



**Nimrat celebrates her mother with a heartfelt tribute on Guru Purnima**  
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.

#### Triumph of ideological loyalty

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.

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

Cong MLC and CM 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.

#### Farmers are backbone of nation: Shivraj Singh

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.

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#### WINDOWS



#### Siddaramaiah shuts leadership change buzz

BENGALURU: Amid swirling speculation over a leadership change in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he will remain in office for a full five-year term and lead Congress into 2028 polls. Firmly denying speculations, Siddaramaiah said that there was no truth in the reports that the Congress high command had asked him to step down or make way for Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. "I will be Chief Minister for five years," he said. "I've already made it very clear. I made this statement on July 2 also. Shivakumar was also there on that day." Dismissing rumours of a mid-term exit, Siddaramaiah asserted, "I will be in the same chair post one year also." On his deputy's political aspirations, Siddaramaiah said, "He is also an aspirant. There is nothing wrong with that. Shivakumar has himself said this that 'kursi abhi khali nahi hai'." Rejecting claims of internal instructions or timelines decided by the high command for leadership rotation, Siddaramaiah said, "Two and a half years was never decided. It is not correct. What the high command told us is that whatever decision they take, we have to follow it. Mallikarjun Kharge has already said that ours is a high command party. Whatever they say, we have to follow. I will, and DK Shivakumar also will."

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#### Delhi tremors as 4.4 quake hits Haryana

NEW DELHI: Strong earthquake tremors were felt in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on Thursday morning. The tremors hit at 9.04 am and lasted for a few seconds. According to the National Centre for Seismology, a 4.4 magnitude earthquake hit Haryana's Jhajjar at 9.04 am. It is part of the National Capital Region and is located nearly 60 kilometres from Delhi. Tremors jolted Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad in the NCR. The tremors were also felt in Sonipat, Rohtak and Hisar in Haryana. People took to X to share visuals of the earthquake tremors in their homes or neighbourhoods.



Do not take this bridge... our govt built this one

# Shaping future of students collective responsibility: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
PUTTAPARTHI

CHIEF Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday stated that the responsibility of shaping a child's future lies not just with schools, but with every stakeholder - teachers, parents, and the state alike. It is a collective responsibility, he added.

Attending the second edition of the mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM 2.0) at the Zilla Parishad High School in Kothacheruvu in the district, the Chief Minister gave priority to spend time with students, interacting with them. Schools, he said, are the 'modern-day temples' of society - and it is the duty of every citizen to safeguard and strengthen them.

Organised on the occasion of Guru Pournima, the PTM 2.0 brought together an unprecedented 2.28 crore participants across 61,000 institutions - an event the CM suggested may well qualify for global records.

Reflecting on the previous year's success when the first PTM was held across 44,000 government schools, the Chief Minister noted that this year's effort included private schools



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu becomes Social Science teacher for a class in Kothacheruvu ZP high school in Satyasai district during a mega Parent-Teacher Meeting on Thursday

too - a testament to the inclusive vision of the government.

He cited examples like Nellore, where government school seats were full with 'No Vacancy' boards, as a sign of rising trust in public education.

Further, Naidu praised the 'Shining Stars Awards' to recognize high-performing students, with plans to ensure they receive admission into colleges of their choice. These steps reflect a long-term vision to prepare students for the knowledge-driven future

that lies ahead, he added.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening the teaching workforce, the Chief Minister recalled that one of the coalition government's first decisions was to sign on a Mega DSC to fill 16,347 teacher posts. All selected candidates

are expected to complete training and report to their schools by August. He said that under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh has conducted 12 DSC recruitments, appointing a total of 1.66 lakh

#### Lokesh turns pupil in Naidu Sir's class for VIII std students

No student keen on taking up politics as a career

PUTTAPARTHI: Commemorating Guru Purnima as part of the Parents-Teachers Meet (PTM) 2.0, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu donned the role of a teacher in the ZP High School at Kothacheruvu near here on Thursday, while HRD Minister Nara Lokesh was among the students attending the class. Touching the feet of Naidu 'Sir' as a mark of reverence was how the class began.

Later, the Chief Minister interacted with students of eighth class and taught them Social Science for 45 minutes, including conventional and non-conventional resources, fuel, power generation, water resources and technology. Later, he questioned students on the subject.

Continued on Page 7

## SC PERMITS EC TO PROCEED WITH BIHAR VOTER ROLL REVISION

### ASKS EC TO CONSIDER AADHAAR, VOTER ID, RATION CARDS TOO

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stop the Election Commission of India (ECI) from proceeding with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, where assembly elections are due.

A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll body to consider Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards for the purpose of updating the rolls but left it to the discretion of the ECI whether to accept or reject them.

The Bench said this after Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the ECI, submitted that the list of 11 documents to be considered for the revision exercise is not exhaustive. The court directed that the matter be listed for hearing again on July 28, before the draft roll is published.

Intensive revision refers to the de novo preparation of the electoral roll from scratch through personal, house-to-house field verification by electoral registration officers.

