



THE Hans India



Innovative medical device offers hope for lymphedema patients
Two visionary surgeons, Dr. Sumita Shankar, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon and Dr Kruthi Nanduri, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon have co-invented a groundbreaking medical device that could significantly benefit patients suffering from filarial lymphedema.

Grooving to the melodies at New Orleans' iconic music venues
New Orleans beats to the rhythms of its own soul and is often called the birthplace of Jazz. Iconic venues preserve the fascinating legends and history that shaped the city's musical identity, bringing music lovers from all over the world to engage in its melodies.

Wars begin in the mind, so does peace
Looking at the situation of the world that we live in today, one factor that can be considered as the biggest cause of our downfall from an exalted stage of a divine being, is violence in all its forms. YES, it is violence that makes hell of heaven. In other words, paradise is lost when violence.

Samantha opens up about success, detachment
Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, once one of the busiest and most sought-after stars in Tollywood, has taken a step back from the constant hustle of cinema. The actress, who was once in demand with back-to-back films and a packed calendar.

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WINDOWS National legislative index to rank state legislatures

BENGALURU: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday mooted setting up a national legislative index to rank assemblies and councils on the basis of their performance. He said their performance could be assessed based on several parameters such as the number of sittings held every year, the productivity of the House, the quality of debates, the adoption of technology and the efficacy of various committees.

"We will take a view on the national legislative index at the meeting of presiding officers in Lucknow in January next year," Birla told reporters on the sidelines of the 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association-India Region Conference that concluded here. Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has been tasked to prepare a proposal on the national legislative index, which will be discussed extensively at the All-India Presiding Officers Conference in Lucknow.

Addressing the valedictory session of the CPA-India Region Conference, Birla asked all legislatures to establish standards to ensure the quality of their proceedings and debates. Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot also voiced concern over repeated disruptions in House proceedings and asserted that debate and discussion were the soul of any legislature.

Expressing concern about "planned deadlock" in the House, Birla underscored the need for comprehensive dialogue among all political parties and elected representatives. He said that rather than halting the proceedings of legislatures based on ideological or political differences, lawmakers must resolve to keep the House functioning. India's democracy and its vibrant Constitution were a guiding light for the world in the current global context, Birla said.

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NE is India's growth engine: PM

The Prime Minister said that the Northeast was earlier called a frontier state, now the region has become a front runner

AIZAWL

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that the Northeast region is a growth engine of India and it progressed a lot during the past 11 years.

Inaugurating the ambitious 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang railway project, flagging off three new trains connecting Aizawl with Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati and laying the foundation stone and inaugurating multiple development projects worth over Rs 9,000 crore, the Prime Minister said that the Northeast was earlier called a frontier state, now the region has become a front runner.

He said that through the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project Mizoram and other Northeastern states of India would be connected with the Bay of Bengal.

Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project is a joint India-Myanmar initiative to create a multi-modal transport corridor connecting India's eastern ports to



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India's North-east through Myanmar, utilising waterways and roads to bypass the Siliguri Corridor.

The Prime Minister said: "After the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project becomes operational, trade and tourism would be boosted a lot in the Northeast region. All these plans are part of India's Act East Policy."

He said that earlier the political parties were doing vote bank politics in North-east and due to this attitude the entire region suffered greatly.

"Our attitude, plans and vision are different. We want

peace and development of the region. Rail, road, air, waterway connectivities were developed a lot in the region and these would be further developed in the coming days," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to the GST reforms, he said that taxes were lowered substantially in many products making life easier for common people.

During 'Operation Sindoor', India's armed forces taught lessons to terrorists and the entire world witnessed the power of the country's armed forces and 'Made in India' weapons to help protect the country, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Want to make Manipur symbol of peace & prosperity, says Modi

People have chosen the path of peace and given priority to development: PM

CHURACHANDPUR: Urging various outfits to shun violence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that his government stood firmly with the people of Manipur and was working towards the goal of making the strife-torn state a symbol of peace and prosperity.

Addressing a public meeting in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out in May 2023, Modi hailed Manipur as the land of hope and aspiration, and said that "unfortunately, violence had cast its shadow on this beautiful region".

"A short while ago, I met the affected people at a relief camp. After meeting them, I can say with confidence that a new dawn of hope and trust is rising in Manipur," he said. "For development to take root anywhere, peace is essential. In the last 11 years, many conflicts and disputes in the Northeast have been resolved. People have chosen the path of peace and given priority to development," he added. The PM, who faced sharp criticisms from the opposition for not visiting the state despite the prolonged ethnic violence, underlined that the Centre's efforts were already yielding results.

"We have seen that recently in the Hills and the Valley... negotiations have taken place for agreements with different groups. I listened to the concerns of the families of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the historic Kangla Fort complex in Imphal and Peace Ground in Churachandpur, and assured them of the Centre's commitment to restore peace and normalcy in the state, they said.

PM interacts with IDP Kukis, Meiteis

IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday interacted with a section of the people belonging to the two warring communities, Kuki and Meitei, who were displaced due to the ethnic violence in Manipur, officials said. Modi

listened to the concerns of the families of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the historic Kangla Fort complex in Imphal and Peace Ground in Churachandpur, and assured them of the Centre's commitment to restore peace and normalcy in the state, they said.

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Over 6-cr Income Tax returns filed so far

NEW DELHI

MORE than six crore income tax returns for Assessment Year 2025-26 have been filed so far, the Income Tax department said on Saturday. The last date to file ITRs without penalty is September 15.

"Thank you taxpayers & tax professionals for helping us reach the milestone of 6 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) as of now and still counting," the I-T department said in a post on X. To assist taxpayers for ITR filing, tax payment and other related services, our helpdesk is functioning on a 24x7 basis, and the department is providing support through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions & Twitter/X, it added.

It also asked taxpayers who haven't filed ITR for AY 2025-26 to file at the earliest to avoid a last-minute rush. The Income Tax department in May announced an extension of the due date for filing ITRs for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 (for income earned in financial year 2024-25) by individuals, HUFs and entities who do not have to get their accounts audited from July 31 to September 15.

The extension was on account of "structural and



The Income Tax dept asked taxpayers who haven't filed ITR for AY 2025-26 to file at the earliest to avoid a last-minute rush

content revisions" in the income tax return (ITR) forms, which was notified in late April and early May. The changes made in the ITR form for AY 2025-26 also need modifications to be made in ITR filing utilities and the back-end system. ITR filings have shown consistent growth over the years, reflecting rising compliance and the widening of the tax base.

For AY 2024-25, a record 7.28 crore ITRs were filed up to July 31, 2024, compared to 6.77 crore in AY 2023-24, registering a 7.5 per cent year-on-year growth.

UP's Shahjahanpur tense over Fb posts; 2 held

SHAHJAHANPUR(UP)

A woman was arrested here on Saturday for her alleged indecent posts on Facebook about Hindu deities, while a few people have been booked for propagating those social media posts, police said here.

This came a day after police arrested a 45-year-old man for his objectionable social media posts against Prophet Muhammad and the Quran that triggered a protest in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh Dwivedi said the woman who made indecent posts on Facebook about Hindu deities has also been arrested and sent to jail.

At the same time, the police have registered an FIR against two named and a few other unnamed people for propagating the woman's Facebook post, the SP said.

A large number of police



personnel have been deployed across the city, and a flag march was held to maintain law and order.

The Eidgah committee here demanded that the accused arrested for his objectionable social media posts against Prophet Muhammad and the Quran be booked under the stringent National Security Act, while pointing out that the comments have deeply hurt the community.

The chairman of the committee, Rahat Ali Khan, and secretary Qasim Raja handed over the memorandum addressed to the President of India to SP Dwivedi.

The memorandum stated that the person crossed all limits by posting an objectionable post on social media, making the city's Muslim community enraged.

Demanding that action against the accused be taken under the National Security Act, the committee alleged that there is a big conspiracy behind the post, and other people involved should be identified and action initiated against them.

"Apart from this, those who are doing fake journalism on Facebook should be investigated, and action should be taken by running a campaign against the fake journalists," the memorandum stated.

"Our social media monitoring team spotted the post, after which the police arrested the accused," Dwivedi said and appealed to people not to post, like and share anything against any religion on social media. (PTI)

Row over hidden cameras in Rajasthan Assembly

JAIPUR: Political turmoil has deepened in Rajasthan after State Congress President Govind Singh Dotasra made several allegations against Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani over the issue of hidden cameras in the Assembly, alleging the Speaker wants to spy on women legislators.

Dotasra alleged that two additional cameras were secretly installed in the House and claimed the Speaker was misusing them to focus particularly on women legislators.

"The Speaker wants to see what women are wearing, in what condition they are sitting, and what they are talking about.

His focus is more on women.

A person who has no shame should die by drowning himself," the State Congress President told reporters after a party meeting.

Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated Nepal's interim PM Sushila Karki on assuming office, calling her appointment "a shining example of women empowerment". Addressing a rally in Manipur capital Imphal, Modi said India and Nepal have been close friends bound by shared history, faith and cultural ties, and New Delhi stood firmly with the people of the neighbouring country during its transitional phase. "I want to congratulate Karki on behalf of 140 crore Indians. I am confident that she will pave the way for peace, stability, and prosperity in Nepal," the PM said.

Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki on Friday night became Nepal's first woman prime minister to lead an interim government.

"Karki occupying the top post of that country is an example of women's empowerment," Modi asserted.

Her appointment ended days of political uncertainty after the K P Sharma Oli dispensation was forced to quit in the face of a nationwide agitation triggered by a social media ban.

Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and the youth protesters, who spearheaded the agitation.

The PM also lauded the resilience of the Nepali people, noting how citizens,



UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

KATHMANDU: The United Nations on Saturday sent a congratulatory message to Nepal's newly-elected prime minister Sushila Karki who has been appointed to lead an interim government following a week of violent anti-government protests. Hanna Singer-Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal, said, "At this pivotal moment, the United Nations stands alongside the people of Nepal in their aspirations for peace, justice, transparency, accountability and progress." She also recognised the contributions of the president, the chief of army staff and 'Gen Z' youth leaders, noting that their efforts "helped make this transition possible". Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Ram Chandra Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and representatives of youth protesters. President Paudel administered the oath of office to former chief justice Karki, 73, on Friday three days after Oli resigned from the prime minister's post following the worst unrest that the Himalayan nation has witnessed in decades. Oli quit on Tuesday shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during Monday's protests.

especially young men and women, were taking part in cleaning and painting buildings in the past few days, amid political turbulence.

"I also want to congratulate the people of Nepal who, despite such turbulent times, have kept democratic values supreme," Modi said, draw-

ing applause from the gathering.

Emphasising India's solidarity, the PM said both nations were "moving forward together", and reiterated New Delhi's commitment to support Nepal's democratic journey and its aspiration for stability.

Delhi CM restores promotion of 100 electricity dept employees

NEW DELHI

ACCUSING previous governments of neglecting Delhi for 27 years, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday approved promotion and other benefits for 100 employees of the Electricity Department and reiterated her commitment to transparent administration. Addressing the electricity department employees at the Delhi Secretariat, CM Gupta said: "The government is committed to put the city back on the road to development, ending 27 years of neglect and mismanagement."

"With this commitment, we are forging new tra-



ditions of transparency, honesty, and good governance," she said.

"This is truly a moment of joy and satisfaction that the long struggle of the employees has yielded a happy outcome today. The promotion and time-

bound promotion benefits received by more than 100 employees are not just an administrative decision but a restoration of justice," CM Rekha Gupta said in a message on X. During the meeting with the Chief Minister, employees of the Electricity Department expressed their gratitude to the government for restoring long-pending promotions.

Informing residents about the other development works in the constituency, she said, "New street lights are being installed in the area, while across the entire Delhi, more than 44,000 new lights will be installed to further strengthen lighting and security." (IANS)

IN BRIEF

FB post lands man in judicial custody

MANGALURU: A Facebook post linking religious processions and mosques has resulted in the arrest of a Bengaluru-based man, highlighting growing concerns about provocative content on social media platforms. The arrested individual, identified as Mahesh Vikram Hegde (45), was booked by Moodbidri Police after he uploaded a message on September 9 under the account name "Post Card." The post, framed as an appeal to the Chief Minister, urged bulldozer action against a mosque allegedly involved in stone-throwing incidents during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession. Police said the content was "provocative and capable of disrupting communal peace." A case was registered under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigators located Hegde in Bengaluru, where he was taken into custody and brought to Moodbidri. He was presented before the local CJ and JMFC court on September 12, which ordered his judicial custody. Senior police officials said the case serves as a reminder that inflammatory social media posts will not be tolerated. The investigation will examine whether others were involved in amplifying the post. The arrest comes at a time when Karnataka Police have increased monitoring of online platforms for content that could potentially spark communal discord.

Court awards death penalty for rape and murder of minor

MANGALURU: In a case that drew widespread attention, a special court in Dakshina Kannada on Thursday awarded the death penalty to a 51-year-old man convicted of raping and murdering his minor niece in Jokatte, Mangaluru, last year. The convict, identified as Fakkeerappa Hanumappa Madar, a resident of Belagavi district, was found guilty of entering a rented house on the morning of August 6, 2024, where he assaulted the girl before killing her. The Additional District and Sessions Court (FTSC-2 POCOS) handed down the death penalty under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). It also imposed life imprisonment and a fine of ₹50,000 under Section 4(2) of the POCOS Act. Additional fines and imprisonment terms were ordered under criminal trespass provisions. According to police, the investigation was carried out swiftly, with a chargesheet filed within a year. The accused remained in custody throughout the proceedings. The trial concluded in just 13 months, resulting in a rare death penalty verdict under the new BNS framework. Senior police officials, including former city commissioner Anupam Agarwal and DCPs Siddharth Goyal, BP Dinesh Kumar, and Mithun HN, supervised the probe. Inspector Mohammed Saleem Abbas of Panambur Police led the investigation, with Special Public Prosecutor Sahana Devi arguing the case. Police said the judgment underscores the judiciary's strong stance on crimes against minors.

Triton Valves celebrates 50 glorious years

BENGALURU: Triton Valves Limited, India's largest manufacturer of automotive tyre valves and a leading engineering partner to industries worldwide, commemorated its 50th anniversary with a grand celebration on Wednesday at Bengaluru. The event, marking five decades of pioneering excellence, innovation, and resilience, was attended by key dignitaries, partners, and industry leaders from the automotive sector. The distinguished evening was graced by Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the Maharaja of Mysore, Nandan Nilekani, Co-founder & Chairman of Infosys, and Swapnil Jain, Co-founder of Ather Energy, alongside guests including industry leaders, partners, and employees.

Food Minister mulls revoking BPL cards for high-income holders

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DAVANAGERE

KARNATAKA'S Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa announced that the state government is contemplating the cancellation of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards for individuals with an annual income exceeding Rs. 1.20 lakh. In a media interaction on Saturday in Davanagere, Muniyappa explained that a survey conducted by the Union government has identified the need to revoke such cards to ensure benefits reach only the truly deserving. "The central government has carried out a survey, and based on its findings,



BPL cards of those with annual incomes above Rs. 1.20 lakh must be cancelled. We are deliberating on this and will implement it as required," he stated, emphasising the importance of refining the beneficiary list without compromising wel-

Minister warns against communalising Ganesh immersion tragedy



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HASSAN

DISTRICT in-charge Minister Krishna Byregowda has strongly warned that attempts to give a communal colour to the horrific Ganesh immersion tragedy at Mosalehosahalli will not be tolerated. He said such acts amount to a criminal offence and strict legal action will be taken against those responsible. After visiting the residence of Prabhakar, a victim from Holenarasipura taluk, to console the grieving family, Byregowda told reporters, "This is a heart-wrenching tragedy. On behalf of the government, I express my deepest condolences. The loss suffered by the families cannot be compensated with words. We share in their grief, and each bereaved family will be given compensation of Rs 5 lakh." On the treatment of the injured, he explained, "Arrangements have been made for their treatment in the hospital. I had directed the district

administration to complete legal formalities overnight and hand over the bodies without delay. Postmortem examinations were conducted and the bodies were handed over to families by 3 am." Byregowda also disclosed that the accident raised suspicions when seen on video. "The truck first hit a bike, then accelerated again, ramming the divider and ploughing into the Ganesh procession, causing the tragedy," he said. On the driver's condition, the minister clarified, "Blood samples were collected last night to test whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The samples have been sent to the forensic lab with a request for immediate results. Tests at HIMs ruled out drug use." He further added, "When I met locals, they shared many concerns and suggestions. It is our duty to respond with compassion. The government will carefully consider their inputs and take necessary action."

'Govt creating controversies over Ganesh festival celebrations'

BENGALURU

THE Karnataka unit of BJP has criticised the Congress-led government, saying it is creating a series of controversies regarding celebration of Ganesh festival. Speaking to the media on Saturday at the BJP State Office, Jagannath Bhavan in Bengaluru, the Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said that the government is more afraid of minorities than supporting them, because it does not have the power to control them. Therefore, the state government is creating controversies by not allowing the

Ganesh festivities to take place. The Congress government stands in the favor of minorities. On one hand, it claims to support minorities, and on the other, it acts out caste-based politics in fear of them, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy criticised. He added that, as per tradition, Ganeshotsava (Ganesh festival) has been celebrated peacefully without any disturbances in the past. "The Chief Minister is taking back criminal cases of minorities for political mileage and attempting to present them as peace ambassadors. This is disrupting peace across the state," he alleged.

Families mourn engineering students among 9 dead in accident

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HASSAN

THE horrific road accident at Mosalehosahalli in Hassan district on Friday night has left nine people dead, including three engineering students from different districts. Among the deceased were Praveen Kumar from Ballari, Mithun from Chitradurga, and Suresh from Chikkamagaluru. Their bodies were brought back to their native villages on Saturday, where grief-stricken families and residents broke down in tears. Of the nine victims, eight were under 25 years of age, with the ninth being a 55-year-old man from Hassan. The untimely deaths of these youngsters have devastated their families and friends, leaving behind a trail of inconsolable sorrow. Praveen Kumar, a final-year engineering student originally from Nagalakere in Ballari, was the only son of his widowed mother, Sushilamma. Despite grinding poverty, she worked as a cook in a private hospital to support her son's education. Having lost her husband when Praveen was just two years old, she raised him with dreams that one day he would secure a good job and lift the family out of hardship. Those dreams were shattered when his lifeless body returned home in an ambulance on Saturday morning. Villagers wept alongside the grieving mother, whose cries pierced the air. His aunt, sobbing uncontrollably, said: "My sister worked day and night in the hospital to educate her son. Last night we got a call saying he was hurt in the leg. We prayed for his safe return, but today he came back as a body. He was like a son to all of us." Hundreds of Praveen's friends gathered at his home, shedding tears and promising to stand by the family in this dark time. In Chitradurga, Mithun, a final-year student at the Government Engineering College in Hosadurga, also met a tragic end. What made his death even more heart-wrenching was that it came just hours after he had celebrated his birthday on Friday. His friends recalled cutting a cake and wishing him, unaware that it would be his last celebration. In Chikkamagaluru's Manenahalli, the body of student Suresh was brought to his village for the final rites. His brother Raju lit the funeral pyre as the entire village mourned in silence. Former minister and MLC C.T. Ravi

visited the grieving family and offered condolences. Former minister B. Sriramulu also visited Praveen Kumar's home in Ballari, where he demanded that the government enhance compensation for the poor family. "The government must provide at least Rs 10 lakh to Praveen's family. No amount can bring him back, but greater support can help his mother survive this unbearable loss," Sriramulu said. The tragedy has left not just families, but entire communities in Ballari, Chitradurga, and Chikkamagaluru in deep mourning, as the young victims were seen as the future of their households.



PM announces Rs 2 lakh ex gratia

BENGALURU

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday expressed grief over the tragic incident of a truck ploughing into the Ganesh Visarjan procession, leading to the death of nine people. "The mishap in Hassan, Karnataka, is heart-rending. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those who have been injured recover at the earliest," the

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) quoted PM Modi as saying in a post on the social media platform X. "An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," it said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed his condolences over the tragic incident and announced Rs 5 lakh compensation and free treatment to injured persons.

