mysuru.

A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice V. Kameshwara Rao and Justice C.M. Joshi passed this order while hearing multiple appeals connected to the case. The original complaint was filed by social activist Snehamayi Krishna, who has sought a CBI probe into the alleged illegal allotment of 14 MUDA plots to CM Siddaramaiah's wife.

During the hearing, it came to light that notices had not been served to several key respondents, including Parvathi, her brother Mallikarjunaswamy, the DGP, and the Vijayanagar Inspector. The court has now ordered that notices and hand summons be served to all



parties and adjourned the matter to September 4 for further hearing.

This legal battle stems from a larger controversy in which Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot had earlier granted permission to prosecute CM Siddaramaiah in connection with the MUDA land scam. However, a Single Bench of the High Court stayed the Governor's order on September 24, 2024. Siddaramaiah subsequently challenged the stay order by filing an appeal, arguing that the prosecution sanction was politically motivated.

Four appeals related to this case are currently pending before the Division Bench. The core argument by Snehamayi Krishna is that only an independent agency like the CBI can probe allegations involving the state's top executive impartially.

This fresh round of notices has recharged the Opposition's attack on Siddaramaiah, who is already under political pressure over allegations of misuse of power. Opposition parties have reiterated their demand for his resignation, while Congress leaders maintain that the al-

lotments were as per norms and that the allegations are politically motivated.

The next hearing on September 4 is likely to be crucial, with the court expected to decide whether to allow the CBI to step in and whether the Governor's prosecution sanction stays valid.

With four appeals, a high-profile political figure, and allegations of misuse of power and irregular allotments, the MUDA case remains one of Karnataka's most closely watched legal battles this year.

HC interim stay on closure of Jan Aushadi centres welcome: LoP

Govt succumbed to private medical lobby, alleges BJP leader R Ashoka

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

'I welcome the interim stay order issued by the High Court regarding the closure of Jan Aushadhi centres. The government, which succumbed to the private lobby, has now faced a setback, said Opposition Leader R. Ashok.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the High Court has issued an interim stay order on the closure of Jan Aushadhi centres. 'The BJP had fought against this decision. The government closed Jan Aushadhi centres to favour private medical pharmacies. The government, which bowed to the private lobby, has now faced a setback. The Health and Medical Education Minister must now understand what people need and work accordingly'.

'Government hospitals are required to provide 260-270 medicines, but such a quantity is not available. Medicines are available at discounted rates at Jan Aushadhi centres. Recently, during a visit to Hassan hospital, I found only one cardiologist. In an emer-



gency related to heart conditions, they administer an injection and send patients to Bengaluru.

Closing Jan Aushadhi centres in such a situation would cause significant problems', he said.

'Terrorists are being facilitated even in jails. The Home Department is completely defunct. The state government must immediately deport Bangladeshi and Pakistani citizens. A special task force should be formed for this purpose. Vote-bank politics should not be played here.

Steps must be taken to monitor prisoners' movements, and the use of mobile phones in jails should be prevented', he demanded.

'Rambhagpuri Jagadguru has expressed his opinion.

When lakhs of devotees visit, he expresses their sentiments. That's what Swamiji has conveyed.

The government is announcing guarantees every day, but there's no money to transport rice, leading to a lorry strike. Giving guarantees while keeping all bills pending is of no use.

Even though free bus services are provided, schoolchildren have to walk. Swamiji has said that people should be given a self-reliant life', he noted.

'B.K. Hariprasad has insulted the oppressed communities. In the BJP, we don't announce presidents based on hereditary succession.

Elections are not held in Congress, but the BJP follows democracy', he said.

Paying obeisance to the Guru



Sri Sai Spiritual Centre decorated with fruits and vegetables on the occasion of "Guru Purnima" festival, in Bengaluru on Thursday

'Only 30 pc of coconut husk utilised'

UNION MINISTER CALLS FOR BOOST IN COIR VALUE ADDITION

BENGALURU

UNION Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Thursday said only 30 per cent of the coconut husk generated in India is being effectively utilised and stressed the urgent need to enhance value addition in the coir sector, particularly in response to growing domestic demand for coco peat (coco pith). Karandlaje emphasised the importance of developing new applications for coir products, especially in horticulture and other emerging sectors. Union Minister of State for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) was reviewing the research and develop-

ment activities of the Central Institute of Coir Technology (CICT) under the Coir Board in Bengaluru, according to an official release. Highlighting the growing potential of carbon extraction from coir fibre, Karandlaje expressed interest in its role in environmental sustainability and carbon credit markets.

She suggested that training programmes be modular and industry-specific—covering coconut-based products, carbon/charcoal extraction, and coir wood panel production. She also urged the CICT and Coir Board to actively collaborate with national-level technical institutions such as the Indian Council of Ag-



ricultural Research (ICAR), Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), the Coconut Development Board, and various state-level export units. The goal, she said, should be to create scalable and high-value coir-based products.

Karandlaje reiterated that the technologies developed by the Coir Board must be systematically transferred to farmers, entrepreneurs, and co-operatives through a phased, sector-specific approach to ensure widespread adoption at the grassroots level, the release added.

Govt takes over historic Gali Anjaneya Swamy temple under Muzrai dept

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE historic Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple located in Byatarayanapura on Mysuru Road, Bengaluru, has officially been brought under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka State Muzrai Department. The decision was taken following multiple allegations of financial mismanagement and administrative lapses within the temple trust.

A government order, issued under Sections 42 and 43 of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, declares the temple a "notified institution." This follows a detailed report submitted by the Muzrai Department, which highlighted gross irregularities, including the alleged misuse of temple funds.

The controversy came to light last year when CCTV footage emerged showing trust members mishandling money while



counting offerings from the temple's donation box (hundi). The video, widely circulated on social media, triggered public outrage and raised questions about transparency in the temple's administration.

According to the Muzrai Department's report, the temple generates lakhs of rupees annually, yet the trust failed to maintain proper financial records for over 25 years. Records were reportedly created only after intervention by the department's assistant commissioner. It also stated that

despite the substantial income, there has been no surplus recorded, and the expenditure patterns raised suspicions of fund misuse.

The report further stated, "There is no internal harmony among the trust members, and management has been non-transparent. Given the misuse of funds, lack of accountability, and the public sentiment involved, the government deems it appropriate to bring the Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple under direct Muzrai Department control for better regulation and to uphold devotees' faith."

The government order cited all these reasons and officially declared the temple a government-administered "notified institution" under the 1997 Act.

With this move, the administration of the temple is now under the Muzrai Department, ensuring better oversight, record-keeping, and accountability, aiming to restore public trust in one of Bengaluru's most revered temples.

BEAUTY ON DUTY



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meets Miss Universe Karnataka- 2025 Vamshi in New Delhi on Thursday

BRS leaders, rank and file likely to skip Kavitha's 'Rail Roko'

If this was a call given by the party leadership, all would have actively participated, says a senior leader

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

THE BRS leaders are likely to stay away from the 'Rail Roko' call given by the party's MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha demanding providing 42 per cent reservations to the BCs in the local body elections, which is supposed to be held on July 17.

The BRS leaders have been staying away from the programs of the party and this was evident during the dharana call given by the Telangana Jagruti president protesting against notices being served to party president K Chandrashekar Rao. There were neither BRS flags nor leaders of the party in the protest program which was held on June 3. Only the Telangana Jagruti leaders were present



in the protest program.

Now, the big date is approaching for the big call given by the party's MLC. It is less than a week for the

scheduled program of 'Rail Roko' and there is no clue whether the party leaders would be part of the program. When asked, senior

leaders were tight lipped and said that a decision was not taken in this regard.

However, a senior leader of the party said that the party may not participate in the Rail Roko program. It is a call given by one MLC of the party and not by the party leadership. If this was a call by the leadership, all the party leaders would have actively participated but they may not attend unless there are specific directions from the top leadership.

Demanding the Central government to approve the bills passed by Telangana Assembly for providing 42 per cent reservations to Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies, education and employment, Kavitha has given the call for Rail Roko. She has met several leaders

including BJP R Krishnaiah seeking their support to the Rail Roko. "This Rail Roko will not just be a protest, but a declaration of Telangana BCs' strength to the rulers in Delhi. We will take All BC organizations and leaders together in this protest", MLC Kavitha said, calling upon the people to postpone their travel in Telangana. The BRS MLC had criticized the Congress-led state government, alleging it was conspiring to conduct local body elections without implementing the proposed 42 per cent reservations for BCs.

"We will not allow elections without these reservations. The Congress government has merely sent the bills to the Centre and washed its hands off the responsibility," she said.

Now, Kavitha challenges Revanth for debate on Cong promises

CPM district leader and CITU district secretary join Telangana Jagruti



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

TELANGANA Jagruti president and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a debate with her on the promises made by him before coming into power.

"The CM is repeatedly asking KCR to come to the Assembly. He (the CM) is engaging in diversionary politics. We, all women, will come to your police com-

mand control centre. Let's discuss as to why the women are not given Rs 2,500 per month. Let's discuss as to why they are not given gold coins under Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and why pensions are not increased," she said.

At the Telangana Jagruti wide meeting held in Kothagudem, CPM district leader and CITU district secretary Veeranna along with his followers joined the Telangana Jagruti in the presence of MLC Kavitha. He was wel-

comed into the organisation by Kavitha by covering him with the Telangana Jagruti scarf. Kavitha called upon women to come together to the Police Command Control Centre and discuss why they are not giving Rs 2,500 per month and gold coins to girls. She demanded that the Congress had promised to provide 42 percent reservation to BCs in local body elections, and it should be given accordingly. She said that a Rail Roko is being organized on July 17 in this regard. Kavitha said that despite the presence of three ministers in the joint Khammam district, five village panchayats around Bhadrachalam are in agitation. She called upon Agriculture Minister Tummala Nagewara Rao to take the initiative to merge the five village panchayats into Telangana. She also condemned the recent attacks on a Telangana BC girl and Bhadradi temple EO Ramadevi.

Tribals protest over being ignored for Dhammakka Seva yatra

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

A dispute broke out between leaders of tribal associations and Bhadradi temple officials here on Thursday after the Adivasi groups garlanded a Dhammakka statue near Haritha hotel. Tribal leaders Krishna Dora and Veerabhadram stopped the Ram temple officials from performing any ceremony and expressed their anger over being ignored in Dhammakka Seva Yatra.