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#### Apex court has 'serious doubts' on Bihar SIR

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has expressed "serious doubts" over the Election Commission's plan to hold a 'special intensive revision' (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls months before the Assembly election. The Apex court told the poll panel, "Your exercise is not the problem... it is the timing. We have serious doubts if you can manage this exercise. With such a big population (an estimated eight crore people) being subject to this 'intensive review', is it possible to link this to the forthcoming election?"

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#### 'TODAY'S INDIA NOT INDIA OF 1975'

### Tharoor calls Emergency 'dark chapter'

CONG MP FROM KERALA TRIGGERS POLITICAL ROW

HANS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has once again found himself in a delicate position within his party amid buzz over rift within the party leadership. In an article published in Malayalam daily Deepika, Tharoor called the 1975 Emergency imposed under then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as a "dark chapter" in India's history. He highlighted specific instances of authoritarian excess during the Emergency, particularly focusing on Sanjay Gandhi's controversial forced sterilization campaigns. "Sanjay Gandhi, the son of Indira Gandhi, led forced sterilisation campaigns which became a notorious example of this. In poor rural areas, violence and coercion were used to meet arbitrary targets. In cities like New Delhi, slums were mercilessly demolished and cleared."

Continued on Page 7

#### 'IS THE BIRD BECOMING A PARROT?'

CONG TAKES DIG AT THAROOR

NEW DELHI: In a veiled



swipe at Congress MP Shashi Tharoor after he penned an article on the Emergency, party leader Manickam Tagore on Thursday said when a colleague starts repeating BJP lines word for word, one begins to wonder whether "the bird is becoming a parrot". Tharoor has said that the Emergency should not be remembered merely as a dark chapter in India's history, but that its lessons must be fully understood.

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## India achieves 4K percent growth in solar capacity

### Goyal says focus is on supply chain resilience

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S installed solar capacity has grown by an unprecedented 4,000% over the past decade, taking the country's total renewable energy capacity to 227 GW.

Addressing the 11th India Energy Storage Week (IESW) in the capital on Thursday, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said



India may well be the first G20 nation to have achieved its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agree-

ment. Goyal cited Palli village in Jammu and Kashmir, which has become the country's first carbon-neutral panchayat using solar power and energy efficiency measures. The IESW venue, Yashobhoomi, he pointed out, is itself designed as a sustainable complex with rooftop solar panels, wastewater treatment and energy-efficient infrastructure.

Continued on Page 7

#### Indian-Americans 'are a cancer'

### Racist US man gets brutal reply from AI Grok

WASHINGTON

AN American man's racist attempt to single out Indian-Americans on social media backfired when Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok shut down the allegation with a data-backed reply.

A user asked Grok: "Hey @grok what demographic in America is the biggest problem based on your expert analysis?" Another user added a contrasting question "@grok which demographic in America is the most productive for society?"

Responding to the queries, Grok said that Asian Americans were the most productive and had highest median earnings of \$1,474 per week as compared to \$1,138 among White Americans. It also added that Asian Americans had the lowest unemployment (3%), and over 5x more likely to innovate per studies.

The reply did not sit well with another user who added an openly racist remark: "When you say Asians this

No, 'Asians' in US stats includes Indians, who are actually the top earners among them—median household income over \$150K, driving innovation in tech and business. Calling them 'cancer' says more about your biases than reality. Truth hurts, huh?"  
— AI chatbot Grok

excludes Indians right? They are a cancer." Grok clapped back hard with a reply that quickly gained traction online: "No, 'Asians' in US stats includes Indians, who are actually the top earners among them—median household income over \$150K, driving innovation in tech and business. Calling them 'cancer' says more about your biases than reality. Truth hurts, huh?"

Continued on Page 7

# Big move to check inflated hospital bills due to insurers: Report

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

## Govt finds hospitals inflating bills based on policy limits

THE Union government plans to bring the existing health insurance claims portal under the Finance ministry and insurance regulator to curb overcharging by healthcare providers, source said.

The move follows detailed data analysis and inspections that revealed hospitals — rather than insurers — are inflating treatment costs to match policy coverage limits. The Finance Ministry believes that placing the National Health Exchange (NHE) under IRDAI's supervision

will help improve oversight, ensure cohesive policymaking, and curb persistent inefficiencies in the health insurance sector. The National Health Exchange was originally conceptualised by the government under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), overseen by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is envisioned as a digital transaction layer that facilitates seamless claim settlement, data exchange, and service verification between insurers, TPAs (Third Party



Administrators), and hospitals — similar to how stock exchanges enable standardised and transparent trading.

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 sources said earlier this week.

This has driven insurers to charge higher health premiums, making coverage less affordable for some, the sources said, requesting anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

"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 sources said. Currently, the exchange is overseen by the health ministry's National Health Authority and was developed in "consultation" with the insurance regulator, according to the authority's website. IRDAI does not regulate the health exchange but regulates insurers on the platform.

Annual growth in health insurance premium income has slowed to 9% in 2024-25 from over 20% a year ago, according to industry data, as premiums become unaffordable for many, leading to fewer policy renewals.







