

Lans Indi



Rhea Chakraborty finds 'chaos' behind shoots 'magical' Wars begin in the mind, so does peace Actress Rhea Chakraborty shared a sneak-peek into the behindthe-scenes world of shooting and tagged the experience as both chaotic and magical. Taking to Instagram, Rhea shared some BTS moments.

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.

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 and history that shaped the city's musical identity, bringing music lovers from all over the world to engage in its melodies.

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

entertainment.

platforms, promising viewers a weekend packed with

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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 Al 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 Al-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.







LEADER SURRENDERS BEFORE POLICE

REPORT: PAGE 2



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

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NE is India's growth engine: PM

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

Aizawl

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

Inaugurating the ambitious 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang railway project, flagging off three new trains connecting Aizawl with Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati and laying the foundation stone and inaugurating multiple development projects worth over Rs 9,000 crore, the Prime Minister

NEW DELHI: Terming

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's visit to Manipur a

"pit stop", the Congress on

"grave insult" to the people

Congress president Mal-

Modi of organising a grand

likarjun Kharge accused

Saturday alleged that the

trip is "tokenism" and a

of the state.

said that the Northeast was ected with the Ba earlier called

a frontier state,

now the region has be-

He said that through the

3-hour pit stop is not compassion:

Cong targets Modi's Manipur visit

welcome ceremony for

himself and claimed that

it "is a cruel prick" to the

wounds of those still suffer-

ing. "In the words of your

own... Where is your Rajd-

harma?" Kharge asked on X

just before Modi's Manipur

Manipur is not compassion

visit. "Narendra Modi ji,

your 3-hour pit stop in

come a front runner.

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

-- 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 es-

of people in relief camps!"

the Congress chief said in

Continued on Page 4

his post on X.

cape from hearing the cries

Continued on Page 4

peace & prosperity, says Modi People have chosen the path of peace and

Want to make Manipur symbol of

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

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

ed Churachandpur district

Continued on Page 4

PM interacts with IDP Kukis, Meiteis

IMPHAL/CHURA-CHANDPUR: 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

meeting in Kuki-dominat-

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.



Heavy rains at isolated places in Telangana



Hans news Service

HYDERABAD: Heavy rains occurred at some isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Khammam and Suryapet districts in the state on Saturday. However, no property damage or casualties were reported in the areas hit by heavy rain.

Disaster management teams evacuated people in low-lying areas in Nirmal and Khammam district in advance to prevent flood-related incidents. The alerted district Collectors had deployed disaster teams in the villages which received

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

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 sa on Saturday. The last date to file ITRs without penalty is September 15.

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

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



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

The extension was on

account of "structural and content revisions" in the income tax return (ITR) forms, which was notified in late April and early May. The changes made in the ITR form for AY 2025-26 also need modifications to be made in ITR filing utilities and the back-end system. ITR filings have shown consistent growth over the years, reflecting rising compliance and the widening of the tax base. For AY 2024-25, a record 7.28 crore ITRs were filed up to July 31, 2024, compared to 6.77 crore in AY 2023-24, registering a 7.5 per cent year-on-year growth.

FORMULA E-RACE CASE

Vigilance panel to study ACB report, recommend action Hans News Service The Commission is expected

Hyderabad

IN a significant development case, the state government has handed over the ACB report to the state Vigilance Commission for further action.

to send its findings to the government in the next two to three days before forwarding it to the Governor for filin charge sheet in the case.

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

reau (ACB) on the alleged misappropriation of funds pertaining to the Municipal

Administration and Urban

partment during the payment to the agency that was to organize the e-car racing event in Hyderabad. Contd on Page 4

Israeli air strikes kill 65 in Gaza, including 14 from one family

JERUSALEM: Heavy Israeli air and artillery strikes on Friday killed at least 65 Palestinians across Gaza, including 14 members of the same family, according to Al Jazeera.

Al Jazeera reported that according to medical sources, e deaths were record ed in Gaza City and northern parts of the territory. Among those killed on Friday were 14 members of the same family.

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 antigovernment 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 racket links we can uncover," said one senior officer, pointing to an inter-ENIOR OFFICIAL national chain of operations. Ac-**INVOLVED IN THE** cording to the PROBETOLD 'THE HANS INDIA' THAT TANB, several THE CASE HAD "ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURindividuals from Nigeria, ACE OF A CITY-WIDE Somalia, and

are many other major drug

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 verifica-

tion. We spend days tracking

that are divided into multiple compartments. "We have missed the right packages while scanning," the official admitted. The TANB confirmed that

irregularly packed parcels

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



Demanding government. 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

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, Mynakka, 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

Hailing from Jogulamba Gadwal, she was married to

PUBLIC NOTICE

hlavathLachiram R/o H: No. 47-73/2 Mettup handa (V), Wanaparthy (M) Wanaparthy. (Dist) btained a gift the Open Plot in land Sy.no.'s 855/l o the extent 216.66 Sq.yards (65' x30') situated a egd. doc. no. 11282/2010 dt. 29-11-2010 fro Regd. doc. no. 11282/2010 dt. 29-11-2010 from it's true owner and Possessor by name Pathlavath Lachiram S/o Pathlavath Peethambar R/o Mettupally Thanda, Wanaparthy (M), but said Pathlavath Kavitha, W/oPathlavathLachiram 16th elink document Vide. Doc. no. 1915/2006 dt.02-03-2006 and not trace out. then obtained a Missing Certificate from SHO. Wanaparthy (Towl 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 lling to proceed the loan processes basing or e Certified copy of the 1915/2006 dt.02-03-2000 SRO, Wanaparthy. If anybody is having any objectio about the Original document will approach th following address Advocate, within (7) day Otherwise the Bank will do the loan Processes

Otherwise the Bank will do the loan Processes Schedule of property H.No. 47-94/3/1, Constructed Over Open Plot i land Sy,no.'s 855/E to the extent 21.6.65 Syan (65' x30') situated at PangalRoad, Wanaparth (Town & Dist.) BOUNDARIES East: Kaluva, West angol Road, North: KanimettaKurvanna Ple

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senior Maoist leader Mallojula Koteshwar 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 rroup 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-

Hyderabad

THE brutal Kukatpally

murder case that shook

Hyderabad has reached a

breakthrough, with both ac-

cused nabbed in Ranchi fol-

lowing a high-stakes police manhunt across State lines.

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 enartment 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 nonduty paid liquor, stressing that protecting people's lives is the government's respon-

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 oddy 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 ar-

Principal secretary Rizvi, Excise Commissioner C Hari Kiran, Enforcement Director Shahnawaz Qasim and Additional Commissioner Sved Yasin Ouresh 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 nonduty paid liquor.

Kukatpally murder case: Accused arrested in Ranchi

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

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Sd/- Regional Manager, RBO, Nalgonda



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

The attackers fled with

around 7 tolas of gold ornaand made arrests. ments, 16 watches, and old

Motorola mobile phones, escaping on a scooter left near Hafeezpet railway station thinking they would go to Secunderbad 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,

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 Shad-

nagar 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 sub-

stantial donation of Rs 20 lakh is commendable and expressed hope that more donors would step forward to contribute in the future.

