

# THE Hans India

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Government of Assam

জনাৰ চৰকাৰ myGov মই সৰকাৰ



Envisioning a Brighter Future for Assam

Unveiling Projects Worth

₹18,530+ crore by

Shri Narendra Modi  
Hon'ble Prime Minister

In august presence of

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri  
Hon'ble Union Minister, Petroleum & Natural Gas

## Mangaldai



14 September 2025



11:30 AM



Mangaldai, Darrang

Foundation Stone laying for



Project cost

₹4,530 crore

Guwahati Ring Road



118.5 km

Bridge over Brahmaputra

Connecting Kuruwa (Darrang) with Narengi (Guwahati)



2.9 km



Project cost

₹1,200 crore



430-bed Medical College & Hospital with GNM School and BSc Nursing College at Darrang



Project cost

₹570 crore

### Features

- G+6 hospital building & G+6 academic block
- Hostels for students, nurses, junior resident doctors/interns
- Quarters for senior resident doctors, teaching & non-teaching staff

## Numaligarh



14 September 2025



2:15 PM



Numaligarh Refinery Limited, Numaligarh

### Inauguration

World's first

2nd Generation Bioethanol Plant using Bamboo Feedstock (Supported by PM JI-VAN Yojana)

### Features

- Capacity : 50 KTPA fuel grade ethanol
- 5 lakh tonne green bamboo to be sourced from 4 NE states
- 50,000+ direct and indirect beneficiaries
- ₹200 crore boost to rural economy



Project cost

₹5,000 crore

### Foundation Stone laying for

Polypropylene Plant

A milestone in manufacturing commodity plastic with wide range of applications

### Features

- Capacity : 360 KTPA
- Raise in NRL's petrochemical index up to 4.0
- Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in hydrocarbon value chain by 1 million tonnes annually
- To generate 75,000 man-days annually



Project cost

₹7,230+ crore

LIVE (📺)

The events will be telecast live on DD News



# Global meet adopts declaration to preserve Indian manuscripts

NEW DELHI

ASSERTING that manuscripts are “not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future”, a global conference on Saturday adopted the New Delhi Declaration to bolster efforts to preserve, digitise and disseminate knowledge embedded in them. The Declaration was adopted on the closing day of the three-day ‘Gyan Bharatam’ conference on India’s manuscript heritage, hosted at the Vigyan Bhawan here.

The New Delhi Declaration resolved that manuscripts are “living memory of a nation, and foundation of its civilisational identity”.



India has one of the richest collections of ancient manuscripts in the world, with nearly 10

million texts that hold the country’s traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. The declaration

adopted at the conference also resolved to “acquire and repatriate original manuscripts or secure their

digital copies”.

“We resolve to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast treasure. We firmly believe manuscripts are not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future,” it said.

The government has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission as a major initiative under the Ministry of Culture. It aims to survey, document, conserve, digitise and make accessible more than one crore manuscripts located at academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collections across India. The declaration also resolved to “awaken people and make the Gyan Bharatam mission a ‘jan aandolan.’”

# 6,000 kg copper worth Rs 55 lakh seized

## Truck driver among four held for faking robbery

NEW DELHI

THE Crime Branch of Delhi Police has cracked a sensational highway theft-cum-robbery case within 48 hours, recovering 6,000 kg of stolen copper scrap worth Rs 55 lakh and arresting four men, including the truck driver who posed as the victim, an official said on Saturday.

According to police, the case (FIR No. 607/25) was registered on September 10 at New Usmanpur police station after driver Manish Kumar claimed he was robbed while transporting copper scrap from Libaspur to Madoli.

He alleged that a car intercepted his truck near Signature Bridge, its occupants posed as bank officials, forced entry into the vehicle, and injected him with a sedative.

Kumar later regained consciousness at Jag Pravesh Hospital to find the cargo missing.

A team, led by Inspector Pukhraj Singh under ACP Ashok Sharma



and supervised by DCP (Crime Branch) Harsh Indora, analysed over 200 CCTV footages and phone records.

During questioning, Kumar gave conflicting statements and eventually confessed to staging the robbery with accomplices.

