



THE Hans India



WOMENIA **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.

KALEIDOSCOPE **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.

DIFFERENT STROKES **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.

P8 OTT GUIDE **Weekend 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.

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WINDOWS



Impose tariffs on countries buying Russian oil: US to G7

WASHINGTON: The United States has asked G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia, asserting that only "unified efforts" that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine at source can apply sufficient pressure to end "the senseless killing." US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer were on a call with G7 Finance Ministers on Friday when they reiterated President Donald Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia. François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's Minister of Finance and National Revenue, chaired a meeting of G7 Finance Ministers to discuss further measures to increase pressure on Russia to end its war against Ukraine.

FIR over AI video by Congress on Modi, his mother



NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Saturday registered an FIR on a BJP worker's complaint over an AI-generated "deepfake" video posted by the Bihar Congress unit on its X handle that allegedly tarnished the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his late mother, an official said. The complaint was filed on Friday by Sanket Gupta, convenor of the BJP Delhi Election Cell, at the North Avenue Police Station, who alleged the video "maligned the Prime Minister's image, grossly violating law, morality and women's dignity". The clip was posted on the official X handle of the Indian National Congress, Bihar unit, on September 10, the complaint said.

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Kishan urges doctors to embrace India's ancient medical wisdom

REPORT: PAGE 4



Revolutions don't happen every day — that's why I'd choose a Rajya Sabha nomination over the PM's post

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



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

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.

Continued on Page 4

3-hour pit stop is not compassion: Cong targets Modi's Manipur visit

NEW DELHI: Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Manipur a "pit stop", the Congress on Saturday alleged that the trip is "tokenism" and a "grave insult" to the people of the state.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused Modi of organising a grand

welcome ceremony for himself and claimed that it "is a cruel prick" to the wounds of those still suffering. "In the words of your own... Where is your Rajdharma?" Kharge asked on X just before Modi's Manipur visit. "Narendra Modi ji, your 3-hour pit stop in Manipur is not compassion

-- it's farce, tokenism, and a grave insult to wounded people. Your so-called roadshow in Imphal and Churachandpur today, is nothing but a cowardly escape from hearing the cries of people in relief camps!" the Congress chief said in his post on X.

Continued on Page 4

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-dominat-



ed 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.

Continued on Page 4

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.

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 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

The extension was on account of "structural and 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.

Formula E-RACE CASE

Vigilance panel to study ACB report, recommend action

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a significant development as regards the Formula e-race case, the state government has handed over the ACB report to the state Vigilance Commission for further action.

The Commission is expected to send its findings to the government in the next two to three days before forwarding it to the Governor for filing a charge sheet in the case.

Top sources said that the Commission will review the report prepared by the Tel-



angana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on the alleged misappropriation of funds pertaining to the Municipal Administration and Urban

Development (MA&UD) department during the payment to the agency that was to organize the e-car racing event in Hyderabad. **Contd on Page 4**

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.

Continued on Page 4

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."

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Heavy rains at isolated places in Telangana

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: Heavy rains occurred at some isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Khammam and Suryapet districts in the state on Saturday. However, no property damage or casualties were reported in the areas hit by heavy rain. Disaster management teams evacuated people in low-lying areas in Nirmal and Khammam district in advance to prevent flood-related incidents. The alerted district Collectors had deployed disaster teams in the villages which received heavy rains in the morning to closely monitor flood levels in the rivulets and



water bodies near the habitations. The IMD has predicted that light to moderate rain or thunderstorms are very likely to occur at most places on Sunday also. It warned that heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places in Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, Mulugu, Bhadrachalam, Kamareddy districts of Telangana. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana.

DRUG CASE AT MAHINDRA UNIVERSITY

'STUDENTS USED THEIR POCKET MONEY FOR DRUGS'

HARISH ANGADI HYDERABAD

AS Mahindra University authorities continue to reel from the shock of a recent drug bust involving some of its students, fresh revelations from the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TANB) point to a larger, more complex network operating across several premier institutions in the city. Senior officials involved in the probe told "The Hans India" that the case had "only scratched the surface of a city-wide racket".

It may be recalled that on August 27, four persons, including two students, were arrested for operating a drug racket inside the Mahindra University here. During a prior raid at Shivalayam Colony in Suraram, police officials seized 1.15 kg of ganja, 47 grams of high-grade OG weed, packaging material, a digital weighing machine and multiple mobile phones used for trafficking.

Officials probing the ramifications of the case said the racket had established a supply chain reaching



from inter-state suppliers to student peddlers on campus, with nearly 50 students now under investigation for consumption.

The officials revealed that the key accused, identified as a Nigerian national known as "Nick", is still absconding. "If we can get

him, there are many other major drug racket links we can uncover," said one senior officer, pointing to an international chain of operations. According to the TANB, several individuals from Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan enter India on tourist or education visas but never return, slipping into illegal activities for survival. Only 10 out of 100

SENIOR OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE PROBE TOLD 'THE HANS INDIA' THAT THE CASE HAD "ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF A CITY-WIDE RACKET".

go back, he added. The investigators highlighted the vulnerability of courier and parcel services, calling them the "most exploited platform", for narcotics trafficking. Unlike passenger screenings at airports, courier consignments often bypass verification processes. "There are no OTP authentications, proper address details, or digital verification. We spend days tracking irregularly packed parcels that are divided into multiple compartments. "We have missed the right packages

while scanning," the official admitted. The TANB confirmed that drug use is not restricted to the Mahindra University campus. "We have identified cases in several premier private institutions, including Symbiosis and CBIT," he said. Students tend to misuse their pocket money for drugs, leading to dependency and reckless behavior."

Continued on Page 4

Eagle team busts Alprazolam manufacturing unit in Bowenpally

P3

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 follow-

ing 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.

BRS abstained from VP poll as a deal with BJP, says Mahesh Goud

► "They prostrated at Modi's feet to escape CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram case"
► Says KTR parroting BJP's remarks against Gandhi family

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud accused BRS of abstaining from the Vice Presidential election as part of a deal to escape from CBI investigation into the Kaleshwaram case.

Speaking to media persons at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh Goud accused BRS of staying away from the Vice Presidential election by bowing down at Modi's feet to avoid the CBI investigation into the Kaleshwaram case.

He said that despite the INDIA bloc candidate being from the State, the BRS decided to abstain, which indicates the understanding between BJP and BRS.

The TPCC president also slammed BRS working

president KT Rama Rao for making derogatory remarks against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his family.

He alleged that 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.

Mahesh Goud reminded Union Minister G Kishan Reddy that he had promised that if the Kaleshwaram case was handed over to the CBI, it would be solved within 48 hours. "Now that the State government has handed over the case to the CBI, where is Kishan Reddy sleeping even though days have passed?"

Why there is no progress in the CBI case against Kaleshwaram. Whether it is true that KTR and Harish Rao went to meet Modi, Amit Shah and Nadda in Delhi to escape the CBI case," he asked, while pointing out that the duo were still trying to meet them. Over the issue of defected MLAs, the Congress leader reminded how the BRS had poached the MLAs of opposition parties while being in power. The PCC president added that it was not his responsibility to declare which party the MLAs belonged as the issue was now with the Speaker. He said that the MLAs will explain to the Speaker which party they are in. He said that KTR has no right to talk about MLAs.



Malabar Group Chairman M P Ahamed and WHO India Representative Dr Roderico H Ofrin signed the MoU for the 'Nurturing Beginnings' CSR project, a collaborative initiative between Malabar Group and the WHO India. The signing ceremony was held at the Malabar headquarters in Kozhikode, Kerala. Malabar Group India Operations Managing Director Asher O, WHO National Professional Officer Dr B Muhammad Asheel, and Malabar Group Executive Director Nishad AK were also present

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 Aggarwal 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.

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

THE Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUKESH JAIN S/o KEWALCHAND PUKRAJ RATHORE R/o. H.No: 1-1-752, Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad, TS. Changed My Name As **MUKESH RATHORE S/o. KEWALCHAND PUKHRAJ RATHORE.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, BAVANI SHAKER, S/o BAVANI DEVADASU, residing at H.NO. 3-20, M.P. PATELGUDA, IBRAHIMPATNAM, RCK -RANGAREDDY- 500150, have Changed My Name As **BHAVANI SHEKAR.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, JAVIA RINA ROHIT, W/o. JAVIYA ROHIT KUMAR. Residing at H.NO. 2-2-1137/6/A/1, NEAR RAMALAYAM NALLAKUNTA HYD - 500044, have Changed My Name As **JAVIYA ROHIT KUMAR.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, NAYEEM UNISSA BEGUM R/O 1-11-30, OLD CUSTOM BASTI BEGUMPET SECUNDERABAD 500003 TS CHANGED MY NAME AS **NAYEEM UNISSA BEGUM W/O. MOHAMMED ABDUL SAMAD**
(TH_ 33249)