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

Women's empowerment key to social progress: Komatireddy

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

Hans news service Nalgonda

MINISTER for 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 Cinema-Komatireddy tography 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

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 Vakiti Srihari, Narayanpet MLA Dr Chittem 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 ing the compensation. They stated that this decision would **Cong leaders thank Revanth**



bring great relief to farmers of Narayanpet, Kodangal, and

Minister that steps would be taken to complete the land



Makthal regions.

acquisition process at the earliest and ensure that compensation reaches farmers without any delay wh diting the construction works of the project.

Nalgonda hosts Telangana's second-largest dog adoption drive

49 dogs were adopted during the event

Officials estimate that around 40,000 dogs live in Nalgonda district. The Minister stressed the need for scientific and humane measures to address the problem

Hans news service Nalgonda

A large-scale dog adoption, vaccination, and sterilisation awareness programme was organised at Ramnagar Park in Nalgonda town on Saturday, with Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy taking part as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkat Reddy expressed concern over the rising incidents of dog bites across the country, noting that even the

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

"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

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He pointed out that Nalgonda hosted the secondlargest 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

to address the problem.

BJP's Ponguleti pays tributes to Shoaibullah Khan

Hans News Service Кнаммам

"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 Ni. zam'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, 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



Hans News Service Кнаммам

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.

Promiment 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 po-

litical 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 firmly behind Krishnaiah garu's efforts to bring last. ing change for the backward classes," he said.

Teacher suspended for misbehaving with student

Hans news service Nakrekal (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 Кнаммам

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 Linked-In portfolios, uploading certifications, and showcasing projects.



which Chairman RV Nagendra Kumar participated. Competitions were held in elocution, quiz, and essay writing

BIFURCATION AND BORDER CONFUSION

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 Bhadradri Kothagudem district, is fac-



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 Bhad-

rachalam for decades, expressed deep concern. "We've lived in Bhadrachalam for over 40 years. My daughter is born and brought up here, vet 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, nonlocal 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.

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

However, even over a

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."

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Stop indiscriminate cable wire cutting, operators warn govt

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



Hans News Service Hyderabad

WARNING that they would stop services, the cable operators on Saturday appealed to the government to stop indiscriminate cutting of inter-

net 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 empha-

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



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 Srisailam reservoir, which is releasing

Continued from P1

Supporting this statement,

Neha Agarwal, psychologist

Heal Therapy, said, "Many

of these students are simply

trying to fill an emotional

void-whether it's love, ac-

ceptance, or fear of abandon-

ment. "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

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

Officials stressed that strict

surveillance is being paired

with the rehabilitation of stu-

dents. One of the students re-

growth," she added.

turn back.

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

Some students spending **UN congratulates** new Nepal PM their pocket money on drugs Sushila Karki

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 en-

forcement 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.

Sagar have been opened.

Continued from P1 She also recognised 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.

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 th 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 recase was crucial to act against the alleged accused. Meanwhile, summon-

ing 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.

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

Hans News Service

Hyderabad

UNION Minister G Kishan

Reddy has urged practitioners,

researchers, and policymakers

to embrace India's ancient medi-

cal wisdom and integrate it with

modern science. He was ad-

dressing 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 tradi-

tional medicine to discuss the

future of Ayurveda in India and

Reddy congratulated the or-

ganisers 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 com-

mendable service to the nation.

is not merely a system of medi-

cine but a holistic philosophy

rooted in the Indian way of life,

He emphasised that Ayurveda

abroad.

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.

Kishan urges doctors to

embrace India's ancient

medical wisdom

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

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 Ramanthapur, 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

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

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 and disputes in the Northeast have been resolved. People have chosen the path of peace and given priority to development," he added. The PM, who faced sharp criticisms from the opposition for not visiting the state despite the prolonged

ethnic violence, underlined that the Centre's efforts were already yielding results. "We have seen that recently in the Hills and the Valley... negotiations have taken place for agreements with different oups. 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.

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 example of women's empowerment," Modi asserted. Her appointment ended days of political uncertainty after the K P Sharma Oli dispensation was forced to quit in the face of a nationwide agitation triggered by a social media ban.

Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and the youth protesters, who spearheaded the agthe resilience of the Nepali people, noting how citizens, especially young men and women, were taking part in cleaning and painting buildings in the past few days, amid political turbulence. "I also want to congratulate the people of Nepal who, despite such turbulent times, have kept democratic values supreme," Modi said, drawing applause from the gathering.

itation. The PM also lauded

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

Govt does homework

to strengthen TG's

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

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 Srisailam, 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.

NE is India's growth engine: PM

Continued from P1

Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project is a joint India-Myanmar initiative to create a multi-modal transport corridor connecting India's eastern ports to India's Northeast through Myanmar, utilising waterways and roads to bypass the Siliguri Corridor.

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

He said that earlier the po-

litical parties were doing vote bank politics in Northeast and due to this attitude the entire region suffered greatly.

"Our attitude, plans and vision are different. We want peace and development of the region. Rail, road, air, waterway connectivities were developed a lot in the region and these would be further developed in the coming days," the Prime Minister said. Referring to the GST reforms, he said that taxes were lowered substantially in many products making life

easier for common people. During 'Operation Sindoor', India's armed forces taught lessons to terror-

witnessed the power of the country's armed forces and 'Made in India' weapons to help protect the country, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Saturday's visit is PM Modi's second trip to Mizoram since he became the Prime Minister in 2014. From Aizawl, the Prime Minister would fly to Manipur's Churachandpur and then to state capital Imphal. In both Churachandpur and Imphal, PM Modi would unveil a total of 31 projects worth Rs 8,500 crore for the state of Manipur and would address public gatherings in both the places.

3-hour pit stop is not compassion: Cong targets Modi's Manipur visit Continued from P1 in the state. Violence still con-

"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

tinues," he said. It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining law and order in the state and it is now the Union government which is again dithering, he claimed. "Not to forget, that is your

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

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

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

Vomenia

Innovative medical device offers hope for lymphedema patients

venous congestion, and even

This isn't the first time

Driven by a shared commit-

ment to public service, they

previously partnered with a

local non-profit in Guntur

to perform free cleft lip and

palate surgeries for under-

privileged children. This con-

genital deformity can impact

a child's speech and lead to

social stigma, but through

their teamwork, many

these two doctors have

teamed up for a cause.

complex wounds.

MV Syam Sundar

wo 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

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 noninvasive, user-friendly, and cost-effective solution designed to address chronic limb swelling by using a



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,

these life-changing opera-"It is deeply rewarding

children have benefited from

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 coinvented 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 highquality 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

Aruna Chandaraju

Talking through the rooms and corridors of The

based pharmaceutical company she founded to provide affordable, holistic wellness products. Her company's offerings, which include products to enhance post-operative recovery and strengthen immunity, reflect her deep understanding of patient needs beyond the operating room.