It may be mentioned here that every year on Ashadha Purnima, the Aparasabhartha Dhammakka Seva Yatra is organised under the auspices of the Sri Sitarama Chandraswamy Devasthan-



am in Bhadrachalam.

For the past 11 years, the devasthanam authorities traditionally invited Adivasi Sanghas for the Seva Yatra and organised it under their auspices. However, from last year, the Dhammakka Seva Yatra has been organised in places other than the Ram Temple.

This time, it is being organised at the Venkateswara Swamy Devasthanam in Venkatapuram, Mulugu district. The Ram Temple authorities, who usually invite tribal groups for the Dhammakka Seva Yatra, did not invite them this year leading to a dispute between the two groups.

INDIRAMMA HOUSING: SAND TRANSPORT ROW

Bullock carts 'block' Tahsildar's office

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MOTKUR (YADADRI-BHONGIR)

FARMERS from Kondagadapa village under Motkur Municipality on Thursday staged a protest in front of the Tahsildar's office using bullock carts. They expressed their opposition to the officials' decision to permit tractors to transport sand from the Bikeru stream to Indiramma housing sites.

The farmers demanded that the permission be revoked, and employment opportunities be provided for bullock cart owners instead. They argued that while tractor operators are charged

Rs 3,000 per load, they only charge Rs 2,000 for five bullock cart loads, which is equivalent to one tractor load. They said this would ease the financial burden on the Indiramma housing beneficiaries.

Citing a High Court stay order prohibiting the use of tractors to transport sand from Bikeru stream, the farmers insisted that only bullock carts should be allowed. They expressed concern that granting permits to tractors would deprive bullock cart owners of their livelihood.

While officials claimed that the tractors were permitted solely for transport-



ing sand to Indiramma housing schemes, the farmers alleged that the system was being misused. The

farmers submitted a memorandum to Deputy Tahsildar M Upender demanding cancellation of tractor permits

and job opportunities for bullock cart owners.

Around 20 farmers participated in the protest.

Man dies as speeding lorry rams into bike

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KORLAPADU (NALGONDA)

A man in Nalgonda district named Venkanna from Chandupatla village lost his life in a road accident near Korlapadu stage when a speeding lorry ramed into his bike, killing him on the spot. Just moments before the accident, Venkanna had been stopped by the police

at Korlapadu stage and fined for drunk driving. Fearing another fine at the upcoming toll gate, he attempted a U-turn at the same location.

Venkanna was reportedly returning from a relative's funeral in Pillamarri village when the incident occurred. Police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Janak Prasad completes one yr as Wage Advisory Council chief



Janak Prasad Chairman of Minimum Wage Ad-visory Council

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

AS Janak Prasad completed one year as Chairman of Minimum Wage Advisory Council.

Janak Prasad's services stand as a testament to his dedication to the welfare of over 1.3 crore unorganised workers in the State. From the very first day of assuming charge as the Chairman, Janak Prasad, who has vast experience as a trade union leader, focused on the review of minimum wages, a major issue facing workers.

With no increase in minimum wages for the last 13 years, lakhs of workers are struggling to cope with the rising cost of living. Determined to change this situation, he himself initiated pro-

active measures. During the past year, he held 8 official board meetings.

In addition, several wide-ranging conferences were held in collaboration with all the leading trade unions and international organisations (especially the ILO). These conferences were not just formal meetings, but served as platforms for real discussions and for workers to voice their views.

As a result of these discussions, the Minimum Wage Advisory Council submitted a comprehensive report to the State Government. Based on this report, the State Government is likely to review the minimum wages soon. This is going to bring dignity, economic relief and security to lakhs of unorganized workers.

Aadhaar camp receives huge response

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

A two-day 'Mega Aadhaar Camp' was inaugurated by Additional Collector D Venugopal at the Collector's office here on Thursday during which people from across the district participated in huge numbers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector said that state-level team members had shown solutions to Aadhaar problems presented by the people. He informed that such camps will be held in every mandal centre across the district to facilitate people without any hassle.

In this regard, camps will be held at Bhadrachalam RDO office for Bhadrachalam, Burgampadu, Charla,



Dummugudem mandals on July 14, 15, and 16.

On July 15, 16, and 17 camps will be held at Dammapeta MPDO office for Dammapeta, Mulakalapal-

li, Annapureddypalli and Aswarapet mandals, and at Manuguru MPDO office for Manuguru, Aswa-puram, Pinapaka and Karakagudem mandals.

One booked in adulterated milk racket bust

BHONGIR: A case has been registered against a person involved in the preparation of adulterated milk in Mannevaripumpu village of Bhongir mandal in Yadadri-Bhongir. On Thursday morning, the police conducted inspections in the village following a tip-off about the production of adulterated milk.

During the inspection, it was found that a local, Samala Sattireddy, was preparing and selling adulterated milk.

Police seized 80 l of adulterated milk, 5 kg of Dhoolpur fresh skimmed milk powder, 500 ml of hydro-gen peroxide, and 400 ml of acetic acid from his possession.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Sattireddy was transporting the adulterated milk to Hyderabad for sale.

Narayanpet handicrafts to take centrestage at Shilparamam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NARAYANPET

LOCAL rural women, skilled in a variety of traditional and handmade crafts, have been invited to exhibit and sell their products at the Indira Mahila Shakti (IMS) Bazaar at Shilparamam, Hyderabad.

During a meeting held on Thursday at the Skill Development Centre near Singaram Malupu road, Soujanya, Special Officer of IMS Bazaar, along with her team, interacted with women artisans of Narayanpet. The event, organised under the aegis



of the Rural Development Agency (DRDA), focused on promoting economic empowerment of rural women by connecting them to larger markets.

The officer lauded the diverse and high-quality products crafted by local women including bamboo

items, clay jewellery from Errakota, laddus, sweets, Narayanpet cotton sarees, towels, pickles, cold-pressed oils (groundnut, sesame, coconut), herbal soaps, incense sticks, sham-pooos, Kalamkari fabrics, palm-leaf crafts, jute bags, chilli powders, and jowar



rotis. Impressed by their talent and entrepreneurial spirit, the IMS team assured the women that dedicated stalls would be provided for them at Shilparamam's IMS Bazaar, encouraging them to bring their creations to a broader urban audience. The

women were thrilled by the opportunity and promised to participate.

The event saw the participation of DRDA official Mogulappa, district federation office bearers, DPMs, CCs, the district accountant, and several women entrepreneurs.

Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Day celebrated

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARJUNA SAGAR

DHAMMA Chakra Pravartan Day celebrations were held in a grand manner at Buddhavanam In Nagarjuna Sagar on Thursday. The event was organised under the supervision of Special Officer Malleshwar Laxmaiah.

Local MLA Javeer Reddy, former minister Jana Reddy, and Bollywood actor Gagan Malik participated in the event and offered special prayers to the sacred footprints of Lord Buddha.

"Historically, after attaining enlightenment in Gaya, Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his disciples on the day of Ashadha Purnima at the Deer Park in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh. Bud-



MLA Javeer Reddy, former minister Jana Reddy, and Bollywood actor Gagan Malik offering prayers to the footprints of Lord Buddha

dhist and followers of Buddhism consider this day to be a sacred and significant occasion in the life of the Buddha and observe it as Dhamma

Chakra Pravartan Day," said Laxmaiah on the occasion.

Buddhist monks from the Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara also took part in the event.

FARMERS ARE BACKBONE OF NATION: SHIVRAJ SINGH

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

PUTAPARTHI (SRI SATHYASAI DISTRICT)

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

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

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

Commending the local farming practices, the

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inspects mixed crop field in Peaballi

Food processing CIC set for launch at Tirupati

INCUBATION CENTRE IS THE FIRST IN THE STATE

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

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI TIRUPATI

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

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

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



The Common Incubation Centre for food processing at IIT Tirupati



A view inside the facility

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

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

While small-scale production has already begun, the

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

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

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

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

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

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI TIRUPATI

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

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

The workshop, organised under the Union ministry of



APSCHE vice-chairperson Prof K Rama Mohan Rao, state project director RUSA Dr N Bharat Gupta, SPMVV V-C Prof V Uma and others at the workshop on Thursday

education's PM-USHA initiative, aimed to explore ways to empower women through targeted academic and livelihood-based interventions. Principals from government degree colleges across several districts participated, discussing strategies for implementing gender-inclusive training programmes across Andhra Pradesh.

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

evidence-based reforms in higher education," he noted.

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

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

Tribal farmers protest Greenco Energy, demand land back

- Demand return of their lands, allegedly occupied illegally by Greenco for a solar project
- The farmers, supported by Girijana Praja Samakhya, claim they haven't received compensation since 2023 and faced harassment despite a High Court stay order protecting their lands

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

'GIVE us back our lands!' was the impassioned plea of tribal farmers from LK Thanda village as they submitted a representation to the managing director of Greenco Energy Development Corporation Limited here on Thursday. The farmers, supported by



Tribal farmers of LK Thanda village under Gadi Vemula mandal of Nandyal district, supported by Girijana Praja Samakhya submit a memorandum against the alleged illegal occupation of their land by the company for its project, to Greenco Energy Development Corporation Ltd MD at its office in Tadepalli on Thursday

the Girijana Praja Samakhya (GPS), alleged illegal occupation of their lands by Greenco for a solar project.

Vaditya Sankar Naik, former ST Commission member and founder national president of Girijana Praja Samakhya, demanded that the state government provide justice and compensation to the tribal farmers who lost their lands to the solar project in Gadi Vemula mandal.

Sankar Naik, accompanied by GPS state president Raju Naik and affected farmers from LK Thanda village in Nandyal district's Gadi Vemula mandal, met the MD of

Greenco at their Tadepalli office. They voiced their grievances and submitted a formal petition.

Speaking on the occasion, Vaditya Sankar Naik said that in 1972, the government granted pattas to tribal farmers in LK Thanda for lands in survey numbers 795, 797, and 802, which fall under the Chanikapalle village outskirts. He emphasised that the 1B Adangal and patta passbooks are all in the farmers' names, and these tribal families have been cultivating these lands for generations, depending on them for their livelihood.

