



# 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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### TOP WOMAN MAOIST LEADER SURRENDERS BEFORE POLICE

REPORT: PAGE 2



**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**  
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 Transport 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.

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## 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.

## Vigilance panel to study ACB report, recommend action

FORMULA E-RACE CASE

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."

Continued on Page 4

## TG WILL FIGHT FOR 904 TMC OF WATER FROM KRISHNA: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE State government has decided to strengthen its arguments in support of its demand for 904 TMC of water from the Krishna river and thereby protect the state's rights before the KWDT- 2 (Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal) meeting from September 23. State Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and an official team will attend the hearing in Delhi.

At a high-level meeting on the government's preparedness to pitch for the state's fair share in Krishna water, Chief Minister A Revanth



Reddy said that Telangana should not lose even a single drop of water from its due share in assured, surplus, and flood waters. The officials were instructed to collect all related evidence and submit them to the legal experts for making strong and incontrovertible arguments before the tribunal during the two-day hearing from September 23.

Continued on Page 4

## 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 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



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

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

HYDERABAD

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# Cong files police complaint against KTR, demands apology

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

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

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



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

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

briefing to the media following the complaint.

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

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

## Top woman Maoist leader surrenders before police

**She was associated with the outlawed organisation for 43 years**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

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

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

Hailing from Jogulamba Gadwal, she was married to



senior Maoist leader Malojula Koteswar Rao, also known as Kishanji, who served as Central Committee member and secretary of the West Bengal State Committee. Kishanji was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in West Midnapore, West Bengal, in November 2011. The couple has one daughter.

Jitender, said Sujatha entered the movement in December 1982 while studying intermediate at Government

Junior College, Gadwal. She was influenced by her cousins, Patel Sudhakar Reddy, Pothula Sudershan Reddy and Suguna.

She worked with the group in multiple States until May 2025 and then, citing health, requested to leave the organisation. She expressed her wish to live peacefully with her family and avail rehabilitation benefits. She carried a reward of Rs 25 lakh, which has now been given to her through a demand draft.

The DGP appealed to remaining underground cad-

res to return to their native places and join the mainstream, assuring them of immediate relief and support measures under the rehabilitation scheme to live with dignity and independence.

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

## GOVT WILL GIVE ARMS TO EXCISE OFFICIALS: JUPALLY

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

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

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

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



should be examined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

surveillance of closed rice mills and other sensitive areas.

Principal secretary Rizvi, Excise Commissioner C Hari Kiran, Enforcement Director 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.

## Kukatpally murder case: Accused arrested in Ranchi

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

The attackers fled with



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

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

and made arrests.

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

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

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

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

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



## Rs 20 lakh donated for govt jr college building

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
SHADNAGAR

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

College building.

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

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is inform to the general public, where in the applicant by name **Smt. Pathlavathi Kavitha**, W/o Pathlavathilachiram R/o H.No. 47-73/2 Mettupally Thanda (V), Wanaparthy (M) Wanaparthy, (Dist), obtained a gift the Open Plot in land Syno.'s 855/E to the extent 216.66 Sq.yards (65' x30') situated at PangalRoad, Wanaparthy (Town & Dist.) Through Regd. doc. no. 11282/2010 dt. 29-11-2010 from H's true owner and Possessor by name Pathlavathi Lachiram S/o Pathlavathi Prabhakar R/o Mettupally Thanda, Wanaparthy (M), but said Pathlavathi Kavitha, W/oPathlavathilachiram lost the link document Vide. Doc. no. 1915/2006 dt.02-03-2006 and not trace out, then obtained a Missing Certificate from SRO, Wanaparthy (Town) dt.02-04-2023 then the applicant obtained a certified copies and approached the SBI, ACB (Br.), wanaparthy for the Housing loan, The bank is willing to proceed the loan processes basing on the Certified copy of the 1915/2006 dt.02-03-2006 SRO, Wanaparthy. If anybody is having any objection about the Original document will approach the following address Advocate, within (7) days Otherwise the Bank will do the loan Processes

**Schedule of property**

H.No. 47-94/3/1, Constructed Over Open Plot in land Syno.'s 855/E to the extent 216.66 Sq.yards (65' x30') situated at PangalRoad, Wanaparthy (Town & Dist.) **BOUNDARIES** East: Kaluva, West: Pangol Road, North: KanimettaKuruvanna Plot, South: P.Lachiram Plot.