BEML, DIAT join forces to boost defence, aerospace innovation

BENGALURU

BEML Limited, a leading public sector company under the Ministry of Defence, and the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a premier deemed university under the same ministry, on Friday entered into a strategic partnership to promote innovation and academic excellence in the defence and aerospace sectors. The Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged in the presence of BEML Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy and DIAT Vice-Chancellor B H V S Narayana Murthy, and formally signed by BEML Executive Director M G G Raju and DIAT Dean Sangeeta Kale, along with senior lead-



ership from both institutions. BEML, in a statement, said the collaboration will drive advanced research in frontier technologies, support academic programmes leading to postgraduate and doctoral degrees, and facilitate the development of case studies, white papers, and research articles. The partnership will also

include capsule programmes, industry immersions, internships for DIAT scholars at BEML, and BEML-sponsored doctoral enrolments, it added. On the occasion, Roy said, "This collaboration represents a significant step in strengthening India's self-reliance in defence and aerospace.

Opposition mounting against new irrigation project in Uttara Kannada

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARWAR

A fresh irrigation project proposed for Uttara Kannada district has sparked strong opposition from seers, legislators, and Members of Parliament. They have demanded that the government first conduct a carrying capacity study of the district and review the ecological impact of river-linking and the Sharavathi Pump Storage Project before moving forward. The current proposal seeks to link the Shalmala and Bedti rivers with the Varada river and divert water to Haveri district. Haveri MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has repeatedly spoken in favor of the plan. The state government has also signaled readiness to implement the Sharavathi Pump

Storage Project in the district. However, both projects have drawn widespread resistance locally. Critics argue that Uttara Kannada has already made enormous sacrifices, hosting several hydel and dam projects, including the Kaiga project. Locals fear that further projects could lead to more landslides and ecological imbalance. Speaking on the issue, Uttara Kannada MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said: "The district's carrying capacity must be studied before taking up any new project. I have raised this in Parliament as well. The government cannot push new projects without assessing their long-term impact. People here have already sacrificed much for earlier projects and remain displaced without proper support.

Culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussehra festival: CM

MYSURU

COMMENTING on the controversy over the Mysuru Dussehra inauguration by International Booker Prize awardee Banu Mudda, the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that the matter should be settled in court. He further stressed that culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussehra festival and it is not of any one religion. Speaking to the media in Mysuru on Saturday, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "Culturally, people of all religions



participate in Dussehra festival. Dussehra is a state festival, not limited to a single religion or community. Everyone from all castes and religions can participate." He further said that if former BJP MP Pratap Simha tried to disturb peace, the police would take action. Answering media queries about alleged delays in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe in the Dharmasthala case, the Chief Minister said there was no delay. "The SIT is conducting its investigations independently, and the government

is not intervening. There is no reason for unnecessary delay, and as far as I know, there is no delay," he said. On the FIRs filed against BJP MLC C.T. Ravi and MLA Basanagouda Yatnal for allegedly making inflammatory speeches following the Ganesh Visarjan violence in Maddur town, the Chief Minister said that maintaining peace and public order is essential. Action would be taken against anyone giving provocative speeches and this is not a political matter. In response to a ques-

tion that the violent act was planned against Hindus, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he is "also a Hindu, and both the names Ishwar and Ram are part of my name." Talking about the Ganesh Visarjan tragedy in which nine people were killed and 20 injured in Hassan district, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "The government providing compensation to the families of the deceased does not equate to equaling the death. Compensation is provided as a gesture of condolence to the bereaved families."



Westside Launches new game-changer programme

BENGALURU: Westside, one of India's leading fashion retail brands, part of Trent Ltd., unveiled its Young New Game-changer (YNG) programme, an inspiring initiative designed to celebrate and nurture India's next generation of fashion creators.

For its debut edition, Westside collaborated with NIFT, inviting students to reimagine two of its most-loved in-house labels, Bombay Paisley and ETA. Under the new YNG label, a bold and Gen Z-inspired collection had been showcased. The first look of YNG was revealed at Westside's Media Day on 11th September, an intimate celebration of creativity that brought together members of the press, content creators, potential partners, and Westside's own community of customers. Alongside the YNG capsule collections, the event also featured Westside's seasonal fashion showcase, offering audiences a glimpse into the brand's evolving creative direction.

With YNG, Westside has created a dynamic stage for young designers, stylists, models, influencers, photographers, videographers, and hair and make-up artists to express their talent in a professional fashion environment. "As a lifestyle brand, Westside has always been committed to creating meaningful spaces where young voices can thrive," said Shailina, COO, Westside. "Through YNG, we gave emerging talent the opportunity to design for real brands, build strong portfolios, and gain valuable industry experience while being rewarded for their work. It was truly a celebration of creativity, collaboration, and the entrepreneurial spirit of Gen Z."

Goods vehicle runs over woman

BENGALURU: A 45-year-old woman pedestrian was killed when a goods vehicle ran over her in Cottonpete area of Bengaluru, police said on Saturday. The deceased Anjadevi, a resident of Cottonpete area, was walking on the Mill Road in Bengaluru's Cottonpete along with another woman at around 5.30 pm on Friday when a speeding goods vehicle came from behind and ran over her. A CCTV camera has recorded the scene, police added. Another woman who was accompanying the deceased had a miraculous escape with minor injuries, a senior police officer said. After running over the woman, the goods vehicle rammed seven other vehicles. Four bikes and three cars got damaged in this, said the officer. A case was registered at the Chamarajapete Traffic police station and the driver of the goods vehicle was arrested, police said.

Shivakumar is second richest minister in India: ADR report

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister and Bangalore Development Minister D K Shivakumar has emerged as the second richest minister in the country, with declared assets of over ₹1,413 crore, according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report highlights Karnataka's prominence in wealth concentration within politics, with eight of its cabinet members qualifying

as billionaires, the highest among all states. Andhra Pradesh follows with six billionaire ministers, while Maharashtra has four.

The richest minister in India is Dr Chandrasekhar Pemmasani of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), a doctor-turned-politician who represents Guntur in the 18th Lok Sabha and serves as Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications. Pemmasani has declared assets exceeding ₹5,705 crore.

Another prominent name from Karnataka is Urban

Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, representing Hebbal constituency, who ranks fifth on the national list with assets worth ₹648 crore. Among chief ministers, Andhra Pradesh's N Chandrababu Naidu tops the chart with declared assets of ₹931 crore, making him the wealthiest serving CM.

The ADR study also lists other high-net-worth ministers, including Narayana Ponguru and Nara Lokesh from Andhra Pradesh, Gaddam Vivekanand and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy



from Telangana, Suresh B S from Karnataka, Mangal Prabhat Lodha from Maharashtra, and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Party-wise, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accounts for the highest number of billionaire ministers — 14, representing 4% of its ministerial strength. The Congress comes second, with 11 billionaire ministers out of 61 (18%), followed by the TDP, which has six such ministers, constituting 26% of its council. Other parties including the Aam Aadmi Party, Jana Sena

Party, JD(S), NCP, and Shiv Sena also feature in the list. The ADR's analysis covered 643 ministers across state assemblies, Union territories, and the Union cabinet. Of these, 36 ministers, or about 6%, declared assets exceeding ₹100 crore. Collectively, ministers across the country hold assets valued at around ₹23,929 crore. The findings are likely to renew discussions about wealth accumulation in politics and the growing disparity between public representatives and the citizens they serve.

Won't let any injustice happen in Hemavati project: Govt

BENGALURU

FOLLOWING the violence and stiff opposition from the BJP and local farmers, the Congress-led government in Karnataka has assured that the government will ensure no injustice in controversial Hemavati Link Canal.

Earlier, violence erupted in May and June 2025 during protests against the Hemavati Express Link Canal Project in Gubbi taluk, Tumakuru district, Karnataka, where an estimated 20,000 farmers, along with BJP and JD (S) legislators and seers, clashed with police, blocked highways, damaged property, and engaged in stone-pelting bringing the work at the Hemavati Link Canal Project to a halt. After inspecting the Hemavati Link Canal work site near Sunkapur in Tumakuru, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is also the Water Resources Minister, spoke to the media and made a statement in this regard on Friday. "I have inspected the work site of the Hemavati Link Canal project and held discussions with officials to ensure that no one is subjected to injustice," assured Shivakumar. "No farmer should be worried about this matter. I will discuss with officials in Bengaluru and make decisions to safeguard the interests of the farmers in Tumakuru district. It is not just Kunigal, but all constituencies that matter to us. Let us all work together within the framework of the law. What-



ever your problem is, I will resolve it," he said confidently.

"I have come here to inspect the Hemavati Link Canal project site based on the advice of Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti V. Somanna and legislators. I am not limited to one constituency. I am the Water Resources Minister of Karnataka state. The development of all constituencies in Tumakuru district is our responsibility. The people of Tumakuru have always cooperated with us calmly in every situation," he added. "This project was initiated when Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy was the CM and I was the Water Resources Minister.

Later, the BJP government halted the project. As a result, the project cost of Rs 600 crore has now increased to Rs 1,000 crore. This struggle has been ongoing since the time of late prominent politician Y.K. Ramayya. We have decided to ensure justice. Work has already begun, and we have released Rs 400 crore for pipe

procurement and construction. This work is expected to be completed within 4-5 months," he said.

"From the Cauvery, 177 TMC of water must be released to Tamil Nadu. So far, 220 TMC of water has already been released this year from Hemavati, Harangi, Kabini, and KRS reservoirs. With the possibility of more rainfall in the next 4-5 months, around 200 TMC of water is expected to reach the sea. We must prevent this and help our farmers by channeling the water through canals. This project has been introduced to use the excess water only when available. All taluks are equally important to us," he said.

"I have inspected the work site. Under no circumstances will the water be allowed to flow below canal levels. We will maintain a consistent height and use SCADA technology to monitor the water flow. We must not allow disputes like the Cauvery water dispute with Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra to arise within our own

state," Shivakumar stated. "We have taken up a project under Ettinahole to supply drinking water to Kolar and Chikkaballapur, and when excess water is available, we will fill the tanks in these districts. We could have designed the project solely for drinking water purposes, excluding filling tanks, but we chose not to waste any surplus water. We are spending Rs 20,000 crore on this project. Through it, we are addressing groundwater depletion," he stated.

When asked about locals' demand that the water should flow through the main canals, he said, "It is not possible to change the plan I already decided. We will ensure there are no obstructions to water meant for other taluks. We will provide only the designated water share to Kunigal. There is no question of reducing water for you and giving more to them. During water scarcity, water will be distributed equally to all. Equal rights for everyone."

11 policemen suspended over 'nexus' with drug peddlers



BENGALURU

IN a shocking and concerning development, 11 policemen attached to two police stations, including a police inspector, have been suspended, pending departmental inquiry, on charges of colluding with a drug peddler in Bengaluru on Saturday.

According to police, the accused officers were hand in glove with a gang of peddlers selling drugs used as sedatives. The suspended personnel include Police Inspector, Head Constable, Assistant Sub-Inspector and police constables attached to Chamarajpet and JJ Nagar police stations.

The suspended officers allegedly collected protection money from the peddlers every month in exchange for allowing them to sell tablets as sedatives.

The racket was busted when RR Nagar Police arrested a group of six peddlers, including Salman, Nayaz Ullah, Nayaz Khan, and Taher Patel, on August 22. The accused were caught red-handed while selling narcotic tablets to customers, who were students and young employees. The police seized 1,000 tablets from them. During the investigation, police found that the accused were in regular contact with officers from Chamarajpet and JJ Nagar police stations. The nexus came to light when the accused persons' mobile phones were examined. It was found that the drug peddlers were in direct contact with the accused officers, exchanging audio messages and regular messages regarding financial transactions.

Investigating officers also found that the cops were

partying with the accused persons.

The matter was brought to the notice of ACP Kengeri Gate Bharath Reddy, who submitted a detailed report to the DCP West after thorough investigation. The case was later handed over to Vijayanagar ACP Chandan for further detailed probe.

The investigation revealed that the police were colluding with the peddlers, receiving protection money, and socialising with them. The accused officers allegedly used to collect between Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh from the peddlers.

The accused sold tidal tablets, which are not for sale without a doctor's prescription. The drug peddling nexus operated in the western part of the city, especially in Chamarajpet, JJ Nagar, and RR Nagar, for over a year.

Women's cricket World Cup in city



Former cricketers Mithali Raj and Dinesh Karthik during ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 trophy unveiling event in Bengaluru on Saturday

Notification issued to fix cinema ticket prices at Rs 200 in state

BENGALURU

THE Karnataka government on Friday issued notification, amending the Karnataka Cinema (Control) Rules, 2014 and fix ticket price in all theatres in the state, including multiplexes, at Rs 200, exclusive of all taxes.

However, multi-screen cinemas with premium facilities of 75 seats or less are exempted from the maximum ticket price limit of Rs 200. In July, the state government exercising the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Karnataka Cinema (Control) Act, 1964 (Karnataka Act No 23 of 1964) had made the draft rules to fur-



ther amend the Karnataka Cinema (Control) Rules, 2014. The government had invited feedback from the stakeholders within 15 days.

After thoroughly reviewing objections and suggestions, the Karnataka gov-

ernment finalised the rules. According to the notification, Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025 will come into force from the date of their final publication in the Official Gazette.

Two killed as canter rams into auto & car

BENGALURU

TWO people, including a woman, were killed in an accident on Saturday morning after a canter vehicle rammed into the auto at the busy Sumanahalli Junction Road in Bengaluru. The passengers travelling in the car have sustained major injuries.

The incident was reported from Kamakshipalya Traffic Police Station. It occurred after the driver of the canter vehicle lost control and collided with an auto and a car. A female passenger travelling in the auto, along with the male driver, was killed on the spot.

The deceased were identified as D. Yesu and Jennifer.

'Raise Shivajinagar Metro Station renaming issue with Centre'

BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday asked his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis to take up with the central government any objections regarding the proposal to name the upcoming metro station near Shivajinagar in the city after St Mary.

The chief minister was responding to Fadnavis' objection to the Karnataka government's plan, which he termed "an insult to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj." "Let him (Fadnavis)

speak to the Government of India. We will send (recommendation on naming) to them (Centre); let him speak to them," Siddaramaiah told reporters here in response to a question.

Siddaramaiah's positive response earlier this month to the proposal has elicited objections from some sections, including the opposition BJP, which has termed the move as appeasement.

Participating in the inauguration of the annual feast at St Mary's Basilica on September 8, Siddaramaiah said his government would

recommend the naming to the Centre. The metro station is part of the under-construction Pink Line in the city.

Reacting to Fadnavis' remarks, state Home Minister G Parameshwara on Friday asked, "Why is Fadnavis interested in Karnataka and Bengaluru's matter all of a sudden? I don't know." He added, "Decision regarding naming metro stations will be taken by the in-charge of Bengaluru development and Deputy Chief Minister (D K Shivakumar), as it is a matter related to Bengaluru."

Accusing the Congress government of "appeasement politics," Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Thursday said the naming should not be based on religion and that his party would oppose it.

"Will they remove the name Shivajinagar? They should not go beyond the limits to please someone. Appeasement has become the first choice of the Congress party.

Because of appeasement, the party has gone to the

dogs now; still, they are doing appeasement politics. It will not work. We will not allow it," the BJP leader told reporters.

There have also been objections on social media to the naming on religious grounds, with some demanding that metro stations should be named after the locality or notable personalities. Some have suggested naming the station after the late Kannada actor Shankar Nag, who is credited with envisioning Bengaluru's rapid transit system in the 1980s.



KTR parroting BJP's remarks against Gandhi family: TPCC chief

Accuses BRS working president of acting under the influence of BJP leaders to evade inquiries related to Kaleshwaram project

HYDERABAD

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud has criticised BRS working president KT Rama Rao for making derogatory remarks about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his family.

"KTR is speaking out of turn. What is your status, KTR? Do you have the standing to comment on the Gandhi family, who have dedicated everything for the nation," he said.

During a media briefing at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh Kumar Goud accused the BRS working president of acting under the influence of BJP leaders to evade inquiries related to the Kaleshwaram project. "BJP leaders are behind KTR's statements. His criticism of



Rahul is an attempt to win praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he asserted.

The TPCC chief claimed that the BRS's position was revealed by its failure to support Sudershan Reddy in the Vice Presidential election, indicating its indirect backing of the NDA government.

"The BJP and BRS are not distinct entities. Kavitha's comments clearly show that the BRS has aligned itself mentally with the BJP," Mahesh Kumar Goud stated.

The TPCC chief called for a thorough investigation into the Kaleshwaram corruption and criticised Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay for their silence on the matter.

Mahesh Kumar Goud noted, "Kishan Reddy had promised to make details about the Kaleshwaram corruption public within 48 hours if the case was transferred to the CBI, yet he has not responded. Why is he not speaking up? We suspect that the investigation into Kaleshwaram was halted as part of the proposed merger between the BRS and BJP."

Cong files police complaint against KTR, demands apology

Says his irresponsible statement has the potential to tarnish the government's reputation

Warns of suing for Rs 100 crore damages to the State government

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Congress party on Saturday lodged a complaint against BRS working president K T Rama Rao at OU police station, following his allegations that Group-1 posts were sold for Rs 3 crore each.

PCC general secretary Chanagani Dayakar demanded that the former MA&UD Minister apologise lest he gets sued for Rs 100 crore as damages to the State



government. Demanding that KTR prove his allegations, the Congress leader held that his irresponsible statement has the potential to tarnish the government's

reputation. "KTR should apologise to the government within 24 hours. Otherwise we will file a defamation suit of 100 crores against the BRS leader," he warned, while

briefing to the media following the complaint.

Dayakar recalled how the BRS party failed the youth and unemployed through its failed policies. "The pink

party which was in power for ten years, was unable to conduct Group 1 exams. I strongly condemn KTR's comments that incite hatred against the government among the unemployed. The Telangana government is committed to the welfare of the unemployed. While we respect the court's verdict, the BRS is engaged in petty politics over the system ordained by the constitution. KTR is distorting the court verdict. KTR's allegation that CM and Ministers took 3 crores from the candidates is a proof of ignorance. It is time for Telangana's unemployed youth to give befitting response to the poisonous campaign unleashed by KTR," he said.

Top woman Maoist leader surrenders before police

She was associated with the outlawed organisation for 43 years

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A top leader of CPI (Maoist), Pothula Padmayathi, also known as Kalpana, Mynakka, Mainabai and Sujatha, surrendered before the Director General of Police Dr Jitender in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Sujatha, a Central Committee member (CCM), secretariat member, South Sub-Zonal bureau secretary and in-charge of Janathana Sarkar, the Maoists' parallel governance system under the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, aged 62 years, was associated with the movement for the last 43 years.

Hailing from Jogulamba Gadwal, she was married to senior Maoist leader Mallojula Koteswar Rao, also known as Kishanji, who served as Central Committee member and secretary of the West Bengal State Committee. Kishanji was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in West Midnapore, West Bengal, in November 2011. The



couple has one daughter. Jitender, said Sujatha entered the movement in December 1982 while studying Intermediate at Government Junior College, Gadwal. She was influenced by her cousins, Patel Sudhakar Reddy, Pothula Sudershan Reddy and Suguna. She worked with the group in multiple States until May 2025 and then, citing health, requested to leave the organisation. She

expressed her wish to live peacefully with her family and avail rehabilitation benefits.

She carried a reward of Rs 25 lakh, which has now been given to her through a demand draft.

The DGP appealed to remaining underground cadres to return to their native places and join the mainstream, assuring them of immediate relief and support measures under

the rehabilitation scheme to live with dignity and independence.

So far in 2025, 404 underground cadres have surrendered, including four State Committee Members, one Divisional Committee Secretary, eight Divisional Committee Members and 34 Area Committee Members. Of the 15 Central Committee Members of CPI (Maoist), ten are natives of Telangana.

GOVT WILL GIVE ARMS TO EXCISE OFFICIALS: JUPALLY

Asks them to act with 'iron fist' on smuggling and illegal trade of ganja, drugs, country liquor and NDPL (non-duty paid liquor)

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

PROHIBITION & Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has instructed officials to act with 'iron fist' on smuggling and illegal trade of ganja, drugs, country liquor and NDPL (non-duty paid liquor).

Reviewing enforcement activities with State Task Force (STF), District Task Force (DTF) and excise enforcement teams at the department headquarters, the Minister said the government was ready to provide arms to special enforcement staff if necessary. "Those who perform well will be given arms and trained," he said.