Sankar Naik alleged that in 2023, the then tahsildar, Srinivasulu, handed over the tribal farmers' lands to Greenco Project Solar Power Generation Company. "Since 2023, the farmers have not received any compensation, and instead, they are being subjected to harassment and illegal activities," he lamented. He further accused Greenco of illegally transferring 25 acres of land, registered in the farmers' names, into the company's name without their permission. When the farmers approached officials about this injustice, they were reportedly told to "complain wherever you want," which Sankar Naik deemed highly inappropriate.

Sankar Naik pointed out that the High Court, considering the patta passbooks and 1B Adangal, issued a stay order prohibiting any constructions, structures, or work on the tribal lands. However, he stated that the solar management and officials are disregarding these court orders, continuing solar work on the fields, and engaging in aggressive behavior, claiming 'High Court orders mean nothing to us.'



Task force personnel producing red sanders smugglers and the seized logs before the media in Tirupati on Thursday

22 red sanders logs seized, four arrested

VANI MALLELA TIRUPATI

RED Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) seized 22 red sanders logs and arrested four smugglers in Sanipaya forest area of Annamayya district on Thursday.

On the directions of Task Force in-charge L Subbarayudu under the supervision of Task Force SP P Srinivas and on the instructions of DSP Bali Reddy, a team led by RSI Muralidhar Reddy started combing Sanipaya-Veeraballi forest area through Gadikota. When the police personnel reached Nayanuru, there they noticed three motorcycles and some persons moving suspiciously. When the task force team surrounded them, some of them managed to escape but police personnel caught four smugglers. There they also seized 22 logs. The arrested were from Annamayya district. A case has been registered and investigation is on.

BIS stresses on quality standards for 'Made in India' products

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

THE Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is intensifying its focus on ensuring that both domestically manufactured goods and imported products adhere to Indian quality standards, said A Ramalingeswara Raju, additional director of the department of industries.

Speaking at an 'Industrial Meet' held here on Thursday, organised by BIS in collaboration with the department of industries and the Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises India (FSME), Ramalingeswara Raju highlighted the significant presence of 1.6 million MSMEs and 1,100

- The BIS is stepping up efforts to ensure domestically manufactured and imported goods meet Indian quality standards
- BIS certification is mandatory for 816 product categories in India, and imported products also require certification to be sold in the country
- The govt is providing subsidies to help MSMEs obtain BIS certification, which can enhance product quality and support global growth

large-scale industries in Andhra Pradesh. He noted that a large number of small industries often hesitate to obtain BIS certification due to perceived high costs, despite its crucial role in

exporting goods.

"In the evolving landscape, obtaining certification has become much easier," Ramalingeswara Raju stated, adding that both central and state governments are

providing subsidies to help MSMEs acquire BIS certification.

Prem Sajini Patnala, BIS director, emphasised that BIS is the sole authority for setting standards in India. She clarified that BIS certification is mandatory for the manufacturing, storage, and sale of products within the country. Currently, 816 product categories require compulsory BIS certification. Additionally, products from other countries must also obtain BIS certification to be sold in India.

Patnala further stated that BIS conducts inspections twice annually and will carry out raids based on complaints. She urged consumers to use the BIS

Care app to file complaints if a product's quality control details appear online fewer than two times.

Notably, a recent decision at the first state-level meeting on standardisation, chaired by the AP Chief Secretary, mandated the inclusion of Indian standards in the State government's procurement policy.

K L N Prakash Rao, chairman of FSME, highlighted that the presence of a BIS mark serves as proof of a product's assured quality. "Today, everyone's interest in quality has increased. Implementing the BIS mark has the potential to enhance product quality," he remarked.

Ventkatrao, joint director

of the industries, reiterated the importance of the BIS mark for MSMEs in the state to achieve global growth. He also confirmed the availability of central and state government subsidies for BIS mark certification.

Deputy director Vivek Reddy delivered a comprehensive presentation covering BIS activities, how to download Indian standards, the application process for BIS licenses, Quality Control Orders (QCOs), the BIS Care app, Standards Watch, and BIS's hand-holding initiatives for MSMEs.

Over 100 industry representatives attended the meeting with the BIS Director addressing their questions during the session.



Addl director, industries A Ramalingeswara Raju, BIS director Prem Sajini Patnala and others at the inaugural of Industry Meet in Vijayawada on Thursday

Photo Ch Venkata Mastan

Bengaluru brouhaha resonates in distant Delhi

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

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

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

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

LETTERS

MNS MLA must be punished

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

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Publicly humiliate all law-breaking leaders

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

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad-3

Mandate semi-circular layout of classrooms

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

G. David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)

Identify Nipah cases on urgent basis

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

Dr. George Jacob, Kochi

No way to treat history-making women cricketers

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

Hasnain Rabbani, Mumbai

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

BBMP to spend Rs 2.88 crore on stray dog feeding project

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

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

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

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

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

SURGICAL STRIKE



K. KRISHNA SAGAR RAO

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

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

Four decades of consistent commitment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let us talk about the rot.

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

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

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



N. Ramchander Rao

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

advancement, the very foundation of democracy begins to crack.

When newcomers claim seniority:

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

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

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

My own journey-Loyalty without expectation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rao's elevation-A beacon of hope:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If we want to create leaders with character, we must

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

Politics of integrity:

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

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

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

Closing thoughts-The real seniority:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ice baths can reduce mus-

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

Businesses offering ice

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

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

WALK through any trendy suburb and you might find a new "wellness" studio offering ice baths or "contrast therapy" (a sauna and ice bath combo). Scroll social media, and you're likely to come across influencers preaching the cold plunge gospel with cult-like zeal. Ice baths have gone mainstream. Initially practised mainly among high-performance athletes, cold water immersion is now a booming business model: sold as recovery, discipline and therapy all in one.

Coordination of parents, teachers sought in shaping academic life of wards

- Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu takes part in Mega PTM (parent teacher meeting) 2.0
- Says that about 67 lakh students across the state have benefited from the Talikli Vandanam scheme
- The govt will provide an incentive of Rs 20,000 to the students who score more than 500 marks in Class X



Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu at the parent teacher meeting held in Anakapalli district on Thursday



Visakhapatnam MP M Sriharat interacting with school children in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

‘Giri Pradakshina’ turns out to be ‘galla-brimming’ fete for auto drivers

- Auto drivers were busy filling their ‘gallas’ by overcharging devotees
- A number of passengers faced inconvenience due to lack of transport
- Netizens took to social media platforms to share traffic woes



An overloaded auto-rickshaw plying passengers from Simhachalam in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

FOR auto-rickshaw drivers, ‘Giri Pradakshina’ turned out to be a ‘galla-brimming’ festival. From Wednesday midnight to Thursday noon, the auto-drivers were busy fleecing the devotees by charging unbelievable rates for each trip.

Lakhs of devotees arrived at Simhachalam for ‘Giri Pradakshina’, commencing their trek right from the wee hours of Wednesday. The festival drew devotees not just from Visakhapatnam but also from neighbouring districts and states as well.

Approximately, 7 lakh to 8 lakh devotees took part in the Giri Pradakshina this year. Barring the deployed fleet of RTC buses that were plying in full capacities, the

transport facility provided for the festival failed to cater to such a massive turnout. This prompted many devotees to board auto-rickshaws to reach their destinations. Cashing in on the demand, auto-rickshaw drivers demanded exorbitant rates from the passengers. After completing a long tiring trek under the scorching sun, G Madhavi, who works as a housemaid, was desperate to reach home. “I was shocked when the auto-rickshaw driver demanded Rs.600 to drop me from Ghosala to HB Colony,” she mentioned.

However, with no other mode of transport coming in handy, Madhavi was left with no other choice than to travel in the auto-rickshaw. Sharing a similar

experience, Mahesh Patro, another devotee from Odisha who completed the 32-km-long trek, said, “I paid Rs.1,000 to get dropped to Visakhapatnam railway station from Simhachalam. As I had to catch the train, I ended up paying the amount charged by the auto driver.”

Most auto-rickshaws along the Simhachalam route were seen overloaded with not less than 10 passengers per trip, both on Giri Pradakshina day and the following day.

In the meantime, netizens took to social media platforms to share traffic woes experienced as several locations, including Hanu-manthawaka, Vepagunta and Simhachalam, witnessed traffic snarls.

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

ASSEMBLY Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu said that parents need to pay more attention to their children’s education and their career. Speaking at the Mega PTM (parent teacher meeting) 2.0 held at Zilla Parishad High School Plus in AL Puram village of Narsipatnam constituency here on Thursday, he said that the government is organising the programme to increase awareness of children’s education among parents.

Stressing that about 67 lakh students across the state have benefited from the Talikli Vandanam scheme and the state government has spent Rs 8,700 crore for the scheme, the Speaker ex-

plained that all students studying in government schools have been provided with necessary kits like school bags, belts, notebooks, and text books. He mentioned that the government will provide an incentive of Rs 20,000 to the students who score more than 500 marks in Class X.

Ayyanna Patrudu underlined that it is the responsibility of parents to keep students away from screens. He suggested to parents that televisions should be turned off at home while children are studying, and that education is the only real asset they can give to the wards which will not be taken away. Revenue Divisional Officer V V Ramana, school principal Gali Krishna Prasad, parents, and students participated in the PTM 2.0.

Meanwhile, Visakhapatnam district collector MN

Harendhira Prasad said that the support of parents to their children is crucial in achieving goals as they are the first teachers to the wards. “Parents habits and behaviour have a great impact on their children,” he underlined.

Speaking at the PTM 2.0 held at Thotagaruvu Zilla Parishad High School in Chinagadali mandal, the collector said that parents should allocate special time every day to their child. He advised them to have open discussions and know the feelings in their wards’ views.

Parents should guide the wards to take the right path. Only then will children move in the right direction. As one generation changes, the next generation automatically changes, Harendhira Prasad mentioned. “Education is a gift given to us by God. We

should utilise it and mould our children to achieve heights in life,” the collector said.

Under the NDA’s governance, East constituency MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu said that government schools have more facilities than private schools. He advised teachers, parents, and students that dedication and commitment will help them achieve success.