Dr. Sumita Shankar is a distinguished Plastic Surgeon and Professor and Head of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Government General Hospital in Guntur. Her extensive academic and surgical expertise not only shapes the next generation of surgeons but also significantly advances reconstructive surgery in India.



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

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.

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

OF STYLE AND LUXURY



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

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

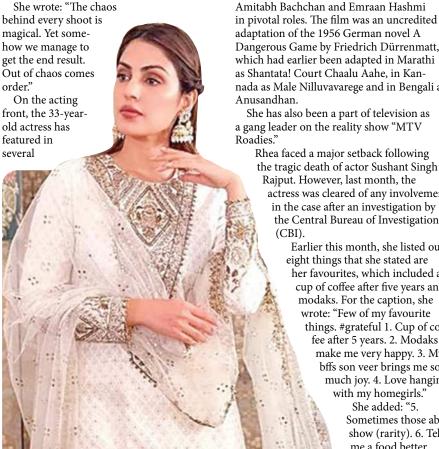
Keynote speaker Ms. Anuradha A, Executive Partner at IBM, drew inspiration from Garry Kasparov's collaboration with IBM's Deep Blue. She encouraged participants to see AI as an "amplifier, not an enemy," stressing that success lies in human-AI collaboration. She emphasized that AI adoption can boost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

ctress Rhea Chakraborty shared a sneak-peek into the behind-thescenes 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.



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 Rumy 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 Chaalu Aahe, in Kannada as Male Nilluvavarege and in Bengali as

She has also been a part of television as a gang leader on the reality show "MTV

> actress was cleared of any involvement in the case after an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation 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

> > 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."

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 homeinteriors destination. This multistoryed complex is The place to visit in Hyderabad for those looking for worldclass 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 Designera). 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 popup allowed guests to explore luxury streetwear alongside timeless interiors a powerful combination."

Designer Sheetal Zaveri revealed: "At Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas, we believe jewellery isn't merely an accessory—it reflects much more value as it carries heritage,

craftsmanship, and personality. Our sterling silver pieces, with their timeless motifs and contemporary finishes, are handcrafted by Hyderabadi craftspersons, 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 craftsperson'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, vou know where to head to in Hyderabad.

Hindi, the golden foundation of self-reliant India

September 14 is Hindi Diwas Day

'INDI 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 di, and AI tools are bringevery Indian to dream and achieve in their own laning this vision to life. Tech guage. 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 techsparking a passion for science. Interactive Hindi apps niques in Hindi on YouTube, reaching millions. Google's bring Premchand's stories to Hindi-supported AI models life through digital storytellprovide instant answers to a ing, making education incluwide-range of queries from farmers.

sive and inspiring. In healthcare, Hindi is

हिन्दी दिक्स September - 14th The National Education driving change. Post-Covid, Policy 2020 has elevated Hin-Hindi has spread vaccination

lages, making healthcare ac-Mahindra's Project Indus, a Hindi-focused Large Lan-Hindi is India's cultural guage Model, creates simpliheartbeat and a symbol of fied learning materials for national unity, weaving the students. A rural child now nation's diversity from north understands "photosyntheto south and east to west into sis" in their mother tongue, a single thread.

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

and health awareness to vil-

Happy Hindi Diwas

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

Prof R K Jain, Barwani

rising sun on the global stage.

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

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

 $D_{
m flooded}^{
m URING}$ 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

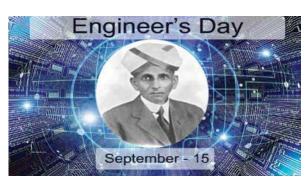
The life story of this gifted engineer is an inspiration with myriad life lessons to our students.

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

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

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

 $P_{\text{colleges across Telangana,}}^{\text{ROMOTERS}} \text{ of private}$ 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 reimburse. ments. 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

 $T^{\rm HIS}$ refers to the editorial 'As V-P Radhakrishnan must restore faith in office of RS Chairman'. There is a big responsion sibility 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 wakeup 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, 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 expe-

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad



Save birds from dying

 $\mathbf{B}^{\mathrm{ird}}$ 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, gulate 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

Physiotherapists are not licensed medical practitioners, and 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 wellknown. 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

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 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.

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

 $T^{
m HIS}$ has reference to reports about insects-infested food being supplied to students of KGBV academic institute in Adilabad district. The district collector and police officials need to take strict action against the institute's administrators. This is more so as such instances are reported almost at regular intervals. If no action is initiated, students will be subject to more such sufferings.

Gudipati Shanti Priya, Secunderabad-11



No sign of gas supply through pipes

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

BENGALURU ONLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Armoring advocates: From rhetoric to reality



CR SUKUMAR

S a former journalist who traded the newsroom for the courtroom a few years ago, I've borne witness to the raw underbelly of India's legal fray. The adrenaline of chasing stories gave way to the solemn duty of defending clients, but the dangers I once reported on as distant headlines soon became personal perils.

None shook me more than the brutal slaving of the advocate couple Gattu Vaman Rao and Nagamani in February 2021. Representing victims of land encroachments and environmental harms, they were killed in broad daylight by those they had challenged legally. Their dying declarations, confirmed by forensic analysis, exposed the threats linked to their professional work. The Supreme Court's 12th August 2025 order transferring the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) highlights longstanding weaknesses in local law enforcement's impartiality and promptness.

This tragic episode is not isolated; it reflects a growing national concern over violence targeting legal professionals and has intensified calls for a dedicated Advocates Protection Act to shield those who uphold justice.

Escalating risks and the demand for dedicated legal safeguards:

In the past decade, violence targeting lawyers has sadly become more frequent-ranging from courtroom chaos and mob attacks to premeditated killingsoften because lawyers challenge entrenched political, corporate, or criminal inter-

Bar associations in Telangana and elsewhere have vocally demanded laws explicitly protecting advocates. The All India Lawyers Advocacy Group (AILAJ), following prolonged campaigning, drafted a national Advocates Protection Bill in 2021 proposing stringent penalties for assault and intimidation, fast-track investigations, and victim compensation. Though the Bar Council of India also issued the draft bill the same year, the bill languishes in legislative pur-

gatory Skeptics note that existing laws like Sections pertaining to attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt, and criminal intimidation of the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), or the old Indian Penal Code (IPC), coupled with procedural provisions for prompt FIR registration under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (old Code of Criminal Procedure), already criminalise violence against any citizen, including advocates. So why insist on a specialized statute?

Why a specialised advocates' protection law matters?

General criminal laws do not fully capture the distinct

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vulnerabilities advocates face, given that threats often arise directly from their professional duties and can be politically or economically motivated

vulnerabilities advocates face, given that threats often arise directly from their professional duties and can be politically or economically motivated.

A dedicated law could institutionalize:

- ▶ Strict timelines for investigation-such as FIR registration or filing of charges within 24 hours of complaint.
- ▶ Specialised courts or fasttrack tribunals focused exclusively on offenses involving legal practitioners.
- ► Stronger penalties, including imprisonment up to 10 years, higher fines, and mandatory compensation for victims.
- ▶ Preventive protections, including police escorts for advocates facing threats and formal threat assessments.