The review meeting explored the possibility of handing over weapons to Excise Department officials. "What do the regulations say about handing over weapons to Excise department officials? What are the obstacles to this? Have weapons been handed over to Excise Department officials anywhere in other states?" the Minister asked officials, suggesting that the policies followed in other states should be fully studied and the possibilities



should be examined.

The Minister instructed officials to take strict action against ganja, synthetic drugs, illicit arrack and non-duty paid liquor, stressing that protecting people's lives is the government's responsibility.

He told them to study illicit jaggery production and sales, and prepare guidelines to divert seized jaggery to farmers for organic fertiliser production.

He also asked them to explore ways to use non-duty paid liquor without destroying it, including recognising it as a national product for controlled sale.

He emphasised strict focus on ganja and synthetic drugs manufacturing, transport and consumption, and ordered checks on illegal industries in Nacharam and Cherlapally.

The Minister noted that toddy tapping had declined as youth were staying away from climbing palm and date trees.

He said steps should be taken to encourage breweries to use toddy commercially. He asked officials to monitor bars operating multiple outlets under a single licence, farmhouses and brandy shops violating sitting rules. He also directed

surveillance of closed rice mills and other sensitive areas.

Principal secretary Rizvi, Excise Commissioner C Hari Kiran, Enforcement Director Shah Nawaz Qasim and Additional Commissioner Syed Yasin Qureshi attended the meeting.

Excise commissioner Hari Kiran said the department revenues had fallen but sales may rise during the upcoming Dasara festival.

Enforcement director Shah Nawaz Qasim said action plans had been drawn up to curb ganja, synthetic drugs, illicit liquor and non-duty paid liquor.

CM pays tributes to Burgula Ramakrishna Rao

HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday paid rich tributes to Dr. Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, the first Chief Minister of erstwhile Hyderabad State, on his death anniversary. Remembering him as a 'multilingual scholar, freedom fighter and statesman', the Chief Minister highlighted Burgula Ramakrishna Rao's remarkable contributions to the state. He recalled that as

Revenue Minister, Burgula had accorded statutory status to the Bhoodan movement initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and had also introduced pioneering land reforms.

He said that Burgula Ramakrishna Rao's political acumen, legal expertise, and unwavering commitment to public welfare continue to inspire the present and future generations.

He also fondly remembered his immense contributions to the social and cultural spheres.

SEVEN ARRESTED FOR ROBBERY

HYDERABAD: Seven people were arrested within 24 hours of a daring daylight robbery in Shankarpally near here, police said on Saturday. A gang of robbers on Friday made away with about Rs 31.50 lakh from a businessman's employee here after ramming their vehicle into his car. Rakesh Agarwal, a businessman, had deputised his manager Saibaba to collect Rs 40 lakh from a customer in Vikarabad. Saibaba hired the car of his acquaintance Madhu, who also drove it. Madhu had often accompanied him on trips to transport cash and other materials for the company. During investigation, police found that Madhu, suspecting Saibaba would be carrying large sums of cash on Friday, conspired with two old friends, who roped in others to form a seven-member gang. As planned, when Saibaba and Madhu were returning after collecting the money, the gang rammed their vehicle into the car. Three members then assaulted Saibaba and decamped with the bag containing cash. While fleeing, their vehicle overturned. Other gang members following behind rescued them and escaped. Police first arrested the owner of the car that had overturned. Further investigation and alerts to Sangareddy and Shadnagar police led to the arrest of the remaining accused.

Kukatpally murder case: Accused arrested in Ranchi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE brutal Kukatpally murder case that shook Hyderabad has reached a breakthrough, with both accused nabbed in Ranchi following a high-stakes police manhunt across State lines.

A detailed investigation exposes major gaps in the recruitment and verification of domestic staff within gated communities, which were once thought to be secure.

Accused arrested in Ranchi in a sensational development, Harsha and Roshan are the house helps hailing from Ranchi—were arrested on Saturday. The two accused, recruited via a Kolkata-based agency, brutally killed 50-year-old Renu Agarwal by tying her hands and legs, battering her with a pressure cooker, and slitting her throat in a chilling attack while her family was away.

The attackers fled with



around 7 tolas of gold ornaments, 16 watches, and old Motorola mobile phones, escaping on a scooter left near Hafeezpet railway station thinking they would go to Secunderabad railway station and to Ranchi.

With the help from a cab driver who informed the police when he noticed suspicious behavior when the duo booked a cab for Rs 15,000 to Ranchi, bypassing police checkpoints, breaking their escape route, the police traced their movement through city CCTV, watched the news go viral,

and made arrests.

Swift coordination between CCS, SOT, and local police led to their capture right after an attempted gold exchange for cash at a Marwari gold shop in Ranchi. Commissioner of Police Avinash Mahanty said both suspects will be brought back to Hyderabad after being presented in the local Ranchi court.

The police also highlighted the growing danger posed by the unchecked recruitment of domestic staff from agencies—many operating without robust

background checks. Both accused carried multiple identities and criminal records; prime suspect Harsha is noted for substance abuse and previous stints at rehab in Kolkata. Roshan was also involved in multiple property crimes in Jharkhand and was awaiting his chance to commit offences locally.

The Commissioner advised all residents to submit thorough personal details of the hired domestic staff to their local police station. This, he explained, is vital for both security and swift identification if any crime occurs, a measure that might have preempted incidents like the Swan Lake attack. Gated communities, often promoted as inherently safe, are now facing difficult questions after this incident.

The police urge residents and agencies to rigorously verify credentials to prevent the infiltration of repeat offenders and abusers into homes.



Rs 20 lakh donated for govt jr college building

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

IN support of MLA Veerlapalli Shankar's efforts to promote education for underprivileged students, Khaju, the owner of SKP (RMC) Plant from Jahangir Peer Dargah in Kothur mandal, made a generous financial contribution on Saturday. At the MLA camp office in the town, Khaju handed over a cheque for Rs 20 lakh to MLA Veerlapalli Shankar as his contribution toward the construction of the Shadnagar Government Junior

College building.

MLA Shankar appreciated the donors who are coming forward to support the construction of the college building aimed at the welfare of poor students.

He stated that Khaju's substantial donation of Rs 20 lakh is commendable and expressed hope that more donors would step forward to contribute in the future.

The MLA personally facilitated the donor and remarked that it is a matter of pride that businessmen from JP Dargah are actively participating in such noble causes.

Innovative medical device offers hope for lymphedema patients

TWO CELEBRITY WOMAN SURGEONS INVENTED THE DEVICE

MV SYAM SUNDAR

Two visionary surgeons, Dr. Sumita Shankar, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon and Dr Kruthi Nanduri, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon have co-invented a groundbreaking medical device that could significantly benefit patients suffering from filarial lymphedema, a condition often referred to as “elephant leg” which is particularly prevalent in the Godavari districts.

Lymphedema is a chronic condition causing swelling from a buildup of lymph fluid in the body’s tissues, most commonly in the arms or legs. It occurs when the lymphatic system—responsible for draining this fluid—is damaged or blocked. While it can’t be cured, early treatment can help relieve symptoms and improve daily function.

Their invention, the ‘Limb Decongestion Sleeve Using Negative Pressure’, was recently awarded a patent by the Government of India. The design is protected under Designs Act, 2000, for ten years with the possibility of extension up to 15 years. This protection grants exclusive rights to the inventors to further develop and commercialise the device.

The device is a non-invasive, user-friendly, and cost-effective solution designed to address chronic limb swelling by using a



Dr. Kruti Nanduri

gentle negative pressure mechanism. This technology helps to draw out excess fluid, reduce congestion, and restore healthy blood and lymphatic circulation.

“Our goal was to create a device that not only alleviates physical discomfort but also improves the quality of life for patients, particularly in low-resource settings,” said Dr. Sumita Shankar. She explained that the device offers a new approach to treating swelling in limbs,

children have benefited from these life-changing operations.

“It is deeply rewarding to support underprivileged

surgeon at Government General Hospital in Guntur. She is currently the Managing Director of Invictus Biocare Pvt. Ltd., a Guntur-

Two trailblazing surgeons, Dr. Sumita Shankar and Dr. Kruthi Nanduri, have co-invented a patented medical device to aid patients suffering from lymphedema. Their innovative “Limb Decongestion Sleeve Using Negative Pressure” offers a non-invasive, affordable solution to chronic limb swelling. The duo, known for their compassionate public service, continue to combine medical expertise with social impact

patients in accessing high-quality medical care. Empowering those children to overcome their social stigma and lead the best version of their lives is extremely fulfilling,” said Dr Nanduri. She had previously partnered with an American non-profit organisation ‘Reconstruct Together’ for providing free cleft lip and palate surgeries for underprivileged children in remote parts of Karnataka.

Meet the Inventors

Dr. Kruthi Nanduri is an accomplished Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon with a fellowship in Facial Plastic Surgery from England. With over a decade of surgical experience, she previously served as a civil assistant



Anuradha, Mohan Silaparasetty, R Ravi Kumar, Kk Maheshwari, Srinivas Garimella, Dr Tasneem Shariff at the opening of the workshop on AI for women at FTCCI

AI for Women: FTCCI hosts power-packed workshop in Hyderabad

The Ladies Wing Committee of FTCCI organised a day-long workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Women, drawing over 200 participants eager to explore how AI can transform careers, businesses, and everyday life.



R Ravi Kumar president of FTCCI seen delivering the opening remarks at the opening of the workshop on ai for women. Also seen are the 200 plus participants

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Red Hills, Hyderabad, witnessed an overwhelming response on Friday as women professionals, entrepreneurs, and aspiring founders gathered for a full-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Registrations had to be closed in advance due to high demand, reflecting the growing interest in AI literacy among women.

Welcoming participants, FTCCI President R. Ravi Kumar lightheartedly remarked, “Women are intelligent naturally. Why do you want to learn Artificial Intelligence? And that too from men?” He stressed FTCCI’s commitment to gender equality, noting that “AI is no longer optional. The future belongs to Women

in AI.” Dr. Tasneem Shariff, Chairperson of the Ladies Wing and Women Empowerment Committee, highlighted the historical role of women in technology—from Ada Lovelace to Grace Hopper—while underlining the need for greater representation in leadership and innovation today.

Keynote speaker Ms. Anuradha A, Executive Partner at IBM, drew inspiration from Garry Kasparov’s collaboration with IBM’s Deep Blue. She encouraged participants to see AI as an “amplifier, not an enemy,” stressing that success lies in human-AI collaboration. She emphasized

that AI adoption can boost efficiency, quality, and creativity across industries.

The sessions featured hands-on demos, case studies, and insights into GenAI and agentic AI applications led by Mr. Mohan Silaparasetty, Founder of Trendwise Analytics. The discussions reinforced how AI can empower women in career growth, entrepreneurship, leadership, and daily life management.

The day concluded with Mr. KK Maheshwari, Sr Vice President of FTCCI, proposing a vote of thanks. Participants left AI-ready—equipped with toolkits, insights, and networks for the future.

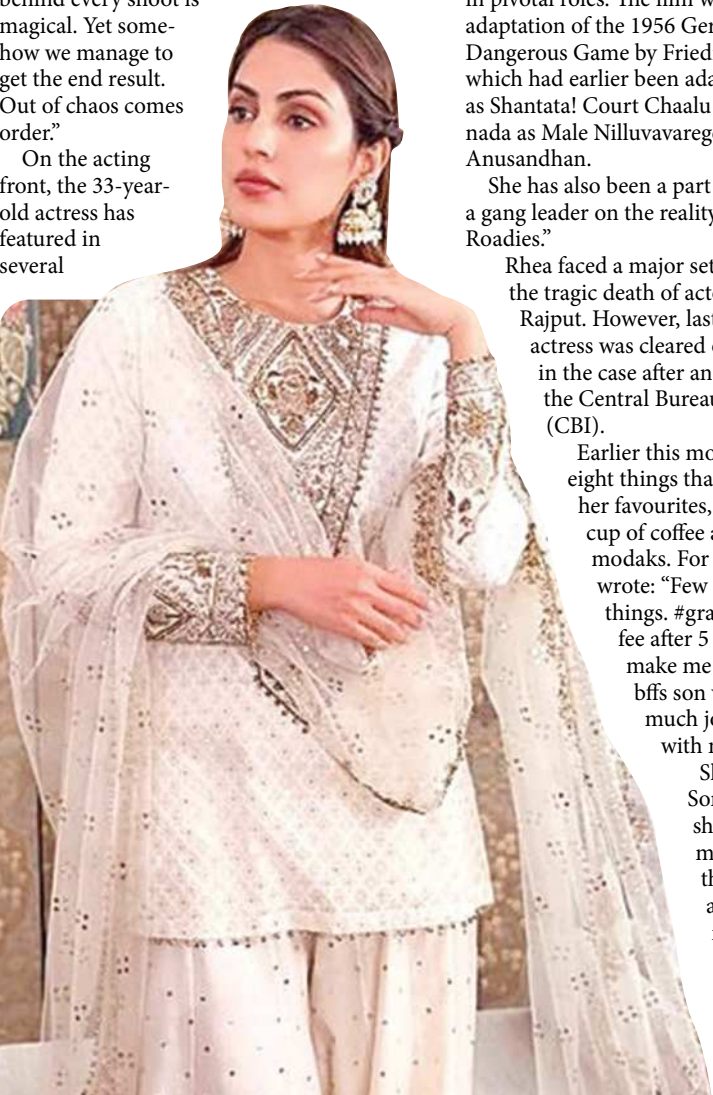
Rhea Chakraborty finds ‘chaos’ behind shoots ‘magical’

Actress Rhea Chakraborty shared a sneak-peek into the behind-the-scenes world of shooting and tagged the experience as both chaotic and magical.

Taking to Instagram, Rhea shared some BTS moments. In the string of videos and photos, the actress was seen in different outfits and posing for pictures.

She wrote: “The chaos behind every shoot is magical. Yet somehow we manage to get the end result. Out of chaos comes order.”

On the acting front, the 33-year-old actress has featured in several



films such as ‘Sonali Cable,’ ‘Bank Chor,’ ‘Half Girlfriend,’ ‘Dobaara: See Your Evil,’ and ‘Jalebi.’ In 2024, she made a significant impact with her new ventures, including a podcast and her fashion label.

She was last seen on the big screen in “Chehre” (2021), a mystery thriller directed by Romy Jafry. The movie also featured Amitabh Bachchan and Emraan Hashmi in pivotal roles. The film was an uncredited adaptation of the 1956 German novel A Dangerous Game by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, which had earlier been adapted in Marathi as Shantata! Court Chalu Aahe, in Kannada as Male Nilluvavarege and in Bengali as Anusandhan.

She has also been a part of television as a gang leader on the reality show “MTV Roadies.”

Rhea faced a major setback following the tragic death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. However, last month, the actress was cleared of any involvement in the case after an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Earlier this month, she listed out eight things that she stated are her favourites, which included a cup of coffee after five years and modaks. For the caption, she wrote: “Few of my favourite things. #grateful 1. Cup of coffee after 5 years. 2. Modaks make me very happy. 3. My bffs son veer brings me so much joy. 4. Love hanging with my homegirls.”

She added: “5. Sometimes those abs show (rarity). 6. Tell me a food better than paneer paratha and I’ll change my name. 7. Selfies while working out 8. Dancing backstage before going up is a stress buster.”

OF STYLE AND LUXURY

The Colosseum's monthly edition of Curated Corridors gave visitors a glimpse of high fashion, superior craftsmanship and superb design

ARUNA CHANDARAJU

Walking through the rooms and corridors of The Colosseum with its very elegant and immaculate interiors, is an experience to cherish in itself besides of course, the thrill of shopping for world-renowned brands from around the world and Indian designer goods. The Colosseum in Hyderabad is India’s largest luxury home-interiors destination. This multistoreyed complex is The place to visit in Hyderabad for those looking for world-class luxurious interiors and superior accessories; hence a must-visit for style-conscious HNIs, design enthusiasts, architects, and simply those who like to indulge in and celebrate the good life.



We were at the latest edition of Curated Corridors, a regular event presented by The Colosseum. The highlight was a Wardrobe Styling workshop by Darshana Tulshan where she shared her knowledge of how perfect wardrobe styling was an important element of luxury lifestyles. As she said to us: “I am delighted to share my insights with the visitors and many expressed that they gained interesting insights. The Colosseum allows our guests to see wardrobes not just as functional units, but as curated spaces that reflect who they are”

Another major draw for visitors was the Personal Styling workshop by Divisha Khaitan, founder of Cheese & Chase. “This is a wonderful opportunity and I love to see how my knowledge and tips help to enhance the appearance of people. It was a privilege to lead a workshop in a space of this kind that



celebrates individuality and design at such scale. The Colosseum itself embodies style and storytelling in every corner.”

Akshay Tulshan, Director, The Colosseum said: “I’m delighted to see so many connoisseurs here. The Colosseum is not just a store; it is a canvas for luxury experiences. As for our regular event, Curated Corridors, it has been about constantly pushing boundaries. We want to show that luxury is not confined to furniture and interiors but extends into every facet of life. With our luxury wardrobes, paired with styling workshops and curated pop-ups, we are bringing together all elements that define contemporary living.” These sentiments were echoed by Darshana, Managing Director, The Colosseum.

Also on show were curated pop-ups by Hypekicks (luxury sneakers and accessories by Rishi), Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas (bespoke jewellery by Sheetal Zaveri) and Design Era Pop Up (in collaboration with The Designer). The event brought expressive pop art to The Colosseum with impressive works by over 150 emerging Indian and global artists, including pieces from

their Privé collection.

As for Rishi, Founder, Hypekicks, he told visitors: “At Hypekicks, our focus has always been on exclusive sneakers, belts, bags, and accessories that stand out as luxury statements. Our pop-up allowed guests to explore luxury streetwear alongside timeless interiors—a powerful combination.”

Designer Sheetal Zaveri revealed: “At Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas, we believe jewellery isn’t merely an accessory—it reflects much more value as it carries heritage, craftsmanship, and personality. Our sterling silver pieces, with their timeless motifs and contemporary finishes, are handcrafted by Hyderabad craftspeople, so every item tells its own story.”

Riya, the Co-founder, Love From Home told us that her brand is rooted in the heritage of Jaipur, where every piece of jewellery is handcrafted painstakingly and lovingly by craftspeople’s. She exclaimed: “Presenting our collection at The Colosseum allowed us to connect with women who truly

appreciate artistry as part of their lifestyle. The response was amazing and highly encouraging.”

Indeed, Curated Corridors, the monthly experiential event of The Colosseum, is an event to look forward to. It is more than an event; it offers an immersive experience and makes the store a cultural hub. The Colosseum stands at the intersection of superior design, fashion and craftsmanship. So, if you appreciate luxury and artistry, you know where to head to in Hyderabad.



STUDY LINKS MICROPLASTICS TO ALZHEIMER'S RISK

A new study has raised alarms about the potential link between micro- and nanoplastics and the development of Alzheimer's disease, suggesting that these ubiquitous environmental pollutants may contribute to cognitive decline. The findings come from researchers at the University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy, who tested how plastic particles interact with the brain in mice.

Microplastics in everyday life

Micro- and nanoplastics, tiny fragments of plastic prevalent in the environment, regularly enter the human body. They are found in the water we drink, the food we eat, and even the air we breathe. While earlier research confirmed that microplastics can infiltrate all systems of the body—including the blood-brain barrier, a natural defense that protects the brain from harmful pathogens—this new study takes the concern further by directly connecting their presence to Alzheimer's-like symptoms.

Focus on genetic risk

The study, published in Environmental Research Communications, examined mice genetically modified to carry the APOE4 gene, a well-known risk factor for Alzheimer's

Mouse research reveals troubling findings



disease. Individuals with this gene are 3.5 times more likely to develop the condition than those carrying the APOE3 variant.

"In these mice, like in people, it's not a guarantee that you're going to see any changes in cognition," explained Jaime Ross, assistant professor of pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island. "You could have identical twins, both carrying APOE4, one totally cognitively healthy, and the other could develop Alzheimer's

disease. That tells us lifestyle and environmental factors play a role."

Ross and her team specifically wanted to know: if someone carries the APOE4 gene and is also exposed to high levels of microplastics, could this combination accelerate Alzheimer's onset?

Testing and results

To explore this, the researchers exposed the mice to micro- and nanoplastics and then observed their cognitive behaviors.