In another programme, held at SS Colony ZPHS School in Bheemili, Women’s College near Daba Gardens, ZPHS School in NGGO Colony and KM High School in the 42nd ward, Visakhapatnam MP M. Sriharat stated that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is prioritising transparency over political considerations in transferring teachers. Such steps mark a significant shift to-

wards strengthening the education system, he opined and emphasised the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring that students are protected from harmful influences such as substance abuse.

“Teachers and parents must remain vigilant to prevent drug abuse and ensure school campuses are free of substance abuse. For students to grow into responsible citizens, both home and school should be safe and secure,” he said.

The Mega PTM 2.0 event not only showcased the commitment of the government towards educational reforms but also strengthened the collaboration among parents, teachers, and administrators in shaping a better future for students and playing an active role in their academic journey, the MP said.

HSL surges ahead in catering to naval needs

- Fleet Support Ship-3 is the third of five in the series of 43,000 T FSS awarded to HSL
- HSL made a transformational leap in technology, engineering precision and expertise



Keel laying ceremony of the third of the five ordered Fleet Support Ships held at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli

highlights HSL’s enhanced project execution capability and coordination across multiple shipbuilding sites.

From building small auxiliary vessels to delivering strategic platforms like INS Dhruv and Nistar, HSL has made a transformational leap in technology, engineering precision and expertise.

With five FSS vessels underway and upgraded infrastructure including a 300T Goliath crane and refurbished slipway, HSL is firmly positioned to meet future naval needs including LPDs and next-generation platforms.

Expressing gratitude to the Indian Navy for their continued support and to L&T Shipyard for their partnership on FSS-2 and FSS-3, the C&MD, HSL affirmed that HSL is rising confidently despite challenges and setting new benchmarks in India’s strategic shipbuilding domain.

than, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition in the presence of C&MD of HSL Cmde Hemant Khatri (Retd) along with senior officials from the Indian Navy, HSL and L&T. The steel cutting of the fourth FSS was also recently carried out by the CNS at HSL.

FSS-3 is the third of five

in the series of 43,000 T FSS awarded to HSL with two being built in collaboration with L&T, highlighting India’s strong public-private partnership in defence. Notably, all five FSS have transitioned into various stages of construction concurrently, less than two years since the contract was inked. This

Pawan lauds Sidhu for ‘battery-powered bicycle’

KOPPARA GANDHI
VIZIANAGARAM

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan recognised a unique invention by Rajapu Sidhu, an intermediate student from Jadavari Kothavalasa village in the Teekam mandal of Vizianagaram district. Sidhu has developed a battery-operated bicycle that operates at a very low cost.

Impressed by the innovative idea, Pawan learned about the invention through social media and invited Sidhu to his camp office in Mangalagiri. He tested the bicycle, interacted with Sidhu, and expressed admiration for the student’s creativity.

He also took note of another initiative by Sidhu-the “Grocery Guru” WhatsApp service brochure—and commended his



Pawan Kalyan with young innovator Sidhu in Mangalagiri, observing his bicycle

entrepreneurial spirit. Pawan presented Sidhu with a cash incentive

of Rs 1 lakh to further enhance and develop the technology. He even took

Sidhu for a ride on the very bicycle he invented. Sidhu, who comes from a financially disadvantaged family, created this electric bicycle to commute to his distant college.

The bicycle can travel up to 80 kilometres on a single three-hour battery charge. The model gained substantial attention after going viral on social media. Sidhu’s parents, Venkata lakshmi and Simhachalam have migrated to another state for work, while he remains in Rajam to pursue his education.

He expressed his happiness over his invention, stating that he is determined to improve the bicycle further if given additional support. “It brings me joy to have built this with limited resources. If I receive further encouragement, I will upgrade it with advanced technology,” said Sidhu.

Man gets life imprisonment in murder case

KOPPARA GANDHI
PARVATHIPURAM

IN a brutal murder case the Second Additional District Court of Parvathipuram Manyam district has sentenced a man to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1,000.

According to the SP Madhava Reddy, the Komarada police received complaint on 2019 May 26.

As per the complaint, Pulamamma of Nayi village married Ganapathi, and they had a daughter together.

However, after the birth of the child, Ganapathi began suspecting Pulamamma’s fidelity and claimed he was not the father of the new born baby. He reportedly harassed her continuously and threatened to bring the matter before the local panchayat.

On the night of the incident, during an altercation driven by his suspicions, Ganapathi fatally stabbed Pulamamma with a knife. She fell in blood pool and breathes her last.

Later, he was arrested by then SI M Rajesh and a charge sheet was later filed with proper evi-



SP Madhava Reddy

ance. After a thorough trial, Second Additional District Court Judge Sri S Damodar Rao found the accused guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

A fine of Rs 1,000 was also imposed, and in case of default, the convict will serve an additional one month of simple imprisonment.

SP SV Madhav Reddy commended the efforts of Public Prosecutor Majji Jagannadha Rao, CI G Rambabu, CI Govinda Rao, and SI K Neelakantam for their dedicated work that led to the successful conviction.

Advanced metal casting lab to enhance cutting-edge research opportunities

- The state-of-the-art metal casting laboratory aims to enhance practical experience of students
- This facility will support innovative development of components critical to the automobile industry
- Apart from research on aluminum recycling, the focus is also on environmentally sustainable methodologies

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM



Officials from the Institution and ACMA after inaugurating the metal casting laboratory in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

and regional head (South) Chris Saravanan inaugurated the laboratory along with the institution’s Pro Vice-Chancellor Y Gouthama Rao in the presence of School of Technology director K. Nagendra Prasad and core engineering associate dean AK Prasada Rao.

The facility aims to support innovative development of components critical to the automobile industry, leveraging advanced technologies and sustainable practices. The establishment of the lab is a result of collaborative efforts supported by the Ministry of Mines

along with Abilities India Pistons and Rings Pvt. Ltd. It will serve as a pivotal centre for conducting specialised research on aluminum recycling with a focus on environmentally sustainable methodologies.

The aluminum recycling research project head Prof AK Prasada Rao informed that automobile industries demand materials that are both light weight and extremely durable and GITAM research team is developing an undiluted aluminum recycling method that ensures unmatched purity while significantly lowering carbon

emissions. ACMA regional head Chris Saravanan emphasised the strategic importance of the automotive sector in India’s economy, underlining that India ranks as the fourth largest global automotive market, with a steady increase in exports and nearly doubling industry turnover over the last decade. He pointed out emerging technological trends reshaping the industry, including electric vehicle powertrain engineering, battery management systems, autonomous vehicles, collaborative robots, and vehicle dynamics engineering.

Home Minister sets up a CCTV control room with her funds



Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha handing over Jersey cows to a couple suffering from financial constraints at S. Rayavaram mandal in Anakapalli on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANAKAPALLI

THE state government is working towards crime prevention by installing 1 lakh CCTV cameras across Andhra Pradesh, said Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha.

Inaugurating a CCTV control room set up with 100 CCTV cameras installed from Payakaraopeta Tandava junction to S Rayavaram and Dharmavaram with her own funds, Anitha said the police are using technology to install a CCTV system along the 32-km stretch of Payakaraopeta National Highway. She mentioned that the crime rate in the state has reduced and the police are performing their duties efficiently. “The police are striving hard to control drug menace in Andhra

Pradesh. Youth should also use social media judiciously and ensure that they do not fall into the drug trap and ruin their lives,” she stressed.

Also, the Home Minister flagged off 10 EV two-wheelers donated by Finesco Capital India Ltd for women’s safety. The event was attended by Anakapalli District SP Tuhin Sinha, Additional SP L. Mohana Rao, Narsipatnam Sub-Division DSP Pothiredy, among others.

Meanwhile, the Home Minister reached out to a couple at Darlapudi who were suffering from financial constraints by donating two Jersey cows to them. The cows were handed over to Babji and his family. In addition, the Home Minister handed over cash to the couple for the maintenance of the cattle.



Leela - A Kuchipudi production full of divine ecstasy



ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

The recent Kuchipudi production ‘The Leela’ by Akshadha School of Performing Arts at Rangbhoomi, Madhapur, was a treat to watch. Featuring solo and group performances by Nihanthri Reddy and her students, it was a soulful journey into divine madness—the mystical ecstasy experienced by the true devotee in search of the ‘Paramatma’.

This sacred longing often appears as madness to the outside world. But as Sant Tukaram profoundly said, the ideal devotee is one who

appears mad in the eyes of society—for it is only in such uninhibited devotion that one truly surrenders.

In this recital, Nihanthri explored the Bhakti period and its rich legacy of poets who poured their souls into verses of divine love and surrender. She chose the ‘sarga’ format, similar to Jayadeva’s magnum opus ‘Gita Govinda’. Five themes, forming the spiritual and aesthetic spine of this work, were selected. Krishna’s multifaceted nature was reflected through deeply devotional portrayals of these songs, envisioned through dance and music.



A transcendental Kuchipudi performance blending dance, music, and Bhakti, where devotion, artistry, and spiritual ecstasy became one

It was explained that these compositions are not mere lyrics, but cries from the soul—echoes of mysticism that bind the devotee to the divine. Therefore, the emotions and feelings depicted were compared to a world of sacred frenzy where the audience was invited to feel—smile, cry, laugh, and chant the divine names—to truly partake in a living devotion, not just witness a performance.

The students wore yellow-orange silk ‘aharya’ with multicolored borders. Nihanthri herself stood out austere, having pared down all accessories to a minimum—just a plain dark dress with minimal but exquisitely sparkling jewelry and no ornate headdress. This gave an almost balletic look and

enabled the audience to discern every gesture of ‘angika abhinaya’ with lucid clarity, allowing the movements to be followed throughout their amplitude from start to finish. The flowing grace of Kuchipudi in every minute detail was crystal clear.

The solo piece by Nihanthri, ‘Swagatham Krishna’, though a much-performed item, conveyed a depth of feeling through its ‘sancharis’ that was truly eloquent. The ‘nritta’ was exceptionally energetic and vigorous in the ‘jathis’ presented. ‘Abhinaya’ flowed well in tune with the ‘natya’, creating a well-rounded exposition.