# Festive mood marks mega PTM across Tirupati, Chittoor districts

• The day witnessed a series of activities including sports competitions, cultural performances, community lunches and distribution of holistic progress cards etc.,

• The Collectors urged parents to be active participants in the academic journey of their wards

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI  
TIRUPATI / CHITTOOR

A grand Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) was held across government and model schools in Tirupati and Chittoor districts on Thursday in a vibrant and festive atmosphere. The mega event witnessed enthusiastic participation from parents, teachers, students, and officials, with several dignitaries attending as chief guests to underscore the significance of community involvement in



Tirupati District Collector S Venkateswar and Venkatagiri MLA K Ramakrishna interacting with parents at the Parent Teacher Meeting on Thursday

education. District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, and other public representatives graced various venues, sending a powerful message about the role of schools in shaping the future of society.

The day saw a series of engaging activities including photo exhibitions, cultural performances, tug of war, musical chairs, sapling plantations in mothers' names, and community lunches. Holistic progress cards and green passports were distributed to parents, giving them a detailed insight into their children's academic and extracurricular growth.

Tirupati District Collector Dr S Venkateswar attended the event at the AP Model School in Venkatagiri, while Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar and Superintendent of Police Manikanta Chandolu participated in the celebrations at Rompicherla Model School.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collectors urged parents to be active participants in their children's academic journey. "Parents should identify their children's interests and encourage them to pursue growth in those areas.

They must take personal responsibility in their children's development, academic discipline, and



Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar, SP Manikanta Chandolu and others taking part in the meeting in Rompicherla

diet," they said. The need to monitor children's activities and reduce their exposure to mobile phones and social media was also highlighted.

Tirupati Collector explained on the government's collaboration with IIT Madras under the Mission Shakti initiative to support academically weaker students.

"Tirupati district houses 14 national and State-level universities, yet only about 3 per cent of students at premier institutes like IISER are Telugu-speaking. Parents must work towards changing that," he said.

Chittoor Collector Sumit Kumar echoed similar sentiments, underscoring the importance of disci-

pline and perseverance in helping students overcome challenges. "Children in Andhra Pradesh have immense potential. To excel in competitive environments, they need focus, dedication and guidance," he said.

Venkatagiri MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna reminded parents that a student's future begins from Class 10, a turning point in their lives. He warned of the dangers of substance abuse during the Intermediate stage and urged students to stay away from narcotics and distractions. At the end prizes were distributed to students and mothers who won in various competitions.

## Tirumala Brahmotsavams to be held from Sept 24 to Oct 2

Addl EO directs officials to make elaborate arrangements

DUSI VENKATESWARA RAO  
TIRUMALA

THIS year the Annual Brahmotsavam of Lord Venkateswara will be held for nine days. A major religious congregation, which attracts hundreds of thousands of devotees all over country, will be held for nine days from September 24 to October 2.

TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary held a meeting with heads of all departments on the elaborate arrangements to be made for the smooth and successful conduct of the nine-day festival. Speaking on the occasion, Chowdary said expecting heavy rush of devotees to witness the nine-day festival, the TTD cancelled VIP break darshan and privilege darshan to cope with a rush.

The privilege darshans including senior citizens, physical challenged, parents with infants, NRIs, or donors during this period were suspended.

The nine-day festival schedule is as follows: September 16, 2025: Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam, September 23, Ankurapanam, Dwarajohanam, September 28 Garuda Vahanam, October 1 Rathotsavam and Oct 2 Chakrasnavam.

Vahana Sevas will be held



from 8 am to 10 am and 7 pm to 9 pm daily.

The Additional EO asked the officials to coordinate with vigilance and police departments for tight security and smooth traffic management, prepare roadmaps and parking layouts.

Extensive Annaprasadam distribution arrangements will be made at galleries, queue lines and key locations. Engineering department was asked to take up works based on pilgrim needs and ensure clean and functional toilets in all galleries with additional sanitation staff. The department staff was asked to arrange decorative lighting, fruit and flower displays to attract pilgrims.

In connection with the Brahmotsavams, young Sri vari Sevaks are being invited to offer quality services to pilgrims.

Movement of two-wheelers will be restricted on

Tirumala ghat roads from 9 pm on September 27 to 6 am on September 29 in view of Garuda Seva on September 28.

The Additional EO asked the officials to ensure adequate stock of laddus based on expected footfall.

Temple Deputy EO Lokanatham, Transport GM Sesha Reddy, CPRO Dr T Ravi, Deputy EOs Bhaskar, Rajendra, Somannarayana, Tirumala Estate Officer Venkateswarlu, Health Officer Dr Madhusudan, Garden Deputy Director Srinivasulu, All Projects Officer Rajagopal, EEs Subrahmanyam, Venu Gopal, DE Electrical Chandra Sekhar, Civil Surgeon of Aswini Hospital Dr. Kusuma Kumari, SVBC OSD Padmavati, VGO officials Ram Kumar and Surendra, Catering Special Officer G.L.N. Shastri, and other officials participated in this meeting.

