



**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 urges Centre to ask banks to open branches in all GPs**  
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday urged the Centre to ask all banks at their apex level to open branches in unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) in the State.

**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.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

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

teachers - a stark contrast to the previous administration, which failed to issue even a single notification in five years. He criticised the former regime for causing unnecessary confusion with promises like TOEFL coaching and IB syllabi, none of which were fulfilled. In contrast, the current government has ensured transparent teacher transfers and is open to continuous suggestions from both parents and educators to improve the system, he added.

Continued on Page 7

### 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.

Continued on Page 7



### 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?"

Continued on Page 7

## '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.

Continued on Page 7

## 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.







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

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



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



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

VASU POTNURU  
VISAKHAPATNAM

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, Visakhapatnam district collector MN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 'Giri Pradakshina' turns out to be 'galla-brimming' fete for auto drivers

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



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

RANI DEVALLA  
VISAKHAPATNAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# HSL surges ahead in catering to naval needs

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



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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

WITH two landmark achievements within 24 hours, Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) continues its remarkable growth trajectory.

They included delivery of the advanced DP-II Diving Support Vessel Nistar to the Indian Navy on July 8, followed by the keel laying of Fleet Support Ship-3 (FSS-3) on July 9 at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.

The keel was laid by Vice Admiral Rajaram Swamina-

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

FSS-3 is the third of five

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

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

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

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

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

# Pawan lauds Sidhu for 'battery-powered bicycle'

KOPPARA GANDHI  
VIZIANAGARAM

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

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

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



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

entrepreneurial spirit. Pawan presented Sidhu with a cash incentive

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

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

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

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

# Man gets life imprisonment in murder case

KOPPARA GANDHI  
PARVATHIPURAM

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

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

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

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

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

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



SP Madhava Reddy

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

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

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

# Advanced metal casting lab to enhance cutting-edge research opportunities

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a significant move to enhance practical experience and cutting-edge research opportunities for mechanical engineering students, GITAM Deemed to be University inaugurated the state-of-the-art metal casting laboratory here on Thursday.

Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) director



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Home Minister sets up a CCTV control room with her funds



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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ANAKAPALLI

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

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

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

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

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



# 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



Drivers’ strike enters 3rd day

# Govt forms task force for supply of petrol

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANE SWAR

AS a potential crisis in the supply of essential commodities, including petroleum, looms large over the State due to the ongoing drivers’ strike, the Odisha government has formed a dedicated task force to deal with the logistical challenges and ensure the smooth movement of fuel and other critical goods throughout the State.

However, most of the buses and trucks remained off the roads across the State on the third day of the strike by the Odisha Drivers’ Association on Thursday. The decision regarding the constitution of the task force was taken during a high-level review meeting held under the chairmanship of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena on Wednesday, as per an official statement released on



Thursday. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary of the Home department, Director General of Police, Principal Secretaries of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare and Commerce and Transport departments, Transport Commissioner and representatives of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). “Following the review, a

dedicated task force has been constituted, comprising officials from the Commerce & Transport department, police authorities, district administrations and OMCs. This task force has been entrusted with round-the-clock monitoring, prompt resolution of logistical challenges and ensuring the smooth movement of petroleum and other critical

goods,” informed the State government. The local administrations and police units of all the districts across the State have also been instructed to provide full support, including security escort and logistical facilitation for fuel tankers and cargo carriers wherever required, for the smooth movement of essential commodities.

Transport Minister Jena has assured the public that there is no shortage of fuel in the State. The OMCs have also confirmed that sufficient stock is available at depots and retail outlets throughout the State. The Odisha Transport department has taken all measures to ensure the uninterrupted movement of essential commodities across the State, with a special focus on maintaining a steady and reliable supply of petroleum products. The State government is ensuring that the daily requirement of approximately 600 tankers of fuel is met despite the truck drivers’ strike. During the meeting, Jena reiterated the government’s willingness to hold a dialogue with the representatives of the drivers’ association and appealed to them to withdraw the strike in the larger interest of the public and the economy of the State.