The findings revealed sex-dependent differences similar to those seen in human Alzheimer's patients.

"In human patients, men often show more changes in apathy—they care less—while women experience greater memory loss. When we exposed these mice carrying the Alzheimer's risk gene to plastics, we saw behavior changes that matched these sex-specific patterns," Ross said.

The implication is that microplastics not only accumulate in the brain

but may also trigger behavioral and cognitive effects resembling early Alzheimer's.

A call for deeper research

The results, while preliminary, are significant enough to warrant further investigation. Alzheimer's is a complex disease influenced by genetics, lifestyle, and environment, and the study underscores the possibility that microplastics could be a key environmental toxin influencing its development.

"There are modifiable factors related to Alzheimer's—diet, exercise, vitamins, and now environmental toxins like microplastics," Ross added. "If exposure to these plastics is confirmed as a contributing factor, reducing or eliminating them could become an important step in prevention."

With microplastics already considered one of the most prominent pollutants in daily life, this study highlights an urgent need to examine their long-term effects on human health.

While more research is required to establish a definitive link, the early evidence paints a troubling picture of how pervasive plastic pollution may extend far beyond environmental damage—directly impacting human cognitive health.

Akshay Kumar takes a firm stand on gutka: One should not consume it

Bollywood and its long-standing connection with pan masalas and gutka endorsements is no secret. Over the years, several top stars have faced criticism for promoting harmful products while earning hefty paychecks from such brand endorsements. Despite repeated backlash, the practice continues, raising concerns about the influence celebrities have on public health.

Amidst this, Bollywood action star Akshay Kumar chose to distance himself from the controversial trend, making his stance loud and clear during the trailer launch of Jolly LLB 3 in Kanpur. At the event, a journalist brought up Kanpur's infamous association with gutka consumption and posed a pointed question to the actor. Without hesitation, Akshay responded firmly, saying, "Gutka nahi khana chahiye (One should not consume gutka)."

The situation escalated when the reporter attempted to push the question further. Clearly unimpressed with the interruption, Akshay immediately shot back, "Interview mera hai ya tumhara? Main bol raha hoon, gutka nahi khana chahiye, that's it. Next question." (Is this my interview or yours? I'm saying one should not consume gutka, that's it. Next question). His sharp reply not only silenced the journalist but also drew loud reactions from those present at the event.

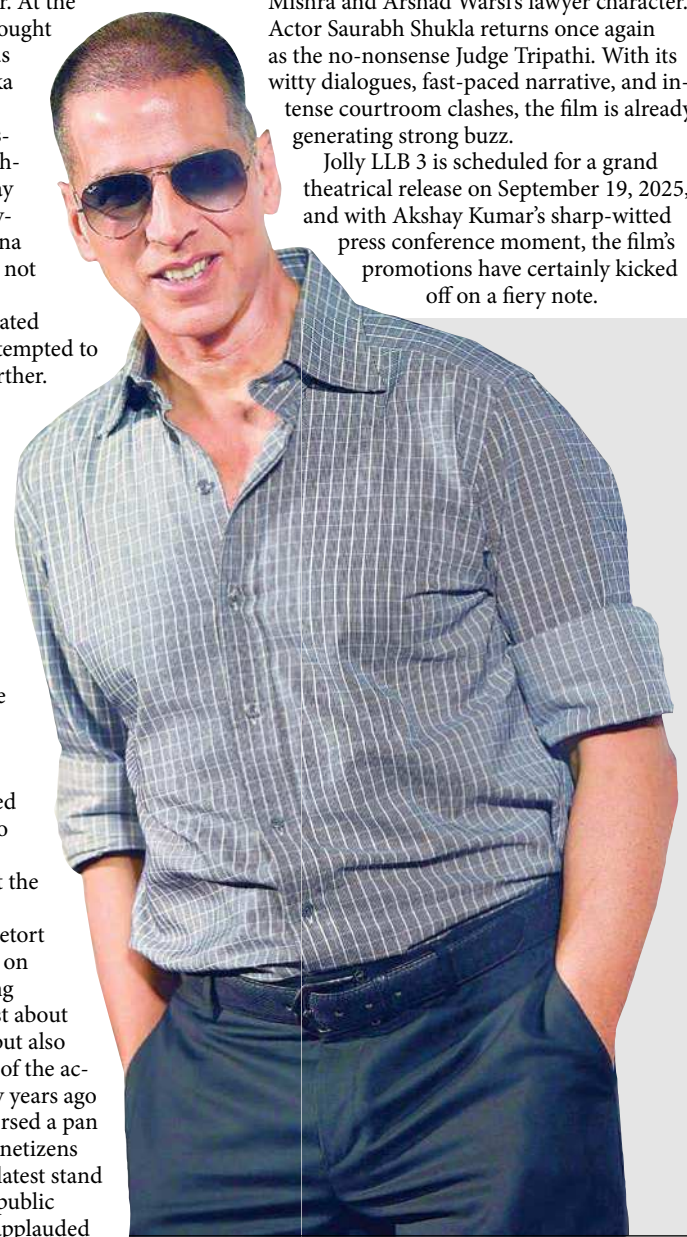
Clips of Akshay's retort have since gone viral on social media, sparking conversations not just about gutka consumption but also reigniting memories of the actor's own controversy years ago when he briefly endorsed a pan masala brand. Many netizens pointed out how his latest stand reflects a shift in his public image, while others applauded

his confidence in shutting down unnecessary probing.

Unlike many stars who often become the target of trolls for promoting tobacco-related products, Akshay managed to turn the spotlight by trolling the journalist instead. His unapologetic approach has been widely discussed, making him "a class apart" in how he handled the tricky situation.

On the cinematic front, Jolly LLB 3 promises to be an engaging courtroom drama. The trailer teases a gripping legal battle between two Jollys—Akshay Kumar's Jolly Mishra and Arshad Warsi's lawyer character. Actor Saurabh Shukla returns once again as the no-nonsense Judge Tripathi. With its witty dialogues, fast-paced narrative, and intense courtroom clashes, the film is already generating strong buzz.

Jolly LLB 3 is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on September 19, 2025, and with Akshay Kumar's sharp-witted press conference moment, the film's promotions have certainly kicked off on a fiery note.



Anushka steps away from social media; says 'just to reconnect with the world'

Actress Anushka Shetty, who was expected to make a strong comeback with director Krish Jagarlamudi's film Ghaati, has faced disappointment as the movie failed to click at the box office. Despite high expectations, both the film and Anushka's performance drew criticism from audiences and critics alike. The actress had promoted the film ahead of its release through digital means and telephonic interviews but chose not to participate in physical promotional events.

Following the mixed response, Anushka has now announced that she is taking a temporary break from social media. In a heartfelt Instagram note to her followers, the actress wrote, "Trading Blue light to candle light. Will be stepping away from social media for a bit. Just to reconnect with the world and work beyond the scrolling, to where we all actually started."

She further assured her fans that this was not a farewell but a pause, adding, "See you all soon with more stories and more love."

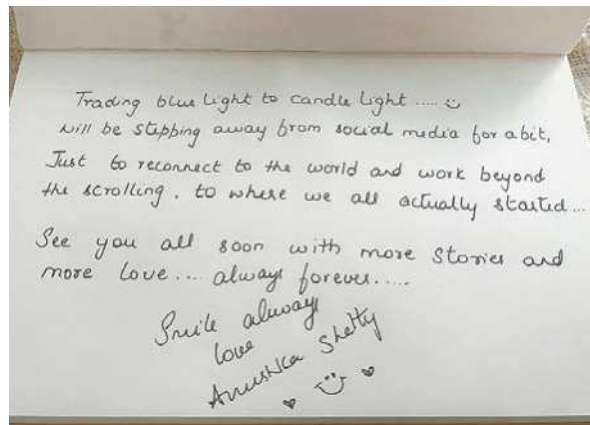
While many speculated that the social media criticism around her absence from promotions may have pushed her to step back, Anushka has always maintained a composed outlook toward such chatter. Sources close to the actress suggest that she is focused on regaining her momentum and choosing her projects wisely in the future.

Currently, Anushka has not signed any new Telugu



film. However, she will next be seen in Kathana: The Wild Sorcerer, a fantasy drama that has already piqued audience interest. Fans are hopeful that the actress, known for her powerful roles in Arundhati, Rudhradevi, and Baahubali, will soon bounce back with renewed energy.

With her social media hiatus, Anushka seems determined to reconnect with herself, focus on her craft, and return stronger.



Karnataka govt caps movie ticket prices at Rs 200; gives a shock to high budget films

In a move that is being welcomed by cinema lovers across Karnataka, the state government has officially issued a notification capping cinema ticket prices at Rs 200 (plus GST) across all theaters, including multiplexes. The step, aimed at making movie-going more affordable, comes as part of the newly amended Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025.

According to the new order, the price cap will be applicable to all films—across languages—screened in both single screens and multiplexes. However, there is an exemption clause. The rule will not apply to multi-screen cinemas offering premium facilities with seating capacity of less than 75 seats. This carve-out was included to allow niche, luxury experiences to maintain their pricing flexibility.

The notification follows a draft order issued earlier this year, where the state government had sought feedback from citizens. After reviewing objections and suggestions, the amended rule was finalized. It will now come into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

This isn't the first time Karnataka has attempted



to regulate movie ticket prices. A similar initiative was introduced in 2017, but the Karnataka High Court stayed the plan before it could be implemented. Learning from past hurdles, the government appears to have crafted the latest rules with greater clarity, ensuring stronger acceptance.

For the Kannada film industry, this announcement has been long overdue.

Industry stakeholders have repeatedly urged the government to bring ticket prices down, arguing that Kannada films often face an uneven playing field in multiplexes dominated by high-priced non-Kannada releases. With the new regulation, there is hope that regional films will have better ac-



cess to audiences.

However, the big question remains—how will the box office collections of star-driven films fare under these capped rates? The coming months will test the waters with major releases such as Rishab Shetty's Kantara Chapter 1 and Yash's Toxix. Both films carry massive expectations following the record-breaking success

of Kantara and the KGF franchise.

While the reduced ticket rates promise fuller theaters and increased accessibility, the industry will be closely watching whether revenue balances out through higher footfalls. For now, cinephiles are celebrating, as the magic of the big screen just became easier on the pocket in Karnataka.

HC judge inspects sites for district court in Puttaparthi

- Justice Prasad examined two different locations for the court
- The establishment of a district court in Puttaparthi is expected to provide easier access to justice for people
- Officials note that the move reflects a major step in strengthening the judicial infrastructure

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

JUSTICE Ramakrishna Prasad of the Andhra Pradesh High Court visited Prasanthi Nilayam's Shanthi Bhavan in Puttaparthi on Saturday. He was warmly received by Joint Collector Abhishek Kumar, Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Suvarna, Hindupur Senior Civil Judge Shailaja, and Puttaparthi



AP High Court Justice Ramakrishna Prasad inspecting the site for a district court, in Puttaparthi on Saturday

Junior Civil Judge Syed Mujeeb. Later, Justice Prasad inspected proposed sites for the establishment of a district court at Kappalabanda fields. He examined two different locations and stated that the court would be set up at the site offering better facilities and infrastructure. The establishment of a district court in Puttaparthi

is expected to provide easier access to justice for people across Sri Sathya Sai district, reducing the need for long travel to distant courts. Officials accompanying the judge noted that the move reflects a major step in strengthening the judicial infrastructure of the region. Following the inspection, Justice Prasad returned to

Shanthi Bhavan at Prasanthi Nilayam. Officials said he is scheduled to offer prayers at the Maha Samadhi of Sri Sathya Sai Baba later in the evening. The visit of the High Court Judge was marked by a cordial reception and is seen as a significant development toward enhancing judicial services in the newly formed district.

Fall in tomato prices hit farmers hard

- Stalled juice factory project adds to farmers' concerns
- After Madanapalle market Pattikonda occupies the second position in tomato sales
- Despite such a significant production hub, farmers are forced to fight for remunerative prices
- The prices remain disappointingly low, adding to the farmers' woes

V NARENDRA KUMAR
PATTIKONDA

PATTIKONDA sub-division has emerged as the largest tomato-growing region in the undivided district, with cultivation spread over 6,400 hectares this year.

While the Madanapalle market in the state ranks first in tomato sales, Pattikonda occupies the second position.

Despite such a significant production hub, farmers are forced to fight for remunerative prices. Currently, tomato harvesting has begun on about 2,500 hectares.

From October to January, farmers usually bring more than 20 truckloads of tomatoes to the market daily.

Traditionally, tomato prices remain favorable for at least two to three months during this period.

However, this year, farmers saw a reasonable price for only 15 days.

With a good crop yield and the harvest gaining momentum, prices have plummeted, leaving farmers distressed as their hard work is yielding meager returns.

Tomatoes from Pattikonda are in demand in markets across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Hyderabad, and Warangal, but the prices remain disappointingly low, adding to the farmers' woes.

Stalled juice factory project adds to farmers' concerns.

During former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan



A farmer Yerragoti Mahanandi

Reddy's tenure, land was allotted, and funds were sanctioned for a juice processing factory along the Pattikonda-Guntakal road to support tomato farmers.

While initial work began, a change in government led to a halt in construction.

Following criticism from farmers, the new coalition government conducted a foundation-laying ceremony at Kanakadinne village in Pattikonda mandal, assuring completion of the project by this kharif season.

However, progress has stalled with the project remaining at the foundation stage.

With no processing facility available, farmers are

forced to rely solely on local markets, leading to distress sales and heavy losses.

The delay in setting up the juice factory has left farmers anxious and demanding immediate action from the government to safeguard their livelihoods.

"We were hopeful that the juice factory would provide us a stable market and fair prices," said Yerragoti Mahanandi, a tomato farmer from Devanakonda.

"But with the project stuck and prices collapsing, we are left with no option but to sell our produce at throwaway rates. Many farmers are sinking into debt, and we don't know how much longer we can survive like this."

Anantapur Collector Anand takes charge

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

O Anand officially assumed charge as the new District Collector of Anantapur on Saturday, vowing to work with coordination across all sectors to drive the district forward.

On his arrival at the Collectorate, District Revenue Officer (DRO) A Malola and Collectorate Administrative Officer Alexander greeted him with a potted plant in a formal welcome.

Later, upon entering his chamber, the new Collector offered prayers before a portrait of the deity before formally taking charge of his responsibilities.

Temple priests from Pampanuru Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy Temple and Penna Ahobilam Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple blessed the Collector on the occasion.

Revenue Divisional Officers Vasantha Babu, Srinivas, and Keshava Naidu, along with DLDO Vijayalakshmi, Collectorate Superintendents Yugeshwari Devi, Riyazuddin, and Vasanthalatha, as



O Anand taking charge as new Collector of Anantapur on Saturday

well as other district officials, greeted him with bouquets and plants, extending their congratulations.

Speaking to the media after assuming charge, Collector Anand expressed happiness at his appointment.

He noted that Anantapur is a historically significant district but faces several challenges, particularly in water management and related issues in the Rayalaseema region.

Highlighting the district's strong potential in horticulture, micro-irrigation, and allied sectors, he pledged to

study the district's needs and work with all stakeholders to promote overall development.

He added that while this is his first posting in a Rayalaseema district, he would strive to understand local issues and ensure progress through coordination and effective administration.

Joint Collector Shiv Narayan Sharma, Special Deputy Collector Anand, and various departmental officers, including tahsildars, attended the ceremony and extended greetings to the new Collector.

Dr Saleem Basha honoured

HANA NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

YV Rao Siddhartha College of Education recently hosted a grand ceremony to recognise and reward outstanding educators.

Dr Saleem Basha, a distinguished figure from Anantapur, was conferred with the prestigious Best Principal award.

With over three decades of dedicated service to education, Dr Basha's achievements are noteworthy.

He has previously been recognised with esteemed awards such as the Guru Puraskar, Teacher's Jewel,

and Best Teacher.

During the ceremony, Dr Basha expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his mentors, parents, and supporters, emphasizing the motivational impact of such accolades.

The event was graced by notable dignitaries, including Professor Ramesh Babu, Professor Swaroopa Rani, Professor Ravi Kumar, Dr Prasad Babu, and Dr Bavi Shetty Ramesh.

The ceremony also included a felicitation ceremony for teachers from various districts, acknowledging their contributions to the field of education.



Reservation enhancement is our right, says JAC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

ANDHRA Pradesh Student Joint Action Committee (JAC) District President Amar Yadav has demanded an increase in reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) to 49 per cent, stating that denying this right amount to injustice.

Addressing the media at the JAC office on Saturday, Yadav expressed anguish that although Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself belongs to a BC community, adequate reservation for BCs has not been implemented.

He said the neglect reflects how backward the communities remain despite repeated assurances.

Yadav criticized political parties for deceiving BCs during elections.

"Every party claim to be a BC-friendly party, promises to enhance BC reservations, and calls BCs the backbone of their organisation. But once they come to power, they ignore BC welfare," he alleged. Recalling a Supreme Court directive



APJAC district president Amar Yadav addressing the media in Anantapur on Saturday

that reservations for OBCs should not exceed 49 per cent, Yadav urged both the State and Central governments to allocate 49 per cent reservations for BCs in education, employment, healthcare, local bodies, and nominated posts.

He further demanded that, similar to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, parliamentary and assembly constituencies also be reserved for BC

candidates in proportion to their population.

Additionally, Yadav called for the enactment of a special "BC Act" to protect the rights of BC employees, who he claimed are facing increasing attacks and discrimination under successive governments.

He urged immediate action, stressing that the socio-political empowerment of BCs must not be delayed any further.

Will ensure transparency in governance, vows new Collector

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

A Syam Prasad, formally assumed charge as the new District Collector of Sri Sathya Sai district on Saturday, pledge to uphold transparency in governance and accelerate development with the cooperation of public representatives, officials, and citizens.

Taking charge in his chamber at the Puttaparthi Collectorate, the new Collector was greeted by officials and staff, who extended their best wishes.

Speaking to the media, Prasad said he had been transferred from Parvathipuram Manyam district to Sri

Sathya Sai district. He described his personal bond with the region, recalling that his daughter pursued her education here. He also highlighted the upcoming centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's birth, urging all stakeholders to work together to make the event a grand success.

The Collector noted that, while Sri Sathya Sai district is agriculturally driven, it also has strong potential for industrial growth given its proximity to Karnataka.

He emphasized his focus areas would include sanitation, drinking water, electricity, water conservation, healthcare, and education.

Prasad asserted that his primary

goal is to ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes so that benefits reach every citizen.

"I will work transparently, responsibly, and with a service-oriented approach to provide essential services to the public in a timely manner," he stated. Following the ceremony, he interacted with district officials and staff, urging them to extend full cooperation to ensure efficient administration.

Joint Collector Abhishek Kumar, In-charge DRO Ramasubbiah, RDOs Suvarna, Mahesh, VVS Sharma, Anand Kumar, and several district officials were present.



A Syam Prasad taking charge as new Collector of Sri Sathya Sai district in Puttaparthi on Saturday

Dr Siri takes charge as new Kurnool Collector

- Vows to focus on development and public welfare
- Formerly the Director of Secondary Health, Dr Siri took over from outgoing officials
- Expresses her commitment to working hand-in-hand with the people and elected representatives to ensure comprehensive development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

Dr A Siri officially assumed charge as the new district Collector of Kurnool on Saturday, stepping into the role with a clear vision for the region's growth and development.

Formerly the Director of Secondary Health, Dr Siri took over from outgoing officials in a ceremony held at the Collectorate, attend-

ed by district authorities, public representatives, and community leaders.

The event began with interfaith prayers and blessings, symbolizing harmony and collective goodwill for her new tenure.

Addressing the media soon after taking office, Dr Siri expressed her commitment to working hand-in-hand with the people and elected representatives to ensure comprehensive de-

velopment across the district.

She announced plans to prioritize government flagship programs while transforming Kurnool into a model "Smart City."

Resolving core issues like drinking water shortages, groundwater replenishment, and sanitation will be among her top priorities.

Highlighting the district's potential for industrial growth, she spoke about boosting economic activity through the Orvakal Industrial Node, which she said would create new avenues of employment for local youth.