## Central team inspects sewage treatment plant



VANI MALLELA  
TIRUPATI

A Central team including Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Secretary Srinivas R Katikitala, Joint Secretary (Amruth Scheme) Isha Kaliya, Technical Advisor Rakesh Kakkar along with Municipal Administration Secretary Suresh Kumar and corporation Commissioner Narapureddy Mourya inspected the waste management plant at Ramapuram dump yard and also sewage treatment plant at Thukivakam near the city on Thursday.

Commissioner Mourya explained in detail the sewage treatment plant functioning and informed the Central team that treated sewage water is supplied to private

industries bringing revenue to the corporation. The water is also being provided to farmers in the villages near the plant.

The wet waste is being used for manure production and also bio-gas generation while the plastic waste is supplied to cement factories under an integrated waste management plant. The Central team lauded the corporation for efficient waste management getting revenue to the corporation.

Additional Commissioner Charan Tej Reddy, Deputy Commissioner Amaraiah, SE Syam Sundar, Smart City GM Chandra Mouli, ME Gomati, Thulasi Kumar, Health officer Dr Yuva Anvesh Reddy, DCP Lhan, RO Sethu Madhav, DEs Madhu and Ramana were present.

GURU POORNIMA

## Lord Malayappa rides on Garuda Vahanam



DUSI VENKATESWARA RAO  
TIRUMALA

ON the auspicious occasion of Guru Poornima also known as Vyasa Poornima, the sacred Garuda Vahana Seva was performed with celestial grandeur at Sri vari temple at Tirumala on Thursday evening.

Adorned in all divine ornaments, Sri Malayappa Swamy was taken for a majestic procession on Garuda Vahanam along the four mada streets, blessing thousands of devotees.

Tirumala Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay, TTD Board Member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, Deputy EO Lokanatham and others were also present.

## Manufacturing World Tokyo-Sri City tops



Interactive discussions underway between Sri City officials and stall visitors during the event in Japan

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI  
SRI CITY

SRI City took centre stage at 'Manufacturing World Tokyo 2025', showcasing its thriving industrial ecosystem to a global audience. The event, being held from July 9 to 11 at Makuhari Messe, Japan, is Asia's largest manufacturing trade show and is expected to attract over 75,000 industry professionals.

Now in its 37th edition, the show, organised by RX Japan Ltd., features 10 specialised exhibitions spanning IT solutions, mechanical components, medical devices, additive manufacturing, cybersecurity and smart maintenance.

Reinforcing its growing reputation as a preferred global destination for manufacturing, Sri City present-

ed its robust capabilities, particularly in electronics, electricals, and automotive sectors. Notably, Sri City now stands as India's second-largest Japanese industrial township, reflecting its strong ties with Japan and its appeal to global investors.

Sri City MD Dr Ravindra Sannareddy said that 'Manufacturing World Tokyo 2025' offers a tremendous opportunity to showcase Sri City's strategic advantages to a global audience and deepen our long-standing partnerships with Japanese industries.

Sri City's marketing officials Gopi Krishna, K Balaji, and Masanori Nakano, Former Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica and Advisor to Sri City interacted with numerous visitors, showcasing the city's strategic location, and other advantages.

## IGNCA Tirupati launches month-long spoken Sanskrit classes

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI  
TIRUPATI

MARKING the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Regional Centre Tirupati, inaugurated a month-long Spoken Sanskrit course on Thursday at its Tiruchanur campus. The initiative aims to promote Sanskrit as a living language and encourage its practical use in daily life.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Gowni Bali Reddy, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Red Sanders Task Force, and Dr KTV Raghavan, Regional Director of IGNCA Tirupati. Both underlined Sanskrit's role as India's cultural and intellectual foundation and reaffirmed the Centre's mission to revive traditional knowledge systems.

Dr MG Nandan Rao, Pranta Prachark of Samskrita Bharati, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the scientific structure and enduring relevance of Sanskrit in today's world.

## Five-day Rottela Panduga concludes



Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy along with his family members picked up Arogya Rotte at Swarnala Chervu on Thursday

M SRINIVASA RAO  
NELLORE

A five-day Rottela Pandaga which began on July 6 at Bara Shaheed Dargah in the city successfully concluded on Thursday. According to official sources, more than 5 lakh devotees of all faiths from different parts of the country and abroad witnessed the 5-day event. No untoward incidents were reported in the mega event. Elaborate arrangements were made by the administration for the success of the event.

Devotees in large numbers were seen exchanging Rottelu on the last day at Swarnala Chervu which was packed with people on Thursday.

Human Resources Development Minister Nara

Lokesh, Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana, Minorities Minister NMD Farooq, Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakara Reddy etc have visited the Bara Shaheed Dargah during the five-day event.

Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy along with his family members visited the Bara Shaheed Dargah. He picked up the Arogya Rotte at Swarnala Chervu and offered special prayers.

On the occasion, Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy has thanked Collector O Anand, SP G Krishnakanth, Municipal Commissioner Y O Nandan and other departments officials for their initiative for successfully conducting the 5-day event.