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SBI, Panel Advocate, H.No. 38-80, Bandar Nagar, WANAPARTHY, Cell: 9542635124, 9032635124

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SBI invites offers from owners/Power of Attorney holders for premises on lease rental basis for Commercial/Office use having Carpet area of about 233 Sq.mt. 2500 Sq.ft.) for **GHANPUR (KHILA GHANPUR) & AMC ROAD CHITYALA (CHITYALA)**. The Premises should have all facilities including adequate power load, water supply, parking space, space for keeping generator, e-lobby and V-SAT, good frontage. The entire space should be on one single floor preferably on Ground floor Premises should be ready for possession occupation or a plot. The format for submission of the technical bid containing detailed parameters, terms and conditions and price bid can be downloaded from bank's web site <https://www.sbi.co.in> under SBI in the news and then Procurement News from 15/09/2025 to 20/09/2025. Preference will be given to the premises owned by the Govt. departments/public Sector Units/banks. The offers in a sealed cover complete in all respects should be submitted to The Regional Manager, Regional Business Office, State Bank of India, D.No. 5-1-52/4 Yella Reddy Complex, Ganesh Nagar, Raichur Road, Mahabubnagar, Jogulamba 509001 on or before 4.00PM on 29.09.2025. The SBI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons therefore. Brokers will not be entertained.

Sd/- **Regional Manager RBO, Jogulamba**

**State Bank of India**  
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Sd/- **Regional Manager, RBO, Nalgonda**



## Women's empowerment key to social progress: Komatireddy

Upcoming filling station to include EV charging, cafe, and supermarket

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NALGONDA

MINISTER for Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, said society can progress only when women grow economically along with men. On Saturday, he laid the foundation for a Women Shakti petrol pump near SLBC Colony in Nalgonda, being set up with Rs 5 crore under the joint initiative of District Women's Federation and Indian Oil Corporation.

He recalled facilitating Rs 15 crore loans to Self-Help Groups in 2004 and stressed that the government continues to prioritise women through schemes like free power, free bus travel, Indiramma housing, and subsidised rice. The upcoming pump will include EV charging, a cafeteria, and a supermarket, ensuring success due to its strategic location.

SERP CEO Divya Devarajan noted that Rs 20,000 crore in loans is being extended to SHGs statewide. Collector Ila Tripathi highlighted that this is the third women-run petrol pump in Nalgonda, with more sanctioned.



Minister for R&B Komatireddy Venkat Reddy laying foundation stone for petrol bunk in Nalgonda

## Rs 232 cr worth upgrade for police quarters

NALGONDA

MINISTER for Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the state government has taken up the construction of police officers' and staff quarters with an outlay of Rs 232 crore. On Saturday, he inaugurated AR DSP residential quarters, CI and SI quarters, and Shishu Vihar at Nalgonda

Police Headquarters.

The minister noted that dilapidated quarters across the state are being replaced with new ones. He directed Police Housing Corporation MD Ramesh Reddy to identify and rebuild such facilities. He assured full support to police personnel working round the clock and praised Nalgonda officials' efforts in curbing drug abuse.

## Kodangal-Narayanpet LIP displaced farmers to get Rs 20L compensation

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MAHABUBNAGAR

KEEPING in view the future of farmers who are losing their lands for the construction of the Narayanpet-Makthal-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced enhanced compensation of Rs 20 lakh per acre. Expressing their gratitude for the decision, Minister Dr Vakhti Srihari, Narayanpet MLA Dr Chittam Parnika Reddy, and senior Congress leader Kumbham Shivakumar Reddy met the CM at his residence on Saturday.

They conveyed thanks to the Chief Minister for understanding the plight of farmers and ensuring justice by increasing the compensation. They stated that this decision would

## Cong leaders thank Revanth



bring great relief to farmers of Narayanpet, Kodangal, and Makthal regions.