‘Nada Murali’, performed by Nihanthri along with her students, reflected the rigorous training of their young

guru. The students’ precision in every step stood out. The ‘abhang’ ‘Bhakta Jana Vatsala’ by Sant Namdev praised Vithala as the compassionate protector of the world. In a unique phrase, he is hailed in the feminine form as the divine mother whose grace is as vast as the ocean.

Here echo the words of the Vaishnava commentator Vidya Bhushan, who described Krishna as ‘Madhusudhana’—he who not only vanquishes demons but also removes such tendencies from devotees’ minds to clear the path for their spiritual growth. Krishna is thus both destroyer and liberator—the freer of the soul from its internal enemies.

Nihanthri was as brisk as the crisply melodious stanzas,



her energy peaking as she darted across the stage with rapid twists and turns, almost too quick to track. The very air became vibrant with the devotional atmosphere of the song and dance. The material and spiritual merged as the boundary between them dissolved in the sanctified space created.

‘Namdev Keerthana Kari’ by Janabai reflected this merging. It was ably portrayed by the students, who danced in exacting symmetry and high-caliber synchronization. The ‘sankeertana’ delved into the Lord’s absorption in his devotees’ singing—so rapt that his yellow silk ‘Pitam-

bara’ slips, a striking image. The Lord himself partakes in the ecstasy thus generated. Heaven becomes the living experience of chanting, singing, and breathing His name.

The highlight was the mellifluous ‘Mazhe Mahera Pandhari’, which kept the audience swaying to its tune. With wide-open lotus eyes, the Lord is constantly scanning the horizon for the souls calling out to Him. Panduranga is the loving father, and Rukmini, the affectionate mother. They wait with the tender eagerness of parents for the return of their daughter to the maternal home—a place of com-

fort, love, and belonging.

The choreography was particularly creative as the students, with Nihanthri, formed intersecting arcs and circles—patterns that caught the eye with dazzling displays of skill. The ‘Nagara Sankeertana’, where all the students and Nihanthri sat in a row to joyously sing the Lord’s name, was magnified by the audience clapping in tune—creating a union of voice, melody, rhythm, and emotion. It was a sweet, heartfelt outpouring—an offering from the heart—where all sense of time and place was lost, and surrender to the music became total.

Nimrat Kaur celebrates her mother with a heartfelt tribute on Guru Purnima



On the occasion of Guru Purnima, actress Nimrat Kaur penned a moving tribute for her mother, Avinash Kaur.

She called her mom her “first home” and “divine mentor,” while expressing gratitude for the strength and wisdom she’s drawn from her over the years. Taking to Instagram, the ‘Airlift’ actress, on Thursday, posted a series of her photos with her mother alongside a heartfelt note. She shared a deeply emotional post honouring her mother, whose birthday coincidentally falls on the same day this year.

In her moving tribute, Nimrat reflected on the spiritual connection she shares with her mother. The ‘Dasvi’ actress also praised

her mother’s grace, patience, and ability to find beauty in the ordinary things. She added that these qualities continue to guide and inspire her every day.

Nimrat Kaur wrote, “They say a teacher appears when the soul is ready. Before the ‘I’ was even named, my soul, through its eternal search was blessed to anchor itself in you Mama. And I know this to be something that shall transcend time and space as we know it.”

“I live life trying to emulate how you keep grace in the face of any adversity, how you choose patience and dignity no matter what life presents and how you simply make the ordinary, extraordinary every single day. It’s no co-incidence that today

the Gurupurnima full moon aligns to celebrate you Ma, my first home, my divine mentor, my sanctum sanctorum. Happy Birthday Mama...can’t wait to kiss and hug you and have some birthday cake together!!! @avinashsethi.10.”

Guru Purnima is a sacred Hindu festival observed on the full moon day of the Ashadha month. It is a day devoted to honouring teachers, mentors, and spiritual guides. This year, Guru Purnima is being celebrated on July 10.

On the work front, Nimrat Kaur most recently appeared in the film “Sky Force,” which hit theatres on January 24, 2025. She was also seen in the web series “Kull: The Legacy of the Raisingsh.”

Mannara Chopra resumes work post father’s demise; says ‘Thanks you for your support’

Actress Mannara Chopra is all ready to join the workforce following the demise of her father, Raman Rai Handa in June this year.

Mannara took to her Instagram handle and announced that she has resumed work.

Showing gratitude to her fans and well-wishers for supporting her during this difficult time, she wrote on the photo-sharing app, “Thankyou from the bottom of my heart for all the love and support you’ve shown to me and my family during these tough times. Resuming work now, with gratitude in my heart.”

Mannara’s father left for heavenly abode on June 16 this year at the age of 72. Sharing the unfortunate news on social media, she had penned, “With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our loving father who left us for his heavenly abode on 16/06/2025. He was the pillar of strength for our family.”

After the last rites which took place on June 18 in Mumbai, the family further organized a prayer meet for him attended by Mannara’s ‘Bigg Boss 17’ co-contestants Abhishek Kumar and Khanzaadi, along with others.

For the unversed, Raman Handa was married to Kamini Chopra, the paternal aunt of Priyanka and Parineeti Chopra.

PeeCee extended her heartfelt condolences to her cousin sister through a post that read, “You’ll always be in our hearts. Rest easy



Raman uncle (fufaji). Om Shanti.”

Talking about her work, Mannara made her Bollywood debut in 2014 with “Zid,” however the film did not perform well at the box office.

She finally rose to fame with her appearance on “Bigg Boss 17,” where she

became the second runner-up.

Mannara was last seen in the cooking reality show “Laughter Chefs – Unlimited Entertainment Season 2,” along with Elvish Yadav, Rubina Dilaik, Bharti Singh, Krushna Abhishek, Vicky Jain, Ankita Lokhande, and Abhishek Kumar.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

3 Leaves out (5)
8 Sketches (5)
10 Transport vehicle (5)
11 Imaging technique used as a diagnostic aid (3)
12 Bay (5)
13 Glassy little meteorite (7)
15 Eagle’s nest (5)
18 Recipe amt. (3)
19 Angel of death (6)
21 Benefit (7)
22 Catch wind of (4)
23 Certain NCO’s (4)
24 Divide proportionately (7)
26 State of equilibrium (6)
29 BSE deal (3)
31 Lift shoulders (5)
32 It has eight arms (7)
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Solution to July 10

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8	3	6	1	5	4	9	7	2
6	8	7	3	4	9	1	2	5
1	2	5	6	8	7	4	9	3
9	4	3	2	1	5	8	6	7



Scholarships

Scholarship Name 1:	Infosys Foundation STEM Stars Scholarship Program 2025-26
Description:	An initiative of Infosys Foundation to support female students in India who aspire to pursue undergraduate degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The applicants must be female students from India.They should have successfully completed their Class 12 examinations.Eligible students include those enrolled in the first year of undergraduate STEM courses at recognised NIRF-accredited institutions. Additionally, second-year B.Arch students and those pursuing five-year Integrated or Dual Degree programs are also welcome to apply.Female students intending to pursue engineering and medical courses in government colleges not listed in the NIRF rankings are also eligible to apply.The annual family income of the applicants must not exceed ₹8,00,000.
Prizes & Rewards:	The selected candidates will receive a scholarship of up to ₹1,00,000 per annum, covering actual expenses, for the duration of the course.
Last Date to Apply:	15-09-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IST53
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/infosys-foundation-stem-stars-scholarship-program-2025-261751885613.png
Scholarship Name 2:	HSB Scholarship-cum-Admission Seat Programme 2025-26
Description:	Applications are invited from bachelor's degree holders for the Hari Shankar Singhania School of Business Scholarship-cum-Admission Seat Programme for the academic year 2025-26.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students who wish to pursue a 2-year residential MBA in Product Management, AI & Business Analytics and Entrepreneurship & Organisational Foresight at HSB.Must have secured at least 60% marks in a bachelor's program.A valid test score in CAT, XAT, NMAT, MAT, GMAT, or other competitive entrance examinations is preferred but not mandatory.
Prizes & Rewards:	Up to 100% tuition fee waiver for the entire course duration
Last Date to Apply:	14-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/HSSB1
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/hsb-scholarship-cum-admission-seat-programme-2025-261751884755.png
Scholarship Name 3:	Mohan T Advani Centennial Scholarship Programme
Description:	Blue Star Foundation aims at supporting and empowering underprivileged undergraduate and diploma students enrolled in Architecture and Engineering programs at selected private or government colleges across India through their flagship initiative, i.e. Mohan T Advani Centennial Scholarship Programme.
Eligibility:	First and second-year students enrolled in a degree or diploma program in architecture and engineering, such as Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering & Electronics Engineering and production Engineering, excluding Civil Engineering. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 80% in Class 10 and Class 12 for first-year students, and at least 80% in Class 12 and 75% in the 1st year for second-year students. Students enrolled in selected colleges* will be eligible to apply. Applicants' annual family income from all sources must be less than INR 6 lakh.
Prizes & Rewards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For engineering and architecture students: INR 1,00,000 or 75% of the annual fees (whichever is less)For diploma students: INR 40,000 or 90% of the annual fees (whichever is less)
Last Date to Apply:	15-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/BSFS4
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mohan-t-advani-centennial-scholarship-programme1750424927.png
Scholarship Name 4:	Raman Kant Munjal Scholarship 2025-26
Description:	The Raman Kant Munjal Scholarship 2025-26 is an initiative by the Raman Kant Munjal Foundation, supported by Hero FinCorp, that aims to help undergraduate students pursuing finance-related courses to pursue their dreams of a promising career and a better life.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students enrolled in the BBA, BFIA, B.Com. (H, E), BMS, IPM, B.A. (Economics), BBS, or any other finance-related degree courses are eligible.Applicants must have secured at least 80% marks in Classes 10 and 12. (70% marks for PwD students)The annual family income of the applicants should be less than INR 6 lakh.Open for Indian nationals only.
Prizes & Rewards:	Scholarship from INR 40,000 to INR 5,50,000 per year for three years
Last Date to Apply:	31-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/RMKSP5
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/raman-kant-munjal-scholarship-2025-261750425076.png
Scholarship Name 5:	IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship 2025-27
Description:	IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship is a need-based scholarship program run by IDFC FIRST Bank to financially support students with a family income of less than INR 6 lakh per annum. The purpose of this scholarship is to make post-graduate studies in business management accessible to meritorious students who are unable to pursue higher studies due to financial constraints.
Eligibility:	Indian students enrolled in the first year of a 2-year full-time MBA program for the class of 2027 at selected educational institutions may apply for this scholarship. Applicants' gross annual family income should be less than or equal to INR 6 lakh. Applicants must have a valid mobile number linked to their Aadhaar number.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 2 lakh for 2 years of MBA studies (INR 1 lakh/year)
Last Date to Apply:	20-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IFBMS6
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-bank-mba-scholarship-2025-271751885704.png
	Courtesy - buddy4study.com

Engineering training in promoting holistic health and population stability

Engineering training plays a crucial role in promoting holistic health and population stability by developing innovative solutions that integrate human, environmental, and animal health within sustainable systems. This interdisciplinary approach, often framed around concepts such as Health Equity Engineering and One Health, leverages engineering principles to address complex health challenges, improve living conditions, and foster resilient communities.