The 2021 Bill's proposed maximum penalties of up to 10 years' imprisonment send a crucial zero-tolerance message in a system often marred by delays and political influences. Vaman Rao's case tragically exposes these gaps, where local police hesitated amid political pressure, prompting Supreme Court's intervention.

However, laws alone, regardless of their strength, will not suffice without committed enforcement. Police must be sensitized to prioritize advocates' security, and bar councils should actively monitor threats to ensure timely action.

Hans India

A reflection on professional conduct:

While the need to shield advocates from external threats remains pressing, there is also a rising concern about integrity within profession. Reports have highlighted troubling trends, such as advocates entering settlements in motor accident cases without fully informing clients and sometimes pursuing compensation awards primarily for personal gain. Instances where lawyers take on cases with an agreement to receive a percentage of the proceeds further point to challenges around ethical boundaries. Such practices risk eroding client trust and, over time, can contribute to wider unease and distrust toward the justice system.

Another area requiring careful reflection is the increasing recourse by some advocates and Bar Associations to boycotting courts or disrupting court proceedings as forms of protest. While recognizing the right to protest against perceived injustices, such actions can unintentionally affect the very parties lawyers representoften vulnerable litigants desperate for timely relief. Interruptions and adjournments caused by collective boycotts of courts can cause delays, increase costs, and impede justice delivery.

Courts are not just professional workplaces but institutions foundational to upholding rights and societal order. When proceedings are disrupted or hearings boycotted, it diminishes access to justice and can erode public confidence in the legal system. It is important that any advocacy for reform be balanced with the duty to uphold professional ethics and ensure client interests remain

paramount. Professional bodies and bar councils must continue to encourage dialogue, ethical training, and responsibility within the legal community, ensuring protests do not compromise justice or client

Insights from State-level

Several Indian states have taken pioneering steps to protect advocates, though with mixed results:

► Rajasthan Advocates Protection Act (2023): Criminalizes violence against advocates with penalties up to seven years' imprisonment and fines of ⊠50,000, along with compensation provisions. Reports show

increased reporting and police engagement but ongoing attacks highlight implementation challenges.

► Karnataka Prohibition of Violence Against Advocates Act (2023): Penalizes assaults or obstructions with up to three years' imprisonment and 🛛 lakh fines. Improved FIR registrations are noted, yet rural court violence persists.

▶ Telangana Welfare and Protection Bill (2024): Awaiting enactment amid continuing advocacy.

From demands to deliverables-Closing the implementation gap:

Despite unified demands from bar associations, much remains rhetorical as highprofile attacks provoke protests without sustained legislative or executive follow-through. Bills stall in committees, police investigations delay, and public trust suffers.

Recommendations for meaningful progress-Judiciary's role:

- ▶ Proactively invoke suo motu jurisdiction to expedite cases involving attacks on lawvers.
- ► Establish fast-track courts dedicated to such cases to

ensure timely justice. ► Mandate police oversight

able for delays or lapses. ▶ Promote structured collaboration with bar councils for intelligence sharing and protection

and hold officers account-

Monitor enforcement of protection laws through periodic judicial reviews.

Role of Advocates **Associations:**

planning.

- ► Maintain comprehensive, transparent data on incidents of violence and threats.
- ▶ Lead public interest litigations pressing for legislative and enforcement reforms. ► Sustain continuous en-
- gagement with lawmakers and police to institutionalize protective measures. Form internal safety and

counseling cells to sup-

- port threatened members. ►Conduct regular training on legal rights, threat management, and secu-
- ▶Build alliances with national and international human rights and legal professional organizations to amplify advocacy.

A call beyond catharsis: Witnessing Vaman Rao's empty chambers, now a shrine of unfulfilled justice, I can't dismiss these demands as mere emotion.

An Advocates Protection Act isn't a silver bullet, but in a system where general laws buckle under pressure, it could fortify the frontlines. Yet, true reform hinges on collective resolve: Legislatures to legislate boldly, executives to execute faithfully, and judiciaries to adjudicate swiftly, apart from the legal community's own commitment to ethical conduct and professionalism. Globally, we've seen that protecting lawyers isn't charity-it's self-preservation for democracy.

India must urgently enact enforceable laws, implement police and judicial reforms, and nurture a culture that protects legal defenders without compromising the profession's integrity.

Only through this integrated approach can the rule of law be safeguarded — armoring those who stand as society's sentinels against injustice.

(The author is former Senior Editor, The Economic Times, and currently practising as an advocate at the Telangana High Court)

Literary letters of historical significance: From Gurudev to Maharani of Vizianagaram

NOMULA SRINIVAS RAO

HISTORY often leaves behind timeters, writings and exchanges of ideas. Among them, two remarkable letters stand out—one penned by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1914, and the other by Maharani of Vizianagaram, Vidyavathi Devi, in 1915. Both letters highlight not only the literary connections between Bengal and Andhra but also the compassion and human values of the illustrious Pusapati dynasty of Vizianagaram.

Tagore wrote a deeply personal letter from Ramgarh in the Kumaon Hills on May 24, 1914. Addressed to Gurajada Apparao, one of Andhra's towering literary figures, the letter reflects Tagore's inner struggle and his search for peace:

"Thank you for your kind letter. I had been forced to go through a very great dissipation of mind for a long time-so I have taken shelter here in the solitude of Himalayas to gather my scattered forces and regain my spiritual equilibrium. You can easily understand that this is most important for me and I cannot set my mind to anything else for some time to come. I am sure you will understand and excuse me if I fail to meet your demand, at least for the present."

These words reveal not only Tagore's vulnerability but also his respect for Gurajada's correspondence. The humility with which he seeks pardon for not fulfilling a request illustrates the mutual admiration between two literary stalwarts from different regions of India.



Rabindranath Tagore with Maharani of Vizianagaram Vidyavathi Devi

Barely a year later, another significant letter was written-this time by Maharani Vidyavathi Devi to Dr. Col. Illington, Superintendent of King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam. Dated April 7th, 1915, the letter concerns none other than Gurajada Apparao, who was serving as her private secretary and had

The Maharani's compassionate concern is evident:

'Will you be good enough to attend to my Private Secretary Mr. G.V. Apparao who is now staying at Vizagapatam with P.T. Srinivasa Iyengar. He has been ailing for the past so many months and has just gone to Vizag for a change and better medical treatment. I hope you will give him your very best attention,

and inform me of his progress from time to time. Please send your bill to me for payment."

harani's deep care for Gurajada Apparao but also the Pusapati dynasty's tradition of treating their associates with dignity and responsibility. Her willingness to personally ensure his medical treatment highlights a humane dimension of royal patronage.