I, LINGERKER AMARNATH S/O. LINGERKER LAXMI NARAYANA, R/O. 12-10-399/5, 3rd floor, Manikanta Yashoda Residency, Seethapahmandi, Secbad-61, TS, changed my name as **LINGARKER AMARNATH S/O. LINGARKER LAXMI NARAYANA.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, MOMIN ALI, R/O. 17-1-309/1, Hafsa Colony, Behind Band Naka, Edi Bazar, Saidabad, Hyd, 500059, TS, changed my name as **MOHAMMED MOMIN ALI S/O. MAHMOOD ALI.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, SOOFIA KHATOON, R/o. 18-2-39/335/2, Ghazi-E-Millath Cly, Chandrayangutta, Hyd -05, TS, changed my child's name from MOHAMMED ANAAS to **MOHAMMED ANAS S/O. MOHAMMED MUZABBIR.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, SHIBAZ PATEL, R/O. H.NO. 5-288 And 289, B.M.RESIDENCY, S.R.NAIK NAGAR, IDA JEEDIMETLA, QUTHBULLAPUR, MEDCHAL, TS. I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AS **SHEBAAZ PATEL S/O. SHABBBIR PATEL.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, KISHORE KUMAR VAISHNAV S/O. SHYAM SUNDER VAISHNAV R/o.H.No.3-1-108 To 117, 2DN FLR, JAGDAMBA ENCLAVE, AVULAMANDA, SEC-BAD, HYD, TS-03, My Name Change As **KISHORE VAISHNAV**
(TH_ 33249)

I MAMIDIPELLIWAR NEELIMA RAO R/O 6-3-1195, 1196/1FL-201 GEETIKA TOWERS UMA NAGAR KUNDANBAGH BEGUMPET HYDERABAD 16 CHANGED MY NAME AS **MAMIDIPALLI NEELIMA RAO W/O MAMIDIPALLI pradep kumar**
(TH_ 33249)

I SRIMANTHULA AJAY KUMAR S/O SRIMANTHULA RAVI KUMAR, H.NO-1-10-95, GROUND FLOOR,ASHOK NAGAR, MUSHEERABAD, HYDERABAD-500020. Hence changed my name as **NAME- AJAY KUMAR SURNAME- SREEMANTHULA -DOB-12-09-1996. S/O- SRIMANTHULA RAVI KUMAR.** For all my future need
(TH_ 33249)

CHANGE OF NAME

I Syed Younus Shabeer s/o. Syed Shabeer, r/o. 18-2-45/A/8/1, Ghazi - e- Millat Colony, Chandrayangutta Hyderabad - 500005, TG. Have Changed my name as **SYED YOUNUS SHABBBIR.**
(TH_ 33249)

I Sindhu Priya, R/o. 710, AIH, Kondapur, Hyd-49, Telangana, have changed my son's name from Mokshagna Nandan Yaganti to **Mokshagna Nandan (new name)**
(TH_ 33249)

I, MOHAMMED ZAKER S/o. ABDUL VAHEED R/o. Plot No 870, Quba Colony, Near Zain Hotel, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad TS. Changed my Name From MOHAMMED ZAKAR to **MOHAMMED ZAKER.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, Hajera Begum (old name), W/o. Mohammed Ali Khan, R/o. 9-10-395, banjari darwaza, Golconda, HYD, TS, changed my name as **Fatima Begum (New name).**
(TH_ 33249)

I, LATIF UNISSA BEGUM W/O. MOHAMMED MUKHTAR R/o. 8-8-45/3/3/1, P.NO. 99, DILKUSH NAGAR, NEAR IDPL CLY, BALANAGAR, HYD 500037, TS, changed my name from LATIF UNISSA to **LATIF UNNISA BEGUM W/O. MOHAMMED MUKHTAR**
(TH_ 33249)

I, Yerraguntla Jayalaxmi, D/o Jogubhukta Yerraguntla, R/o: Flat No-406, RV Kaustubha, Pipeline Road, IDA Jeedimetla, M-M Dist, TG, After Marriage Changed my name as **Pakala Jayalaxmi W/o Pakala Sreenivas Rao.** Hence the above both names belong to me only.
(TH_ JSY)

I, Mudulluru Jyothi D/o Chamarthi Bhaskar Raju W/o M Vijay Bhargav Varma R/o 3-24, Rajulakandriga, Cherlapalli, Puttur, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517583 have changed my name to **Chamarthi Jyothi.**
(TH_ AANCHAL)

I, Gunduboyina Rama Krishna S/o Gunduboyina Venkata Rao R/o 2-54-1, Satyanarayana Nagar, Mulalanka, Pedalanka, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh-521344 have changed my name to **Gunduboina Rama Krishna.**
(TH_ AANCHAL)

I, Gunduboyina Dhana Lakshmi W/o Gunduboyina Rama Krishna R/o 2-54-1, Satyanarayana Nagar, Mulalanka, Pedalanka, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh-521344 have changed my name to **Gunduboina Venkata Dhana Lakshmi.**
(TH_ AANCHAL)

I, Mohammed Tajuddin Mandoula S/o. Mohammed Nafaluddin Mandoula H.No: 1-4-716, Bholaipur, Musheerabad, Hyderabad-500020, have Changed My Name from Mohammed Tajuddin Mandoula to **Tajuddin Mandal** and my father name Mohammed Nafaluddin Mandoula to **Nafaluddin Mandal** for all purpose.
(TH_ 01565)

LOST

I, **Chanda Uday Kiran S/o. Chanda Shreshu, R/o. Plot no 58, Lalithanagar, Jillelaguda, Hyderabad 500079. TS I have Lost my passport Bearing no W9710919 AND DL no TS 10820150002658.** If any one found call **6364408668**
(TH_ 33249)

I, **NAJMA BEGUM W/o. MOHAMMED CHAND R/o. 19-3-252/A/31A, MUSTAFA NAGAR, JAHANUMA HYDERABAD, TG. HAVE LOST MY ORIGINAL PASSPORT BEARING NO.63267640, WHILE TRAVELLING MUSTAFA NAGAR TO NAWAB SAHAB KUNTA, IF ANYBODY FOUND PLEASE CONT:- 9912602786.**
(TH_ 33249)

I, **THALLOJU ASHOK S/o. THALLOJU VEERA CHARY, R/O. H. No.5-24-608/1B, Chandragiri Nagar, Gajularamaram, Quthbullapur (Mid & Municipality), Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist., T.G.- 500055, have lost my Original Passport No. G613171, while travelling from Gajularamaram to Jagathirigutta by bike. If anybody found please contact above address.**
(TH_ 33249)

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

The partnership heretofore existing under the firm of **M/S. ATIVAI BUSINESS SERVICES** is dissolved by mutual consent on **04-Aug-2025.** B.Vivek Managapathi Priya, Sudagani Laxmi, Mangilipalli Shankaramma, Moota Suvarna. All Persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the above firm, either by note or book account, are requested to call on the undersigned, one of the partners, (who is duly authorized to wind up the business and settle all accounts of said firm) and make payment immediately, as the concern must be brought to a close.

A.V. Sheshadri, Advocate
Flat No. 304, 2nd Floor Fika Mansion, Kalasiguda, Secunderabad, Telangana 500003, Ph: 9989372251
Dt. 13-09-2025

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vamshee Krishna Ambatipudi S/O Ambatipudi Ramanatham R/O H.No. 30-265/8/76/4A, Flat-115, Akshitha Heights-3, Rd No.2, Geethanagar Colony, Near Water Tank, R K Puram, Neredmet, P.O.Ramakrishna Puram, Dist. Medchal-Malkajgiri (Telangana) - 500056 have changed the name of my minor son Venkata Kartikeya Maneeth Ambatipudi aged 5 years and he shall hereafter be known as **JAYASRITH AMBATIPUDI.**
(TH_ T.M.RAO)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vamshee Krishna Ambatipudi S/O Ambatipudi Ramanatham R/O H.No. 30-265/8/76/4A, Flat-115, Akshitha Heights-3, Rd No.2, Geethanagar Colony, Near Water Tank, R K Puram, Neredmet, P.O.Ramakrishna Puram, Dist. Medchal-Malkajgiri (Telangana) - 500056 have changed the name of my minor son Venkata Kartikeya Maneeth Ambatipudi aged 5 years and he shall hereafter be known as **MANEETH AMBATIPUDI.**
(TH_ T.M.RAO)

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Stop indiscriminate cable wire cutting, operators warn govt

“If destruction of cable system does not stop, we will shut down services, leaving TVs and the internet silent across the State”



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WARNING that they would stop services, the cable operators on Saturday appealed to the government to stop indiscriminate cutting of internet cables in the State. As part of their “Chalo Hyderabad” programme, the cable operators staged a dharna



fragmented due to continuous cable cutting, and added that the operators had chosen peaceful protest to highlight their problems and the hardships being faced by thousands of families dependent on the industry. While the government had responded positively in

earlier discussions, urgent legal measures are needed to address the issue, he emphasised. MSO leader K Kishore warned that if cable cutting measures continue in Telangana, the operators would be forced to call for a bandh. “If the destruction of the cable

system does not stop, we will shut down services, leaving TVs and the internet silent across the State.” He demanded the government’s cooperation to safeguard the livelihoods of cable operators and ensure uninterrupted services to consumers.



under the banner of ‘Federation of Aerial Cable Operators’ at Indira Park Dharna Chowk here on Saturday. Expressing concern over the removal of cable wires the gathering at the protest programme, State MSO and Cable Operators Association president K Prabhakar Reddy said that the cable network system has become

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 deputed 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.