Dr Siri also stressed the importance of strengthening education in rural areas and improving healthcare



Dr Siri assuming the charge as new Kurnool district Collector on Saturday

facilities. She assured that upgrades at the government district hospital would be

taken up promptly. Additionally, she pledged to review grievances raised

during Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) meetings with utmost care, ensuring quick and fair resolutions. Special attention will also be given to resolving revenue-related land disputes to provide relief to citizens.

Joint Collector Dr B Navya, District Revenue Officer C Venkata Narayanamma, and other senior officials felicitated Dr Siri with floral bouquets, wishing her a successful and impactful tenure.

With her proactive approach and focus on both infrastructure and welfare, Dr Siri's leadership is expected to usher in a new phase of growth and progress for Kurnool district.

Rifle shooting, swimming competitions held



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

THE district level competitions in rifle shooting and swimming were organised grandly at Ananthalakshmi International School under the auspices of SGFI.

The chief guests of the programme were Ananthalakshmi International School Chairman M Anantha Ramudu, CEO Narasimha Rao, Principal Shalini, School Games Secretary Srinivasulu, Shakuntalamma, Organiser Coach Rahul Babu, Naveen Chowdhury and Shekshavali.

The chief guests said that sports like rifle shooting and swimming not only

develop physical stamina among students but also inculcate values like mental concentration, courage, perseverance and discipline. He said that through sports, students not only achieve success, but also gain self-confidence and opportunities to excel at the national level.

He also wished that the students would consider sports as equal to school education and practice hard to excel at the State, National and International levels in the future.

The chief guests congratulated the organizers, participating students, parents and coaches for successfully organising the programme.

Hindi, the golden foundation of self-reliant India

September 14 is Hindi Diwas Day

HINDI Diwas on September 14 marks the historic moment when, in 1949, the Constituent Assembly granted Hindi the prestigious status of the official language. The day is not just a celebration of our cultural heritage but a symbol of Hindi's dynamic power that is propelling India into a global superpower in the digital age. The cornerstone of innovation in education, healthcare, economy, and artificial intelligence (AI), Hindi empowers every Indian, bridging village gatherings to global platforms, and realizing the dream of a self-reliant India.

Hindi's strength lies in its inclusive nature, enabling every Indian to dream and achieve in their own language. In 2025, with over half of India's 90 crore internet users demanding Hindi digital content, it has democratized the digital world. A rural youth, once intimidated by English, now shares innovative farming techniques in Hindi on YouTube, reaching millions. Google's Hindi-supported AI models provide instant answers to a wide-range of queries from farmers.



The National Education Policy 2020 has elevated Hindi, and AI tools are bringing this vision to life. Tech Mahindra's Project Indus, a Hindi-focused Large Language Model, creates simplified learning materials for students. A rural child now understands "photosynthesis" in their mother tongue, sparking a passion for science. Interactive Hindi apps bring Premchand's stories to life through digital storytelling, making education inclusive and inspiring.

In healthcare, Hindi is

driving change. Post-Covid, Hindi has spread vaccination and health awareness to villages, making healthcare accessible.

Hindi is India's cultural heartbeat and a symbol of national unity, weaving the nation's diversity from north to south and east to west into a single thread.

MSMEs, contributing over 30 per cent to India's economy, draw strength from Hindi-speaking regions.

Interestingly, in 2025, Hindi is the heartbeat of AI. Models like Project Indus

and Nanda make Hindi the centre of innovation, providing farmers with information on "fertilizer subsidies" and accurate weather forecasts. Hindi is no longer bound by tradition but soars in progress. It is the language of science, commerce, and every Indian's heart. On Hindi Diwas 2025, let us pledge to take it to every laboratory, market, and heart. Hindi is not just India's voice but a rising sun on the global stage.

Prof R K Jain, Barwani (MP)

Tribute to the Baharat Ratna who saved Hyd during 1908 Musi floods

Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary (Sept 15) marks 'Engineers Day'

DURING every rainy season, the streets of Hyderabad are flooded, largely due to the encroachment of tanks, nalas, and other water bodied stemming from a lack of a scientifically woven modern drainage system. Indeed, the pearl city fact had once boasted of a great and modern storm water protection and drainage system that was designed by a visionary civil engineer whose birthday on September 15, we celebrate as the Engineers Day. The engineer was none other than the legendary 'Bharat Ratna' Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (popularly known as MV). He was a visionary because when the population of Hyderabad was about one lakh in 1908, he designed the system to cater to a population of about five lakh. It is a pity that the same drainage system has been in use for a population of about 1.1 crore now. So much for our present protection system!

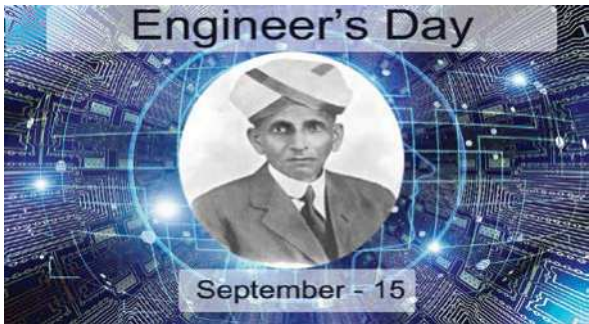
The life story of this gifted engineer is an inspiration with myriad life lessons to our students.

Born on September 15, 1861, to Telugu speaking parents at a small village near Bangalore, Visvesvaraya was initially reluctant to go to school to eventually emerge as the favourite student of teachers at Mission High School in Bengaluru. While studying for his graduation, Visvesvaraya because the college principal's favourite, who gifted him an English dictionary and a pair of gold cuff links which Visvesvaraya treasured his entire life.

After completing his BA in distinction, Visvesvaraya won a gold medal and a government scholarship, with which he studied LCE in Pune. Having won the coveted James Berkley Gold medal for securing the first rank, thanks to the rules of those days when rankers were given a government job directly, Visvesvaraya joined the PWD of Bombay and posted at Nasik. Having proved his mettle time and again, the Indian government recognized him as a trouble shooter and assigned him many challenging and daunting tasks.

His solution to the problem of water supply to Sukkur, designing of automatic gates to ensure steady water supply to Pune, his imaginative plan to provide drinking water, a sewage system and sanitation to the port of Aden were some of his initial great achievements and that fetched all round approbation. Unable to digest and comprehend his extraordinary feats, the British officers compelled him to seek voluntary retirement.

He spent a remarkable retired life. When the Musi River floods killed about 15,000 people in Hyderabad in 1908, the Nizam sent message sought Visvesvaraya's services and guid-



ance to save the city. He meticulously worked on that and came up with the plan of constructing two dams, forming the two lakes of Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, and diverting the course of the Musi River to avoid floods in future, apart from a plan to ensure drinking water supply to the twin cities. He subsequently oversaw the construction of a dam at the Vizag port to protect it from sea erosion. The first serpentine ghat road from Tirupati to the Tirumala hills is another feather in his cap.

As the Chief Engineer of Mysore, Visvesvaraya contributed a lot to the development of his own State. The Krishna Raja Sagar Dam near Mysore, and the adjacent beautiful Brindavan Gardens are his brainchild. The Railways in Mysore rapidly developed during his tenure.

As the Diwan (Prime Minister-1912 to 1918) in the court of the Maharaja of Mysore his achievements ensured him a golden niche in the annals of Mysore history. Bangalore Agricultural University, State Bank of Mysore, HAL, Mysore Soap factory, Mysore Lamps and Mysore Iron and Steel Works were some of the great institutions Visvesvaraya founded during this six-year period.

Visvesvaraya the man was very honest, hardworking, and humble. He led a spartan life, ate frugal vegetarian food, loved to wear clean and simple clothes. Once he advised Mahatma Gandhi to wear good clothes to go to the Round Table Conferences. The Government of India honoured him with a Bharat Ratna. He died peacefully in his sleep in 1962, aged 101. Let us all pay our sincere tributes to the 'Modern Bhagiratha' on his birth anniversary.

M Somasekhar Prasad, Hyderabad-20

Fee reimbursements and salaries

PROMOTERS of private colleges across Telangana, under the aegis of Federation of Associations of Telangana Higher Education (FATHI), are threatening to close their respective institutions if the government fails to clear fee reimbursements to the tune of Rs 8000 crore. They claim that the management has not been able to pay salaries to its professors and staff for many months. However, the larger picture shows that fee reimbursement is only a small portion of the total revenue these institutions manage to generate. They collect exorbitant fees and donations from most students who are not eligible for fee reimbursements. As a result, the cost of higher education is wiping away the savings of parents. The college owners lobby is powerful enough to have its way as they keep on increasing fees year after year.

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad.



Role cut out for new V-P

THIS refers to the editorial 'As V-P Radhakrishnan must restore faith in office of RS Chairman'. There is a big responsibility on the shoulders of C P Radhakrishnan, particularly, in the wake of his predecessor, Jagdeep Dhankhar's exit, before he could complete the term. Dhankhar's tenure was marked by frequent confrontations, when the opposition demanded his impeachment. The Speaker's role is quite vital and essential in upholding the parliamentary democracy and the traditions of the House, playing an impartial role in the Rajya Sabha. But, one must mention in the same breath the role to be played out by the Opposition in upholding the decorum of the House, without resorting to wanton dramatics that is aimed at deliberate disruption in the name of freedom of expression. They need to introspect on this.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Neighbourly interactions essential in gated communities

The brutal murder of a 50-year-old woman in a gated apartment community is shocking, and a wake-up call for all residents. CCTV cameras and round-the-clock security are not enough. Living in an apartment, whether upscale or modest, comes with shared responsibilities. Having lived in apartments for over 35 years—from Banjara Hills to a small middle-class block—I've seen how safety improves when neighbours stay connected, share whereabouts, and look out for one another. Today, many neighbours rarely interact, don't greet each other, and remain unaware of who comes and goes. Keeping doors ajar, exchanging pleasantries, and checking on each other are simple but effective ways to build trust. Landlords and homeowners too must take informal steps, verify backgrounds and introduce new tenants—to ensure a safer and more responsible community living experience.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad



Save birds from dying

Bird populations in India are declining due to exposed electrical wires, mobile towers, and poor management. High-voltage lines and tower collisions pose lethal threats. Unlike in countries like Germany with underground wiring, India lacks

safeguards of any sorts. We must act—cover cables, regulate towers, and manage urban planning better. To save birds from near extinction, we must focus on habitat conservation, reducing threats like window collisions and pesticide use, and creating bird-friendly environments. This includes planting native species and providing food and water sources. Addressing climate change and supporting sustainable practices are equally critical and crucial.

Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

Give physiotherapists their fair share of credit

THIS refers to the THI Sept 11 report "Sorry, physiotherapists can't use 'Dr' prefix, orders DGHS". While the order seeks to prevent confusion among patients, it is important not to overlook the immense value physiotherapists bring to healthcare. My elder sister is a physiotherapist, and I have seen her spending several hours studying, training and intensive patient care. Physiotherapists are the ones who restore mobility, dignity, and hope for many who are recovering from injuries, surgeries, or chronic conditions. To strip them of a title without offering an equally respectful alternative risks undervaluing their contribution.

Physiotherapists are not licensed medical practitioners, and they should not replace doctors in diagnosis or primary care, yes, but to deny them a dignified professional identity undermines their immense contribution to healthcare. Their role is not subordinate but complementary; they work alongside doctors, surgeons, and nurses to ensure holistic treatment. It is my hope that rather than reducing this debate to a simple ban on the "Dr" prefix, policymakers will consult professional bodies and arrive at a fair solution. Recognising physiotherapists with a clear, dignified title will protect patients, preserve transparency, and honour those who dedicate their lives to teaching the body how to heal itself.



Sukruti Paturi, Hyderabad

China's incredulous change of heart

THE long-lasting hostility between India and China and Pakistan is quite well-known. India had fought wars with both the neighbouring nations in the past. While Pakistan has been India's bitterest enemy over the issue of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) besides sponsoring terrorism, China has developed strained relations with India over Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh. In recent days, Shanghai shared the stage to initiate a new kind of amity between them. This has expectedly caused fear in the US President Donald Trump's camp. How he addresses the development will be known in the next few days.

Geographically, big nations Russia, China and India are the true enemies of

America. Trump considers India as his first and foremost enemy. This has resulted in levying a 50 per cent tax on imports to India, restricting student visa duration to four years and usurping several rights of Indian origin people working in the US. The US President has objected to the citizenship eligibility of children born to non-residents living in the US. Oblivious of the ground realities, Trump has ordered stop to the supply of crude oil from Russia to India, a move that has been objected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has also justifiably declined agricultural and dairy products being imported from the US into India. Russia is an old friend, while China has been a foe for decades together.

During Operation Sin-

door, China had shared the movements of Indian army personnel to Pakistan with the help of satellites. China has created several hardships to India and hence it is a challenge or a difficult task to believe China's credibility in terms of its amity. In a rare showing, Beijing condemned the Pahalgam massacre, which is indeed incredible. Russia and China have categorically opposed the business tactics of the US that are being exposed in the name of the dollar value.

Pakistan's power has been made redundant on the SCO stage. Hence, it is hard to believe that India and China, being sworn enemies, have displayed bonhomie on the SCO stage.

B H Indu Sekhar, Hyderabad

Poor quality food in Adilabad school

THIS has reference to reports about insects-infested food being supplied to students of KGBV academic institute in Adilabad district. The district collector and police officials need to take strict action against the institute's administrators. This is more so as such instances are reported almost at regular intervals. If no action is initiated, students will be subject to more such sufferings.

Guidipati Shanti Priya, Secunderabad-11



No sign of gas supply through pipes

A year ago, a gas agency sent their staff to install gas pipes and had assured that every house in the twin cities will get gas through these pipes. For the last one year the pipes are remaining as they are on the walls and kitchens and no one bothers to update the occupants supplying gas through these pipes. It is binding on the authorities to provide information and the schedule for supplying gas through pipes.

G Murali Mohan Rao, Secunderabad-11



Modi's tribute to Bhagwat

THE reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken great pains amidst his busy schedule to pen such a lengthy 'over-the-top' tribute to the RSS sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat on his 75th birthday is not far to seek. He is mending his fences (and currying favour) with the RSS, whose continued support he needs to be at the helm with a certain image. He cannot afford to break ranks with the RSS. By the stroke of his pen, he has successfully stymied the RSS chief from insisting on the retirement age of 75 for all. This will certainly appease and gladden Bhagwat as it comes from the Prime Minister and one who is not given to lavishly praising anyone as it will be seen as sharing the glory with that person. The glowing piece reads like a brief biography of Bhagwat and the subjectivity in it is ill-disguised. Modi has omitted to mention Bhagwat's inherited privileges and his 'divine right' to head the organisation. Modi commended Bhagwat's uncompromising commitment to "the core ideology" and left what exactly the core ideology is to the readers to grasp. He hailed him as a 'firm believer in India's diversity' who celebrates India's 'many different cultures and traditions'. It is good to hear from the Prime Minister that India is a multisource civilization and a composite culture, albeit in a different phraseology. Interestingly, the terms 'secularism' and 'social justice' did not occur even once in the article. One glaring flaw in the article is that 'Hindu revivalism' was equated with 'India's regeneration'. We hope that Mohan Bhawat reciprocates the compliment in kind on Modi's birthday on September 17. Reciprocal altruism is indeed a good idea!

G. David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)



BENGALURU ONLINE

Culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussehra festival: CM

MYSURU: Commenting on the controversy over the Mysuru Dussehra inauguration by International Booker Prize awardee Banu Mushtaq, the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that the matter should be settled in court. He further stressed that culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussehra festival and it is not of any one religion. Speaking to the media in Mysuru on Saturday, CM Siddaramaiah stated, "Culturally, people of all religions participate in Dussheera festival. Dussheera is a state festival, not limited to a single religion or community. Everyone from all castes and religions can participate."

He further said that if former BJP MP Pratap Simha tried to disturb peace, the police would take action. Answering media queries about alleged delays in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe in the Dharmasthala case, the Chief Minister said there was no delay.

"The SIT is conducting its investigations independently, and the government is not intervening. There is no reason for unnecessary delay, and as far as I know, there is no delay," he said. On the FIRs filed against BJP MLC C.T. Ravi and MLA Basanagouda Yatnal for allegedly making inflammatory speeches following the Ganesh Visarjan violence in Maddur town, the Chief Minister said that maintaining peace and public order is essential. Action would be taken against anyone giving provocative speeches and this is not a political matter.

In response to a question that the violent act was planned against Hindus, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he is "also a Hindu, and both the names Ishwar and Ram are part of my name."

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



Teja Sajja thanks fans and industry at 'Mirai' blockbuster meet

After opening to strong collections at the box office, *Mirai* celebrated its success with a grand blockbuster meet in Hyderabad. Lead actor Teja Sajja expressed heartfelt gratitude to audiences, media, and the entire team for making the film a resounding hit.

Teja began his speech by thanking moviegoers for their overwhelming love. "I am forever indebted to audiences. *Mirai* wouldn't have been possible without Karthik and TG Vishwa Prasad Garu. When the project began, many questioned why I was working with Karthik, considering his previous film didn't succeed. But TG Vishwa Prasad Garu stood by us with emotional support, which helped us deliver big," he said.



The actor also highlighted the camaraderie he built with his director and producer. "It went beyond professional collaboration and turned into a personal bond. Manoj Garu's presence elevated *Mirai* to the next level. I also thank Ritika for traveling with

this project for two years. Music director Gowra Hari owned the film and gave it so much time and passion. Special thanks to Shriya Garu, Jagapathi Babu Garu, and all our artists," he added.

Teja further acknowledged the unwavering support of

industry stalwarts. "Rana Garu has stood by every one of my films. Hindi promotions of *HanuMan* and *Mirai* happened only because of him. Prabhas Garu, with his golden heart, always encourages young talent, and I'm grateful for his support. I also thank Karan Johar

Garu, Mythri Sasi Garu, and all our distributors for their belief in this film."

With *Mirai* turning into a blockbuster, Teja Sajja's emotional speech reflected both his gratitude and the collective effort of the team that made the film a success.



Samantha opens up about success, detachment, and finding happiness beyond stardom

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, once one of the busiest and most sought-after stars in Tollywood, has taken a step back from the constant hustle of cinema. The actress, who was once in demand with back-to-back films and a packed calendar, admits that she has now come to terms with her reduced presence in films and the absence of a much-discussed Rs 1000 crore blockbuster in her career.

Speaking at the Leadership Conclave organized by AIMA, Samantha candidly reflected on her journey in the industry and how her perspective on success has evolved. She recalled a time when she was juggling five films simultaneously, all of which released in

the same year. "Back then, success meant having five releases, a big blockbuster, and a spot in the top ten actors list," she said.

However, Samantha revealed that she is now in a different phase of life. "Today, I haven't had a film release in two years, and I am not on any lists. I don't have a 1000-crore film, but I am the happiest I have ever been," she shared, emphasizing that she no longer feels the pressure of competing or meeting industry-defined benchmarks of success.

The Ye Maya Chesave actress also spoke about the fleeting nature of stardom. She noted that the shelf life of actors is short, and beyond hard work, factors like destiny and grace often determine the trajectory of a star's career. "It

was very important for me to realize that I wanted to create an impact larger than my shelf life as an actor," Samantha explained, hinting at her desire to explore meaningful ventures beyond films. Though she once dominated Tollywood and enjoyed the top spot among her peers, Samantha acknowledges that she is no longer the first choice for big projects with top stars and producers. Still, her body of work and her talent as a performer continue to resonate with fans. On the professional front, Samantha will next be seen in a film directed by Nandini Reddy, marking her return to the silver screen. While her career path may look different now, the actress is embracing this new chapter with contentment and purpose.

SDT urges collective action against child abuse



Hyderabad witnessed a powerful gathering on Saturday as the Abhayam Masoom Summit 2025 brought together young professionals from over 70 cities to raise awareness against child sexual abuse. Organized by Young Indians (Yi) under the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with Bharat Rising, the summit featured discussions on protecting children both online and offline.