They also assured the Chief Minister that steps would be taken to complete the land

acquisition process at the earliest and ensure that compensation reaches farmers without any delay, while expediting the construction works of the project.

## Teacher suspended for misbehaving with student

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NAKERKAL (NALGONDA)

A teacher in Nalgonda district has been suspended following allegations of misconduct with a student. The incident took place at Nakerakal Government High School, where Srinivasulu, an English teacher,

was accused of behaving inappropriately with a Class 10 student. The Education Department conducted an inquiry into the matter and issued suspension orders against the teacher. However, student groups and parents have demanded stricter action, stating that suspension alone is not enough.

## SBIT hosts LinkedIn awareness prog for freshers

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

SWARNA Bharathi Institute of Technology (SBIT) organised a LinkedIn awareness seminar in collaboration with iLearn Training Organisation to promote early professional development among first-year engineering students.

SBIT Chairman Gundala Krishna stressed on the im-



portance of building a digital profile from the beginning of their academic journey. iLearn COO Sriram guided

students on creating LinkedIn portfolios, uploading certifications, and showcasing projects.

# NEET ranker fights for 'local' status in TS and AP

"We've lived in Bhadrachalam for over 40 years. My daughter is born and brought up here, yet she is not considered a local,"

- Father of the girl

PV SATYANARAYANA  
BHADRACHALAM

EVEN a high score in NEET has not spared a student from the long-standing identity dilemma caused by the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. G Sai Ritika, a resident of Bhadrachalam in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, is fac-



G Sai Ritika, NEET ranker, and resident of Bhadrachalam

The confusion stems from the administrative status of Bhadrachalam post the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Ritihka completed her schooling up to Class 10 in Purushothampatnam, which now falls under Yetapaka mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district in AP, one of the mandals merged into AP due to the Polavaram project submergence area

ing an unexpected roadblock in her medical admissions journey being labelled as a non-local in both states' counselling processes.

Ritika scored 438 out of 720 in NEET-2025, securing an All India Rank of 1,41,256 and a Telangana state rank of 2,538. However, during the MBBS counselling registration, her application was categorized as 'non-local,' which could significantly affect her chances of getting a medical seat under the state quota.

This classification has left Ritika and her family distraught. Her father, Ashok Kumar, who has been running a business in Bhadrachalam for decades, expressed deep concern. "We've lived in Bhadrachalam for over 40 years. My daughter is born and brought up here, yet she is not considered a local," he lamented.

The confusion stems from the administrative status of Bhadrachalam post the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Ritihka completed her schooling up to Class 10 in Purushothampatnam, which now falls under Yetapaka mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh, one of the seven mandals merged into AP due to the Polavaram project submergence area. She pursued her Inter-

mediate education in Hyderabad, Telangana, but her earlier schooling in what is now Andhra Pradesh has seemingly impacted her eligibility under the 'local' category in Telangana's medical counselling process.

In Andhra Pradesh, non-local candidates are still eligible for 15% of medical seats under an unreserved quota as per government orders. Telangana, however, does not provide a similar provision, making Ritika's case even more challenging.

However, even over a decade after the bifurcation, clarity on domicile and local status remains elusive, leaving many students in limbo.

Notably, Local MLA Tellam Venkata Rao has raised the issue with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, urging that students from Bhadrachalam be considered under Telangana's local category. A proposal under GO 33 has been put forth, requesting a humanitarian exception for students caught in this bureaucratic grey area.

Ashok Kumar has appealed to the authorities to ensure justice for his daughter. "She worked hard, cleared NEET with a good score, and now her dream is being shattered due to administrative confusion. All we ask is fair treatment."

## Nalgonda hosts Telangana's second-largest dog adoption drive

49 dogs were adopted during the event



Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the issue. He said officials estimate that around 40,000 dogs live in Nalgonda district and stressed the need for scientific and humane measures to address the problem.

"Countries like the United States treat dogs with dignity, giving them the same respect as humans. There is no need to kill dogs or earn needless blame. Adoption and vaccination are the right solutions, and programmes

like this deserve full government support," Komatireddy said.