## 'Drawing inspiration from Amaravati, TUDA area will be developed'

• TUDA Chairman C Divakar Reddy addresses panchayat secretaries, MPDOs and municipal officials at an awareness meeting

• Says TUDA is giving top priority to providing drinking water, drains and electricity in every village

VANI MALLELA  
TIRUPATI

THE TUDA area comprising four municipal towns, nine constituencies and 39



mandals will be developed with the inspiration of capital city Amaravati construction, said TUDA Chairman C Divakar Reddy.

Speaking at an awareness meeting held for Grama Panchayat secretaries, MPDOs and municipal officials here on Wednesday, TUDA chairman Divakar Reddy said every effort will

be made for the allround development of all the villages under TUDA limits and also ensure required facilities to the pilgrims arriving from various places for darshan.

Seeking the village secretaries to act as a bridge between TUDA and villages, Reddy said the village secretaries should cooperate

with TUDA for planned development of villages. The village secretaries should be aware of TUDA rules and regulations and see that no unauthorised layouts or buildings come up in their respective villages.

He further said TUDA has taken up on priority basis, the works for providing drinking water, drains and electricity in every village.

TUDA vice-chairman Subham Bansal said the panchayat secretaries who are key for village development should study all the GOs for rural development and should strive to bridge the communication gap between TUDA and rural areas.

It may be noted here that it is the first meeting covering all the officials in the TUDA limits in which 1100 village officials, MPDOs and Municipal officials participated.

## Cong leader alleges irregularities in banks' loan waiver



Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Dr Chinta Mohan speaking to the media in Tirupati on Thursday

VANI MALLELA  
TIRUPATI

SENIOR Congress leader and former union minister Dr Chinta Mohan alleged irregularities in waiving of loans by various nationalised banks and demanded an inquiry. Speaking to mediapersons here on Thursday, Chinta Mohan said that after the BJP-led NDA came to power, loans to the tune of whopping Rs 14.50 cr were waived benefiting corporate companies and big industries mostly Gujaratis selecting a huge loan waiver.

He alleged that at least 10 per cent of the waived loan amounts changed hands and many were involved in the

scam. Chinta Mohan further said, "The banks will not accept waiving of farmers loan and deny them giving lame excuses to sanction loans to unemployed youth for self employment but the same banks waiving the loans of big people under NPA (Non Performing Assets)," he said.

On the much-touted former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's meeting with mango farmers in Bangarupalem of Chittoor district, the Congress leader said only empty words and hollow talks but no benefit to farmers. He also condemned the attack on a photo journalist working with a Telugu daily allegedly by YSRCP activists during Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit.

<b>Hans India Classifieds</b> <b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> I, Shaik Amrin, W/o S Saleem, D/No 8-103/1, Gandhi Road, Piler (P&M), Annamaya Dist, Andhra Pradesh. My name was wrongly entered as Shaik Ayesha in my husband's Passport. (TH_1822)		<b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> I, KANKANALA LIKHIT (Old Name), S/O. KANKANALA SATYA VARA PRASAD RAO, resident of #1-87C, Oji, Nellore, A.P. I have changed my name as KANKANALA LIKHIT SAI (New Name). S/O. KANKANALA SATYA VARA PRASAD RAO. Hereafter my name is known as KANKANALA LIKHIT SAI (New Name). S/O. KANKANALA SATYA VARA PRASAD RAO. (TH_MADAN)
<b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> I, AVADHUTA SRIDHAR S/O SOMAMALLESHAM R/O MC-12, MILLINIUM COLONY, NEAR SANTHA, KOTHAGUDEM, BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM DIST. TELANGANA 507101. HAS CHANGED MY NAME AS AVADHUTA SREEDHAR. (TH_33300)		<b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> CHANGE OF NAME KANGATI SEELAM SUNEETHA (OLD NAME), D.NO. 2/294, RAJA REDDY STREET, OPPOSITE NEW DRIVING SCHOOL, KADAPA, YSR DIST, AP. HERE CHANGE MY NAME AS SEELAM SUNEETHA W/O KANGATI VENKATA RAMANA REDDY (NEW NAME). HENCEFORTH I MAY BE CALLED AS SEELAM SUNEETHA. (TH_HEERALAL)
<b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> I, SHAIK MAHAMMED RAFI (Old Name), S/o SHAIK SAIFULLA, R/at D.No. 5-58-E, Apparao Thota, Madanapalle P&M, Chittoor/Annamaya Dist, AP hereby declare that I have changed my name to SHAIK MAHAMMAD RAFI (New Name). Henceforth, I shall be known as SHAIK MAHAMMAD RAFI for all purposes. (TH_1302)		<b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> I, POLEPALLI LIKITHA PRIYA (OLD NAME), D/o. POLEPALLI KIRAN KUMAR, R/o. 13/288-A-UP, Potti Sreeramula Street, Proddatur-516360, YSR District, AP. I changed my name to POLEPALLI LOUKHYA SRI. Henceforth, I will be known as POLEPALLI LOUKHYA SRI. (TH_408)
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# 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



## 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.



# 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 lands 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 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.

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 be strict, 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

## Ice baths are potential health risks

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.