Eagle team busts Alprazolam manufacturing unit in Bowenpally

The unit was being operated from an old school building

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a significant crackdown on illegal drug manufacturing, the State police’s Eagle team raided a major Alprazolam lab at a closed in Bowenpally on Saturday. The operation led to the seizure of 7 kg of Alprazolam and cash worth Rs 20 lakh. The clandestine lab was discovered spread across the principal’s office and two classrooms of the abandoned school premises. Officials seized machines and equipment used in the manufacture of Alprazolam, a powerful prescription drug primarily used to manage anxiety and panic disorders but frequently abused for its euphoric and anxiolytic effects. The raid was based on a tip-off and led to the arrest of three individuals identified as Malela Jaya Prakash Goud (39), a resident of Old Bowenpally and the key mastermind behind the operation, along with 23 Year-old Goute Murali from Hasmathpet and another 23 Year-old Uday.



The accused took over the closed school building and covertly converted it into a drug manufacturing unit, which reportedly operated from the principal’s room and other school floors

Police revealed that Prakash Goud took over the closed school building and covertly converted it into a drug manufacturing unit, which reportedly operated from the principal’s room and other school floors. It was also revealed that while running the drug operation during the day, Goud conducted tuition classes in the evenings to avoid suspicion. The police also reported

that the drug production extended beyond Hyderabad with the supply network reaching into Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. The seized equipment included four reactors and various chemicals used in the production process. This bust is a substantial step in the Telangana Police’s ongoing campaign against drug trafficking and illicit manufacture, delivering a

serious blow to the Secunderabad drug mafia. Further investigation is underway, including the involvement of the former school principal and other accomplices. Authorities continue to emphasise the dangers of abusing prescription drugs like Alprazolam when sourced through illegal channels, highlighting significant risks to public health and safety.



Jagga Reddy clears ₹7.5L debt of young blind singer’s parents

12-year-old singer Vikas Nayak approaches the TPCC working president for support

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

RESPONDING immediately to 12-year-old singer Vikas Nayak’s request, TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy cleared Rs 7.5 lakh debt incurred by his parents in cash. Nayak, a fifth-class student at the school for the blind run by Sneha Society in Nizamabad, had requested Reddy: “I want to take care of my parents, grandparents, and aunt, while studying hard to become a collector. For this, I request your support.” Nayak has mastered singing songs and narrating mythological stories like Komuravelli Mallanna and Beerappa in the form of songs and stories. His native place is Lonka Thanda, Gandhari mandal, Yellareddy constituency, Kamareddy district. He lost eyesight at the age of three due to illness; he can also perfectly mimic dialogues of cartoon characters shown on TV. His father has been suffering from severe illness for the past two years as both his kidneys have failed.

- JAGGA REDDY’S SUPPORT**
- Nayak is a fifth-class student at the school for the blind run by Sneha Society in Nizamabad
- He requested Jagga Reddy to help him take care of his parents, grandparents
- TPCC working president agrees for it, clears Rs 7.5 lakh debt of singer’s parents



ing songs and mythological verses; is astonished by his talent in reciting Mallanna and Beerappa’s heroic tales in rhythmic flow. Nayak told Reddy that he wanted to start his own YouTube channel and sought his support. Immediately, Reddy not only arranged a new smartphone for him, but also assured support in starting the channel. Nayak shared

with Reddy that he wanted to study hard and become a collector. Reddy encouraged him, saying, “Study well, become a collector, take care of your family, and I will always support you.” He also promised Nayak that he would invite him to sing at every function in his household. Reddy arranged a car and sent Nayak’s family back to their native place.

Bizman murdered in public view

HYDERABAD: A real estate businessman was murdered in full public view here allegedly by his former employee and an accomplice, police said on Saturday. Srikanth Reddy had previously employed Dhanraj, the main accused, but removed him from his services some time ago. Dhanraj was, however, seeking re-employment with Srikanth Reddy, Dhanraj and his accomplice Daniel met Srikanth Reddy on Friday evening and requested again to be re-employed. Though Srikanth Reddy responded positively, the two allegedly stabbed him to death outside his office at Kushaiguda here in public view. Investigation was underway to ascertain the motive for the murder, they said adding no arrests have been made so far.

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Sd/ Principal

We’ll transform Hyd into global city: Tummala

- Lays foundation stone for various developmental works in Jubilee Hills
- Urges people to vote for the ruling party in the upcoming Assembly bypoll for speedy development of the constituency

HYDERABAD

URGING voters of Jubilee Hills to voter and support to the Congress candidate in the upcoming Assembly by-election, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nag-eswara Rao affirmed the State government’s commitment to transforming Hyderabad into a global city. On Saturday, Minister Tummala attended the

foundation stone laying ceremony for development projects valued at Rs. 377.35 lakhs in the Jubilee Hills constituency of Hyderabad. During his remarks, Tummala emphasised the State government’s duty to enhance infrastructure for its citizens, highlighting that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is diligently focused on elevating the quality of life in Hy-

derabad. He noted that the residents’ living standards will continue to improve through various development initiatives in Krishna Nagar, Yusuf Guda Basthi, L.N. Nagar, and Venkata-giri within the Yusufguda division. The foundation stone for various development works was also laid in S.L.P zone under the circle-19 in the Jubilee Hills constituency. Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi, former Lok Sabha member Anjan Kumar Yadav, Congress leaders and a large number of people were also present.



Bairabi-Sairang railway line ushers in a historic moment for Mizoram

The project marks a turning point for the State's connectivity, trade, and growth prospects

J BHARGAVI SARASWATHI
HYDERABAD/AIZAWL

THE inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line has ushered in a historic moment for Mizoram, promising to reshape livelihoods, expand economic opportunities, and bring the remote hill state closer to the national mainstream after decades of geographical isolation.

Built at a cost of over Rs 8,000 crore, the 51-kilometre stretch connects Aizawl, the State capital, with India's vast railway network for the first time, overcoming difficult terrain with towering bridges, long tunnels, and complex viaducts that stand as engineering marvels but, more importantly, as pathways to progress.

For the people of Mizoram, long dependent on narrow and landslide-prone roads, the new railway means far more than modern infrastructure—it is the assurance of cheaper goods, faster access, and more reliable lifelines. Analysts suggest transport costs for essentials like fuel, construction materials, farm inputs, and groceries could fall by 30–40 percent, while consumer prices in many districts may drop by 10–20 percent, giving households real savings and easing inflationary pressure on the state's fragile economy.

"This line is a lifeline for



Mizoram," said CPRO adding that the project will "revolutionise connectivity, bring down costs, and unlock opportunities for both small traders and large industries." For farmers, who make up a large portion of the workforce, the line will sharply reduce post-harvest losses, ensuring that pineapples, ginger, turmeric, oranges, and other perishable crops can reach markets in Assam, West Bengal, and beyond before they spoil, thereby raising incomes and boosting cultivation.

Tourism, too, is expected to flourish, as the state's scenic hills, vibrant culture, and biodiversity become

more accessible; industry observers forecast a 40–50 percent increase in tourist arrivals within five years, benefiting homestays, hotels, handicraft sellers, and local guides.

"Tourism is one of the sectors that will see immediate benefits," noted the CPRO, emphasising that "Mizoram can now showcase its beauty to the rest of the country without connectivity being a barrier." The railway's impact on employment is equally significant: thousands were engaged during construction, and thousands more are expected to find work in logistics, retail, transport,

and hospitality as ancillary industries grow, with experts predicting 3,000–5,000 indirect jobs each year.

Local industries, from bamboo crafts to textiles and food processing, will also gain reliable access to larger markets, reducing dependence on middlemen and opening pathways for Mizoram's unique products to gain national visibility. Beyond economics, the project is set to enhance quality of life, enabling students to travel for higher education more affordably, patients to access advanced healthcare faster, and schools and hospitals to receive supplies more reliably, especially

during monsoon disruptions. Strategically, the Bairabi-Sairang line strengthens India's Act East policy, improving integration with Assam and potentially linking trade corridors to Myanmar and Southeast Asia, positioning Mizoram as a gateway rather than a cul-de-sac. Economists estimate that the railway could add ₹500–700 crore annually to the state's Gross State Domestic Product, lifting growth by 2–3 percent—a substantial boost for a small state.

Yet, challenges remain: maintaining the line through rugged hills will require sustained investment, environmental safeguards must be respected, and policies must ensure that benefits reach remote communities rather than concentrating in urban centres.

Still, the mood across Mizoram is one of optimism, with the steel tracks now symbolising a dream finally realised. As the CPRO remarked, "Railways have always been a driver of progress, and with this project Mizoram finally joins the national rail family."

It is not just about trains—it is about growth, opportunity, and hope." If harnessed wisely, the Bairabi-Sairang railway will not only carry trains but also carry Mizoram into a new era of economic resilience, social mobility, and integration with the wider world.



Kishan urges doctors to embrace India's ancient medical wisdom

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister G Kishan Reddy has urged practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to embrace India's ancient medical wisdom and integrate it with modern science. He was addressing the National Ayurveda Conference-2025, hosted by the Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad and its Telangana Chapter here on Saturday. The event brought together leading voices in traditional medicine to discuss the future of Ayurveda in India and abroad.

Reddy congratulated the organisers for their decades-long commitment to preserving and promoting Ayurveda. He praised the Parishad's efforts in raising awareness and passing on this ancient science to future generations, calling it a commendable service to the nation.