Prominent personalities

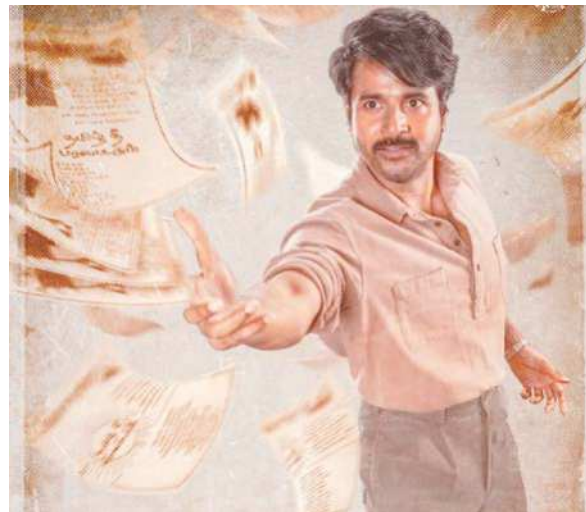
including Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej, Minister Seethakka, Yi Co-Chairman Bhavin Pandya, National Chairman Tarang Khurana, CII Telangana Chairman Siva Prasad Reddy, and Jyotsna Singh participated in the event. Speaking passionately, Sai Durga Tej said, "We need to protect our children ourselves. Today, children are being abused on social media. People make inappropriate comments and laugh at them. That is not the society we should

build." Sharing personal insights, Tej highlighted the importance of parental involvement, recalling his upbringing and work with NGOs like Think Peace to promote child education in Araku.

He stressed that children must be taught about good touch and bad touch at home and in school, and families should prioritize regular quality time together despite the digital distractions of today's world. He also suggested

measures to enhance accountability online, such as linking children's social media accounts to parents' phones or Aadhaar cards. "Children are impressionable. Unlike celebrities, they cannot ignore negative comments. We must protect them from harmful content," he added.

The summit concluded with a strong call for collective responsibility, urging parents, educators, and society at large to actively safeguard children in both the real and digital worlds.



'Parasakthi' locks Pongal 2026 release date

After the lukewarm response to *Madharasi*, Sivakarthikeyan is gearing up for his next big theatrical outing with *Parasakthi*, directed by Sudha Kongara. The much-anticipated film will hit the big screens on January 14, 2026, coinciding with the Pongal festival. Featuring Sreeleela as the female lead, *Parasakthi* will have a pan-South release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. The film's arrival comes just five days after Vijay's *Jana Nayagan*, setting the stage for a massive festive clash at the box office.

Set in the 1960s, the movie explores the anti-Hindi imposition movement in Tamil Nadu, a

politically charged period in the state's history. Sivakarthikeyan plays a pivotal role in this socio-political drama, while Ravi Mohan has been roped in as the antagonist.

The supporting cast includes Rana Daggubati, Atharvaa, and Basil Joseph, adding more weight to the project. Backed by Aakash Baskaran under the Dawn Pictures banner, the film features music by G.V. Prakash Kumar, promising a powerful soundtrack to complement the narrative.

With Sudha Kongara's storytelling, a strong ensemble, and a release timed for Pongal festivities, *Parasakthi* is already one of the most awaited films of 2026.

Saba Azad: Acting is about empathy, not shared experiences

Actress Saba Azad, who stars in *Bandar* (Monkey in a Cage), believes that stepping into morally challenging roles requires empathy above all. Speaking about her character Khushi, she said:

"Acting isn't about having lived the same experiences as the characters we play, it's about empathising with them, no matter how morally ambiguous their situation is. I did my best to empathise with Khushi."

The film, directed by Anurag Kashyap and produced by Nikhil Dwivedi, was showcased in the Special Presentations section at the 50th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). According to Saba, *Bandar* is a film that cannot be ignored. "Kashyap's films always stay with you long after you leave the cinema. This one will stir conversations and evoke contradictory emotions — you may like it, you may hate it, but you won't be able to ignore it," she said.

Bandar delves into themes of power, trauma, and memory, centering on a superstar accused of rape and exposing cracks within the legal system. Sharing her approach to such layered storytelling, Saba noted, "It's like any other script — approached with curiosity and honesty."

The film also stars Bobby Deol, Sanya Malhotra, and Sapna Pabbi. Speaking about Bobby, Saba praised him as a "generous co-actor," adding, "He is so vulnerable in the film. It was wonderful working with him."



KJo drops cryptic note on handling negativity

Filmmaker Karan Johar has once again left fans intrigued with a reflective social media update. On Thursday, the 53-year-old director shared a series of slides on Instagram, addressing themes of self-worth, toxic people, and personal growth.

His post carried sharp reminders about valuing oneself and staying away from negativity. One slide

declared, "Rule #1: Fck what they think," while another pointed out, "Sometimes your value isn't seen until your absence is felt." Johar further noted, "Ignoring toxic people is self-care," and encouraged followers to "choose people that choose you."

Other motivational thoughts included: "You can't do big things if you are distracted by small things" and "Once you stop looking, things find you." He concluded with a powerful note: "There are people that will never support you because it's you. Then there are people that will always support you because it's you. You just have to find your people."



Captioning the post, he wrote: "Thoughts I resonate with... #foodforthought #khalonkacaravan."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Johar is readying his next production *Sunny Sanskari* Ki Tulsi Kumari, a rom-com starring Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor, releasing on October 2, 2025.

Randeep Hooda pays tribute to the heroes of the battle of Saragarhi

It has been 128 years since the legendary Battle of Saragarhi, where 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment made the ultimate sacrifice while defending a remote communication outpost against a massive onslaught of 10,000 to 14,000 Afghan tribesmen. Marking the historic day on Friday, actor Randeep Hooda remembered the brave martyrs with a heartfelt tribute on social media.

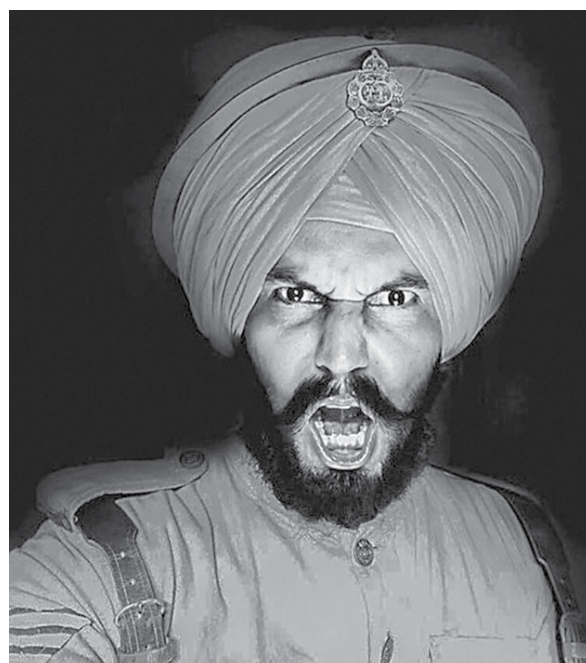
Hooda, who once prepared to play Havildar Ishar Singh in a shelved film project based on the epic battle, reflected on the extraordinary courage of the Sikh soldiers. Sharing his sentiments on Instagram, he wrote: "A dream I missed sharing with the world! The #BattleOfSaragarhi fought by 21 Sikh soldiers under Hav Ishar Singh of 4 SIKH (then XXXVI SIKH) in September 1897 remains a legendary saga of courage

and sacrifice."

The actor highlighted how the soldiers, stationed at 6,000 feet in the North-West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan), held their post against overwhelming odds. "These soldiers held their ground against thousands of Pathan attackers and all were awarded with the Indian Order of Merit. Recognised by UNESCO as one of the eight most heroic battles in history, their bravery epitomised the concept of 'Last Man, Last Round,'" he added.

Remembering the unflinching spirit of the martyrs, Hooda continued, "On 12th Sep 1897, these 22 men stood firm until their final moments, defending their post with unmatched valour. Their story continues to inspire and motivate all of us today."

He concluded his tribute by saluting the regiment: "Our deepest homage to the fallen heroes and heartfelt congratulations to 4 SIKH on their 128th Saragarhi Day. May Waheguru Ji bless the battalion, and may they continue to grow from strength to strength."





This week OTT releases From blockbusters to quirky comedies

The second Friday of September brings a fresh line-up of films and web series across major OTT platforms, promising viewers a weekend packed with entertainment. The genres range from romance and survival drama to horror, comedy, and true-crime documentaries. From Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda's musical blockbuster *Saiyaara* to Tamannaah Bhatia and Diana Penty's quirky comedy *Do You Wanna Partner*, here's a detailed look at what's streaming today.

Netflix

Saiyaara - Sept 12

The highlight of this week's OTT slate is undoubtedly *Saiyaara*, directed by Mohit Suri. The Hindi musical romantic drama has already achieved blockbuster status in theaters and now arrives on Netflix to reach a wider audience. Starring debutants Ahaan Panday as Krish and Aneet Padda as Vaani, the film tells the soulful story of a struggling musician and a gifted lyricist who find love and purpose in each other's company. With its sweeping soundtrack and heartfelt performances, *Saiyaara* is positioned to be the streaming favorite of the week.

Beauty and the Bester - Sept 12

True-crime enthusiasts can look forward to *Beauty and the Bester*, a three-part documentary that dives into one of South Africa's most scandalous stories. The series explores the controversial relationship between celebrity doctor Nandipha



Magudumana and convicted criminal Thabo Bester, focusing on Bester's shocking prison escape. With its mix of crime, scandal, and media frenzy, the series promises to be as gripping as it is disturbing.

The Wrong Paris - Sept 12

Adding a dose of rom-com fun, *The Wrong Paris* follows Miranda Cosgrove as Dawn, an aspiring artist who mistakenly signs up for a dating reality show thinking it's set in Paris, France—only to end up in Paris, Texas. What begins as a disappointment soon changes when she crosses paths with Trey McAllen, played by Pierson Fodé, the show's charming bachelor. The film explores themes of mistaken expectations, serendipity, and love found in unexpected places, making it a breezy weekend watch.

in Kish-kindhapuri, already has another film out. Her latest release, *Parada*, directed by Praveen Kandregula, didn't perform as expected at the box office but has now made its way to OTT within just three weeks of release. The streaming rights were acquired by Amazon Prime Video, and the film is now available in Telugu and Malayalam, giving audiences another chance to catch it online.

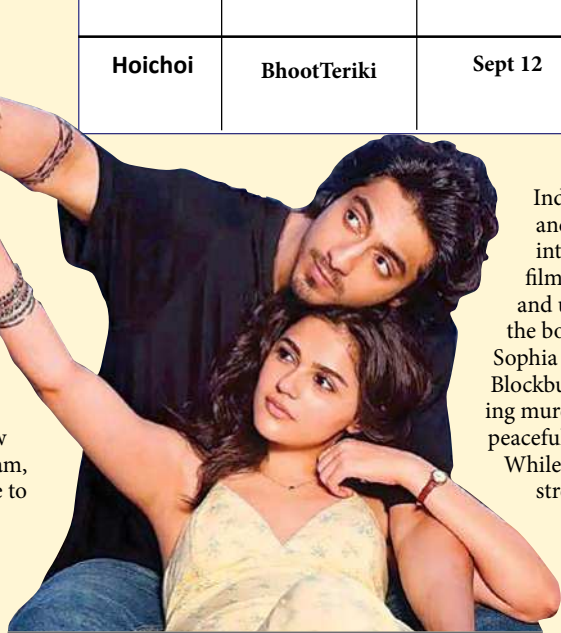
Do You Wanna Partner - Sept 12

In the comedy-drama space, Tamannaah Bhatia and Diana Penty headline *Do You Wanna Partner*, produced by Karan Johar. The series follows two friends who take on the male-dominated craft beer industry by launching their own brand. Packed with humor, ambition, and the challenges of entrepreneurship, the show delivers both entertainment and a strong message about women breaking barriers. For fans of lighthearted dramas with a modern twist, this one is a must-watch.

Sun NXT *Meesha* - Sept 12

Malayalam cinema continues to push boundaries with *Meesha*, a survival drama that throws three estranged friends together during a reunion in the wilderness. The story not only tests their physical endurance but also brings unresolved conflicts of friendship, betrayal,

OTT RELEASES			
Platform	Title	Release Date	Details
Netflix	<i>Saiyaara</i>	Sept 12	Blockbuster starring Ahaan Panday & Aneet Padda, directed by Mohit Suri.
	<i>Beauty and the Bester</i>	Sept 12	Explores scandalous story of Dr. Nandipha Magudumana & Thabo Bester.
	<i>The Wrong Paris</i>	Sept 12	Miranda Cosgrove lands in Paris, Texas instead of Paris, France, leading to unexpected romance.
JioHotstar	<i>Rambo in Love</i>	Sept 12	Romantic drama about a bankrupt entrepreneur seeking help from his ex. Stars Abhinav Manikanta & Payal Chengappa.
Prime Video	<i>Parada</i>	Sept 12	Anupama Parameswaran starrer, directed by Praveen Kandregula; now streaming in Telugu & Malayalam.
	<i>Do You Wanna Partner</i>	Sept 12	Tamannaah Bhatia & Diana Penty star in a story about women entrepreneurs in the craft beer industry.
Sun NXT	<i>Meesha</i>	Sept 12	Malayalam film about estranged friends confronting past issues during a forest reunion.
Lionsgate Play	<i>Detective Ujjwalan</i>	Sept 12	Dhyan Sreenivasan starrer about a murder disrupting a peaceful town. Dubbed in 4 languages.
	<i>The Ritual</i>	Sept 12	Al Pacino & Dan Stevens star in exorcism drama based on 1928 Emma Schmidt possession.
Hoichoi	<i>BhootTeriki</i>	Sept 12	Bengali web series about a film crew encountering three ghosts in a Kolkata palace.



Indraneel Gopeekrishnan and Rahul G. Despite its intriguing premise, the film received mixed reviews and underperformed at the box office. Produced by Sophia Paul under Weekend Blockbusters, it follows a shocking murder that disrupts the peaceful town of Plaachikkaavu. While the Malayalam version streamed on Netflix in July, the dubbed Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada versions are now available on Lionsgate Play.

The Ritual - Sept 12

and class divides to the forefront. Featuring Kathir, Hakim Shahjahan, and Sudhi Koppa, this film blends human drama with survi From blockbusters to quirky comedies val themes, making it a thought-provoking watch for fans of layered storytelling.

Lionsgate Play *Detective Ujjwalan* - Sept 12

Malayalam mystery thriller *Detective Ujjwalan*, starring Dhyan Sreenivasan, Siju Wilson, and Rony David Raj, was directed by

One of the most anticipated horror films of the year, *The Ritual* takes audiences back to 1928 Iowa. Starring Hollywood veteran Al Pacino as Father Theophilus Riesinger and Dan Stevens as Father Joseph Steiger, the film narrates the chilling true story of Emma Schmidt's possession. Played by Abigail Cowen, Emma becomes the subject of intense exorcisms that test the faith and courage of the priests involved. Combining historical accuracy with gripping supernatural storytelling, this film is set to be a spine-tingling experience for horror enthusiasts.

Hoichoi *BhootTeriki* - Sept 12

Bengali audiences are in for a spooky

laugh with *BhootTeriki*. Directed by Kaushik Hafizee with creative inputs from Anirban Bhattacharya, this horror-comedy centers on a film crew attempting to document the paranormal history of a Kolkata palace. Instead, they stumble into chaos with three resident ghosts, blending eerie moments with rib-tickling comedy. *Hoichoi*, known for its innovative regional content, once again delivers an offbeat story that appeals beyond the Bengali-speaking audience. This week's OTT line-up caters to every mood—whether it's the spine-chilling terror of *The Ritual*, the youthful romance of *Saiyaara*, the entrepreneurial zest of *Do You Wanna Partner*, or the quirky comedy of *The Wrong Paris*. Regional gems like *Meesha* and *BhootTeriki* further enrich the variety on offer. With such a wide spectrum of stories and genres, audiences across languages are guaranteed an entertaining weekend.



'Kammattam' review: Fails to hit the mark

SUHAS SISTU

Zee5's first Malayalam original series, *Kammattam*, made noise even before release when director Shan Thulasidharan revealed it was shot in just 11 days. While this might sound like an impressive feat, unfortunately, the hurried production shows in almost every frame. The end product feels rushed, underdeveloped, and far from the gripping crime thriller it

aspires to be. The show opens with Samuel Umman (Jeo Baby) riding his scooter before meeting with an accident. Inspector Antonio George (Sudev Nair) immediately concludes that this isn't just a mishap but something far more sinister. What follows is a fast-paced investigation into a cooperative bank-linked fraud. The problem, however, is that the pace works against the narrative. Plot points move too quickly,

characters are skimmed over, and viewers are given little time to absorb the gravity of the case. Unlike well-crafted Malayalam crime dramas such as *Kerala Crime Files*, *Kammattam* avoids deeper character exploration. The police officers are portrayed merely as men in uniform with no personal arcs, making it hard for viewers to connect or care about their journey. The so-called "inspired by true events"

angle promises weight but ends up feeling like a lost opportunity. The potential of a cooperative bank fraud leading to multiple murders is never fully tapped, leaving the story fragmented and unsatisfying. On the technical side, cinematographer Prakash Velayudhan and editor Ratheesh Mohanan maintain a brisk pace, but it feels like style over substance. The background score by 4 Musics occasionally elevates

the mood but often comes across as overwhelming. Performances by Sudev Nair and Jeo Baby are solid, yet the supporting cast fails to make an impression, weakening the overall impact. Ultimately, *Kammattam* feels like a series more concerned with finishing quickly than telling a compelling story. Its rushed execution, lack of emotional depth, and uneven storytelling prevent it from standing out in a genre where Ma-

lalam cinema has already raised the bar. Despite its promise, *Kammattam* is a half-baked thriller that leaves you questioning whether speed in production is worth sacrificing narrative quality. It's watchable only if you're curious, but it doesn't live up to the expectations set by Malayalam crime thrillers.

Rating: 1.5/5



Grooving to the melodies at New Orleans' iconic music venues

Located in a restored



All-in-one Wedding solutions: How bundled packages are shaping the future of Indian celebrations

**Mutton
Dhansa**

Wars begin in the mind, so does peace



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Looking at the situation of the world that we live in today, one factor that can be considered as the biggest cause of our downfall from an exalted stage of a divine being, is violence in all its forms. YES, it is violence that makes hell of heaven. In other words, paradise is lost when violence, in the form of five vices and their offshoots, enters the human mind.

These vices are nothing but violence in its various forms which violates divinity as well as spiritual and natural laws. We must understand the fact that a soul, in its original state, is a being of purity, peace, power and bliss. So, in heaven, all humans are divine because they are totally pure, which means there is absence of violence of all types. This means that no one causes

harm to anyone in heaven and there is no dishonesty, greed, deceit, anger, selfishness or negativity of any other kind.

It is only when the soul comes under the influence of the vices does it start to act wrongly. Now, to see if all this is true, we only need to observe our state of mind when we have behaved badly with someone. This would make us realise that our behaviour was dictated by anger, ego, jealousy, hatred or some other vice. So, in short, all these vices cause pain to the self and make us inflict pain on others.

Such violence is a violation of divinity and it drags

us down from a divine status to that of an ordinary human being. After all, what is the difference between the deities and humans? The former are always full of virtues and totally free of vices whereas humans have virtues in



varying degrees and are prone to come under the influence of vices.

So rare has virtue become today that if someone remains steadfast in even one virtue — say honesty — he stands out among his peers and is half-jokingly called a saint or a deity. On the contrary if the vices become predominant, they can turn a human being into a devil. Remember! divinity cannot stay where there is violence, light and darkness, nectar and poison, because divine and devilish traits cannot co-exist.

So, if we really want to bring peace to this world,

we have to first root out the vices from our minds. Without this effort no amount of political, social and economic efforts can ensure lasting peace. It is not a new idea. It was written into the preamble of the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation that, "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed."

In fact, the battlefield is not outside but within us. The day we win over anger, ego, greed and jealousy inside, that very day the world outside will begin to change. Remember! True peace is not a gift handed down by governments or treaties, it is a conscious choice made by each individual.

When we return to our original qualities of purity, peace and love, we do not just transform ourselves, we become living instruments to transform the world. We only need to act upon it through spiritual effort.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK. Till Date 8500+ Published Columns have been written by Him)

How letting go leads to happiness: Spiritual lessons for modern living



AIR ATMAN IN RAVI

LETTING go is an art in itself, an art we must master if we wish to be truly happy. From letting go of myths and superstitions, to releasing people and negative emotions, to eventually letting go of the ego, life continuously demands that we let go in order to be peaceful and joyful.