He pointed out that Nalgonda hosted the second-largest dog adoption and vaccination drive in Telangana after Hyderabad and

"There is no need to kill dogs or earn needless blame. Adoption and vaccination are the right solutions, and programmes like this deserve full government support,"

-Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

urged district authorities to intensify public awareness campaigns on sterilisation, vaccination, and safety precautions to prevent dog bites. "People must also be educated on first-aid measures if a dog bite occurs," he added.

District Collector Ila Tripathi added that dog, monkey, and cat attacks are increasing due to leftover food being dumped in public places. She reminded that killing dogs is illegal and highlighted that 49 dogs were adopted during the event.

## Rajnath Singh to attend TG Liberation Day celebrations

BJP's Ponguleti pays tributes to Shoaibullah Khan

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

"UNION Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will participate as the chief guest in the upcoming Telangana Liberation Day celebrations," announced BJP national leader and Tamil Nadu-Telangana co-incharge Dr Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy. Addressing a gathering in Subledu village, Tirumalayapalem Mandal on Saturday, Reddy underscored the BJP's commitment to honouring Telangana's history of resistance and sacrifice.

The event, organized as part of the BJP's week-long Telangana Liberation Day campaign, saw Reddy unveil the statue of freedom fighter Shoaibullah Khan, who was martyred for his journalism against the Nizam's rule. "Khan's ideals must be included in school



textbooks. He upheld journalistic values and laid down his life for truth," he said.

Marking the occasion, Reddy contributed Rs 10,000 towards a rural journalists' welfare fund, highlighting the party's support for grassroots journalism.

Coming down heavily on the ruling Congress government in Telangana, he accused it of mismanaging the urea supply crisis, leaving farmers stranded. "It's

tragic that farmers, despite no festive rush or weather challenges, are queuing up day and night for fertilizers. The government has failed them," he said. He also held the State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao responsible for the crisis. "Instead of serving the people, ministers have become contractors and contractors are acting like ministers. This is the height of Congress-style business politics," he alleged.

## BC Welfare Association marks MP Krishnaiah's birthday



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KHAMMAM

THE Khammam District BC Welfare Association commemorated the 71st birthday of senior Backward Classes leader and Rajya Sabha MP R Krishnaiah at the district office on Saturday.

Prominent BC leader Dr Gongura Venkateshwarlu described Krishnaiah as the voice of the voiceless and a crusader for BC rights over the last 45 years. He called on the community to unite in support of Krishnaiah's long-standing demand for 50% political reservations for BCs in legislative bodies, stating that justice for BCs is incomplete without adequate representation in

law-making institutions.

"Until a Bill ensuring political reservations is passed in Parliament, the struggle must continue. Only then will true empowerment of BCs in education, employment, and governance be achieved," Dr Venkateshwarlu said after cutting a cake to mark the occasion.

Association President Pindiprolu Ramamurthy stressed the need for reservation in promotions for OBC government employees and extended full support to Krishnaiah's advocacy in the Rajya Sabha on the issue.

"Khammam stands firmly behind Krishnaiah garu's efforts to bring lasting change for the backward classes," he said.



Sarvagnya The School at VDO's Colony in Khammam celebrated Hindi Diwas on Saturday in which Chairman RV Nagendra Kumar participated. Competitions were held in elocution, quiz, and essay writing

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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”**



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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

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



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.



## 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.

## Some students spending their pocket money on 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 ICFAI, 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-

*Continued from P1*

After meeting them, I can say with confidence that a new dawn of hope and trust is rising in Manipur,” he said. “For development to take root anywhere, peace is essential. In the last 11 years, many conflicts and disputes in the Northeast have been resolved. People have chosen the path of peace and given priority to development,” he added. The PM, who faced sharp criticisms from the opposition for not visiting the state despite the prolonged

## 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 ditching, 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.



## 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 Ramnathapur, 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.