He emphasised that Ayurveda is not merely a system of medicine but a holistic philosophy rooted in the Indian way of life, encompassing wellness, physical balance, and mental harmony. Sharing a personal anecdote, Reddy noted that he relied solely on Ayurvedic remedies until he completed his intermediate education, underscoring his deep faith in its efficacy.

The minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership since 2014 for the resurgence of Ayurveda, which had

previously been sidelined. He highlighted India's rich medical heritage, referencing pioneers like Charaka, Sushruta, and Vagbhatta, whose contributions laid the foundation for surgery, toxicology, and diagnostics centuries ago.

He lamented that previous governments had dismissed Ayurveda as outdated, but affirmed that the Modi government is restoring its global relevance.

Reddy pointed to the establishment of the Ministry of AYUSH in 2014 as a turning point. Within six months of taking office, Modi began advocating for global recognition of Ayurveda and Yoga, leading to the declaration of June 21 as International Yoga Day, now celebrated by 177 countries.

He also highlighted Ayurveda's role during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing its contribution to boosting immunity through traditional remedies like turmeric and Giloy. He recalled dire global predictions about India's vulnerability and asserted that Ayurveda played a key role in protecting the nation's 140 crore citizens.

The minister warned of challenges posed by multinational pharmaceutical companies and global lobbies attempting to suppress Ayurveda and Yoga. He urged practitioners to rise above professional boundaries and treat Ayurveda as a national

treasure, calling for collective action to preserve and promote it.

Reddy outlined the central government's initiatives under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), including the construction of 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals in Siddipet, Vikarabad, and Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts, with Rs 15 crore allocated per centre. He requested the Telangana government to expedite land acquisition for a similar hospital in Ramthapur, Hyderabad.

He noted that Telangana hosts 420 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers and 440 dispensaries, including Ayurvedic, Unani, and Homeopathic facilities. Across India, 7.5 lakh registered AYUSH practitioners are contributing to the vision of Arogya Bharat.

Reddy called on intellectuals and Ayurveda practitioners to publish their research in international journals and scientific magazines, and to take responsibility for spreading Ayurveda to remote corners of India and the world. He stressed that building a healthy India must be part of the national resolve to become a developed country by 2047, with AYUSH as a key pillar.

Inspired by the ancient saying "Health is the greatest blessing," Reddy called for unity and action, urging all stakeholders to work together to elevate Ayurveda as a global force for wellness and healing.

26 gates of Nagarjuna Sagar projects lifted

NAGARJUNA SAGAR: All 26 crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar dam were lifted on Saturday as heavy inflows continued from the upstream Srisailem reservoir, which is releasing

2,81,352 cusecs of floodwater into the project. From Nagarjuna Sagar, officials are discharging 2,09,794 cusecs through the gates, along with 32,764 cusecs released through

power generation into the downstream Krishna River. This marks the fourth time in the current season, since July 29, that the gates of Nagarjuna Sagar have been opened.

Vigilance panel to study ACB report, recommend action

Continued from P1

"The commission will ascertain whether the evidence collected by the ACB substantiated the charges framed against BRS working president and the then MA&UD minister K T Rama Rao, former Municipal Administration secretary Arvind Kumar and HMDA officials, whose names were mentioned in the case. If any valid information is missing in establishing the case, the Commission will suggest the ACB to rectify the error before filing the charge sheet", officials said.

KTR was named as A1, Arvind Kumar A2 and former HMDA engineer BLN Reddy A3 in the case. The

ACB has grilled KTR twice, while Arvind appeared before the agency three times to record their statements. The ACB was claiming that it has got enough evidence to establish quid pro quo between former KTR and the e-car racing agencies during the payment of Rs 55 crore to organize the event without any official sanction.

Sources said that the Vigilance Commission report case was crucial to act against the alleged accused.

Meanwhile, summoning of A4 and A5-Ace Nxt Gen Pvt's official Kiran Rao and Formula E Operations (FEO) would also be decided based on the panel's report.

'Students used their pocket money for drugs'

Continued from P1

Supporting this statement, Neha Agarwal, psychologist and co-founder of Inner-Heal Therapy, said, "Many of these students are simply trying to fill an emotional void—whether it's love, acceptance, or fear of abandonment. "The pain they want to escape can make drugs seem like an easy way out, offering a quick high and temporary thrill. Sadly, many do not realize that they are trapped until it is already too late to turn back.

Many students from well-off families use their pocket money in unhealthy ways, such as through substance abuse. Easy access to cash sometimes makes them feel independent, but without real responsibility. Often, just to feel included and part of a group, students get pulled into these habits, creating a dangerous cycle that harms their studies and personal growth," she added.

Officials stressed that strict surveillance is being paired with the rehabilitation of students. One of the students re-

cently caught is currently undergoing regular blood tests and counselling. "We are also conducting regular awareness campaigns, in collaboration with universities like ICAFI, to sensitize students to the dangers of substance abuse," an anti-narcotics officer said.

Meanwhile, Mahindra University, in its official statement, maintained that "any act that violates the law or endangers the safety of the student community will be dealt with severely." Vice-Chancellor Dr. Yajulu Meduri assured that the campus would ramp up preventive awareness, counselling, and partnerships with the law enforcement authorities.

Yet, as more institutions figure in the narcotics trail and as courier loopholes remain unaddressed, the case underscores a disturbing dual reality. While Hyderabad's private universities project themselves as global education hubs, they are also becoming fertile grounds for organized rackets feeding on the youth's vulnerabilities.

UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

Continued from P1

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.

Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi

Continued from P1

"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 ex-

ample 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 ag-

itation. The PM also lauded the resilience of the Nepali people, noting how citizens, 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, drawing applause from the gathering.

3-hour pit stop is not compassion: Cong targets Modi's Manipur visit

Continued from P1

"864 days of violence:-- 300 lives lost, 67,000 displaced, 1,500 plus injured. You made 46 foreign trips since, but not a single visit to share two words of sympathy with your own citizens," Kharge said.

"Your last visit to Manipur? January 2022 for elections! Your 'Double Engine' has bulldozed the innocent lives of Manipur. You and Home Minister Amit Shah's gross incompetence and complicity in betraying all communities was shielded from scrutiny, by imposing President's Rule

in the state. Violence still continues," he said. It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining law and order in the state and it is now the Union government which is again dithering, he claimed.

"Not to forget, that is your government which is responsible for National Security and border patrol. This hush-hush pit stop isn't repentance. It's not even guilt. You are organising a grand welcome ceremony for yourself. It is a cruel prick to the wounds of those still suffering because of your own abdication of basic constitutional

responsibilities!" Kharge said. Speaking with reporters in Wayanad, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the PM and said he should have visited the state long before.

"I am glad that he has decided, after two years, that it is worth visiting (Manipur). He should have gone long before. It is very unfortunate that he has allowed what is happening there to continue for so long and for so many people to be killed. That has not been the tradition of prime ministers in India," she said.

Govt does homework to strengthen TG's position before KWDT-2

Continued from P1

Making several suggestions to the legal experts to put an end to the injustice meted to Telangana in water sharing, the Chief Minister asked the officials to submit to the tribunal all details relevant to the projects planned to be built, incomplete projects, and the neglected projects. All the GOs, memos, and official documents issued in the erstwhile united AP state should also be kept ready.

The meeting also discussed how the erstwhile government had caused "irreparable loss" to Telangana by agreeing to allot 512 TMC to AP and, therefore, only 299 TMC for Telangana. Legal experts briefed the Chief Minister that AP has now brought up the matter of the then chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao agreeing to a share of 299 TMC before the tribunal.

The Chief Minister said that the KCR government, during the 10-year rule failed miserably in achieving the legally due share of water in Krishna waters. As a result, all the Palamuru and Dindi projects were put on hold. The Chief Minister made

it clear that Telangana deserved a share of 904 TMC of water in Krishna and arguments should be prepared accordingly.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the AP government had illegally diverted Krishna waters due to the negligence and indifference of the previous government, and that the matter should be brought before the tribunal.

Due to the illegal diversion of Krishna water by AP, there is a threat of closure of the hydroelectric projects at Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala, the Chief Minister said. The hydroelectric power generation at low cost will be hampered. The Chief Minister ordered that all these issues be presented as arguments before the tribunal.

The CM stressed that Telangana has all the rights and qualifications to get its due share of water as a newly formed state. He instructed the officials to bring to the attention of the Tribunal the peculiar problems of drought-prone districts of Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy and Nalgonda, along with their irrigation and drinking water needs.

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.