## CM urges Centre to ask banks to open branches in all GPs

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday urged the Centre to ask all banks at their apex level to open branches in unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) in the State. Majhi made this appeal to the Centre while participating in the 27th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Ranchi.

He said out of 6,794 gram panchayats in Odisha, only 2,421 GPs have brick and mortar branches. The remaining 4,373 GPs do not have any brick and mortar branch. Noting that the geographical penetration of banks in Odisha is quite low, the Chief Minister said there are 42,035 fixed point BCs (banking correspondents) operating in the State as on December 2024. However, BCs have their own limitation in terms of services offered and cash handling, he said. Besides, network issues also impede BC operations in the remote areas, Majhi said. He said the banks were not following uniform guidelines for paying commission to the BCs based on the services offered by them.

The IPPB (India Post Pay-



ments Bank) has only 33 branches and 8,929 facility access points in the State. However, they are not covering all unbanked GPs in the State, Majhi said. Therefore, in order to meet the banking needs in unbanked/under banked GPs, the Odisha government, in collaboration with six public sector banks, has launched a scheme for providing banking services to all unbanked GPs of the State through CSP (Customer Service Point) plus banking outlets, the Chief Minister said. Odisha is the only State in the country to adopt such a unique model of financial inclusion, he said. The CSP-plus banking outlets are providing major banking services just like a brick and mortar branches, Majhi said, adding that so far, 2,742 CSP plus banking out-

lets have been opened in 2,742 unbanked GPs covering all 30 districts. The remaining 1,631 unbanked GPs will be covered by CSP plus banking outlets soon, he said. The Chief Minister also said that the Odisha government was making necessary arrangements for providing electricity connection and internet connectivity for smooth functioning of the CSP plus banking outlets in all unbanked GPs of the State. The State is also bearing the one-time fixed cost component, including banking space and monthly recurring cost for specified items for first three years since opening of CSP plus banking outlets, he said. Majhi requested the Central government to advise all banks at their apex level to open brick and mortar branches in unbanked GPs in Odisha.

## Odisha Cabinet will be expanded: Samal

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

THE BJP government in Odisha will soon expand its Council of Ministers, the party’s State president Manmohan Samal said on Wednesday. Samal made the statement while taking charge as the State BJP president a day after being reappointed to the post for a fourth non-consecutive term. “Discussions with the central leaders have already been held regarding the expansion of the Council of Ministers,” he said. Though the Council of Ministers can have 22



members, there are only 16 at present, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Besides Majhi, it has two deputy chief ministers, eight Cabinet ministers and five Ministers of State at present. Six posts have been lying

vacant since Majhi took the oath of office on June 12, 2024. Samal also said measures were being taken to fill up vacancies in different State-run corporations and boards. He said the BJP was committed to strengthening governance and fulfilling the promises made to the people. Following Samal’s statement, political activities gained momentum with several senior MLAs lobbying for a berth. The BJP insiders said the expansion will be carried out keeping in view the three-tier panchayat elections, which would be held next year.

## ‘Nijukti Parba’ held in Dhenkanal

BIRANCHI N SETH  
DHENKANAL

SKILLED candidates always have the scope for getting employment. The government has opened skill centres to upgrade skill of the unemployed youth and also organised placement drives in government as well as private sectors. The job holders must do their work ethically and responsibly. This was stated by Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra while addressing a Nijukti Parba (joining ceremony) for the trainees at Odisha Skill Centre here on Wednesday. Patra distributed offer letters to 36 candidates on the occasion of Nijukti Parba. District Employment Of-



ficer Tatyamasi Mohapatra spoke about training details and companies in which the selected candidates will join soon. The candidates will join automobile and mobile

companies. Cooperative Society Deputy Registrar Uma Shankar Das and Chief Development Officer Dipti Ranjan Sethi spoke on skill training being offered in Dhenkanal.