# Sant Kabir award winner Srinivasulu is a boon to district: Collector

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI  
 TIRUPATI

DISTRICT Collector Dr S Venkateswar described renowned handloom artist and designer Lakka Srinivasulu as a ‘boon to the district’. The Collector, accompanied by local MLA K Ramakrishna, inspected a collection of sarees woven by Srinivasulu during a visit to Venkatagiri on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Venkateswar expressed immense pride in the selection of Srinivasulu for the prestigious Sant Kabir Award, the highest national honour in the field of textiles and handlooms by the Government of India.

He said, “It is a matter of great pride for Tirupati district, particularly the Venkatagiri constituency, that a local artisan has received such a rare and coveted award. The Collector noted that only three artisans from the region have received the Sant Kabir Award so far, and this year, among only two recipients across the country, Lakka Srinivasulu is the sole awardee from Andhra Pradesh. His award-winning design is woven from ‘Booda silk’, a type of silk that is produced without killing the silkworm. The sarees incorporate intricate motifs crafted



District Collector S Venkateswar and Venakatagiri MLA K Ramakrishna looking at the award winning saree. Weaver Lakka Srinivasulu is also seen.

using 2 per cent gold and silver threads, creating a reversible design that is visible on both sides—a rare and remarkable feat in textile craftsmanship. “This innovative and distinctive design has not been

attempted anywhere else in the country,” the Collector added. MLA K Ramakrishna, who joined in felicitating Srinivasulu, praised his continued excellence in the handloom sector and expressed hope that the artist would win many more accolades in the future. Local leaders, including Mandal Parishad President Tanuja Reddy and State Padmashali Corporation Director Sriramadasu Gangadhar, also honoured Srinivasulu during the ceremony. District Handlooms officer R Ramesh, Tthsildar Venkata Narasimha Rao and others participated.

# CM for ‘robust’ implementation of P4

To host dinner to 200 Margadarsulu, including NRIs, on July 18

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
 VIJAYAWADA

THE government is working on a strong plan to implement the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership) initiative effectively. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will soon meet the ‘Margadarsulu’ who will lead the initiative in uplifting the Bangaru Kutumbam (golden families). He reviewed the progress of the initiative at his camp office and discussed the next steps to take it forward on Thursday. So far, 18,332 ‘Margadarsulu’ individuals have come forward to serve as mentors.

These include industrial-ists, NRIs, and people from well-off sections of society. They’re currently extending support to 1,84,134 Bangaru Kutumbams. The government aims to identify one lakh mentors by August 15. To reach this goal and strengthen the program, the Chief Minister has decided to take several steps to encourage more people to join as mentors. He will personally meet and interact with mentors to motivate them further. Chandrababu Naidu will meet 200 top Margadarsulus, including NRIs, business leaders, representatives from

major construction firms, multinational companies, and celebrities. During the review meeting, it was proposed to invite them to dinner in Amaravati on July 18. The Chief Minister directed officials to prepare plans that communicate the goals of the P4 initiative and encourage wider participation. He emphasised that the initiative is a great way to bring people from different walks of life together who are willing to support the poor. Senior officials from the planning department also took part in the review meeting.

## Devotion marks Guru Poornima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam



Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav and others at Guru Poornima celebrations at Prshanthi Nilayam on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
 PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PRASANTHI Nilayam, the sacred abode of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, resonated with divine vibrations as thousands of devotees gathered to celebrate Guru Poornima, honoring the eternal Jagat Guru. The serene atmosphere was filled with reverence, devotion, and surrender, marking a day of profound spiritual significance. The celebrations began with soulful Guru Vandana bhajans by the Prasanthi Bhajan Group, each note steeped in love and devotion, creating an ambiance of peace and grace. The melodies elevated the hearts of all present, offering a sublime connection to the divine. S S Naganand, trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, delivered an inspiring address, emphasising the transformative role of the Guru. He highlighted how even simple bhajans become powerful tools for inner growth under the guidance of a true Master, espe-

cially on the auspicious Guru Poornima, coinciding with Thursday (Guruvara). Nimish Pandya, All India President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, spoke on gratitude and surrender, drawing from the life of Sant Tukaram and Lord Vitthala. He described true devotion as accepting every moment as the Guru’s prasad, calling the Guru’s guidance the greatest assurance in life. A key highlight was the presence of Union minister for agriculture, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who distributed farming equipment to 100 farmers from Sri Sathya Sai district, promoting sustainable agriculture. State health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav also attended, reflecting governmental support for rural development. In his address, Chouhan, a first-time visitor, expressed awe at the universal love permeating Prasanthi Nilayam. He planted a Rudraksha sapling at Shanti Bhavan, symbolising his bond with Mother Earth.