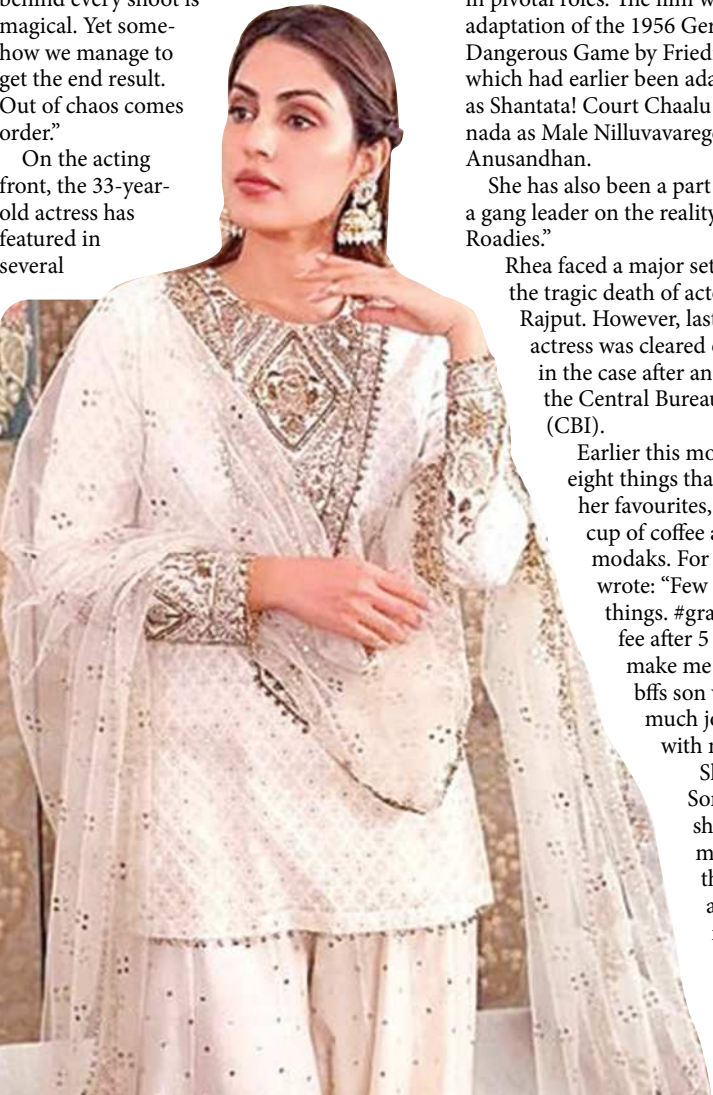
Rhea Chakraborty finds ‘chaos’ behind shoots ‘magical’

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 personal-

ity. 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.

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!

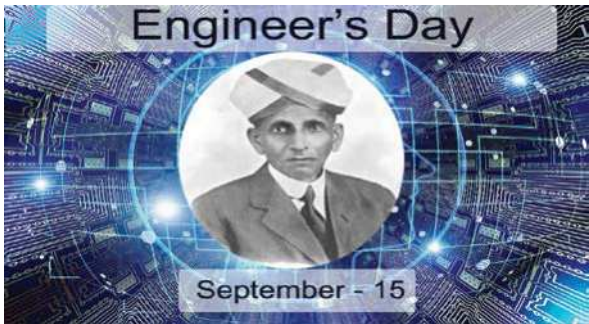
The life story of this gifted engineer is an inspiration with myriad life lessons to our students.

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.

Gudipati 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)



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

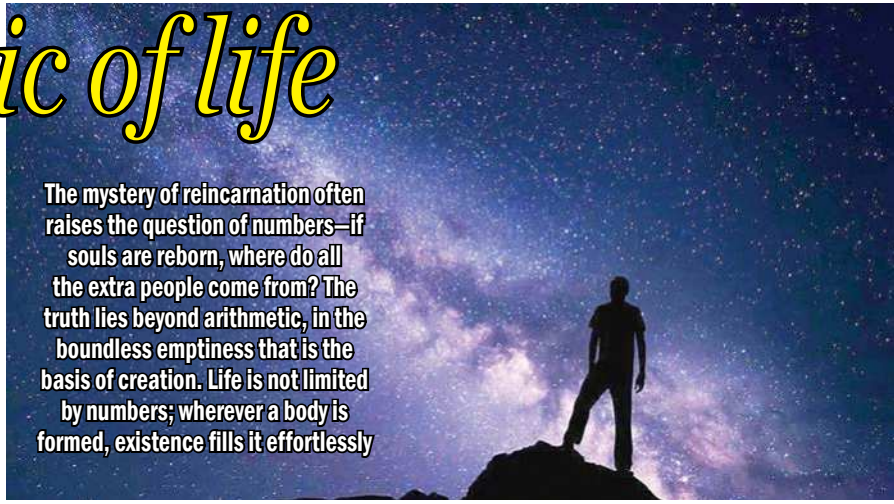
Sadhguru, I have a question about birth, rebirth and karma. If the total energy in the universe is constant, is the number of souls in the universe also a constant thing?

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



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.

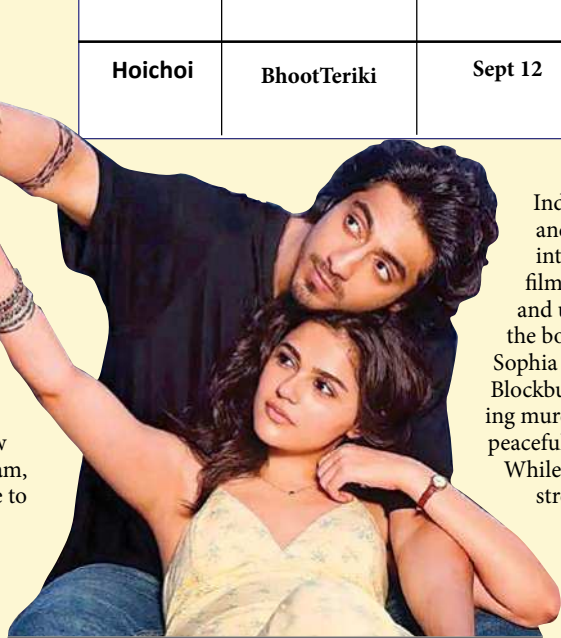
Do You Wanna Partner- Sept 12

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

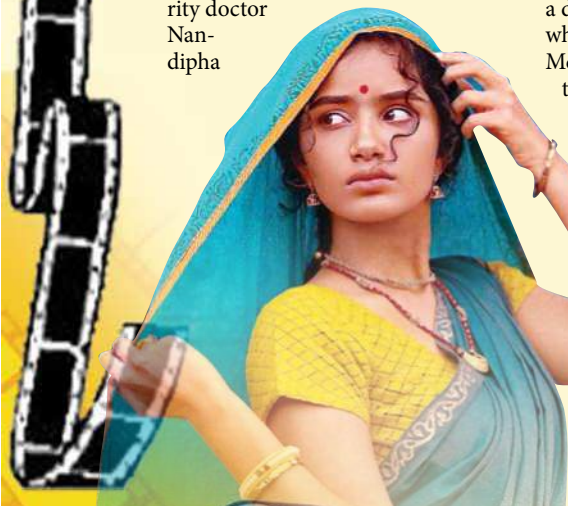
Malayalam mystery thriller Detective Ujjwalan, starring Dhyan Sreenivasan, Siju Wilson, and Rony David Raj, was directed by

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.



Prime Video Parada - Sept 12

Young and talented actress Anupama Parameswaran, who recently appeared alongside Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas



‘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





BIZ BRIEFS

ITC Candyman's new campaign

ITC Candyman, a confectionery brand known, has unveiled a new initiative 'Once Upon a Time by Candyman.' Anuj Bansal, VP, ITC Limited, said: "With 'Once Upon a Time by Candyman,' our goal is to spark children's imagination and make reading storybooks an exciting, interactive experience. Kids often see others playing the hero's role, but this time the spotlight is on them and the story is all about their little adventures."

Esri, Dhruva Space in pact

Esri India, a leading provider of Geographic Information System (GIS) software and solutions in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space, a full-stack space tech company, to enhance the availability and accessibility of satellite imagery in India through advanced GIS integration. Through this strategic partnership, Dhruva Space will leverage Esri India's advanced ArcGIS technology to enhance its Astra-View commercial satellite imagery service that aggregates data from a constellation network of more than 200 satellites, spanning optical, SAR, RF, and hyperspectral sensors.

No products from Relaxo

Relaxo Footwears Limited, a footwear manufacturer, has unveiled its stylish and innovative footwear range curated specially for the upcoming festive season. The extensive collection across its brands - Sparx, Flite, and Bahamas - is designed to cater to the everyday and occasion-wear needs of the entire family, blending comfort with fashion-forward appeal. The festive collection was introduced at Relaxo's Retailer Meet in Hyderabad recently, which brought together over 245 key trade partners from across the region.

Amazon Pay renews pact

AMAZON Pay and ICICI Bank announced the renewal of their long-term partnership for the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card. Mayank Jain, Director, Amazon Pay India, said: "With these benefits, we're elevating India's most trusted co-branded credit card to new heights. Our over 5 million valuable customers have consistently enjoyed unlimited cashback, zero joining and annual fees, and seamless redemption. We remain dedicated to innovating on behalf of our customers and strengthening rewards."

Festive offers from Scoot

SCOOT, the low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, announced the launch of 'Scoot's Everywhere Sale' which will continue till September 14. It is offering attractive fares across its extensive network. Customers can book one-way economy class fares from India to Singapore starting at just Rs 5,900, with onward connections to popular destinations across the Asia-Pacific and beyond. Promotional fares are available for booking for travel between September 23, 2025, and August 31, 2026, covering exciting destinations such as Bangkok, Macau SAR, etc.

India, US must work toward a long-awaited trade agreement

GST 2.0 will boost domestic demand, capacity expansion and pvt investment

DR NARENDRA MAIRPADY

IN recent days, amidst the imposition of an additional 25 per cent tariff by the United States - on top of the earlier 25 per cent penalty imposed on India for purchasing Russian oil and defence equipment - Washington has argued that India is indirectly helping Russia fund the war in Ukraine.