Here's how engineering education and practice significantly contribute to holistic health and stable populations:

Designing sustainable infrastructure for public health

Engineers develop essential infrastructure—such as clean water supply systems, sanitation facilities, waste management, and resilient housing—that directly impacts population health. Well-designed water and sanitation systems reduce the spread of infectious diseases, improve hygiene, and promote nutrition by creating safe environments. For example, civil and environmental engineers design water treatment plants and sewage systems that prevent contamination and waterborne illnesses, which are crucial for population stability.

**Advancing health equity
through engineering
innovations**

The emerging field of



Health Equity Engineering (HEE) focuses on creating tools and systems that address health disparities, particularly in marginalised communities. Engineering solutions can help to reduce chronic stress and its biological effects by enhancing living environments, improving healthcare access, and addressing social determinants of health. This systemic approach ensures that technological advances benefit all segments of the population, promoting equitable health outcomes and social stability.

Integrating one health principles

Engineering education increasingly embraces the One Health framework, recognising the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. Engineers collaborate with biologists, environmental scientists, and healthcare professionals to develop technologies that monitor and control zoonotic dis-

eases, improve food safety, and manage ecosystems sustainably. Innovations in biosensors, telehealth, and smart agriculture prevent disease transmission and enhance community health resilience.

Promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship

Engineers play a leading role in sustainable development by designing technologies that minimise environmental impact while supporting economic and social welfare. Sustainable engineering practices in agriculture, energy, and urban planning help maintain ecosystem balance, which is essential for long-term population health. By reducing pollution and conserving resources, engineers help prevent health issues related to environmental degradation.

Enhancing healthcare delivery and accessibility

Biomedical and health

engineers design affordable medical devices, diagnostics, and telemedicine systems that improve access to healthcare, especially in underserved or remote areas. Engineering-driven innovations, such as mobile health clinics and AI-powered diagnostics, improve early disease detection and personalised care, contributing to healthier populations and reducing healthcare disparities.

Building climate-resilient communities

Climate change exacerbates health risks through extreme weather, vector-borne diseases, and food insecurity. Engineers design climate-adaptive infrastructure—like flood defences, energy-efficient buildings, and resilient transportation systems—that protect vulnerable populations and maintain essential services during crises. This resilience supports population stability by reducing displacement and health emergencies.

Fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation

The interdisciplinary nature of engineering fosters collaboration to address complex health challenges comprehensively. Training engineers in systems thinking and socio-technical perspectives equips them to design integrated solutions that address multiple determinants of health simultaneously, from infrastructure to behaviour and policy.

**Empowering communities
through education and
technology transfer**

Engineering education can promote community engagement and strengthen local capacity by involving residents in the development and application of technology. This empowerment fosters ownership, sustainability, and culturally appropriate solutions that enhance health outcomes and social cohesion.

Engineering training is vital for promoting holistic health and stabilising populations through the delivery of sustainable infrastructure, the advancement of health equity, the integration of environmental and animal health, and the fostering of resilient communities. Through innovative technologies, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a commitment to sustainability and equity, engineers contribute to the creation of healthier, more stable societies capable of addressing current and future global health challenges.

Hyd student awarded global citizen scholarship

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DELHI

GLOBAL Indian International School (GIIS) held a felicitation ceremony at Aerocity, Delhi, to honour this year's recipients of its flagship Global Citizen Scholarship (GCS) — a prestigious initiative that supports outstanding students with access to world-class education abroad.

Among the ten scholars selected nationwide was Duaa Ahamed Sherief from Hyderabad, recognised for her academic achievements and leadership potential. As part of the scholarship, Duaa will pursue Grades 11 and 12 at the GIIS SMART Campus in Singapore, with the full cost of tuition, boarding, and living expenses — amounting to ₹1 crore over two years — fully covered by the GCS programme. Students can choose between the CBSE and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) curricula at the campus.

"The Global Citizen Scholarship goes beyond financial support; it empowers dreams," said Pramod Tripathi, Director of Academics at Global Schools Group. "We are investing in



students who demonstrate vision, empathy, and a commitment to shaping a better world.”

Duaa was chosen through a multi-stage selection process that assessed academic records, problem-solving abilities, social responsibility, and leadership potential. Her selection reflects the GCS programme's broader aim of nurturing students who not only perform well academically but also show a drive to create positive societal change.

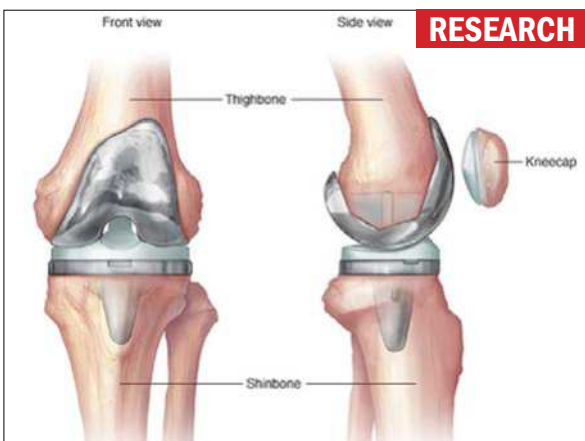
“Receiving the Global Citizen Scholarship is a defining moment,” said Duaa. “It has validated my efforts and inspired me to lead with purpose, learn with passion, and give back meaningfully. I see this as just the beginning.”

Diabetes may raise infection, post knee replacement surgery

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Diabetes may not only lead to joint pain that can severely damage your knee but also increase the risk of infections and blood clots after knee replacement surgery, according to a new study led by Indian researchers.

More than half of people with diabetes have coexisting arthropathy -- disease or condition affecting a joint -- and may need a hip or knee arthroplasty (joint replacement surgery) in the future. The study led by researchers from the Vardhaman Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, showed



that diabetes is a significant risk factor for joint infection following total knee arthroplasty (TKA) -- a popular and effective surgery for patients with advanced knee arthritis.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or blood clots is another crucial postoperative complication after TKA, which may also cause pulmonary embolism -- a blood clot caus-

ing a blockage in pulmonary arteries in the lungs. The condition can result in increased morbidity and mortality.

“The presence of diabetes significantly impacts post-TKA outcomes, leading to higher complication rates and negatively affecting physical function and quality of life,” said the researchers, including from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals and Fortis C-Doc Hospital. “Insulin-treated diabetics face 60 per cent higher perioperative adverse events. Poor sugar control around TKA surgery worsens outcomes,” they added, in the paper published in the *Journal of Orthopaedics*. The findings based on systematic reviews and meta-analyses showed that people

with diabetes undergoing TKA face a 43 per cent higher risk of periprosthetic joint infection (PJI) and are 45 per cent more likely to experience deep vein thrombosis (DVT). The rates of hospital readmissions were significantly higher, showing a 28 per cent increase. Those with insulin-treated diabetes exhibited a 60 per cent greater incidence of perioperative adverse events. The researchers called for further rigorous studies to establish standardised definitions for glycemic control and to investigate mechanisms contributing to increased risks, facilitating improved preoperative risk stratification and management strategies for diabetic patients undergoing TKA.



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

NEW DELHI

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

INDIA 133RD IN FIFA RANKINGS, WORST IN NINE YEARS

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

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

the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Double strike from Nitish leaves England at 83 for 2

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

LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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



Edgbaston, bowled with the new ball from Nursery End.

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

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

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

The last ball of the over produced the wicket of

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

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

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

Novak reaches a record 14th Wimbledon semifinal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Principal, staffer held for menstrual check of students

MUMBAI

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

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

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

Mahajan said strict action will be taken against the guilty.

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

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

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

could take place in a progressive state like Maharashtra.

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



the girls. Stressing that the police have already acted in

the case, Mahajan assured the House that a probe would

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

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

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

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

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

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

Six Naxalites held from Chhattisgarh's Sukma

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

SUKMA

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

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

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

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



rung ultras, the official said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Earlier Dubey strongly reacted to MNS chief Raj Thackeray's

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

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

Nishikant Dubey further clarified that his earlier statement regarding the economy of Maharashtra has been misinterpreted. He said, "There is something which I said and which has been destroyed - Maharashtra has a great contribution in the economy of this country... What I said was misconstrued by people. But what I am saying is that we too have a contribution in the tax paid by Mumbai or Maharashtra. This has nothing to do with the Thackeray family or Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. What mines do you have? All semiconductor refineries are in Gujarat." Challenging the intent behind the aggression towards Hindi-speaking people, Dubey added, "If you have the courage to beat Hindi speakers, then beat those who speak Urdu, Tamil, and Telugu too. If you're such a 'boss', come out of Maharashtra—come to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. Tumko patak patak ke maarengi..."



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

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



Industry friends must be a force for inclusion by supporting MSMEs, promoting gender and caste diversity in leadership. It's easier said than done. Gender and caste diversity has to be appreciated in the right sense

-Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India

BIZ BRIEFS

Screen's initiative for cinema industry

The Indian Express Group and Screen announced the launch of Screen Academy, a not-for-profit initiative that will nurture and showcase new voices in Indian cinema. The Academy is working with India's top film institutes, will identify and empower the next generation of filmmakers through education, representation, and recognition. Anant Goenka, Executive Director of The Indian Express Group, said: "Screen Academy represents a bold step toward institutionalising excellence in the entertainment and culture space."