One of the main reasons we suffer is because we cling to past hurts and wrongs. We nurse, curse, and rehearse our pain, carrying grudges in our hearts. These grudges are joy-stealers. They weigh us down and give rise to anger, bitterness, and vengeance. To be free, we must forgive, forget, and move on. Similarly, we must let go of regrets. What is done cannot be undone. While we can make amends, holding on to regret only invites sadness into our lives.

Many of us live in the past. We replay memories, good or bad, over and over. But the past is history—it's over. Why sacrifice the joy of the present for what has already passed? Just as we must release the past, we must also let go of fears about the future. Worry robs us of peace and the joy of the moment. The only way to live is to live in the now, moment by moment.

We must also understand that what happens in life is the unfolding of our Karma. When we face circumstances beyond our control, we must accept them with grace. These are not accidents; they are the outcomes of our own past actions. As we sow, so shall we reap. In fact, we should rejoice knowing that our Karmic debt is being settled. The ABC Mantra serves as a powerful guide: Accept, do your Best, and Choose to surrender in Consciousness. We must do our duty without becoming attached to the outcomes of our actions.

Letting go is critical in relationships. Holding on



Letting go is the key to true happiness. By releasing past hurts, future worries, and worldly attachments, we discover peace. The ultimate freedom comes from realising we are the Soul

too tightly to people, being possessive in love, and forming strong attachments only leads to pain. Love deeply, but with detached attachment. Being possessive about people or things brings suffering. Reflect for a moment: did we bring anything or anyone with us when we were born? No. We came empty-handed, and we will leave the same way. Nothing belongs to us. Nobody belongs to us. Everything is transient.

In today's world, many are obsessed with money, fame, and success. Our desires never end—we want more and more. But as the Buddha said, desire is the root cause of suffering. Let go of desires, greed, and the pursuit of material things. Live with contentment and fulfillment. Enjoy life's pleasures, but receive them as Prasadam—Divine blessings.

So many of us live with negative emotions—stress, worry, fear, anger, jealousy. We must consciously let go of this negativity and instead choose positive emotions like love, courage, hope, faith, and trust. Negative energy is poison. Positive energy is

power. Choose to be happy. Tell yourself: I will be happy today no matter what comes my way! Practices such as meditation, Asana, Pranayama, contemplation, and silence can help calm the mind and add to our well-being.

The ultimate truth is that this world is an illusion—a cosmic drama, a show. We are actors who come and go. We are not the body, mind, or ego. We are the Soul, a Spark Of Unique Life, a part of the Divine. God is not a person, nor a saint, but a Supreme Immortal Power. Sadly, we remain ignorant of this truth. To live with happiness, we must let go of the myths, illusions, and false beliefs we hold, and instead realise who we are. We must transcend the body, mind, and ego—our lower self—and live as our higher self, the Divine Soul.

This is the ultimate act of letting go: letting go of the false identity of 'I' and realising that I am not 'I'. I am the Soul. This realisation leads to a life of eternal peace, love, and bliss.

(Writer is a Happiness Ambassador and Spiritual Leader)

The arithmetic of life



Sadhguru

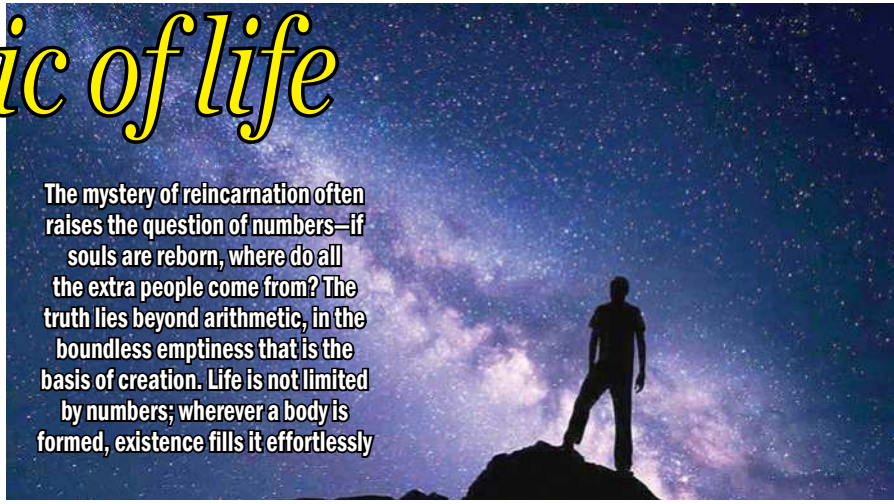
Sadhguru, I have a question about birth, rebirth and karma. If the total energy in the universe is constant, is the number of souls in the universe also a constant thing?

Sadhguru: You are asking about the arithmetic? This is a very ancient question that people have asked a million times over. The calculation is, today there are seven billion people. Let us say one thousand years ago there were only a billion people. If people are reincarnated

and born, where did they come? "Did all the monkeys become...?" Maybe! There aren't as many monkeys in the world as there used to be a thousand years ago. Does that not explain it to you?

The Boundless Emptiness But that is not how it is. The basis of creation is a boundless space of emptiness. Because there is so much emptiness, creation can happen in any scale. If there was no emptiness, there would be no possibility of creation. Without nothingness to accommodate something, where would something sit? Nothingness is the basis of all this "something."

There is no arithmetic for nothingness. Arithmetic is only for numbers — one, two, three, four belong to arithmetic. Zero does not, nor does the infinite belong to arithmetic. Suppose we formed a thousand bubbles that were floating around. If we wanted to form ten



The mystery of reincarnation often raises the question of numbers—if souls are reborn, where do all the extra people come from? The truth lies beyond arithmetic, in the boundless emptiness that is the basis of creation. Life is not limited by numbers; wherever a body is formed, existence fills it effortlessly

thousand bubbles, would we run out of air? It is still there, because it is not material — it is non-material. If it was material, you could count it and then wonder how these seven billion happened. "Okay, only two billion monkeys died, but there are one billion extras. Did the insects become this?" Even if you look at it that way, it still works because of the huge number of other creatures in the planet we have killed. Maybe all of them have crept themselves up into human form. "Okay, but where does

the karma come for these people. They are just empty bubbles." You can gather in a day the karma you need for ten lifetimes. In terms of the material world, can you not do something today that will buy you ten years of trouble? You are capable of that.

So, even if we reproduce and make these seven billion into twenty billion a hundred years from now, there will be no dearth for that substance which is the basis of life. There will never be a shortage. You create bodies, it will fill itself up. If you create a bubble, air

fills up. Similarly, if you create a body, it fills up. Wherever there is a suitable body, a crucible for life to go, it will go. There will be no such problem that, if there are too many pregnancies this year, there will not be enough life to get into all these new bodies!

(Sadhguru is a Yogi, mystic, and Padma Vibhushan awardee, also known for his New York Times bestselling books. He founded Conscious Planet—Save Soil, the world's largest people's movement, impacting over 4 billion people)

BEJAN DARUWALLA'S

HOROSCOPE

Aries

Ganesha says the situation is going to be excellent this week. These days are very suitable for strengthening your self-esteem and mental state. You will get an opportunity to recognise the energy within you and channel it in a positive direction. There will be clarity in your thoughts, which will also enable you to communicate better in relationships. There will be harmony in your personal relationships, and spending time with your loved ones will make you happy.

Taurus

Ganesha says this week can be full of some challenges. During this time, your emotions and mood may remain somewhat unstable, which can affect your personal relationships. You may feel the need to communicate more with your loved ones, but you need to avoid any kind of disagreement or confrontation. Try to remain emotionally strong. Practice introspection and self-sensitivity at this time, so that you can understand your feelings and express them in the right way.

Gemini

Ganesha says this week, Gemini people may have to face some challenges. Overall, this time is not favorable, and due to this, there may be confusion and turmoil in your mind. People around you may be unable to understand your feelings, which may make you feel a little lonely. However, you must use your communication skills. Try to express your thoughts clearly, as this may be your opportunity to improve the circumstances.

Cancer

Ganesha says this week is going to be full of perfection and positivity for Cancer people. At this time, your inner energy and sensitivity will be at their peak. You will feel emotionally strong, which will bring sweetness to your relationships. Time spent with family and friends will be even more enjoyable. Your little things and behavior will be successful in touching the hearts of others. Your empathy and understanding will deepen your relationship, which will strengthen mutual trust.

Leo

Ganesha says this week, the overall situation will be great for Leos. This week will infuse positivity and confidence in you. You will experience happiness and enthusiasm around you, which will also improve your relationships. Your confidence will have a positive impact on your conversations with your loved ones, which will deepen mutual understanding and bonding. A new shine will also be seen in your social life. This is the right time to spend time with friends and family, which will strengthen your emotional state.

Virgo

Ganesha says this week will be full of many experiences. During this time, your energy and enthusiasm will be normal, but some challenges may also come. Overall, the crises you face will force you to think more and plan. This is the time when you need to focus on your relationships. There may be tension in some relationships, so maintain clarity in conversation. If you are finding it difficult to express your feelings, listen to your conscience. Even small things can lead you to big problems. Your social life can also be a little disturbed.

Libra

Ganesha says this week, the experience of totality will be unique for Libra people. Your natural charm will make this time especially pleasant. You will be able to build great relationships with the people around you. This is the time when you will give a new dimension to the relationships important to you. Your presence in society will have a positive impact, which will attract people directly to you. If you have experienced some troubles in a relationship, then this is the time to find a solution.

Scorpio

Ganesha says this week, the general situation may remain a little challenging for Scorpios. You may feel some uncertainty and conflict in the currents of life. Ups and downs are possible in personal relationships, which may make you feel stressed. This is the time when communication with loved ones will have to become more important. Despite your efforts, some communication problems may arise, so it is important to maintain patience.

Sagittarius

Ganesha says this week, the overall experience for Sagittarius natives will be very wonderful. You will experience a lot of inner energy and confidence, which will make your mood even better. This is the time when you can establish harmony with the people around you. Your generosity and open-mindedness will strengthen your relationships. Friends and family will enjoy activities with you that will fill you with happiness.

Capricorn

Ganesha says this week, circumstances seem to be somewhat unfavorable for Capricorn natives. Some challenges may come in your life, for which you will need to keep yourself stable. This is the time for self-control and restraint, as you may have to face many pressures. There may be some turmoil in your relationships this week. There may be minor differences and misunderstandings, but you can resolve them with patience and communication.

Aquarius

Ganesha says this week will bring mixed experiences for Aquarius natives. During this time, you will see some conflicts and confusion in your life, which may cause you mental stress. It will be very important to maintain harmony at this time. According to the context, some problems may also arise in love relationships. Keep the conversation with your partner open and honest so that misunderstandings can be cleared. This week, your creativity and self-expression will be somewhat limited, but it can also allow you to organise your thoughts and think deeply.

Pisces

Ganesha says this week will be very positive. There will be a flow of new energy and inspiration in your life, which will help you understand the world around you better. This is the time for you to go deep within yourself and unleash your creativity. Your intuition can open new paths for you. You will also feel depth and stability in your relationships. This week symbolises harmony and understanding, which will make your relationship even stronger. Qualities like spontaneous communication, openness, and honesty will support you.

CHIRAG

DARUWALLA

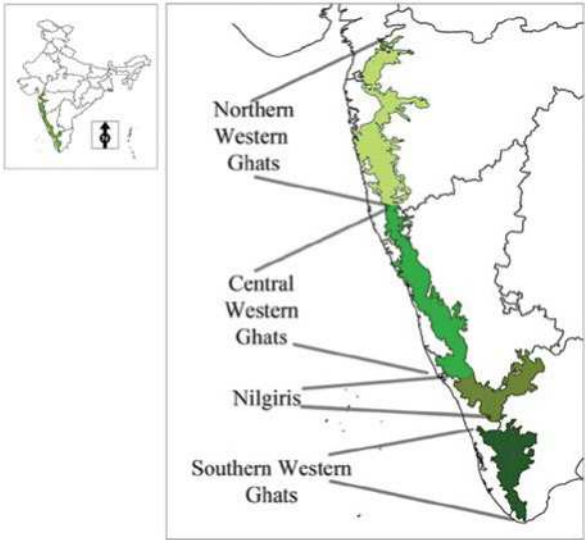


DR. PANDIRI HARSHA BHARGAVI

The 2022 Kannada film ‘Kantara’, directed by Rishab Shetty, has spotlighted a lesser-known, deeply spiritual facet of Bharat’s rich cultural heritage. At the heart of the film lies ‘Bhoota Kola’, a ritualistic dance and spirit worship practiced in the Tulu-speaking regions of coastal Karnataka. This cinematic

portrayal of ancestral deities, forest guardianship, and land rights has opened the world’s eyes to the sacred, symbiotic relationship between man and nature that flourishes in the Western Ghats. ‘Kantara’ has reminded us of how indigenous traditions offer timeless models for ecological harmony. Set in a world where tribal communities coexist with nature not as conquerors but as caretakers, it revives conversations about land, identity, and spiritual ecology. It shows that the forests are not just resources, but repositories of ancestral memory and divine presence.

Living Landscape of Culture and Conservation
Stretching from Gujarat to Kerala, the Western Ghats which is also known as the Sahyadri Hills is one of the world’s most significant ecological zones. These ghats



The Kannada film ‘Kantara’ has brought global attention to ‘Bhoota Kola’, a spiritual tradition of coastal Karnataka, highlighting the deep bond between man and nature. Set against the Western Ghats, it reflects how indigenous communities live as custodians of forests and culture. Their timeless wisdom offers vital lessons in ecological harmony and sustainable living

are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site. The mountain range covers 5% of the country’s landmass which houses more than 7,400 species of flowering plants, 508 bird species, and over 1,500 endemic plants. These forests are the birthplace of rivers like the Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri, lifelines for millions in peninsular Bharat.

Beyond its breathtaking biodiversity, the Ghats are also a cultural reservoir. The concept of sacred groves (small forest patches preserved through rituals and spiritual belief) exists

in almost every community along the range. Known locally as kaavu in Kerala or devrai in Maharashtra, these groves are protected not by law, but by lore, taboos, and seasonal worship. This model of nature preservation rooted in the people’s lifestyle that has ensured the survival of rare flora and fauna through centuries.

Custodians of Ecological Wisdom
The real guardians of the Western Ghats are its local Janjatiyis, each preserving an ancient way of life attuned to the environment. From the



Todas in Tamil Nadu to the Soligas in Karnataka, these communities inhabit the forests, they interpret them, respect them, and ensure their regeneration.

- The Irulas, known for their unparalleled skill in tracking snakes and herbs, are key contributors to anti-venom research.
- The Kurumbas blend sha-

manic practices with deep knowledge of medicinal plants. They are traditional healers.

- The Kattunayakans, expert honey gatherers, practice techniques that preserve bee colonies and forest harmony.
- The Siddhis have interwoven tribal traditions with their ancestral heritage, creating a unique cultural

mosaic.

- The Warlis, famous for their nature-inspired tribal art, use painting as expression but as a way to encode ecological knowledge.
- The Kotas are known for their craftsmanship, they were traditionally skilled in making tools and musical instruments.
- The Soligas are known for their unique coexistence with tigers.

Their diets, too, are reflections of forest cycles, rich in foraged greens, millet, bamboo shoots, wild honey, and tubers. These food systems are inherently seasonal, low-impact, and nutritionally rich. Their agricultural practices, often labeled as primitive, are actually sustainable models that modern societies are now striving to replicate.

Sacred Ecology in Practice
This sacred worldview is seen in reality of Western Ghats, rivers are worshipped as mothers, groves are seen as temples, and animals are treated with reverence. This culture of sacred ecology fosters a conservation ethic not imposed from above, but emerging from within the community.

The concept of Daiva in ‘Kantara’—a forest deity who guards both people and nature—mirrors the lived belief of many tribes who believe that disrupting the forest invites spiritual retribution. This deep psychological connection fosters an environmental ethic stronger than legal enforcement.

Learning from the Hills
Despite their wisdom, many tribal traditions in the Ghats are under threat—from deforestation, infrastructure projects, climate change, and loss of forest rights. The migration of youth, loss of language, and assimilation into urban life further erode these heritage lifelines.

The future of the Western Ghats depends on scientific conservation in alignment with cultural preservation. Recognising janjati communities as knowledge-holders, granting them land rights, supporting their languages and crafts, and integrating their practices into school curriculums can ensure that their wisdom is not lost.

The model offered by the Western Ghats is clear: coexistence over conquest, reverence over resource extraction. In an era of climate crisis, this philosophy is relevant and is essential.

As the sun sets over the Sahyadris and the mist coils around their ancient ridges, the voices of the forest (human, animal, and spirit) merge into a single, harmonious song.

The Western Ghats are more than a biodiversity hotspot, they are a civilisational legacy of how to live with nature, not against it. And perhaps, in their silence, they carry the most urgent message of our time: to protect nature is to protect ourselves.

(The writer is a Creative Economy Expert)

Book Review

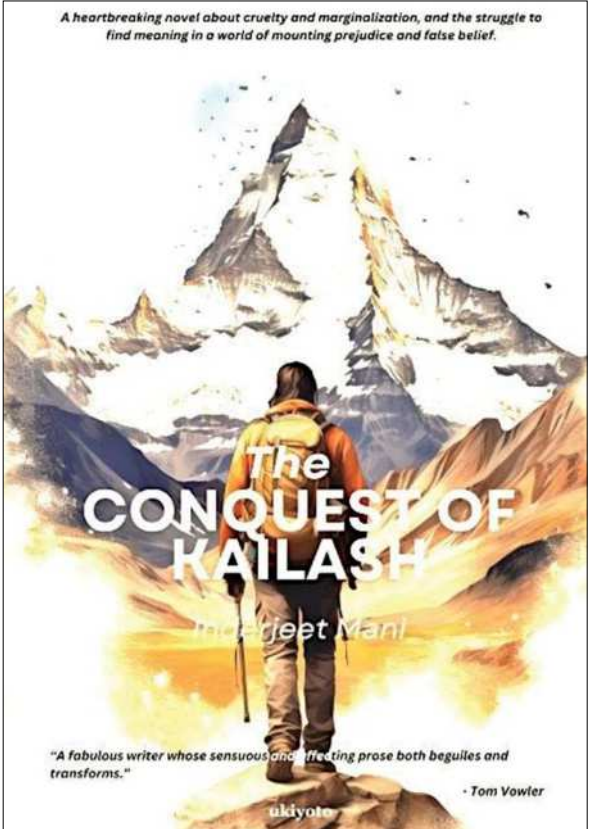
A journey of love, loss and transcendence

ASKARI JAFFER

As a reviewer, when I opened ‘The Conquest of Kailash’, I expected a reflective, slow-burning novel. To my utmost delight, what I found was a story that seizes the reader, shakes them, and refuses to let go. Inderjeet Mani, acclaimed for his Thailand-set horror thriller ‘Toxic Spirits’, has delivered a literary masterpiece that is simultaneously intellectually ambitious and heart-breaking.

At its center is Ali Akbar, a closeted gay man in his later years, mourning the loss of his wife Helen, who has left to become a Buddhist nun. Returning from California to India, Ali’s journey begins at the Deer Park in Benares, where the Buddha delivered his first sermon, and a simple flyer promising to teach him how to love again sets him on a path that will take him to the icy heights of Mount Kailash. But this is no mere scenic travelogue. Ali must confront childhood sexual abuse, his personal failures including his expulsion from Cambridge University, and the fractured relationships with Helen and their daughter Homa. When he is assaulted at a parade led by a religious fundamentalist, the stakes of his search for love and redemption become sharply immediate.

Mani’s prose melds philosophical reflection, intimate character study, and richly textured travelogue. The phi-



losophy of love it explores takes you far away into the world of Socrates in classical Greece and the writings of the Upanishadic sage Yajnavalkya. From Athens’ Agora to the sacred temples of Benares to California suburbia, English halls of learning, and the remote Himalayan peaks, every scene pulses with life, danger, and possibility. The chill of mountain air, the crush of city crowds, the hush of meditation, and the long, often painful afternoons of childhood are all palpable. A warning: the author does not

shy away from explicitness. By exposing desire, shame, and vulnerability without restraint, Mani makes the story intimate and unforgettable.