India has strongly defended its position, calling the US action unfair, unreasonable, and unjustified, noting that oil purchases from Russia are in its national interest. New Delhi has also pointed out that singling out India is discriminatory, as China and several European countries continue to buy Russian oil. As a result, proposed trade negotiations and agreements with the United States have stalled.

This has put Indian exporters to the US in a difficult position, prompting calls for special government financial packages and incentives to help them maintain export levels. The government has been actively discussing alternatives with trade and export organizations, both to ease the immediate burden and to diversify exports by leveraging recent free trade agreements with the UK and other countries.

Although India has faced similar challenges before, the current situation is especially tricky, as it cannot afford to harm its long-standing strategic partnership with the US. For India, the US relationship remains of utmost importance - both strategically and economically. At



For India, relations with the US remain utmost importance - both strategically and economically. At the same time, in today's changing circumstances- where countries are increasingly prioritizing national interests over global cooperation, particularly under US President Donald Trump's "America First" policy, India must also strengthen ties with other partners.

the same time, in today's changing circumstances- where countries are increasingly prioritizing national interests over global cooperation, particularly under US President Donald Trump's "America First" policy- India must also strengthen ties with other partners. Many analysts believe that these tariffs are a temporary irritant and that both sides will eventually reach a mutually acceptable trade agreement.

In this context, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to China for the SCO Summit 2025 - his first in seven years- was significant. The meeting came despite ongoing border tensions between India and China, such as the Galwan clashes, which resulted in casualties on both sides. Modi's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping marked a step toward easing tensions, with both leaders expressing a desire for partnership rather than rivalry. At the same summit, Modi also strengthened ties with

Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The SCO Summit, attended by more than 25 heads of state, attracted global attention, especially due to the trilateral presence of Modi, Putin, and Xi. Shortly after, US President Trump remarked: "Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together." In response, India reiterated that its relationship with the US is anchored in mutual respect, shared interests, and robust people-to-people ties.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that the India-US partnership has weathered many transitions and challenges, adding that India's ties with any country must be seen on their own merit, not through the prism of a third party. However, US trade advisor Peter Navarro continued to criticize India, accusing it of being an "oil money laundromat for the Kremlin" and en-

gaging in "strategic freeloading." These comments have been firmly rejected by India as inaccurate and misleading.

Despite these tensions, India has responded with restraint, recognizing the importance of maintaining strong ties with Washington. Over the past two decades, India and the US have built a substantial strategic partnership in defence, security, trade, and technology. Modi himself, responding to Trump's "always be friends" remark, affirmed that India fully reciprocates those sentiments and remains committed to a positive and forward-looking partnership.

That said, Trump has repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with India's oil imports from Russia, calling the trade relationship "a one-sided disaster." He argued that US businesses face high Indian tariffs while India benefits from significant access to US markets. Though he acknowledged recent Indian offers to cut

tariffs, he said they were "too late." Meanwhile, India has strengthened ties with Russia, with President Putin and Prime Minister Modi reaffirming their close relationship. Economically, India is better positioned to handle these challenges. Recent Q1 2026 GDP growth figures and an upgrade by S&P signal resilience. The government has also advanced reforms such as GST 2.0, reducing the previous four tax slabs to two (5 per cent and 18 per cent). This is expected to boost domestic demand, capacity expansion, and private sector investment, benefiting both farmers and MSMEs. While GST 2.0 is not a direct response to US tariffs, it will nonetheless support domestic manufacturing and consumption. Still, resuming trade talks with the US remains urgent. Both sides must work toward a long-awaited trade agreement that achieves an amicable settlement. Positive results, it is hoped, will come soon.

Key takeaways from Sebi's move to ease IPO norms

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved several regulatory changes simplifying IPO norms and foreign portfolio investing rules, as well as making entry norms for advisory certifications easier.

The key takeaways from the Sebi's move are that large companies above Rs 50,000 crore market cap will now have more flexible listing norms, permitting them to have smaller float sizes- Rs 1,000 crore plus at least eight per cent of the post-issue market capitalisation.

Further, they have extended timelines of up to 10 years to fulfil the 25 per cent minimum public shareholding requirement. Similarly, companies of different market capitalisations received relaxations of varying proportions.

Anchor investor allocations in IPOs have increased to 40 per cent, now including



insurance and pension funds alongside mutual funds in the reserved quota. Sebi has reduced thresholds for related-party transactions, thereby lowering compliance burdens for large companies.

Further, a new accredited investor (AI)-only category in alternative investment funds has been approved. The minimum ticket size for Large Value Funds has been lowered to Rs 25 crore from Rs 70 crore. Sovereign wealth funds and pension funds will gain from the new SWAGAT-FI framework, which provides 10-year registrations, a single demat account, and exemptions from the FVCI rule requiring 66 per cent of corpus in unlisted equity.

FIMI for zero export duty on low-grade iron ore

MINERS' body FIMI has requested the government not to impose any export duty on low-grade iron ore, asserting that any such move would lead to resource wastage, severely impact mining operations, reduce employment, and cause environmental damage due to stockpiling of unusable fines at mine sites. In a recent letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) said, "To have effective utilisation and monetisation of low-grade iron ore and enhanced availability of iron ore for the domestic steel industry, we humbly submit that no export duty be imposed on exports of low-grade iron ore."

FIMI stated that the do-

mestic steel industry currently consumes only high-grade iron ore (+62 per cent Fe), and there is virtually no demand for low-grade fines within India. The accumulated low-grade material, particularly fines generated during mining, remains stranded at mine heads or in old dumps. Limited quantities are consumed for pellet manufacturing, but the majority remains utilised. This situation not only poses environmental challenges but also restricts scientific and sustainable mining, as fines cannot be removed from mining lease areas unless exported. Exporting these fines is a win-win, as it supports scientific mining, avoids mine closures, preserves employment, and brings in foreign exchange.

Great AI Divide: Can technology bridge development gaps?

Regional cooperation frameworks like the African Union's Continental AI Strategy offers models for coordinated development

KRISHNA KUMAR & RAKSHITHA REDDY

ARTIFICIAL intelligence promises to revolutionize economies worldwide, but whether developing nations will benefit or fall further behind depends on choices being made today.

The African Union's historic Continental AI Strategy, adopted in July 2024, represents both unprecedented ambition and stark reality - while AI could add \$1.5 trillion to Africa's GDP by 2030, the continent currently captures just one per cent of global AI compute capacity despite housing 15 per cent of the world's population.

This paradox defines the central challenge facing underdeveloped countries, particularly across Africa and South America, as they navigate the AI revolution. With global AI investment reaching \$100-130 billion annually while African AI startups have raised only \$803 million over five years, the question isn't whether AI matters for development - it's whether these regions can harness its transformative potential before the window closes.

The stakes couldn't be higher. The same mobile revolution that enabled Kenya's M-Pesa to serve millions without traditional banking infrastructure now offers a template for AI leapfrogging. But unlike mobile phones, AI requires massive computational resources, reliable electricity, and specialized skills that remain scarce across much of the Global South.

Africa awakens to AI's strategic importance
The momentum building across Africa challenges assumptions about AI relevance

in developing contexts. Sixteen African countries now have national AI strategies or policies in development, with Kenya launching its comprehensive 2025-2030 strategy in March and Zambia following suit in November 2024. This represents a 33 per cent increase in strategic planning over just two years, signaling that African leaders view AI not as a luxury but as essential infrastructure.

The African Union's Continental AI Strategy stands as the world's most comprehensive development-focused AI framework, projecting that optimal AI adoption could contribute six per cent of the continent's GDP by 2030. Unlike Western approaches emphasizing innovation for innovation's sake, Africa's strategy explicitly prioritizes agriculture, healthcare, education, and climate adaptation - sectors critical to the continent's 1.3 billion people.

"We're not trying to copy Silicon Valley," explains one senior AU official involved in the strategy's development. "We're building AI that serves African priorities." This Africa-centric approach emerges from harsh lessons learned during previous technology waves, when developing countries often became consumers rather than creators of digital solutions.

South America charts cooperative course

Latin America has taken a markedly different but equally strategic approach, leveraging existing regional integration mechanisms to coordinate AI development. The Santiago Declaration, signed by over 20 countries in October 2023, established the Regional Council on Artificial Intelligence, with Chile



The path to equitable AI lies not in accepting technological divides as inevitable, but in recognizing that developing nations hold the key to AI's most transformative applications and building the infrastructure to unlock that potential

emerging as the continental leader.

Chile ranks first in the 2024 Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index (ILIA), followed by Brazil and Uruguay as pioneer countries. This leadership reflects substantial investments - Chile committed \$26 billion in public investment for its 2021-2030 National AI Policy, while Brazil's 2024-2028 AI Plan allocates \$4.1 billion across 74 strategic actions.

Brazil's approach particularly demonstrates how developing countries can mobilize resources for AI transformation. The planned Santos Dumont supercomputer aims to become one of the world's five most powerful, while six Applied Centers for AI focus on agriculture, healthcare, and Industry 4.0 applications. This represents a fundamental shift from viewing AI as im-

ported technology to building indigenous capabilities.