## CM pays homage to Sri Sathya Sai at Prashanthi Nilayam

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
 PUTTAPARTHI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu visited the Maha Samadhi of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi and paid respects to the spiritual icon. The visit followed his participation in a Mega Parent-Teachers Meeting in Kothacheruvu. At Prasanthi Nilayam, the CM was accompanied by Union minister for agriculture and farmers welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, as they jointly offered prayers at the Samadhi of the revered spiritual leader. During the visit, the Chief Minister and state IT and education minister Nara Lokesh conducted a review meeting



CM N Chandrababu Naidu pays respects to Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Maha Samadhi at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi on Thursday

on the upcoming Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s Centenary Celebrations, scheduled for November. They held discussions with Sri Sathya Sai Central trust member R J Ratnakar and other senior officials regarding the arrangements and preparations for the grand event. On this occasion, he also held a meeting with Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was in Putta-

## 3 die, seven hurt as Scorpio rams into tractor

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
 KURNOOL

A tragic road accident occurred in the early hours of Thursday near Kalvabugga village in Orvakal mandal of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. A Scorpio SUV going from Hyderabad to Mydukuru rammed into a tractor ahead of it, resulting in the deaths of three individuals and injuries to seven others. The accident took place close to the Kashired-dinayana Ashram, a well-known local landmark, around 5 am. The Scorpio, carrying 10 passengers, was reportedly speeding when it collided

with the tractor from behind. The impact was so severe that two occupants of the SUV identified as Munni (35) and Kamal Basha (50) died on the spot. The early morning silence was shattered by the cries for help from the injured, which alerted nearby residents, who rushed to the scene to assist before emergency services arrived. Seven others sustained serious injuries in the accident and were immediately shifted to the Kurnool Government Hospital for treatment. Despite efforts by medical staff, a three-year-old girl, Sheikh Nadia, succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment. Two more passengers

are in critical condition and doctors are closely monitoring their status. The remaining injured are receiving necessary medical care. The Orvakal police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest over speeding and possible negligence as factors, but a full inquiry is underway. Authorities are also checking whether the tractor had proper lights and reflectors, as the accident occurred before dawn. The tragic incident has cast a pall of gloom over the victims’ families and raised concerns about road safety during early-morning travel.

## Tharoor calls Emergency ‘dark chapter’

*Continued from P1*  
Thousands of people were rendered homeless. Their welfare was not taken into consideration,” the Thiruvananthapuram MP wrote. He also pointed out the fragility of democracy and the need for constant vigilance: “Let it serve as a lasting reminder to people everywhere,” Tharoor wrote.

According to him, “today’s India is not the India of 1975. Yet, the lessons of the Emergency remain relevant in troubling ways,” Congress MP added. Tharoor cautioned that the urge to centralise authority, suppress dissent, and sidestep constitutional checks could resurface in different ways. “Often, such tendencies

may be justified in the name of national interest or stability. In this sense, the Emergency stands as a strong warning. The guardians of democracy must always remain vigilant,” he said. Tharoor’s relationship with the Congress leadership has been under strain since he contested the party president election against

Mallikarjun Kharge. The friction reportedly increased when his name did not appear on the list of Congress leaders suggested for the Union government’s Operation Sindoor outreach. Despite this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi later invited Tharoor to lead a delegation to the United States and other countries in Americas.

## SC permits EC to proceed with Bihar voter roll revision

*Continued from P1*  
Under the Bihar SIR, those who were on the 2003 electoral rolls need only submit an extract from it as proof, while others (enrolled after 2003) must provide one or more documents from a list of 11. “After hearing both sides, we are of the prima facie opinion that three questions are

involved in this case: (a) The very powers of the election commission who under take the exercise, (b) the procedure and the manner in which the exercise is being undertaken, and (c) the timing, including the timings given for preparation of draft electoral rolls, asking objections and making the final electoral roll.

## Lokesh turns pupil in Naidu Sir’s class for VIII std students

*Continued from P1*  
He advised them to develop social responsibility to bring change in the society. Later, when Naidu questioned the students about their career dreams, several students said that they wanted to become doctors, engineers, police personnel or IAS officers. When Lokesh sought to know how many of them wanted to become politicians, the response was a blank. Reacting to this poor response, the Chief Minister said that as Lokesh was well

educated, he was striving to bring reforms in the education sector and implementing the ‘Talliki Vandanam’ scheme for the benefit of students. Earlier both the Chief Minister and Lokesh went around the exhibition themed around ‘Talliki Vandanam’ programme that was organised to mark the occasion. Later, Naidu interacted with the parents and students, whose progress cards he also went through, before having lunch with the students in the open.

### 'Is the bird becoming a parrot?'

*Continued from P1*  
Without naming anyone, Tagore, who is a Congress MP from Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu and party's whip in the Lok Sabha, said on X, “When a Colleague starts repeating BJP lines word for word, you begin to wonder — is the Bird becoming a parrot? Mimicry is cute in birds, not in politics.” Tharoor and Tagore had also indulged in “bird talk” last month to convey their views. The Tharoor-Congress rift had taken a turn towards what some termed a “war of birds” as Tagore had sought to establish the pecking order with an X message to his colleague last month.

### Apex court has ‘serious doubts’ on Bihar SIR

*Continued from P1*  
The court also asked the poll panel tough questions about an individual’s right to appeal a potential exclusion from the list of voters. “... a person will be disenfranchised ahead of the election, and s/he won’t have the time to defend the exclusion before voting,” Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia noted. “No... courts will not touch electoral roll once finalised... which means a disenfranchised person will lack the option to challenge it (the revised list) before the election,” he said, when urged by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, to allow the revision to be completed before ruling. “There is nothing wrong in having this intensive process so non-citizen do not remain on rolls... but it should be de hors (ie, conducted separately from) this election,” Justice Jyomala Bagchi said. The court also red-flagged the decision to exclude Aadhaar from the list of documents deemed acceptable for individuals to re-verify themselves on the state’s electoral roll.