Gurudev's communication with Apparao highlights the cultural bridge between Bengal and Andhra, while Maharani Vidyavathi Devi's letter underscores the benevolence of the Vizianagaram royal family. They are reflections of empathy, mutual respect, and nurturing of intellectual and human values. Since the early 1900s, the Pusapati dynasty has been a beacon of support for literature, music, science, and education. Their contributions have shaped generations of scholars, artists, and reformers. From supporting stalwarts like Apparao to founding educational institutions and encouraging cultural exchange, the dynasty has left an indelible mark on the intellectual and cultural history of Andhra Pradesh.

As the saying goes, 'The true measure of royalty lies not in grandeur but in the compassion with which it nurtures the society it leads.'

The Pusapati dynasty stands as a shining example of this enduring leg-

(The writer is OSD to Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Governor of

Let go of futile baggage, be at ease with life natural glow in the skin. It is more pain. Those who travel



Dr Achyuta Samanta

TN life, we strive for success, peace and happiness. We aim to achieve stability and comfort, both external and internal. But often, we miss the one fundamental truth and that is the less luggage we carry, the more comfort we experience.

This isn't just about physical luggage. It is about emotional, mental, spiritual and material luggage. The lighter our load, the smoother will be our journey. This principle applies to every stage of life. We just need to pause, reflect and recognise how unnecessary weight. whether physical or guilt, ego, regrets or attachments slows us down, drains our energy and clouds our vision.

Let us begin with what we watch every day. The schoolgoing kid! When children begin their academic journey, they are full of curiosity, innocence and joy. But soon, the weight of the school bag increases and also the expectations and pressure on the child. A nursery child carries only essentials like books, colours and playful things. But as they progress to higher grades, their bags become heavier, symbolising how life burdens them with more than what is necessary.

When children carry less, they feel freer. They walk faster. They think clearly. They enjoy their journey. When they are weighed down, their enthusiasm wanes, their back hurts and their joy fades.

The same principle applies to adults, professionals, leaders and everyone walking the path

Whenever we travel, we realise how much easier it is to move when we carry a few things. More luggage means

light reach faster, adapt better and are less worried about what they might lose.

Similarly, in life, we are all

travellers moving from one place to another to another. Some shift homes. Others shift jobs. Some change cities, while some transition from one relationship to another. In every transition, those who carry less emotional and mental baggage adjust better. When we cling to past mistakes, broken relationships, grudges, or past glories, we prevent ourselves from embracing the present or preparing for the future. Philosopher Seneca said, "He who is everywhere is nowhere." A person divided between past hurts and future fears never lives fully in the present. Forgiveness, therefore, becomes the greatest baggage remover towards others and ourselves. When we forgive, we drop the unnecessary. We free ourselves. The idea of less baggage is central to almost all religious tradi-

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna to act without attachment, ego and expectation. In Buddhism, the path to enlightenment requires letting go of desires and attachments. In Jainism, renunciation and minimalism are the means to spiritual progress. In Islam, Prophet Muhammad said, "Detach from the world, and Allah will love you." The spiritual path in Islam values simplicity (zuhd), humility and trust in divine providence over attachment to possessions or status. Even in the Christian tradition, the teachings of the Desert Fathers and mystics emphasise inner silence, solitude and detachment from worldly distractions. In each tradition, the path to spiritual progress requires us to drop something and not accumulate more.

Mahatma Gandhi embodied this philosophy in his daily life. His belief in non-possession was not merely about material goods. It was about renouncing ego, pride and greed. He famously said, "The world has enough for everyone's need,

BAGGAGE YOU DON'T NEED TO CARRY



In every transition, those who carry less emotional and mental baggage adjust better. When we cling to past mistakes, broken relationships, grudges, or past glories, we prevent ourselves from embracing the present or preparing for the future.

but not enough for everyone's greed."

ger, unresolved trauma.

- What do we mean when we talk of baggage in this context? · Emotional: Resentment, an-
- Mental: Overthinking, guilt, self-doubt.
- Material: Hoarding, unnecessary possessions. · Spiritual: Ego, pride, judgment, righteousness.

The more of these we carry, the farther we are from peace. A person who learns to let go becomes lighter, freer and more at ease with life and its uncer-

tainties. I have lived a life filled with struggle, responsibility and challenges. From my childhood to my journey in public service, I have seen both extreme poverty and the heights of success. But through it all, I have held on to a simple philosophy of carrying less, giving more. Even today, despite heading large institutions and organisations, I strive to keep my personal life simple by hav-

ing less or no baggage. I avoid unnecessary materialism, I forgive quickly and I try not to dwell too long on setbacks. That is my path to more comfort.

It is about mental peace. It is about being able to sleep peacefully and maintain a

about having clarity in decision-making. When your heart is not clouded with anger or jealousy, and your mind is not heavy with doubt or overanalysis vou work better lead better and live better. In today's world, success is

often equated with accumulation of wealth, status, recognition, even followers. But true success lies in simplification. The more we accumulate, the more we fear losing. The more we fear, the more anxious we

Covid taught us this truth in a harsh but clear way. When everything shut down, we realised how little we actually needed to survive. It was not our wardrobes or luxury cars or TV screens that gave us peace. It was health, family and inner strength. In leadership too, the most effective ones are those who delegate, trust and keep their egos in check. They create teams, empower others and release control. That im-

plies less luggage. The journey of life is between birth and death. Everything in between is movement - constant, unpredictable and temporary. We come into this world empty-handed. We leave the same way. Whatever we gather is only temporary luggage. What remains is how we lived. Did we live joyfully? Did we forgive? Did we release what no longer served us? Did we lighten our load? If yes, then our journey was comfortable. Peaceful. Spiritual. Today, I encourage every reader, not as a moral instruction, but as a heartfelt invitation to examine these questions. You may find that the path becomes clearer. And your heart finally feels at ease. It is the key to peace, the root of forgiveness and the secret to a life well-lived.

Let us all strive, in our own ways, to carry less, so we may

(The writer is a former MP and founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar)

Original Letter from Rabindranath Tagore to Gurajada Apparao (May 24, 1914):

120

(1861-1941)

Kumaon Hills,

Thank you for your kind letter. I had been forced to go through very great dissipation of mind for a long time- so I have taken shelter here in the solitude of Himalayas to gather my scattered forces and regain my spiritual equilibrium. You can easily understand that this is most important for me and I cannot set my mind to anything else for some time to come. I am sure you will

> With kind regards Yours sincerely, ndranath Tagore

Letter from Maharani Vidyavathi Devi to Dr. Col. Illington (April 7, 1915):

139

Dr. Col. Illington Superintendent King George Hospital

Visakhapatnam

Dr. Col. Illington Will you be good enough to attend (to) my Private Secretary Mr. G.V.Apparao who is now staying at Vizagapatam with P.T. Srinivasa Iyengar. He has been ailing for the past so many months and has just gone to Vizag for a change and better medical treatment. I hope you will give him your very best attention, and inform me of his progress from time to time. Please send your bill to me for

> Lalitha Kumari Rani of Vizianagaram

7-4-1915.

Grooving to the melodies at New Orleans' iconic music venues

ew 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. These historic stages celebrate different genres and are a must-visit for anyone looking to experience the beating heart of New Orleans.