Agriculture proves AI's development relevance

Critics questioning AI's relevance to underdeveloped economies need look no further than Hello Tractor's transformative impact across African agriculture. This Nigerian-founded 'Uber for tractors' platform uses AI for demand forecasting and fleet optimization, serving over 2 million smallholder farmers across over 20 countries. The results are striking: farmers increase incomes by 227 per cent, plant 40 times faster, and achieve three-fold yield improvements through precision timing.

Apollo Agriculture in Kenya and Zambia demonstrates how AI can address financial inclusion challenges that have plagued agricultural development for decades. Using machine learning for credit scoring and satellite data for precision recommendations, the company serves over 350,000 previously unbanked farmers with non-performing loan rates below 2 per cent - outperforming traditional banks while serving supposedly high-risk populations.

These aren't pilot projects

or development experiments. They're profitable businesses solving real problems with measurable impact. **Investment patterns reveal global disparities**
The funding landscape starkly illustrates development challenges facing AI adoption. Global AI investment reached \$100-130 billion annually, while African AI startups raised \$803 million over five years total. Latin American venture capital investment fell to \$3.6 billion in 2024, the lowest in five years, with early-stage funding dominating 80 per cent of deals.

This investment concentration perpetuates technological dependence. The United States and China hold 60 per cent of all AI patents and produce one-third of global AI publications. 100 companies, mainly from these two countries, account for 40 per cent of global AI R&D spending, while 118 countries - mostly from the Global South remain absent from major AI governance discussions.

Risks of digital colonialism loom large

However, current trends suggest widening rather than narrowing divides. Tech giants Apple, Nvidia, and Mi-

crosoft have achieved \$3 trillion market values that rival entire African continent's GDP. This concentration of AI capabilities in a handful of corporations based in wealthy countries creates dependency relationships reminiscent of colonial-era resource extraction.

Digital colonialism emerges when developing countries become consumers rather than producers of AI systems. Most AI training occurs on Western datasets, creating cultural and linguistic biases that poorly serve non-Western populations. Search results in diverse countries like Brazil show predominantly white faces when searching for babies, reflecting training data biases.

Toward inclusive AI futures

The path forward requires acknowledging both AI's transformative potential and persistent barriers to equitable adoption. Infrastructure limitations, skills gaps, and funding disparities create formidable challenges, but successful implementations across agriculture and healthcare demonstrate achievable progress.

Regional cooperation frameworks like the African Union's Continental AI Strategy and Latin America's Santiago Declaration offer models for coordinated development that can compete with concentrated wealth and expertise of traditional tech centers. These approaches emphasize development priorities rather than pure technological advancement, potentially creating more inclusive AI ecosystems.

The mobile revolution precedent suggests optimism about leapfrogging possibilities, but success requires sus-

tained political commitment, adequate funding, and international cooperation. Countries that invest strategically in AI foundations while fostering indigenous innovation can position themselves to benefit from rather than be left behind by the AI transformation.

The global AI divide represents both the greatest risk and greatest opportunity facing international development in the 21st century. Whether AI bridges or widens global inequalities depends on choices being made today by governments, international organizations, and private sector actors. The stakes-measured in trillions of dollars of economic value and billions of lives affected - demand urgent, coordinated action to ensure AI serves human development rather than merely technological advancement.

The African farmer using Hello Tractor's AI platform to improve crop yields and the Brazilian patient receiving AI-enhanced diagnostic services demonstrate AI's development relevance. Whether such success stories become widespread or remain isolated examples depends on the policy foundations being laid across developing countries today. The AI revolution waits for no one - but its benefits need not be predetermined by geography or existing wealth. The window for inclusive AI development remains open, but it will not stay open forever.

(Krishna Kumar is a Technology Explorer & Strategist based in Austin, Texas, USA. Rakshitha Reddy is AI Engineer based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

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. (IANS)

Sri Lanka thump B'desh by 6 wkts

ABU DHABI: Six-time champions Sri Lanka opened their Asia Cup campaign with a six-wicket win over Bangladesh in a Group B match with opener Pathum Nissanka scoring a fine half-century, here on Saturday.

Batting first, Bangladesh scored a below-par 139 for 5, which was chased down by Sri Lanka in 14.4 overs.

Nissanka smashed 50 off 34 balls studded with six boundaries and a maximum. He shared a 95-run partnership for the second wicket with Kamil Mishara, who remained unbeaten on 46 (32 balls). Earlier, Shamim Hossain (42 not out) and Jaker Ali (41 not out) pulled a faltering Bangladesh to 139 for five from a precarious position against Sri Lanka. Shamim and Jaker revived the Bangladesh innings, reeling at 54 for five halfway through, by putting on unbeaten 86 runs for the sixth wicket in a crucial stand, which saved the blushes for the side.

Brief Scores:

Bangladesh 139 for 5 in 20 overs (Litton Das 28, Jaker Ali 41 not out, Shamim Hossain 42 not out; Wanindu Hasaranga 2/25, Nuwan Thushara 1/17, Dushmantha Chameera 1/17) lost to Sri Lanka 140 for 4 in 14.4 overs (Pathum Nissanka 50, Kamil Mishara 46 not out; Mahedi Hasan 2/29, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 1/23, Mustafizur Rahman 1/35) by 6 wickets.

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 semifinals, 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 rarely looked under pressure throughout their bouts.

In the finals on Saturday night, Jaismine will now face Paris Olympic silver medalist Julia Szeremeta of Poland, while Nupur will take on another Polish boxer, Agata Kaczmarska, a multiple-time European championships medallist. In the men's 50kg category, Jadumani Singh Mandengbam needed to beat former world champion and two-time Asian champion Sanzhar Tashkenbay of Kazakhstan in the quarterfinals. The 21-year-old Indian, playing in his first world championships, took the fight to his much-experienced opponent but could not avoid a close loss. (IANS)

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.

Women's Hockey Asia Cup

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.

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

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI (TAMIL NADU)

TAMILAGA Vettri 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 seeking 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 Agartala branch of 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 kabutarshanas (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 kabutarshanas and the report will be favourable.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had banned feeding pigeons and closed some old kabutarshanas 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 kabutarshanas 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 kabutarshanas 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.

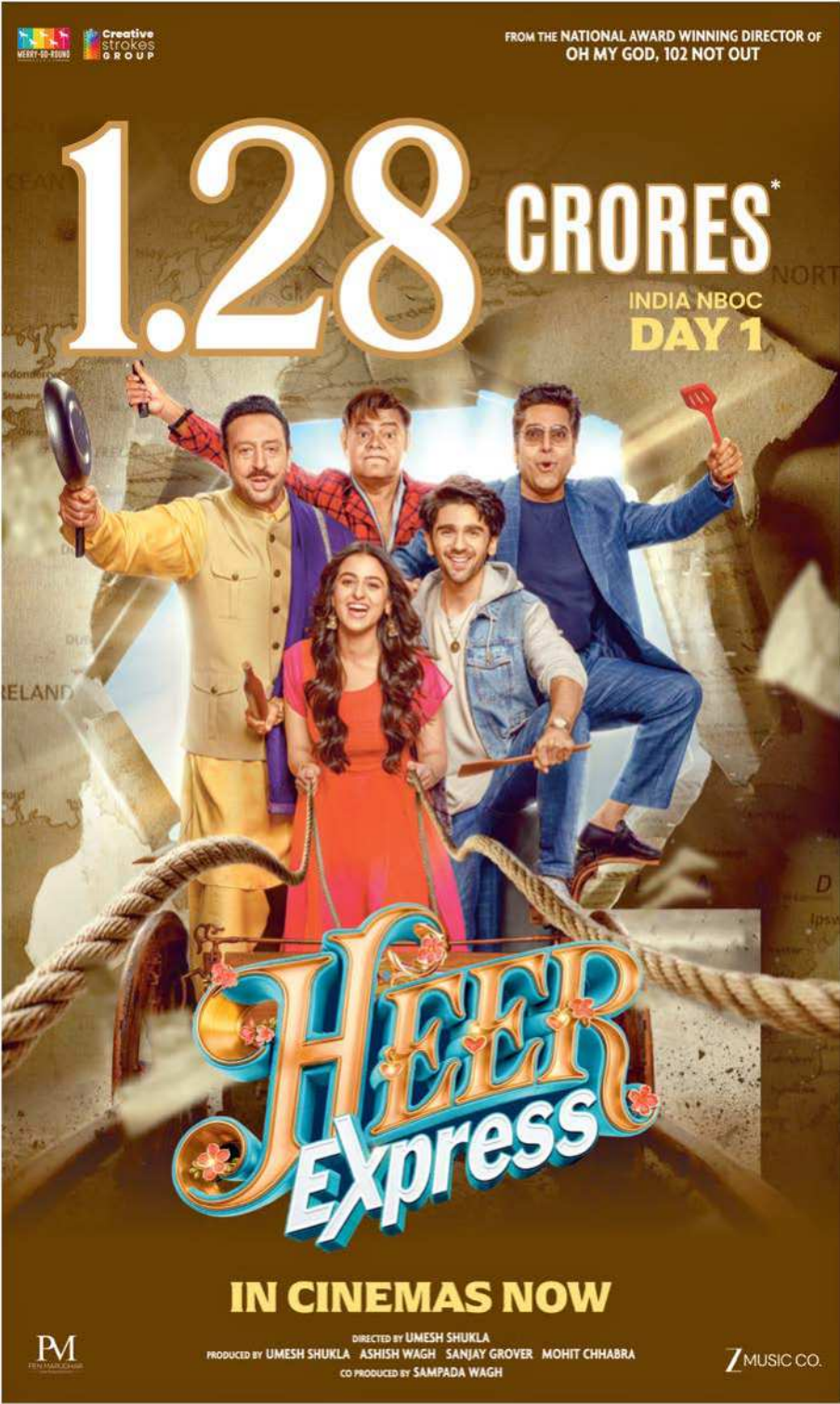
The chief minister said the 51.38 km-long railway line was a technical marvel and stood as a testament to engineering excellence.