Hindware arm's new products

Hindware Smart Appliances, a kitchen appliances brand has launched a comprehensive range of appliances such as BLDC (Brushless Direct Current) motor-equipped chimneys, hobs, ovens, and kitchen sinks. Mahesh Kumar Choudhary, President, Hindware Home Innovation, said: "We are incredibly excited to strengthen our presence in the Kitchen Appliances space. Understanding the rapid evolution of Indian homes—driven by real estate growth and modern homeowners' discerning tastes—we have curated a comprehensive range of smart appliances."

Amazon announces Prime Day deals

Amazon has announced that the Prime Day 2025 will kick off on July 12 and will run until July 14, featuring deals on smartphones, laptops, smart TVs, tablets, wearables and speakers. Major brands like Apple, Samsung, Sony, Xiaomi, JBL, and OnePlus are participating. Offers include no-cost EMI options and instant bank discounts. Key highlights discounted offers on devices including iPhone 15, OnePlus 13, Lenovo IdeaPad Slim 3, and LG OLED TV. Visit the website for more consumer electronics deals.

New range from Ultra Soft Toys

Ultra Soft Toys has unveiled a new range of toys at this year's Toy Biz 2025. The brand showcased its new 'Cuddle & Calm' range of weighted plush toys and sensory companions. The Cuddle & Calm collection offers soft, huggable plushies that provide grounding and tactile comfort. Brinda Agrawal, Head-Product Development, Ultra Soft Toys, said: "Weighted toys, in particular, offer calming pressure and tactile comfort that appeals across age groups."

Dreame unveils robot vacuum

Dreame Technology, a smart home appliances brand, has launched the Dreame F10 in India, a Robot Vacuum featuring standard system that delivers optimized suction power of 13,000Pa. Manu Sharma, MD, Dreame India, said: "At Dreame, our mission has always been to build technologies that make everyday life easier and smarter."

Deccan Rice enters Chinese market

Its products will be in the domestic market by early 2026, Director Kiran Kumar Pola says

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD-based Deccan Grainz India has recently entered the Chinese market. The company has already been exporting 30 varieties of Indian rice to Sweden, UK, Germany, Ireland, London, US, Canada, Australia, EU and Turkey, and China is the new addition to its global footprint.

"We are the only rice brand from South India to achieve such a global footprint in rice exports," said Kiran Kumar Pola, Director, Deccan Grainz India.

He described the company's entry into China, which ranks second in the world after India in rice production, as a milestone. He said that Deccan Foods is the market leader in the non-basmati rice category in the US market. "We purchase quality rice from thousands of farmers in various states including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and export it to various countries," he said.



In its 15-year long journey, the company sold more than 7 crore bags of rice abroad. Sona Masuri accounts for a whopping 60 per cent of its total sales. The company has a state-of-the-art, Japanese technology-powered rice processing plant with a monthly capacity of 5,500 metric tonnes at Sultanpur near Hyderabad. It employs 100 people. "They say we have to win at home before winning outside. But we already won outside. Now, we are ready to win at home. Deccan Grainz will enter the Indian market in early 2026," said Kiran Kumar.

Kiran has more than 30 years of experience in the rice business.

T-Hub, AWS accelerator to power space startups

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

AMAZON Web Services (AWS) has announced the launch of AWS Space Accelerator: APJ 2025, a programme designed to support startups across Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ) that are focused on space technology—catalysing innovation and propelling the growing space economy in the Asia Pacific region.

The 10-week accelerator will provide up to 40 selected startups with dedicated business resources, expertise, and guidance around technology and business capabilities, to help them leverage AWS to build, grow, and scale their missions.

The accelerator is open to space-sector startups at all stages that are based in India, Australia, New Zealand, or Japan. Participants can leverage the program to build their technology platforms, scale their operations, and pursue investment opportunities. Applications for the AWS Space Accelerator: APJ will be open from July 8 to September 5.

The AWS Space Accelerator: APJ 2025 will be delivered in collaboration with AWS partners T-Hub, Minfy, Fusic, and Ansys along with leading space organizations including IN-SPACE, the Australia Space Agency, iLAUNCH, and SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation.

India makes it to global top-10 tech markets

THE COUNTRY LEADS IN TALENT AVAILABILITY

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

The Asia Pacific region is gaining momentum as a global tech talent hub, being home to three of the world's top-10 locations – Bengaluru in India, Tokyo in Japan and Beijing in China, said the report from Colliers.

"India is a powerhouse of tech talent and a key player in the global innovation ecosystem, supported by availability of skilled talent and employment opportunities across Tier I as well as emerging cities of the country," said Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office Services, India, Colliers.

Leading tech cities in India account for 69 per cent of the total tech talent in the Asia



Pacific region. Bengaluru and Hyderabad, which host the region's largest talent clusters, continue to lead tech leasing activity, together driving nearly 50 per cent of the conventional office space uptake in H1 2025.

"With the availability of high-quality office space, robust IT infrastructure, and cost competitiveness, India's office markets will continue to feature prominently among the top destinations for technology-led global economic

expansion," Mehrotra added.

The report examined more than 200 global markets based on their talent acquisition, venture capital (VC) funding, labour index, talent pipeline and sector composition. India ranks among the top destinations for tech talent both in the Asia Pacific as well as globally. Bengaluru and Hyderabad continue to remain preferred tech destinations in India, followed closely by other major markets, all of which attract global tech companies

TALENT POOL

- B'luru, Tokyo, Beijing among top-10

- Tech cities in India account for 69% of total tech talent in Asia Pacific region

- B'luru,Hydtogether driving 50% of office space uptake in H1

with skilled talent availability and a mature tech ecosystem, the report found.

Occupiers in the technology sector remain a cornerstone of office space demand across India's top seven cities, driving Grade A space uptake in both conventional and flex spaces over the past years. During H1 2025, tech occupiers leased over 10 million square feet of office space across the top seven cities, driving 40 per cent of the conventional space demand.

India made Ai+ smartphone is here!

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

IN a landmark moment for India's digital future, NxtQuantum has launched the Ai+ Smartphone, India's first fully authored smartphone, built entirely in India, governed on Indian infrastructure, and designed to deliver world-class performance with uncompromising data privacy. The launch was led by Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, alongside Shashikumar Sreedharan, Managing Director, Google Cloud India, and Smriti Ravichandran, Vice President – Mobiles, Flipkart. More than just a product launch, the model marks a bold new direction in mobile innovation, where performance meets purpose, and users gain true control over how their data is stored, accessed, and protected. Built entirely in India and powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system, the Ai+ Smartphone combines high performance, affordability, and privacy in one seamless experience.

Credai Hyd property show to be held in Aug

Over 70 developers, endless choices for homebuyers in largest real estate expo at HITEX

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Hyderabad has officially announced the 2025 edition of its flagship Hyderabad Property Show, set to take place from August 15 to 17 at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Halls 1 & 3. With the theme "Choice is Yours," this year's event promises to empower homebuyers by offering a one-stop destination to explore RERA-approved projects by over 70 reputed developers.

The announcement was made by CREDAI Hyderabad's senior leadership team, including President N Jaideep Reddy, President-Elect B Jagannath Rao, General Secretary K Kranti Kiran Reddy, Convenor Kurra Srinath, Co-convenor Aravind Rao Mechineni, and other office bearers and committee members.



Credai President N Jaideep Reddy addressing the meeting
Photo: Adula krishna

The Property Show aims to dispel real estate myths by presenting credible, RERA-compliant properties under one roof. It will feature a diverse mix of apartments, villas, plots, and commercial spaces from across Hyderabad. Highlighting Hyderabad's strong real estate momentum, President N Jaideep Reddy noted that the city witnessed property registrations worth Rs4,300 crore in May 2025 — a 14 per cent year-on-year increase. He attributed this to the city's booming employment hubs, robust infrastructure development, and ongoing investments by global firms. "Hyderabad is poised for a major transformation with metro rail expansion and el-

evated corridor projects in the pipeline. With interest rates easing and new high-rise launches, now is the ideal time to invest," he said.

President-Elect B Jagannath Rao echoed the sentiment, calling Hyderabad a "true global city" that continues to attract investments across sectors including IT, manufacturing, life sciences, EVs, and defense. "Despite global uncertainties, Hyderabad's resilience and investor-friendly climate make it a preferred destination," he added. Speaking on the upcoming show, Convenor Kurra Srinath described the event as "more than just a real estate exhibition — it's a celebration of trust, choice, and community."

HUL names Priya Nair as CEO-MD

NEW DELHI: Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Thursday said it has appointed Priya Nair as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director for five years, effective August 1, 2025. Nair is currently President, Beauty & Wellbeing, Unilever. She replaces Rohit Jawa who will step down as CEO and MD on July 31, 2025 to pursue the next chapter in his personal and professional journey, the FMCG major said in a statement. Nair will also join the HUL Board, subject to necessary approvals, and continue to be a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE), it added. "Priya has had an outstanding career in HUL and Unilever. I am certain that with her deep understanding of the Indian market and excellent track record, Priya will take HUL to the next level of performance," Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) Chairman Nitin Paranjpe said. Nair joined HUL in 1995 and held several sales and marketing roles across home care, beauty & wellbeing, and personal care businesses.

Despite uptrend, top-4 trading platforms lose 20 lakh investors in H1

MUMBAI

TOP four online trading platforms together lost nearly 20 lakh active investors in the first half of the calendar year (2025), data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) showed on Thursday. The decline comes despite the markets remaining firm during the four consecutive months.

The first half of this year has been difficult for Groww, Zerodha, Angel One, and Upstox, the top four brokers in India in terms of active investors. In June alone, they lost about 6 lakh users overall.

Strict rules for trading in the Future and Options (F&O) segment, enforced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the market regulator, are the main cause of the decline in the number of active users of the major brokers.