Preservation Hall

Once an art gallery in the 1950s, this French Quarter venue became legendary in the 1960s as New Orleans jazz outshined the art displays. Today, it stands as a global symbol of jazz, home to the world-renowned Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Tipitina's

Opened in the 1970s Uptown and named after Professor Longhair's classic tune, Tipitina's quickly became a staple for local music lovers. Though its juice bar roots remain only in its banana logo, this Galacticowned club still pulses at the city's core.

Kermit's Mother-in-Law Lounge

Founded by Ernie K-Doe in 1994 and revived by Kermit Ruffins in 2014, this Tremé venue is both pub and monument. It continues to embody the joyous, living spirit of New Orleans music.

Maple Leaf Bar

Since 1974, this Oak Street institution has hosted live music nearly every night. Known for funk, jazz, blues, zydeco, and more, the Maple Leaf remains one of the city's longest-running venues.

Rohit Yagya

The modern Indian

ing a seismic shift,

moving away from fragment-

toward meticulously curated,

all-in-one celebrations. This

by a new generation of

couples, is paving the way

for bundled wedding pack-

Indian celebrations.

the new normal?

ages to become the future of

Why are bundled packages

professionals, are no longer

willing or able to take on the

daunting task of individually

sourcing and coordinat-

ing an army of vendors. A

traditional Indian wedding

can involve over 10 different

vendors, from caterers and

decorators to photographers

and entertainment, leading

tions, and logistical headaches. Bundled packages

offer a powerful solution by

consolidating all these ser-

vices under one roof, provid-

ing a single point of contact

to endless meetings, negotia-

Today's couples, often busy

trend, driven

ed, family-managed affairs

wedding is undergo-

Snug Harbor Located in a restored

1800s storefront in the

Marigny, this jazz bistro

offers music alongside deli-

cious dining. Its intimate

setting makes it a perfect

Candlelight Lounge

In the Tremé, the

Candlelight Lounge has

become a brass band hub

and neighborhood favorite.

With post-second line jams

and free red beans and rice

on Mondays, it exudes local

Tucked in Bywater, this

quirky lounge is accessed

through a buzzer at its side

door. Inside, you'll find jazz,

blues chean drinks and the

kind of character that makes

New Orleans unforgettable.

Vaughan's Lounge

stop for pure New Orleans

On Frenchmen Street, d.b.a. blends great music with one of the city's best craft beer selections. Its laid-back vibe attracts locals and travelers alike.

Chickie Wah Wah

Hop the Canal Streetcar to this Mid-City gem, where live music pairs with BBQ plates and daily drink specials. Known as a dance hotspot, Chickie Wah Wah lives up to its playful name. **Toulouse Theater**

Opening in 1970 as a cinema, this French Quarter venue has evolved through phases as Shim Sham Club and One Eyed Jacks. Today, Toulouse Theater offers music comedy drag and burlesque, keeping its stage alive with diverse performances.

All-in-one Wedding solutions: How bundled packages

are shaping the future of Indian celebrations

The Maison

A Frenchmen Street highlight, The Maison offers three levels of music, food, and drinks. With nightly shows and late-night dining, it's a one-stop hub for entertainment.

Spotted Cat

Nicknamed "The Cat," this jazz haven on Frenchmen Street has appeared in films, commercials, and media worldwide. Its mural-clad exterior makes it impossible to miss, while inside, the music captures the city's essence.

House of Blues New Orleans

Part of the iconic national chain, the French Quarter's House of Blues has welcomed major acts and local

talent since 1994. Alongside its main hall, the Foundation Room offers intimate shows, VIP experiences, and upscale dining.

Siberia

New Orleans beats to rhythms all its own,

often hailed as the birthplace of Jazz.

Its historic venues are more than stag-

es-they are living museums of sound,

preserving legends while inspiring new

generations. From the French Quarter to

Bywater, these iconic spaces keep the

city's soul alive every night

For something off the jazz trail, head to Bywater's Siberia, where punk, metal, indie, and underground acts dominate. With comedy, drag, burlesque, and hearty bar food, it's a venue that thrives on eclectic energy.

From world-famous stages like Preservation Hall to hidden gems like Vaughan's Lounge, New Orleans' music venues echo the soul of a city built on rhythm. Each space preserves history while offering new sounds, ensuring that the music never stops in the Crescent City.

Jamva Chalo! A Parsi feast of flavours, family and fun

Hyderabad, prepare your taste buds for "Jamva Chalo! The Parsi Food Fest"-a three-day celebration of flavours, stories, and traditions curated by Chef Daisy Chenoy. From Dhansak to Lagan nu Custard, every dish carries a slice of Parsi culture and warmth. Come, eat, and soak in the joy of food, fun, and

Vijaya Pratap

hef Daisy is calling "Jamva Chalo!" at Vivanta Hyderabadto savour the delicious feast that she has curated and created with lots of love especially for the Hyderabadis. "Jamva Chalo" literally means, "Come, let's eat!" and true to its name, the three-day festival promises not just a buffet but a cultural immersion into the joyful, flavour-

packed Parsi way of life. For the Parsis, life isn't just lived—it's celebrated around a table brimming with food, laughter, and stories. Meals are never merely sustenance; they are community, tradition, and memory served on a plate. This spirit comes alive at "Jamva Chalo! The Parsi Food Fest", curated by Hyderabad's very own Parsi food torchbearer, Chef Daisy Chenoy, at Vivanta Begumpet from September 12th to 14th.

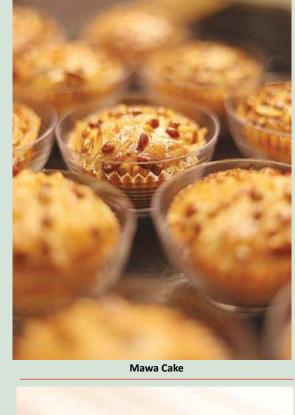
A Community Bonded by

In the Parsi world, food ment—it's glue that binds generations together. Be it the vibrant feasts of Navroz or the quiet reflection of Muktad, every festival comes with its own special dishes. Kitchens are not just places of cooking but of storytelling, laughter, and legacy. This philosophy forms the heart of the festival, which celebrates how food knits together kinship, memory, and identity.

A Feast with a Story in **Every Dish**

Chef Daisy Chenoy teacher by day, passionate cook by night—curates the festival with an indulgent buffet showcasing community favourites. Expect the comforting Dhansak, the tangy-sweet Salli Boti, the delicately steamed Patra ni Machhi, and the rich Kolmi na Curry. And no Parsi feast is complete without the custard that's practically a cultural symbol-Lagan nu Custard, creamy, caramelised, and utterly nostalgic. A "must" in weddings, it is what binds the couple together

on a sweet note! Each dish is cooked





Chicken Farcha

recipes, and sprinkled with Daisy's signature touch of warmth. Having started her venture Taste Rides during the pandemic, she has since won hearts across the city with food festivals that blend tradition with gentle innovation. "Every plate has a story," she says, and at Jamva Chalo, those stories are ready to be savoured.