## OMC eyes 50 MT mineral output

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

THE Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) is aiming to produce 50 million tonnes of minerals in 2025-26. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired a review meeting, during which various steps to increase mineral production were discussed. It also deliberated on issues such as the extension of the period of various mining areas, environmental clearance and operationalisation of new mines. The meeting particularly focused on increasing bauxite production. This year, the bauxite production target is 3.6 million tonnes, and will be increased to 6 million tonnes next year, a statement said. The Chief Minister emphasised the need for OMC to focus on improving livelihoods in mining areas through employment and convergence of develop-



ment schemes. He stressed the importance of promoting forest resources and implementing various developmental activities to generate employment opportunities for local communities. It was resolved in the meeting that the OMC would prepare a special plan for this purpose, the statement said. Majhi also reviewed the progress of OMC’s pro-

posed pellet plant, slated to begin operations by May 2026. MECON Limited has been tasked with preparing a techno-economic feasibility report for the project. A dedicated project committee has also been formed to implement it. The Chief Minister also suggested that the OMC should enhance its operational efficiency by recruiting skilled professionals.

## Man gets 20-yr jail for raping minor

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

A POCSO court here on Thursday sentenced a man to 20 years of imprisonment for raping a 17-year-old girl five years ago, a government lawyer said. Special Public Prosecutor Rajib Sasmal said the judge of the special POCSO court, Saroj Kumar Sahoo, also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on Raja Mallick (21) after convicting him in the rape case. The judge ordered that if Raja failed to pay the fine, he would serve an additional jail

term of three months. The judgment was pronounced on the basis of examination of 14 witnesses and 73 documents, Sasmal said. The Special Public Prosecutor said the court has directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Khurda to pay Rs 3.5 lakh as compensation to the survivor. According to the prosecution, the survivor was known to the convict, and they were in a relationship. On July 18, 2020, Raja had abducted the girl after promising to marry her and later raped her.

## CBI arrests MCL official while accepting bribe

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

OFFICIALS of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested a chief manager of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, for accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 from an individual. The Central agency said it apprehended MCL’s chief manager (mining) for Basundhara area in Sundargarh district for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 from the complainant. The complain-



ant alleged that the accused had demanded a bribe of Rs 30,000 for facilitating the release of a compensation fund of Rs 11.37 lakh in connection with acquisition of land, the statement said. After negotiation, the accused agreed to accept a bribe of Rs 20,000 from

the complainant to release the compensation in favour of a relative of the complainant, it said. Acting on the complaint, the CBI laid a trap and caught the accused while accepting the bribe and later arrested him, the Central agency said.

# Puri Gajapati backs reforms in Jagannath temple

BHUBANESWAR

PURI’S titular king Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb on Thursday said he supports reforms in the 800-year-old Shree Jagannath temple to preserve its heritage while adapting to changing times, but remained uncertain about allowing non-Hindus into the 12th-century shrine. Deb, who has served as the first servitor of Lord Jagannath for over five decades, said, “There is always scope for improvement and reforms. This is because the temple was built more than 800 years ago. The rituals, festivals and various arrangements were developed over centuries.” Deb said the world and society has

changed a lot over the last 800 years. “But the system in Shree Jagannath temple has largely remained unchanged. The heritage should continue, but certain adjustments may be made in view of the changed situations,” he said. Citing an example, the Gajapati pointed to the increasing number of pilgrims visiting Puri. “The Mahaprasad Seva facility, for instance, is falling short. Ensuring a smooth ‘darshan’ experience for so many devotees is certainly a challenge. Even on normal days, the crowd now resembles that of festive days from earlier years,” he said, urging the State government and temple administration to address these issues.

Commenting on an issue raised by ‘Samajika Naya Abhijan’, an organisation fighting for social justice, about the tradition of people carrying the Gajapati’s palanquin on their shoulders during Rath Yatra, Deb said that the mater had come to his notice. “Yes, the matter has come to my notice. The Gajapati uses a ‘tamjan’ to go to chariots to perform ‘chhera pahanra’ ritual. This is a tradition that has continued for hundreds of years. Any change in a religious tradition must follow the prescribed procedure. The Gajapati is following that process. The ‘tamjan’ is used during various yatras because of tradition. It’s not a personal choice but a religious obligation,”