Since the market regulator tightened the rules for trading in the derivatives seg-



ment last year, investors are becoming less interested in the sector. Since the year began, Groww, the biggest broker in the nation by number of active investors, has seen a drop of six lakh active investors. Over 5.4 lakh active investors were lost by Zerodha, the biggest broker in terms of revenue, during the same time frame.

Angel One lost over 4.5 lakh active investors, while over 3 lakh active investors were declined from Upstox's user base during the above said period.

These four firms together added nearly one crore new active investors in 2024, when trading activities in F&O were hitting all-time highs. However, their user base declined a bit this year.

Selling in IT, telecom shares drag benchmarks into red

Investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season, Tariff-related uncertainty also dampened investor sentiment

MUMBAI

BENCHMARK indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure on Thursday due to weakness in IT and telecom stocks as investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season, with tech major TCS scheduled to announce its Q1 numbers later in the day. Tariff-related uncertainty also dampened investor sentiment in the market, traders said.

Sliding for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 345.80 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 83,190.28. During the day, it declined 401.11 points or 0.48 per cent to 83,134.97. As many as 2,064 stocks declined, while 1,959 advanced and 138 remained unchanged on the BSE. On similar lines, the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 120.85 points or 0.47 per cent to 25,355.25. A positive momentum in global equities, however, restricted the loss in the domestic markets.

"Indian equities concluded the day in the red, weighed down by weakness in IT stocks ahead of TCS' Q1 results. In-



vestor sentiment remains cautious ahead of the Q1 results in anticipation of a muted start to the season from the IT and finance sectors. However, the recent consolidation in the IT stocks largely factors in the muted outlook, limiting further worries," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Infosys, Bharat Electronics, Tech Mahindra and Eternal were major laggards. However, Maruti, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. "Dalal Street ended in the red on Thursday, as investors re-

mained cautious ahead of two key events -- US President Donald Trump's upcoming tariff announcement and the start of India's Q1FY26 earnings season, with TCS scheduled to report results post market hours," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

The BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.28 per cent while the smallcap index inched higher by 0.12 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, tech dropped 1.17 per cent, telecommunications (1.11 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.77 per cent), IT (0.71 per cent) and consumer durables (0.44 per cent). Realty, metal, oil & gas and utilities were the gainers.

Nvidia world's first firm to reach \$4-trn mcap

SAN FRANCISCO

SILICON Valley chipmaker Nvidia on Wednesday became the first publicly traded company to surpass a \$4-trillion market valuation, putting the latest exclamation point on the investor frenzy surrounding an artificial intelligence boom powered by its industry-leading processors. The milestone reflects the upheaval being unleashed by artificial intelligence, or AI, which is widely viewed as the biggest tectonic shift in technology since Apple co-founder Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone 18 years ago.

Underscoring the changing of the guard, AI bellwether Nvidia is now worth \$900 billion more than Apple, which rode the iPhone's success to become the first publicly traded company to valued at \$1 trillion, \$3 trillion and eventually, \$2 trillion. Meanwhile, Indian capital market's valuation was over \$5 trillion. The market capitalization (mcap) of BSE-listed companies was \$5.38 trn on Thursday (July10, 2025).

Nvidia's rise as come as Apple has struggled to deliver on its ambitions to infuse the iPhone and other products with more AI with



an array of new features that included a more than year-old promise to smarten up its often bumbling virtual assistant Apple acknowledged last month that delivering on its AI vision is going to take until at least next year, leading some industry analysts to wonder if the company will have to acquire an AI start-up to regain momentum.

In the meantime, former Apple design guru Jony Ive has joined forces with OpenAI to work on a wearable AI device that could challenge the iPhone while Nvidia has been scrambling to meet the feverish demand for its specialized chips that power the energy-intensive data centres underlying artificial intelligence.

And tech giants Microsoft, Amazon, Google parent Alphabet and Facebook parent Meta Platforms are upping the AI ante too, collectively budgeting about \$325 billion for investments in the technology this year — with a significant amount of that money likely to flow into Nvidia's coffers.



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

SUHAS SISTU

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

Story:

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



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

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

story to a powerful close.

Performances:

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

Technicalities:

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

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

Analysis:

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



Prabhas wishes producer SKN on birthday

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

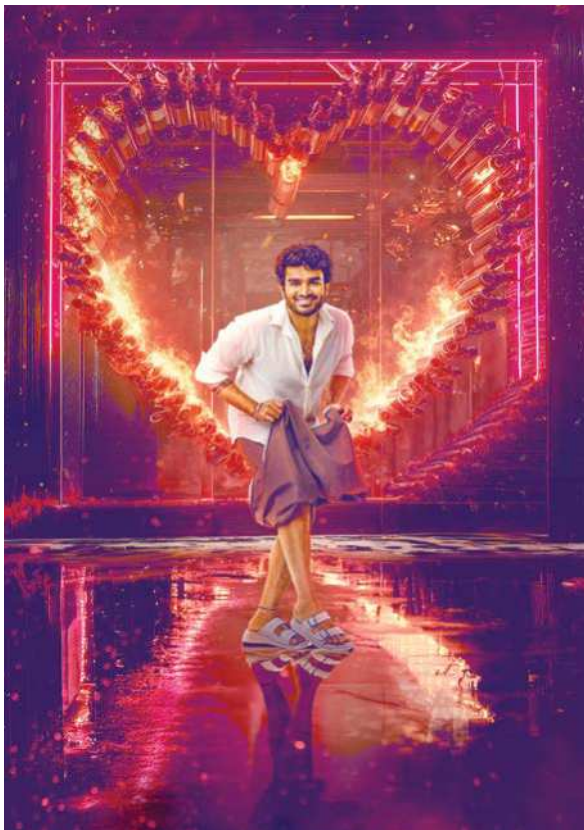
on the occasion. Sharing the moment, SKN posted a photo with Prabhas on social media. The stylish new look of Prabhas in the photo has gone viral, drawing attention from fans. Many of Prabhas’ followers

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

Kiran Abbavaram’s ‘K-Ramp’ Diwali release

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

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



Dhanush’s ‘#D54’ launched with Puja

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

with Think Studios. The film was formally launched today with a pooja ceremony. The regular shoot also commenced today. The announcement poster features Dhanush in a sharp, formal look, standing near a fire, hinting at the film’s intense tone. Billed as an intense action drama with a distinctive storyline, the film promises to resonate with a broad audience, cutting across regions. Actress Mamitha Baiju, known for her lively performance in ‘Premalu’, has been

cast opposite Dhanush as the female lead. The stellar ensemble cast also includes powerhouses like KS Ravi-kumar, Jayaram, Karunas, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Prithvi Pandiarajan, and others. The film also brings together a strong technical team. Theni Eswar is on board as the cinematographer, GV Prakash Kumar handles the music, Sreejith Sarang takes charge of editing, and Mayapandi oversees art direction. The script has been co-written by director Vignesh

Raja along with Alfred Prakash, and is expected to deliver a compelling blend of action, emotion, and intrigue. The film is being mounted on a massive scale across multiple locations, blending intense drama with stylish storytelling. With Vels’ commitment to delivering high-quality content across India, ‘#D54’ is envisioned as an absolute theatrical experience for audiences. Stay tuned for more updates as this exciting journey unfolds!

‘The Paradise’ team wishes Raghav

Team Natural Star Nani, Srikanth Odela, Sudhakar Cherukuri, and SLV Cinemas’ global actioner ‘The Paradise’ extends birthday wishes to Raghav Juyal, unveiling a striking BTS video. Natural Star Nani’s highly anticipated global action spectacle ‘The Paradise’ has been making waves on the internet ever since the first look of the film was released. Directed by the talented Srikanth Odela, following the massive success of ‘Dasara’, ‘The Paradise’ is being crafted on an ambitious scale. Following the launch of the ‘Raw Statement’ glimpse, the intrigue surrounding the film has only grown stronger. Now, the makers have onboarded yet another incredible talent, Raghav Juyal, and wished him on his birthday with a striking BTS video. In the video, Srikanth Odela is seen describing Raghav’s character—his brutal nature and distinctive look. The actor appears visibly excited to learn about his role in the movie. Raghav Juyal is indeed an exceptional talent with a distinct on-screen presence.

Having delivered impressive performances in films like ‘Kill’, ‘Gyaarah Gyaarah’, among others, he is now all set to deliver yet another memorable act in ‘The Paradise’ alongside Natural Star Nani. Amid ongoing speculation about his role alongside Shah Rukh Khan in ‘King’, Raghav now adds another feather to his cap by joining the cast of this pan-India project with Nani, helmed by Srikanth Odela. Raghav Juyal is truly on a roll with major pan-India films in 2026. ‘The Paradise’, slated to hit screens on March 26, 2026. The makers are currently in talks with a Hollywood studio for a potential collaboration and will be sharing updates soon. ‘The Paradise’, releasing in eight languages—Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, English, and Spanish—aims to deliver the unexpected, setting a new standard and raising the bar for cinematic excellence. With its universal appeal, the film will have a pan-world release and put Indian cinema on the global map.



‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ trailer officially released



Presented by Hombale Films, Cleem Productions’ ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ is set to offer a unique cinematic experience with visual wonder and a powerful story. The much-awaited trailer of ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’ has been released—and it is stunning. The trailer, which begins with a sequence of Hiranyakashipu performing a severe penance for a boon from Lord Brahma, is gripping throughout. Prahlad, devoted to Vishnu, faces opposition from his atheist father, Hiranyakashipu. The trailer gives goosebumps with the arrival of ‘Mahavatar Narasimha’, an incarnation of Vishnu who comes to save Prahlad. With epic visuals and a stunning background score, this trailer is a visual marvel. The film has reached the next level. Never

before has this iconic story from Indian history been portrayed so beautifully. Producer Shilpa Dhawan said, “We are ready to unveil the epic story of Shri Narasimha and Shri Varahula! Every frame, every moment, every heartbeat has brought this great story to life. The roar of Narasimha is coming.” Director Ashwin Kumar added, “The first animated feature trailer of the ‘Mahavatar Cinematic Universe’ has been unveiled with His grace. The divine journey has begun. The vision of Cleem Productions—a new-age media house for audiences—and the dream of preserving the culture and heritage of India through the screen is alive.” Hombale Films and Cleem Productions have officially announced the lineup for this

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