Beyond the Buffet: The Parsi Spirit But Jamva Chalo isn't just about what's on the table—it's also about the spirit that surrounds it. The atmosphere promises to be as vibrant as a Parsi baug gathering. Expect quirky décor, whimsical photo backdrops, and plenty of cheer that mirrors the community's fun-loving personality. Conversations will spill as freely as raspberry soda, and the air will echo with the laughter

and banter that define every Parsi get-together. In this world, food and festivity are inseparable. A simple breakfast of eggs and buns can light up a Monday, while a wedding feast (lagan nu bhonu) is elevated into a banquet of memory and joy. Meals are events, not obligations, and every guest is welcomed like family.

Come, Eat, Celebrate

Vivanta Hyderabad has always been known for its inventive food festivals, but Jamva Chalo stands out for how beautifully it weaves together culture, nostalgia, and gastronomy. It is an invitation to experience the warmth of Parsi hospitality without leaving the city. So, gather your friends, bring your appetite, and let the Parsi mantra of food, fun, and family work its magic. As the community says, with love and laughter in equal measure—"Jamva

The Indian wedding landscape is transforming, shifting from chaotic, vendor-heavy planning to streamlined, stress-free celebrations. Bundled wedding packages are emerging as the go-to choice, offering convenience, transparency, and customisation. This all-in-one model is redefining how couples celebrate love, blending tradition with modern ease

and a cohesive vision. A recipe for reduced stress and clarity

One of the most compelling reasons for the rise of all-in-one solutions is the drastic reduction in stress. Wedding planning is a highpressure ordeal, and for a millennial or Gen-Z couple, of multiple family members while coordinating a dozen vendors can be overwhelming. Bundled packages simplify this process by offering a pre-vetted team of professionals who are already familiar with the venue and

navigating the expectations

Beyond stress reduction, these packages offer unprecedented financial clarity. A major fear for many couples is the "hidden costs" that often crop up with individual

each other's work.

vendors. Bundled packages provide a transparent, upfront cost, with every service outlined in a single contract.

This financial transparency builds trust and allows couples to budget effectively, without the anxiety of lastminute "extra charges."

The power of professional expertise and personalisation

While some may assume bundled packages are rigid and lack personalisation, the

opposite is true. The most successful all-in-one providers excel at customisation. They offer a range of curated themes, from regal and traditional to bohemian and modern, allowing couples to tailor the package to their unique tastes

This trend is particularly evident in the rapidly growing destination wedding market. India's destination wedding market, which was estimated at USD 16.25 billion in 2024, is projected to

reach USD 55.39 billion by 2033. Planning a wedding in a different city or country adds a layer of complexity that bundled solutions are uniquely equipped to handle. From managing local vendors and travel logistics to guest accommodation and itinerary planning, an all-inone package makes a destination wedding a smooth, effortless experience.

> (The writer is − Founder & CEO, Event Planet)



Kaleidoscope

Wars begin in the mind, so does peace



Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunj Ji

ooking 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



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,

In a world torn by conflict and unrest, true peace cannot be built by politics or power alone. It begins within, in the way we conquer anger, greed, and ego. Only by returning to our original state of purity and love can we transform ourselves — and the world

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



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

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 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

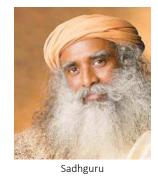
power. Choose to be happy. Tell yourself: I will be happy today no matter what comes my way! Practices such as meditation, Asana, Pranayama, contemplation, and silence can help calm the mind and add to our well-being. The ultimate truth is that

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 selfand 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



🗖 adhguru, I have a question about birth, rebirth Uand karma. If the total energy in the universe is 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 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

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

The mystery of reincarnation often

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 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 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 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)

CHIRAG DARUWALLA



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



laurus

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.



BEJAN DARUWALLA'S

HOROSCOPE

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.



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

Libra

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 openmindedness will strengthen your relationships. Friends and family will enjoy activities with you that will fill you with



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



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.





OTT RELEASES

Mohit Suri.

leading to unexpected romance.

now streaming in Telugu & Malayalam.

Details

Blockbuster starring Ahaan Panday & Aneet Padda, directed by

Explores scandalous story of Dr. Nandipha Magudumana & Thabo

Miranda Cosgrove lands in Paris, Texas instead of Paris, France,

Romantic drama about a bankrupt entrepreneur seeking help from

Anupama Parameswaran starrer, directed by Praveen Kandregula;

his ex. Stars Abhinav Manikanta & Payal Chengappa.

Release Date

Sept 12

This week OTT releases From blockbusters to quirky comedies

Platform

Netflix

JioHotstar

Prime

Video

Sun NXT

Lionsgate

Play

Hoichoi

Title

Saiyaara

Beauty and

the Bester

The Wrong

Paris

Rambo in

Love

Parada

Do You Wanna

Partner

Meesha

Detective

Ujjwalan

The Ritual

BhootTeriki

he 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 rity doctor

> 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.

Magudumana and convicted

The Wrong Paris-Sept 12

Adding a dose of rom-com fun,

Cosgrove as Dawn, an aspiring

The Wrong Paris follows Miranda

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,

criminal Thabo Bester, focusing

on Bester's shocking prison escape.

With its mix of crime, scandal, and

media frenzy, the series promises to be as gripping as it is disturbing.



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 exgirlfriend, 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

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

Do You Wanna

catch it online.

Partner- Sept 12 In the comedy-drama space,

Tamannaah Bhatia and Diana Penty headline Do You Wanna Partner produced by Karan Joh 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,

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

Lionsgate Play Detective Ujiwalan-Sept 12

tive Ujjwalan, starring Dhyan Sreenivasan, Siju Wilson, and Rony David Raj, was di-

storytelling.

Malayalam mystery thriller Detecrected

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.

Kolkata palace.

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.

Hoichoi

BhootTeriki-Sept 12

Bengali audiences are in for a spooky

Tamannaah Bhatia & Diana Penty star in a story about women entrepreneurs in the craft beer industry. Malayalam film about estranged friends confronting past issues during a forest reunion. Dhyan Sreenivasan starrer about a murder disrupting a peaceful town. Dubbed in 4 languages. Al Pacino & Dan Stevens star in exorcism drama based on 1928 Emma Schmidt possession. Bengali web series about a film crew encountering three ghosts in a 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 ribtickling comedy. Hoichoi, known for its innovative regional content, once again delivers an offbeat story

> that appeals beyond the Bengalispeaking audience. This week's OTT

line-up caters to every mood—

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, au-

diences across languages are guar-

anteed an entertaining weekend.

whether it's the spine-chilling terror

of The Ritual, the youthful romance





'Kammattam' review: Fails to hit the mark

Suhas Sistu

ee5's first Malayalam original series, Kam-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

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 banklinked 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 Malavalam 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, Kammat-

tam 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.