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

*Continued from P1*

ethnic violence, underlined that the Centre’s efforts were already yielding results. “We have seen that recently in the Hills and the Valley... negotiations have taken place for agreements with different groups. These are part of the efforts of the Government of India to establish peace while giving importance to dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding,” he said. “I would appeal to all organisations to move forward on the path of peace and fulfil their dreams.

I am with you... The Government of India is with the people of Manipur. We are working towards the goal of making Manipur a symbol of peace, prosperity and progress,” he said. Modi said the Centre is providing support to build 7,000 new houses for families who have been displaced by the violence. A special package of about Rs 3,000 crore has recently been approved, he said, adding that Rs 500 crore has been specifically allocated to assist the displaced people.

## 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.

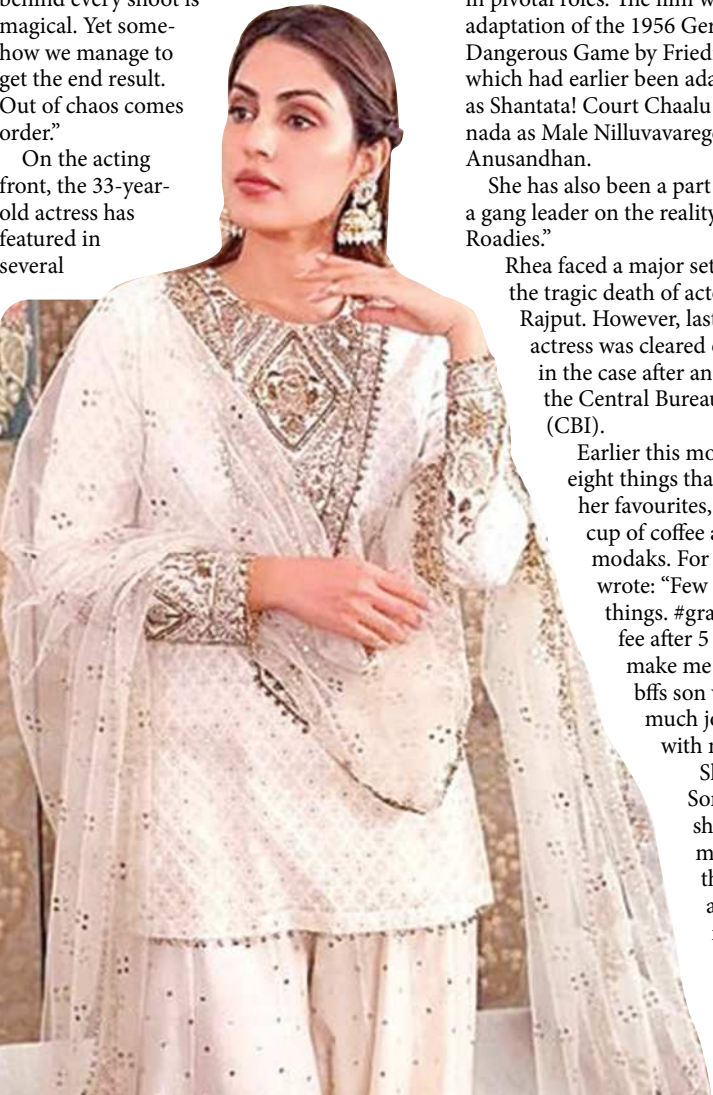
# Rhea Chakraborty finds ‘chaos’ behind shoots ‘magical’

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!

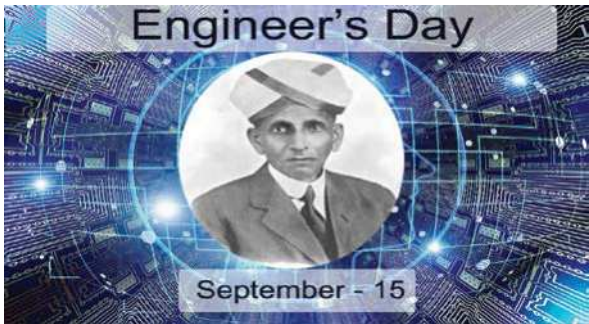
The life story of this gifted engineer is an inspiration with myriad life lessons to our students.

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.