he said. Asked whether he personally would prefer not to be carried on shoulders, Deb said: “If a change in tradition is brought about, it must follow due process. The temple managing committee, the servitors, the pundits of the Mukti Mandap, and above all, the Shankaracharya must be consulted. If a change is made, I would be happy to accept it. But any alteration in existing traditions must come from religious authorities and those responsible for upholding them.” On the sign at the Lion Gate of the Puri temple reading ‘Only Hindus Are Allowed,’ the Gajapati said this practice is over 500 years old. “If there is to



be any change, it must go through proper procedures. This is a religious tradition. Any modification can only be made through consulta-

tion and a final decision by religious authorities—such as the Shankaracharya, scholars of the Mukti Mandap Sabha and other stakeholders,” he said. He also acknowledged that there is a secular dimension to the issue, which the government must consider. “Shree Jagannath temple has been a target for terrorist threats for decades. Given the global situation and specific geopolitical tensions—particularly with Pakistan—the government must seriously evaluate whether it can ensure the temple’s security, which is its primary responsibility, if non-Hindus are to be allowed entry,” he said. Deb said it is ultimately up to the government to make the

call. “To allow people of all religions to participate, the Rath Yatra is held every year,” he explained. A foreign-educated law graduate who gave up his legal career in Delhi to serve as the first servitor of Lord Jagannath, Deb said he has no interest in politics. “From day one, I have refused to enter politics, even though my father and uncle were in politics in Odisha. Political parties have stopped approaching me for decades, and I believe my decision was the right one,” he said. On the recent stampede during the Puri Rath Yatra, in which three persons died and many were injured, the Gajapati said an inquiry is underway. “The number

of devotees from Odisha and across India was far beyond expectations. I am sure the government will look at ways to improve infrastructure and amenities for devotees. It will identify the reasons behind the incident and recommend steps to prevent such occurrences in the future,” he said. Deb emphasised the spiritual value of the festival. “Lakhs of devotees witnessed the festival from start to finish. I am sure they had a momentous, memorable and spiritual experience. While the delay in chariot pulling or the stampede was unfortunate and concerning, it did not detract from the devotional spirit of the event,” he said.



# 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.

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# TRIUMPH OF IDEOLOGICAL LOYALTY

## SURGICAL STRIKE



K. KRISHNA SAGAR RAO

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

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

### Four decades of consistent commitment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let us talk about the rot.

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

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

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



N. Ramchander Rao

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advancement, the very foundation of democracy begins to crack.

### When newcomers claim seniority:

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

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

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

### My own journey-Loyalty without expectation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Rao's elevation-A beacon of hope:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If we want to create leaders with character, we must

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

### Politics of integrity:

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

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

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

### Closing thoughts-The real seniority:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ice baths can reduce mus-

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

Businesses offering ice

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

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

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



# 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 Venkatagiri 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 Raisingsh.’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Raman uncle (fufaji). Om Shanti.”

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

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

became the second runner-up.

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

### CROSSWORD

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31			32		33	
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36					37	

#### ACROSS

3 Leaves out (5)  
8 Sketches (5)  
10 Transport vehicle (5)  
11 Imaging technique used as a diagnostic aid (3)  
12 Bay (5)  
13 Glassy little meteorite (7)  
15 Eagle’s nest (5)  
18 Recipe amt. (3)  
19 Angel of death (6)  
21 Benefit (7)  
22 Catch wind of (4)

23 Certain NCO’s (4)  
24 Divide proportionately (7)  
26 State of equilibrium (6)  
29 BSE deal (3)  
31 Lift shoulders (5)  
32 It has eight arms (7)  
34 Curt (5)  
35 Wooden nail or pin (3)  
36 Nostalgic look (5)  
37 Monetary unit of Zaire (5)  
38 Bother (5)

### SUDOKU

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#### Solution to July 10

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



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.