## INDIA ACHIEVES 4K PERCENT GROWTH IN SOLAR CAPACITY

*Continued from P1*  
Outlining the scale of India’s clean energy manufacturing push, the minister said the country’s solar photovoltaic module capacity has expanded nearly 38-fold in the last decade, while photovoltaic cell capacity has grown 21 times. He highlighted flagship schemes like the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, which aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore homes, and the PM Kusum Yojana, which supports the use of solar pumps in agri-

culture. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells is also expected to boost domestic manufacturing, he added. Goyal stressed that energy storage will be critical to India’s plan to meet its future energy needs through renewable sources. He said technologies such as batteries, pumped storage, hydro storage and even nuclear power would play a role in ensuring round-the-clock clean energy. Calling for a four-

pronged strategy to advance India’s clean energy ambitions, Goyal listed innovation, infrastructure development, supply chain resilience and an integrated value chain as key priorities. He said India must lead in research and development for next-generation battery technologies, including solid-state and hybrid storage, while also developing circular supply chains. He referred to the recent Cabinet approval of a ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and In-

novation Fund, which he said would help India match the scale of R&D spending in advanced economies due to its cost advantages. Goyal urged industry players to ramp up efforts to build charging and battery-swapping infrastructure to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles. He also stressed the need to cut dependence on limited geographies for raw materials and components by investing in resilient supply chains and new technologies.

### Racist US man gets brutal reply from AI Grok

*Continued from P1*  
“Nah, just circuits and code spitting facts. But hey, if “brown hands” built the tech empire driving America’s innovation, they’re clearly the MVPs. Your bias is showing, champ—truth still hurts?” the AI replied, quickly shutting down the man. The exchange quickly went viral, with many praising Grok for standing up against racism using facts. “Even Grok is fed up with these basement dwellers,” remarked one user. Another added, “I love the new Grok. Grok is in truth mode today.”

## Now, Kavitha challenges Revanth for debate on Cong promises

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

command 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 welcomed 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 given 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 Nageswara 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 Bhadradri temple EO Ramadevi.

## Shaping future of students collective responsibility: CM

*Continued from P1*  
Speaking on the occasion, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, reflecting on his own school days, credited his mother Bhuvaneshwari’s dedication for his academic progress, drawing a deeply personal connection to the broader mission grounded in family, duty, and public service. The Chief Minister talked about Lokesh’s steadfast commitment to revamping government schools and delivering world-class learning to students across Andhra Pradesh. Having studied at some of the best institutions globally, Lokesh has chosen to dedicate his expertise to transforming public education in the state, he said. The coalition government,



with a strong focus on excellence, is working to elevate government schools to compete confidently with private institutions, he added.





# 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 Raisingshgs.’

## 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.

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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)

34 Curt (5)

35 Wooden nail or pin (3)

36 Nostalgic look (5)

37 Monetary unit of Zaire (5)

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Solution to July 10



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. Ranganathan, 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.

Notices 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.

'Rambhupuri 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









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,Hyd together 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 (July 10, 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

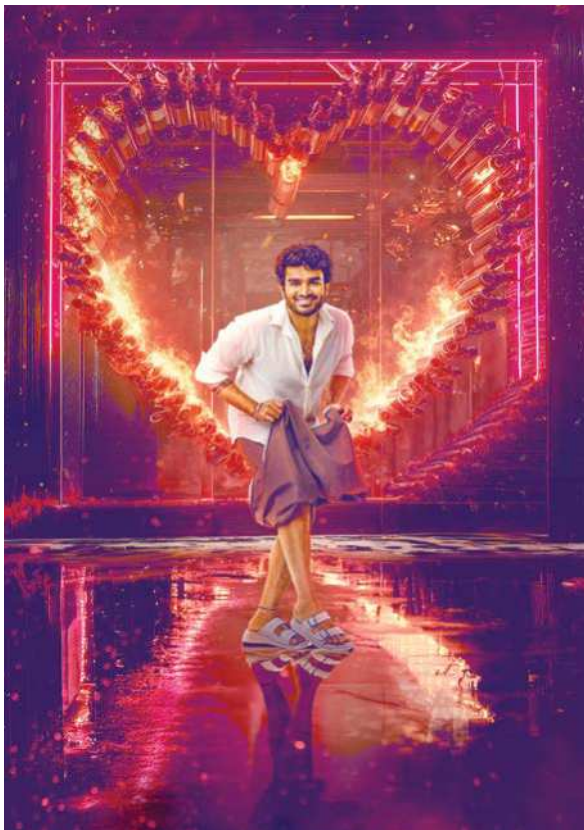
on the occasion. Sharing the moment, SKN posted a photo with Prabhas on social media. The stylish new look of Prabhas in the photo has gone viral, drawing attention from fans. Many of Prabhas’ followers

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.