Guidipati Shanti Priya, Secunderabad-11



### No sign of gas supply through pipes

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

G Murali Mohan Rao, Secunderabad-11



### Modi's tribute to Bhagwat

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

G. David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)













# 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

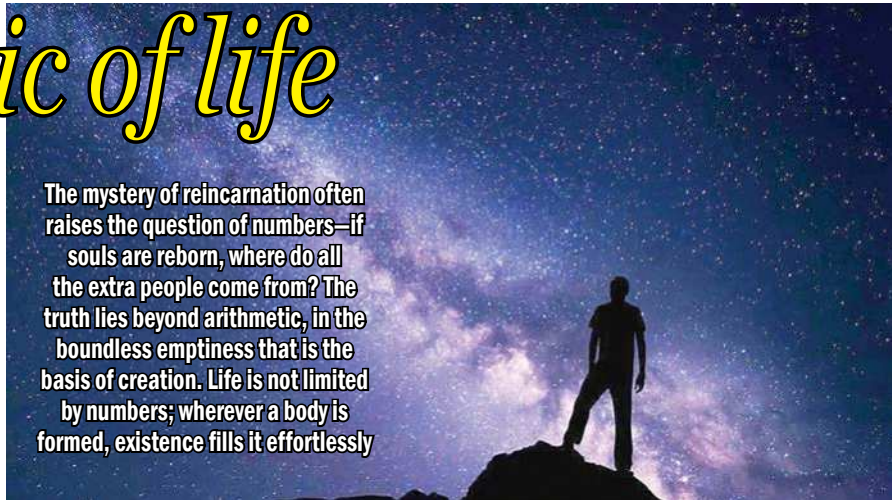
Sadhguru, I have a question about birth, rebirth and karma. If the total energy in the universe is constant, is the number of souls in the universe also a constant thing?

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

**JioHotstar**  
**Rambo in Love- Sept 12**

For fans of Telugu web series, Rambo in Love offers a fresh romantic-drama premise. The story follows a bankrupt entrepreneur who finds himself in a desperate situation, forced to seek help from his ex-girlfriend, who ironically becomes his investor. Starring Abhinav Manikanta and Payal Chengappa, the series promises equal measures of tension, nostalgia, and romance, exploring how old relationships resurface in unexpected ways when money and ambition collide.