## Scholarships

Scholarship Name 1:	Infosys Foundation STEM Stars Scholarship Program 2025-26
Description:	An initiative of Infosys Foundation to support female students in India who aspire to pursue undergraduate degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The applicants must be female students from India.</li><li>They should have successfully completed their Class 12 examinations.</li><li>Eligible students include those enrolled in the first year of undergraduate STEM courses at recognised NIRF-accredited institutions. Additionally, second-year B.Arch students and those pursuing five-year Integrated or Dual Degree programs are also welcome to apply.</li><li>Female students intending to pursue engineering and medical courses in government colleges not listed in the NIRF rankings are also eligible to apply.</li><li>The annual family income of the applicants must not exceed ₹8,00,000.</li></ul>
Prizes & Rewards:	The selected candidates will receive a scholarship of up to ₹1,00,000 per annum, covering actual expenses, for the duration of the course.
Last Date to Apply:	15-09-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/ISTS3
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/infosys-foundation-stem-stars-scholarship-program-2025-261751885613.png
Scholarship Name 2:	HSB Scholarship-cum-Admission Seat Programme 2025-26
Description:	Applications are invited from bachelor's degree holders for the Hari Shankar Singhania School of Business Scholarship-cum-Admission Seat Programme for the academic year 2025-26.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students who wish to pursue a 2-year residential MBA in Product Management, AI &amp; Business Analytics and Entrepreneurship &amp; Organisational Foresight at HSB.</li><li>Must have secured at least 60% marks in a bachelor's program.</li><li>A valid test score in CAT, XAT, NMAT, MAT, GMAT, or other competitive entrance examinations is preferred but not mandatory.</li></ul>
Prizes & Rewards:	Up to 100% tuition fee waiver for the entire course duration
Last Date to Apply:	14-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/HSSB1
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/hsb-scholarship-cum-admission-seat-programme-2025-261751884755.png
Scholarship Name 3:	Mohan T Advani Centennial Scholarship Programme
Description:	Blue Star Foundation aims at supporting and empowering underprivileged undergraduate and diploma students enrolled in Architecture and Engineering programs at selected private or government colleges across India through their flagship initiative, i.e. Mohan T Advani Centennial Scholarship Programme.
Eligibility:	First and second-year students enrolled in a degree or diploma program in architecture and engineering, such as Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering & Electronics Engineering and production Engineering, excluding Civil Engineering. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 80% in Class 10 and Class 12 for first-year students, and at least 80% in Class 12 and 75% in the 1st year for second-year students. Students enrolled in selected colleges* will be eligible to apply. Applicants' annual family income from all sources must be less than INR 6 lakh.
Prizes & Rewards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For engineering and architecture students: INR 1,00,000 or 75% of the annual fees (whichever is less)</li><li>For diploma students: INR 40,000 or 90% of the annual fees (whichever is less)</li></ul>
Last Date to Apply:	15-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/BSFS4
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mohan-t-advani-centennial-scholarship-programme1750424927.png
Scholarship Name 4:	Raman Kant Munjal Scholarship 2025-26
Description:	The Raman Kant Munjal Scholarship 2025-26 is an initiative by the Raman Kant Munjal Foundation, supported by Hero FinCorp, that aims to help undergraduate students pursuing finance-related courses to pursue their dreams of a promising career and a better life.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students enrolled in the BBA, BFIA, B.Com. (H, E), BMS, IPM, B.A. (Economics), BBS, or any other finance-related degree courses are eligible.</li><li>Applicants must have secured at least 80% marks in Classes 10 and 12. (70% marks for PwD students)</li><li>The annual family income of the applicants should be less than INR 6 lakh.</li><li>Open for Indian nationals only.</li></ul>
Prizes & Rewards:	Scholarship from INR 40,000 to INR 5,50,000 per year for three years
Last Date to Apply:	31-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/RMKSP5
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/raman-kant-munjal-scholarship-2025-261750425076.png
Scholarship Name 5:	IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship 2025-27
Description:	IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship is a need-based scholarship program run by IDFC FIRST Bank to financially support students with a family income of less than INR 6 lakh per annum. The purpose of this scholarship is to make post-graduate studies in business management accessible to meritorious students who are unable to pursue higher studies due to financial constraints.
Eligibility:	Indian students enrolled in the first year of a 2-year full-time MBA program for the class of 2027 at selected educational institutions may apply for this scholarship. Applicants' gross annual family income should be less than or equal to INR 6 lakh. Applicants must have a valid mobile number linked to their Aadhaar number.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 2 lakh for 2 years of MBA studies (INR 1 lakh/year)
Last Date to Apply:	20-07-2025
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IFBMS6
QR Code:	https://d2w71lp59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-bank-mba-scholarship-2025-271751885704.png Courtesy - buddy4study.com