Ali’s fascination with Mount Kailash begins in childhood, when a family friend recounts the pilgrim-age’s dangers and wonders on a Benares verandah, surrounded by mango and plum trees, flocks of parrots, and their dog Krishna. The conversation sparks an early curiosity about faith, devotion, and the meaning of transcendence. Years later,

this curiosity deepens at university, where his geography professor Hans Finkelstein, a German émigré, brings the mountain to life through vivid lessons on plate tectonics and the formation of the Himalayas. Ali’s imagination transforms scientific lectures into cosmic visions, linking earthly upheavals to the grandeur of Kailash, while glimpses of local children in the photographs he studies remind him that spiritual aspiration often coexists with harsh realities.

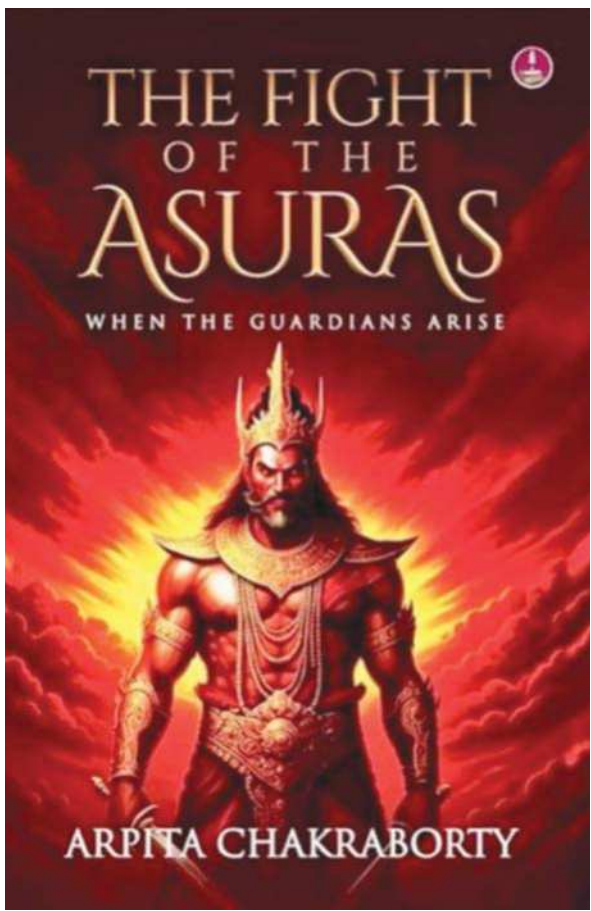
Inspired by his own pilgrimage to Buddhist sites in India and Nepal, Mani’s novel asks questions rarely addressed in contemporary fiction: Can love endure trauma, exile, and societal collapse? Can a man shaped by fear and loss still find connection? This is a story of loss, longing, and the extraordinary, unpredictable ways the human heart seeks and finds meaning.

Already popular in translation and audiobook form, ‘The Conquest of Kailash’ has been praised as “a moving and profoundly human work” by Reader’s favourite, while Amazon readers celebrate its “heartbreaking blend of philosophy, introspection, and travel” and its “deep, beautiful, and emotional” impact. There are a few passages where the philosophical digressions slow the narrative slightly, occasionally interrupting the otherwise immersive flow. Even so, it remains a rare and compelling literary achievement.

DR RUPALI SETHI

What if the fate of the universe rested on someone born from its darkest bloodline? That’s the question at the heart of ‘The Fight of The Asuras (When the Guardians Arise)’, a breathtaking tale that pulls you into the realm of magic, celestial warriors, and ancient shadows waiting to rise again. It’s a story of destiny and doubt, where every choice could tip the balance between salvation and ruin. Every once in a while, a story comes along that doesn’t just transport you into another world but makes you stop and reflect on your own. This is one such book — a sweeping epic set in a land of ancient magic and celestial warriors, yet at its core, it’s about something deeply human: the struggle between who we are, who we were born to be, and who we choose to become.

At its center stands Kalki, a guardian unlike any other. Descended from the Rakshasas — once divine ‘Suras’, now feared across the cosmos — he is both the savior and the threat, the protector and the cursed heir. His journey is haunted by a legacy that refuses to let go, making his struggle as internal as it is epic. When a celestial warrior named Chitrangada appears, she and Kalki become entangled in a fate-driven battle against a rising darkness. Dark secrets from Kalki’s past threaten their alliance. Guided by the



cosmos, Chitrangada’s duty is clear: stand beside him to preserve the balance of the universe. Yet clarity of purpose does not erase the doubts in her heart.

Their world pulses with life on every page. From the training halls of Eldoria Academy, where mortals and celestials are molded into protectors of the realm, to landscapes steeped in forgotten magic, the setting feels mythical and tangible.

It’s not just a backdrop; it’s an arena where destinies collide and secrets surface. What makes this novel so compelling is its focus on legacy and redemption. Do we inherit the mistakes of those who came before us, or can we forge our own path? This question drives Kalki’s journey and resonates with anyone who has ever wrestled with the weight of expectations — family, society, or even self-doubt.

‘The Fight of The Asuras’ blends mythology, destiny, and human struggle in a breathtaking saga of legacy, redemption, and celestial battles

That’s where the book connects most deeply: behind the celestial wars and ancient evils lies a universal human struggle.

The writing moves seamlessly between grand spectacle and quiet introspection. The battles are explosive, painted in cinematic strokes of light and shadow, but the quieter moments — Chitrangada wrestling with her doubts or Kalki confronting the weight of his lineage — leave the deepest mark.

‘The Fight Of The Asuras’ is more than just a fantastic story; it’s a spellbinding blend of mythology, destiny, and human struggle. With breathtaking battles and tender introspection, it explores legacy, love, and the choice between light and darkness. A must-read for fans of epic adventures who crave both grandeur and heart.

(The writer is a noted scholar of English and Hindi Literature.)

– Union Minister Piyush Goyal

Double delight for India

Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag enter Hong Kong final

HONG KONG

INDIA enjoyed a memorable day at the Hong Kong Open 2025 as Lakshya Sen stormed into the men's singles final while Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ended their semifinal jinx to book a place in the men's doubles summit clash here on Saturday.

With both entries confirmed, India is assured of a strong presence in Sunday's final. For Sen, the semifinal win marked a return to the big stage after a two-year wait. The 24-year-old overcame Chinese Taipei's third seed Chou Tien Chen in straight games, 23-21, 22-20, in 56 minutes of high-intensity badminton. Showing nerves of steel in the closing stages of both games, Sen secured his first Super 500 final since 2023. He now faces World No. 4 Li Shi Feng of China in what promises to be a thrilling encounter. Significantly, Sen holds a 7-6 head-to-head advantage over the Chinese star, adding an extra edge to the contest.

Earlier in the day, Satwik and

Chirag finally broke through after a year of setbacks, reaching their first final since their Asian Games gold medal triumph in October 2023. The World No. 9 Indian pair dismissed Chinese Taipei's unseeded duo Bing-Wei Lin and Chen Cheng Kuan with authority, 21-17, 21-15, snapping a frustrating run of six consecutive semifinal defeats in 2025. Their next challenge is formidable: China's World No. 3 pair Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, who eased past compatriots Fang-Chih Lee and Fang-Jen Lee 21-19, 21-8. For the Indians, however, this final appearance comes as a huge morale boost after enduring a tough year riddled with injuries and personal struggles.

Satwik, 24, has battled a re-

World Boxing C'ships

Minakshi, Jaismine, Nupur storm into finals

LIVERPOOL

MINAKSHI (women's 48kg), Jaismine Lamboria (women's 57kg), and Nupur (women's 80kg) were at their dominant best in their respective semifinals to raise hope of multiple gold medals for India at the World Boxing Championships 2025 in Liverpool.

Minakshi defeated Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan of Mongolia 5:0, Jaismine hammered Omailyn Carolina Alcala Cegovia of Venezuela 5:0, and Nupur proved too good for Turkey's Seyma Duztas.

India has fielded a 20-member contingent at the inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing, a recently formed international governing body for boxing, and is hoping for a good showing in both men's and women's events. Pooja Rani (women's 80kg) is the fourth Indian boxer to reach the semifinals and will face Emily Asquith of England later in the day.

In the women's 48kg semi-

finals, Minakshi did not allow two-time Asian bronze medallist Lutsaikhan to find her rhythm in any of the three rounds and completely dominated the bout to earn an unanimous decision.

It was a similar story in the other two semifinals as both Jaismine and Nupur



Women's Hockey Asia Cup

India qualify for final, to face China in Sunday final

HANGZHOU (CHINA): Indian women's hockey team qualified for the Asia Cup final despite playing out a 1-1 draw against Japan after hosts China beat Korea 1-0 in the last match of the Super 4 stage here on Saturday.

India will face China in the summit clash on Sunday, and the winning team will qualify for next year's World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

After the 1-1 draw against defending champions Japan, India had to wait for the result of the match between Korea and China, who have already qualified for the final.

Korea needed to win by a margin of at least two goals to qualify for the final, but China's victory ensured that India, the third-place finisher in the 2022 edition, made it to the summit clash.

China topped the Super 4s table with nine points after three wins, while India ended at second with four points from one win, one draw and one loss. Korea secured just one point -- one draw and two losses -- to end at the bottom. Japan finished third with two points.

Against Japan, India took an early lead with Beauty Dung Dung putting them ahead in the seventh minute with a field goal.

ISSF World Cup

Esha wins women's air pistol gold

NINGBO (CHINA)

OLYMPIAN and reigning mixed team pistol world champion Esha Singh ended India's medal drought at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol, clinching gold in the women's 10m air pistol here on Saturday.

At the Ningbo Olympic Sports Centre, the 20-year-old edged out home favourite Yao Qianxun by 0.1 point in a tense final. Reigning Olympic champion Oh Yejin of South Korea took the bronze. This was Esha's maiden World Cup gold in the event and it helped India move to fifth spot in the medal standings, joining four other nations with a gold medal. Hosts China lead the standings with two gold, four silver and one bronze. India have fielded their fourth to sixth ranked shooters in each event at the tournament. "I am very happy as this is the first event that I started with and to win a

world cup gold in it...I am just happy that some of my goals are being reached," Singh said. On her mindset in the final, she said: "Yes I am aware of things like India has not won a medal yet and that there are great shooters in the field, but I have played many finals against these guys and its them all the time so I now know that the pistol is in my hand and the battle is with me so I try to enjoy the match as much as possible."

Esha and teammate Rhythm Sangwan had qualified for the final with identical

scores of 578, securing the last two available spots.

Yao topped qualification with 584, while India's Palak Gulia, competing for ranking points, shot 586. Surbhi Rao finished 25th with 568.

In the eight-shooter final, Rhythm began strongly, leading after the first series with Esha in second.

By the halfway mark, Esha moved into the lead while Rhythm slipped to fifth, where she eventually finished.

As eliminations progressed, both Indians maintained composure.

Rhythm briefly climbed to fourth with a 10.8 on her 15th shot but bowed out after the 18th. Esha, meanwhile, maintained her rhythm, producing two 10.7s at crucial stages to stave off Yao's late surge.

She sealed the gold with a final score of 242.6, just 0.1 clear of the Chinese shooter.

TVK chief Vijay's first poll campaign address lost in audio glitch

THIRUCHIRAPPALLI (TAMIL NADU)

TAMILAGA Vетtri Kazhagam chief Vijay's address from atop his campaign vehicle here on Saturday was marred by audio issues and out of his 20-minute speech, barely one to two minutes was audible

and clear. Cadres, fans and the people who had gathered in thousands chanted 'Vijay, Vijay' as his speech became almost incomprehensible barring some remarks, words and points.

"Will you vote for the DMK?" he asked after raising a number of questions seek-

ing to push the Chief Minister M K Stalin-led government to a tight corner. One of his key accusation was that the DMK government did not fulfill its assurances made ahead of the 2021 Assembly election. He also hit out at the DMK regime over the illegal kidney sale racket.

When Vijay began his speech by 3 PM, he outlined the significance of choosing Tiruchirappalli for his maiden rally. He said that it was here that Dravidian icon, DMK founder CN Annadurai decided in 1956 to enter the electoral race. It was here that AIADMK founder M G

Ramachandran held his first state conference in 1974 after launching his party in 1972.

Tiruchirappalli was renowned also for communal harmony and rationalist leader 'Periyar' EV Ramasamy lived here. During the days of yore, before going to battlefield, kings used to pray

to their family deities. Similarly, Vijay said he has visited Tiruchirappalli. Any political initiative, when started in Tiruchirappalli, would eventually become a turning point, he said.

Meanwhile, the party acknowledged that the technical glitch led to audio issues.

TVK said that the issue has been addressed and that the chief's speech could be hereafter heard clearly. Clad in white shirt, Vijay delivered his address from a raised platform-like structure on the top of the campaign bus and cadres continuously flung party flags at him.

Tripura: UCO bank cashier held in Rs 16 cr fraud case

AGARTALA

A cashier of a public sector bank in Tripura has been arrested for her alleged involvement in siphoning off Rs 16 crore from Agartala Municipal Corporation's (AMC) account using forged cheques, an official said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Ramayani Shrimayi, a resident of Nagaon in Assam and posted as a cashier at the UCO Bank, will be produced before a court on Saturday, said sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Sadar, DP Roy.

After confirming "unauthorised withdrawals" of Rs 16 crore, the bank lodged a complaint with West Agartala police station on September 5.

West Tripura SP Namit Pathak has constituted a Special Investigating Team (SIT) headed by additional SP Drubha Nath to probe the fraud.

"As part of the probe, we arrested Shrimayi for her alleged involvement in the scam on Friday night. She

will be produced before a local court later in the day", Roy said.

He said that altogether six cloned cheques were used to withdraw Rs 16 crore from August 5 to September 2.

Police have so far recovered Rs 7 crore of the defrauded money by tracing online transactions. (PTI)

Pigeons cause no harm, firecrackers can: Maneka

MUMBAI: Former Union minister and BJP leader Maneka Gandhi on Saturday expressed confidence that kabutarckhanas (pigeon feeding spots) in the city will be reopened, saying that pigeons have not caused any harm, while firecrackers have contributed more to pollution.

Speaking to reporters here after attending an event, Gandhi said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has constituted a committee to take a decision regarding kabutarckhanas and the report will be favourable.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had banned feeding pigeons and closed some old kabutarckhanas in the city last month, considering them to be a public health hazard.

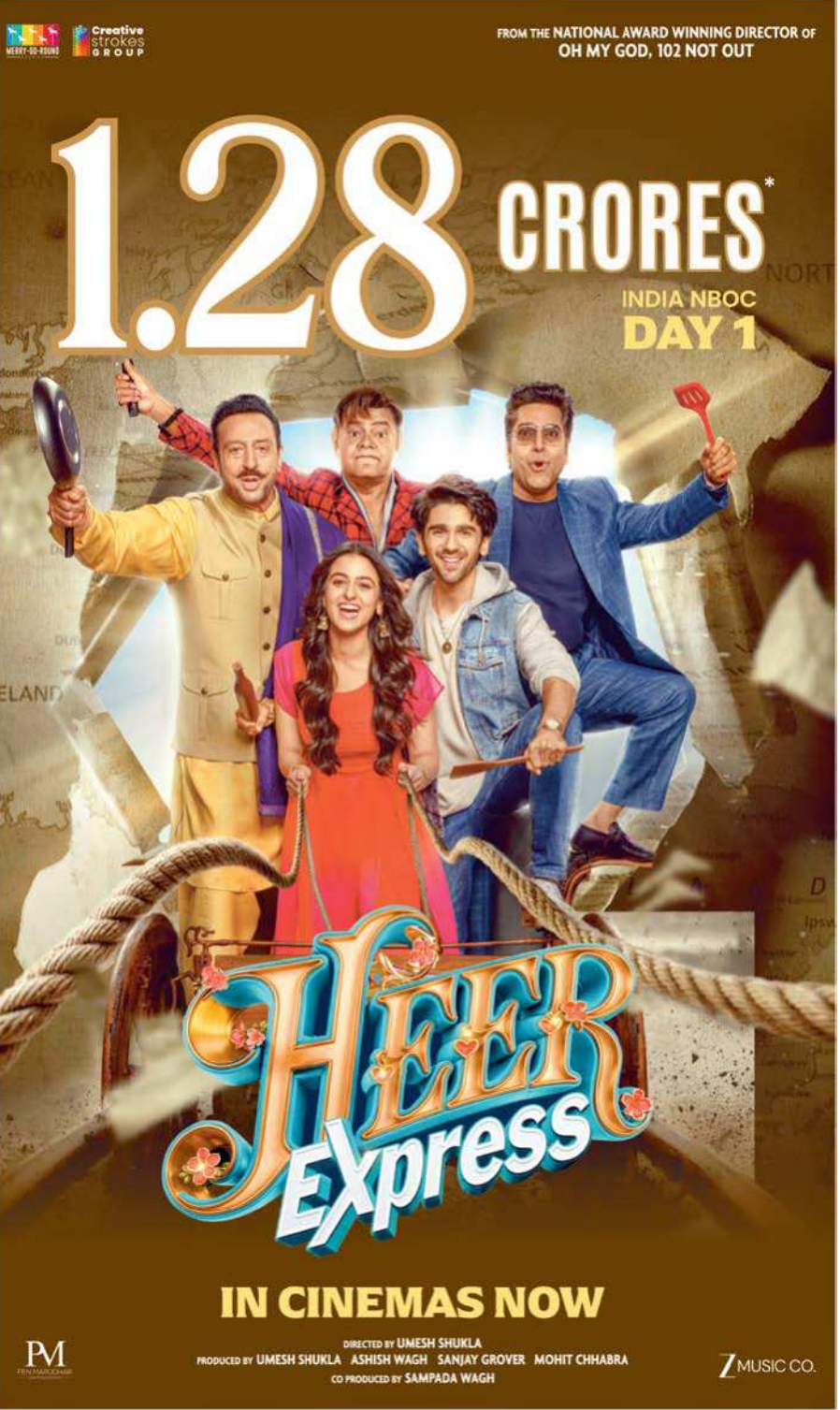
"India's foundation is about compassion; it is about living and letting others live. There is no example of anyone ever dying because of pigeons. Pigeons have caused no harm to anyone," Gandhi said.

She noted that there are 57 kabutarckhanas in Mumbai, some of which have been closed.

"The chief minister has formed a committee to make a decision over it. It will take one month. Once the report is out, the kabutarckhanas will be reopened. I am confident of it," she said.

"If pigeons are killed for spreading disease, firecrackers cause multifold pollution. Firecrackers did not exist during the time of Lord Ram and Sita. People would light diyas and share food. The time for firecrackers is now over. People can no longer breathe," the BJP leader said.

Maneka criticised India's approach towards tourism, saying unchecked deforestation and neglect of natural assets had diminished its appeal. (PTI)



Historic day for Mizoram as it enters country's railway map

AIZAWL

MIZORAM Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Saturday said it was a historic day as the state entered the country's railway map, which will have a far-reaching impact as it bridges the dreams and reality between the state and Bharat.

He was addressing a gathering as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Mizoram's first railway line and flagged off the state's maiden Rajdhani Express, connecting Aizawl with Delhi.

"Today is a historic day for our state. It marks a new chapter in our journey towards progress....The railway projects are not just infrastructure; they are investments in our children's future, in the dignity of our citizens and in the economic resilience of our state. The impact of these projects will be far-reaching, bridging dreams and reality between Mizoram and Bharat," Lalduhoma said.

The chief minister said the 51.38 km-long railway line

was a technical marvel and stood as a testament to engineering excellence.

"This railway line is more than a feat of engineering, it is a symbol of inclusion, national integration and of the shared aspirations of our people. It brings Mizoram closure to the rest of India and India closure to the heart of Mizoram. The 51.38 km stretch includes some of the most difficult terrains in the country," Lalduhoma asserted.

He said the Prime Minister's presence in the state is a powerful symbol of his unwavering commitment to the development of the North East and inclusive, connected India.

"We are grateful for the inauguration of several other key projects that touched the hearts of our communities....We are proud to have worked closely with the Central government to bring this development to lifeWe place on record our sincere appreciation not only for the projects but also for the way you and your colleagues have consistently lent a listening ear to our concerns," he said.

The CM said, "Your willingness to understand our hearts has not gone unnoticed. It has strengthened our trust in cooperative federalism. Mizoram values this partnership built on empathy, responsiveness and mutual respect, and we look forward to nurturing it further in the years ahead," he emphasised.