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

Business

BIZ BRIEFS

ITC Candyman's new campaign

TC Candyman, a con-I fectionery 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**

 $E^{\text{sri India, a leading pro-}}_{\text{vider of Geographic}}$ Information System (GIS) software and solutions in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hyderabadbased Dhruva Space, a fullstack 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

 $R^{
m elaxo}$ 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 fashionforward 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 IC-ICI Bank announced the renewal of their longterm 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

CCOOT, 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

'N 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

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



the same time, in today's changing circumstanceswhere 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 Min-

ister 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

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-topeople ties.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that the India-U.S. 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 engaging 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 forwardlooking 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

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.

For India, relations

with the US remain

utmost importance -

both strategically and

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 MS-MEs. 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 longawaited 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



alongside mutual funds in the reserved quota. Sebi has reduced thresholds for relatedparty 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 lowgrade 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 unutilised. 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

RTIFICIAL intelligence Apromises 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

"We're not trying to copy Silicon Valley," explains one in the strategy's development. African priorities." This Africa-centric approach emerges during previous technolcountries often became con-

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 Ar-

continent's 1.3 billion people. leader.

senior AU official involved "We're building AI that serves from harsh lessons learned ogy waves, when developing sumers rather than creators of digital solutions.

tificial Intelligence, with Chile



technological divides as inevitable, but in recognizing that developing nations hold the key to Al's most transformative applications and building unlock that potential

emerging as the continental

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-

Agriculture proves Al'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 Microsoft 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 sustained 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)

Hans India

"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 Singh, Olympian and reigning mixed team pistol world champion

Sports Nation

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-yearold 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 headto-head advantage over the Chinese star, adding an extra edge to the contest.

Earlier in the day, Satwik and

TOKYO: Indian race walk-

ers disappointed in the 35km

events with Sandeep Kumar

and Priyanka Goswami fin-

ishing at 23rd and 24th plac-

es in the men's and women's

sections respectively on the

opening day of competitions

at the World Athletics Cham-

Another Indian in the fray

pionships here on Saturday.



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

in men's 35km race walk

event, Ram Baboo was dis-

qualified (DQ under rule

TR54.7.5) after receiving

his fourth red card. He had

crossed 24km by then. Ba-

boo, who had finished 27th

in Budapest World Cham-

pionships two years ago, is

the current national record

holder with a time of 2 hour

of losing his father in February 2025, followed by illness that further disrupted his season. Chirag, 28, has also been dealing with a persistent back issue that affected their rhythm and forced multiple withdrawals. Despite these setbacks, their bronze medal at the BWF World Championships earlier this year showed glimpses of their pedigree.

curring back problem, an elbow

injury, and the personal tragedy

Often hailed as trailblazers of Indian men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag now have a golden chance to cap their comeback with a title. Alongside Lakshya Sen's surge in singles, India stands on the brink of a rare double triumph at a major BWF Super 500 event. (IANS)

29 minute and 56 seconds.

He was one of the six walk-

ers disqualified for the same

infringement after 50 ath-

letes began the early morn-

Out of the 50 competitors,

34 completed the race while

10 more -- other than those

disqualified -- did not finish

ing race.

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



low two-time Asian bronze

medallist Lutsaikhan to find

her rhythm in any of the

three rounds and completely

dominated the bout to earn an

It was a similar story in

the other two semifinals as

both Jaismine and Nupur

unanimous decision.

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 semirarely looked under pressure throughout their bouts. In the finals on Saturday

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

India will face China in the

for next year's World Cup in Belgium and the Nether-After the 1-1 draw against defending champions Japan, India had to wait for the re-

sult of the match between Korea and China, who have already qualified for the final. Korea needed to win by a

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.

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

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

ISSF World Cup

Esha wins women's air pistol gold

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

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



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

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

scores of 578, securing the last two available Yao topped qualification with 584, while

India's Palak Gulia, competing for ranking points, shot 586. Surbhi Rao finished 25th

In the eight-shooter final, Rhythm began strongly, leading after the first series with Esha in second. By the halfway mark, Esha moved into

the lead while Rhythm slipped to fifth, where she eventually finished. As eliminations progressed, both Indians

maintained composure.

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

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

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



(Tamil Nadu)

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

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

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

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

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.

Tiruchirappali was renowned also for communal harmony and rationalist leader 'Periyar' EV Ramasamy lived here. During the days of yore, before going to bat-

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

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

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

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

After confirming "unauthorised withdrawals" of Rs 16 crore, the bank lodged a complaint with West Agar-



tala police station on September 5.

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

"As part of the probe, we arrested Shrimayi for her alleged involvement in the scam on Friday night. She will be produced before a local court later in the day", Roy said.

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

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

Pigeons cause no harm, firecrackers can: Maneka

MUMBAI: Former Union minister and BJP leader Maneka Gandhi on Saturday expressed confidence that kabutarkhanas (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 kabutarkhanas and the report will be favourable.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had banned feeding pigeons and closed some old kabutarkhanas 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 kabutarkhanas 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 kabutarkhanas will be reopened. I am confident of it," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

'Today is a historic day for our state. It marks a new

chapter in our journey towards progress....The railway projects are not just infrastructure; they are investments in our children's future, in the dignity of our citizens and in the economic resilience of our state. The impact of these projects will be far-reaching, bridging dreams and reality between Mizoram and Bharat," Lalduhoma said. The chief minister said the 51.38 km-long railway line



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

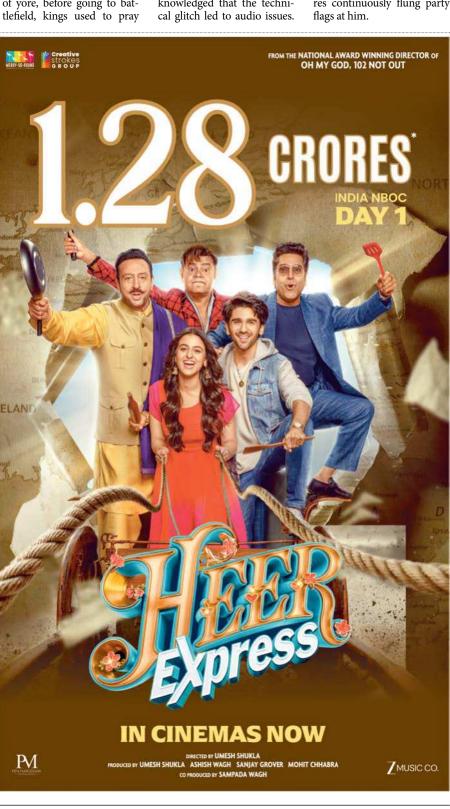
"This railway line is more than a feat of engineering, it is a symbol of inclusion, national integration and of the shared aspirations of our people. It brings Mizoram closure to the rest of India and India closure to the heart of Mizoram. The 51.38 km stretch includes some of the

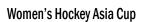
most difficult terrains in the country," Lalduhoma as-

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

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

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







India qualify for final, to face China in Sunday final

HANGZHOU 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.

summit clash on Sunday, and the winning team will qualify

margin of at least two goals

China topped the Super 4s with two points.