# Engineering training in promoting holistic health and population stability

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

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

### Designing sustainable infrastructure for public health

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

### Advancing health equity through engineering innovations

The emerging field of



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

### Integrating one health principles

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

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

### Promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship

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

### Enhancing healthcare delivery and accessibility

Biomedical and health

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

### Building climate-resilient communities

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

### Fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation

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

### Empowering communities through education and technology transfer

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

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

## Hyd student awarded global citizen scholarship

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

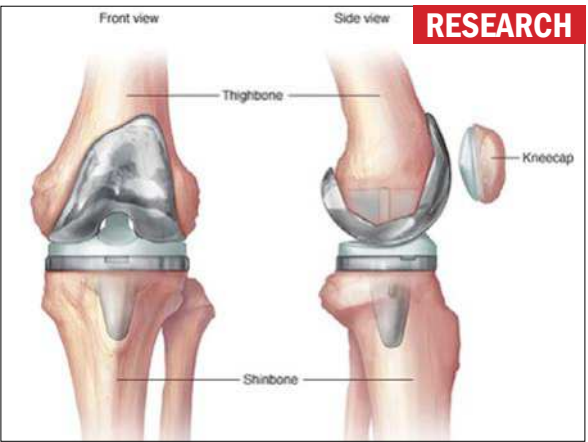
“Receiving the Global Citizen Scholarship is a defining moment,” said Duaa. “It has validated my efforts and inspired me to lead with purpose, learn with passion, and give back meaningfully. I see this as just the beginning.”

## Diabetes may raise infection, post knee replacement surgery

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



campaigns to policy discussions—aim to spark conversations around the choices and commitments that shape our collective future. As populations continue to grow, the emphasis must shift from mere numbers to ensuring dignity, opportunity, and well-being for all.





# ‘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

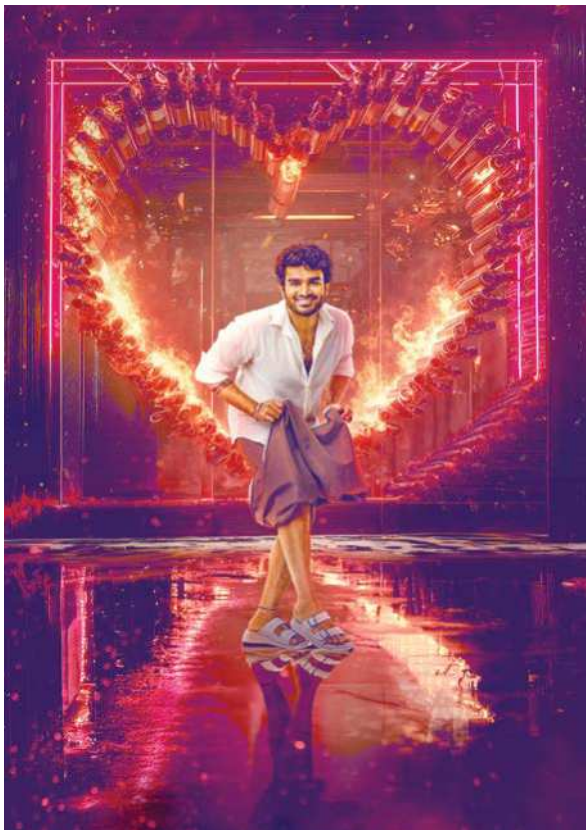
on the occasion. Sharing the moment, SKN posted a photo with Prabhas on social media. The stylish new look of Prabhas in the photo has gone viral, drawing attention from fans. Many of Prabhas’ followers

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.