**Prime Video**  
**Parada - Sept 12**

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

**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.

**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,

**Lionsgate Play**  
**Detective Ujjwalan- Sept 12**

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

**Hoichoi**  
**BhootTeriki- Sept 12**

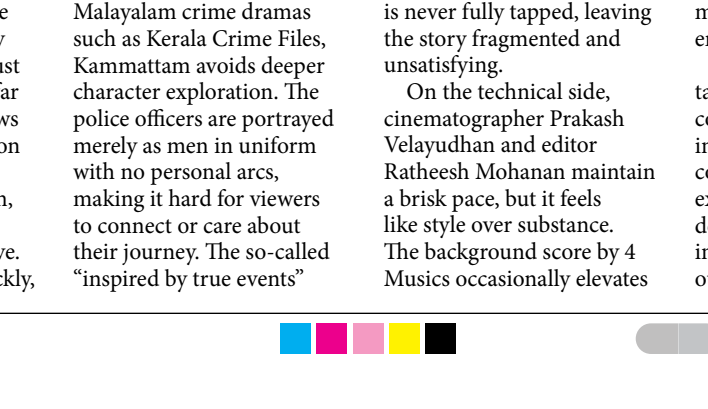

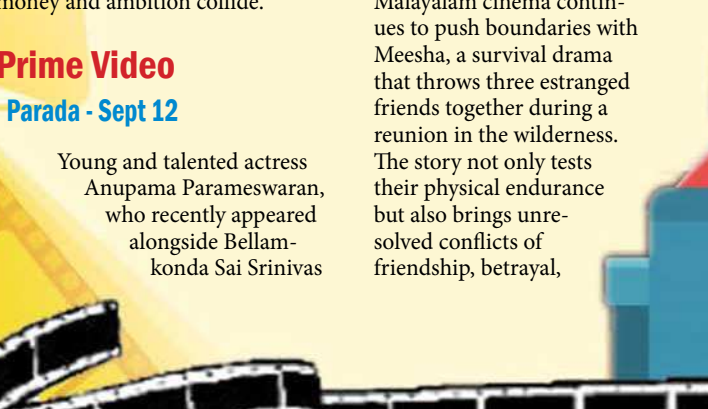


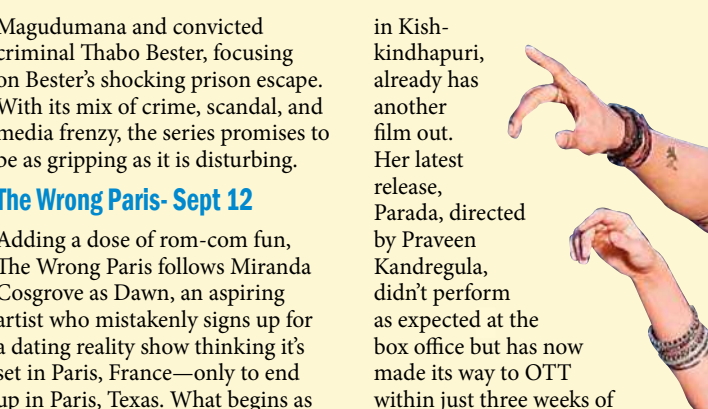


Bengali audiences are in for a spooky

**The Ritual- Sept 12**

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.

**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.

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



# ‘Kammattam’ review: Fails to hit the mark

SUHAS SISTU

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

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

Unlike well-crafted Malayalam crime dramas such as Kerala Crime Files, Kammattam avoids deeper character exploration. The police officers are portrayed merely as men in uniform with no personal arcs, making it hard for viewers to connect or care about their journey. The so-called "inspired by true events" angle promises weight but ends up feeling like a lost opportunity. The potential of a cooperative bank fraud leading to multiple murders is never fully tapped, leaving the story fragmented and unsatisfying.

On the technical side, cinematographer Prakash Velayudhan and editor Ratheesh Mohanan maintain a brisk pace, but it feels like style over substance. The background score by 4 Musics occasionally elevates the mood but often comes across as overwhelming. Performances by Sudev Nair and Jeo Baby are solid, yet the supporting cast fails to make an impression, weakening the overall impact.

Ultimately, Kammattam feels like a series more concerned with finishing quickly than telling a compelling story. Its rushed execution, lack of emotional depth, and uneven storytelling prevent it from standing out in a genre where Malayalam 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**







GST rejig big relief for auto cos  
Reducing GST rates from 28 per cent to 18 per cent is a landmark reform and a huge relief for the auto industry. This round of GST reform is the biggest reform since Independence and every Indian stands to gain

— Union Minister Piyush Goyal

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.

Satwik, 24, has battled a re-

Indians disappoint on opening day of World Athletics C'ships

TOKYO: Indian race walkers disappointed in the 35km events with Sandeep Kumar and Priyanka Goswami finishing at 23rd and 24th places in the men's and women's sections respectively on the opening day of competitions at the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

Another Indian in the fray

in men's 35km race walk event, Ram Baboo was disqualified (DQ under rule TR54.7.5) after receiving his fourth red card. He had crossed 24km by then. Baboo, who had finished 27th in Budapest World Championships two years ago, is the current national record holder with a time of 2 hour

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



THIRUCHIRAPPALLI (TAMIL NADU)

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

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

AGARTALA

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

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

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

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

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

'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

World Boxing C'ships

Minakshi, Jaismine, Nupur storm into finals

LIVERPOOL

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

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

India has fielded a 20-member contingent at the inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing, a recently

formed international governing body for boxing, and is hoping for a good showing in both men's and women's events. Pooja Rani (women's 80kg) is the fourth Indian boxer to reach the semifinals and will face Emily Asquith of England later in the day.

In the women's 48kg semi-

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

Women's Hockey Asia Cup

India qualify for final, to face China in Sunday final

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Pigeons cause no harm, firecrackers can: Maneka

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