"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.



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.

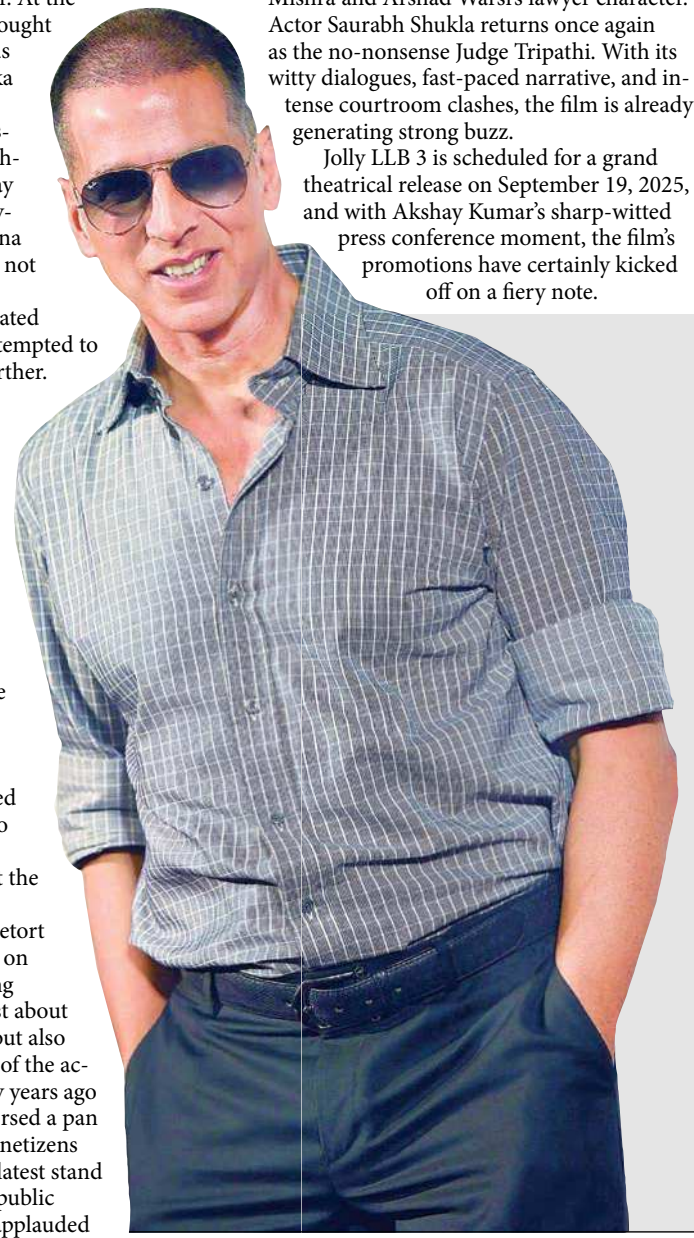
Akshay Kumar takes a firm stand on gutka: One should not consume it

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



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.”

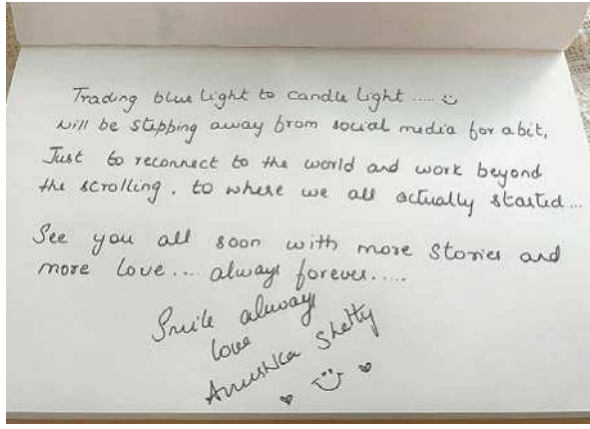
She further assured her fans that this was not a farewell but a pause, adding, “See you all soon with more stories and more love.”

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.



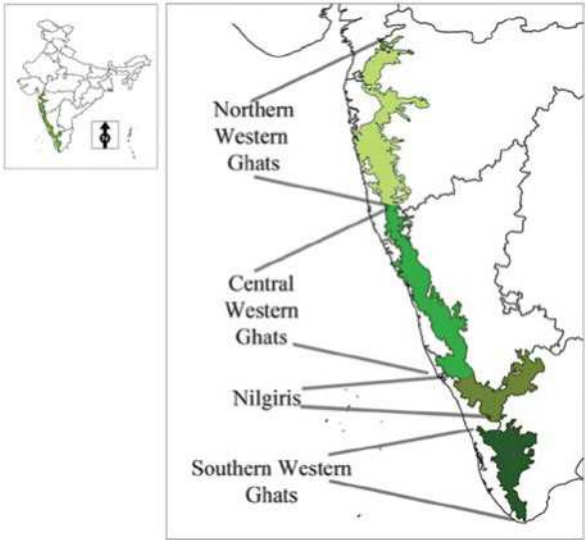
DR. PANDIRI HARSHA BHARGAVI

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

Western Ghats: Repository of sacred Ecology and indigenous wisdom



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

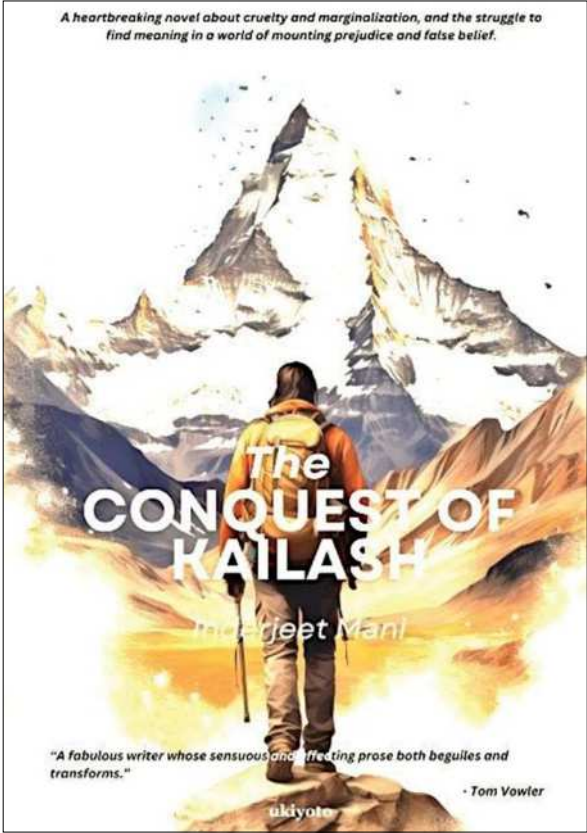
A journey of love, loss and transcendence

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’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.

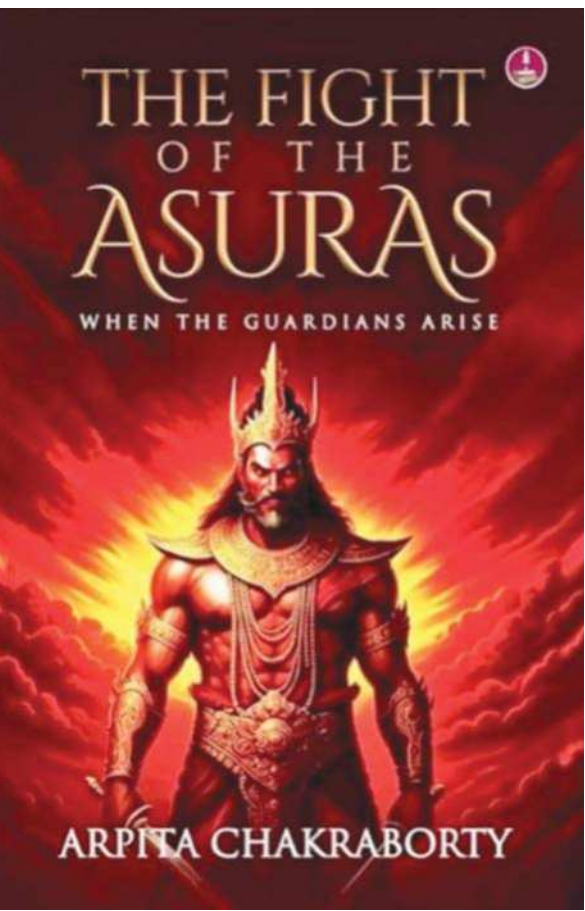
Inspired by his own pilgrimage to Buddhist sites in India and Nepal, Mani’s novel asks questions rarely addressed in contemporary fiction: Can love endure trauma, exile, and societal collapse? Can a man shaped by fear and loss still find connection? This is a story of loss, longing, and the extraordinary,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



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 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-

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.





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."