Police identified the arrested men as: Manish Kumar – the driver, revealed as the key conspirator, Aditya-Kumar’s friend from Bihar and co-conspirator, Arun Soni – a junk dealer from Kotla Vihar and mastermind who arranged the logistics and

disposal plan and Ramzan – a Gonda resident who injected Kumar to lend credibility to the fake robbery.

Recoveries include the entire copper consignment packed in 80 bags, the TATA-709 truck used in the crime, and the injection with a syringe.

Police said Kumar, a habitual drinker from Azamgarh, UP, had lost several jobs and planned the heist with Soni. Aditya, an unemployed graduate, and Ramzan, a drug addict, joined the plot for quick money.

“The swift and efficient investigation by the Crime Branch, NR-I, not only led to the arrest of all accused persons involved in this meticulously planned criminal conspiracy but also ensured recovery of the entire stolen property. The operation stands as a testament to the commitment of Delhi Police towards public safety and prompt resolution of heinous crimes,” said DCP Harsh Indora. (IANS)

# Price row: 2 arrested for assaulting ice-cream seller

NEW DELHI

DELHI Police has arrested two men for allegedly assaulting an ice-cream seller with a paper cutter in Shaheen Bagh following a quarrel over price, officials said on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Rehan alias Imran (23), a resident of Welcome in northeast Delhi, and Farid (23), a resident of Ahmedabad.

“The incident took place in the intervening night of September 11-12 when the complainant, Roshan Kumar, was heading towards Jasola with his ice-cream cart. As he reached near an ATM on Nala Road, three young men stopped him and picked up a fight over the price of ice-cream,” a senior police officer said.

During the scuffle, one of them attacked Kumar with a paper cutter, injuring his abdomen. The accused fled soon after the assault, while Kumar was taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.



Police registered an FIR based on Kumar’s statement, the officer said.

A police team on patrol on Friday evening noticed two men moving suspiciously near the Shram Vihar cut under the Metro line in Shaheen Bagh. On seeing the police, they tried to flee but were caught after a brief chase.

“A country-made pistol and a live cartridge were found in their possession. On questioning, they admitted to being involved in the assault case,” the officer said.

A case under the Arms

Act has been added against the duo, and efforts are underway to trace their third associate.

On interrogation, the accused disclosed that they used to extort money from people by threatening them with firearms.

Police said Rehan is a repeat offender who has been involved in multiple cases, including those under the Arms Act, and for robbery and culpable homicide.

Farid has a past criminal record in Ahmedabad, details of which are being verified, they said. (PTI)

# AAP protests against India-Pak cricket match

## Delhi clubs warned against screening

NEW DELHI

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday protested against the upcoming India-Pakistan cricket match, with its Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj accusing the Centre of “humiliating” the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. There was no immediate reaction available from the government or the BJP.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal questioned the decision to go ahead with the clash scheduled for Sunday. “What is the need for the Prime Minister to organise a match with Pakistan? The whole country is saying that this match should not happen. Then why is this match being organised?” Kejriwal said in a post in Hindi on X. “Is this also being done under Trump’s pressure? How much will you bow down to Trump?” he added. Bharadwaj pointed to a social media post, allegedly shared by Pakistani cricketers, that depicted Pakistan Army Chief Asif Munir filling the hair parting of a woman painted in the Indian tricolour with



vermillion -- an image seen as a mocking reference to Operation Sindoor, which was India’s counterstrike against terror bases in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. “This is a gross humiliation of our women who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam attack, but still our central leadership is going ahead with the India-Pakistan cricket match,” Bharadwaj said during a press conference here. He warned that his party workers would “expose” clubs, pubs and restaurants screening the match, “so that people stop going to these outlets.” The AAP leader, along with party workers, also burnt an effigy symbolising Pakistani players. Later, in a post on X in Hindi, Bharadwaj said, “Pakistan’s cricket players mock our widows in such a dirty, disgusting way, and we will play cricket with them. Shame on the BJP government.” (PTI)

# Delhi Police busts illegal weapons factory in Mathura

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has busted an illegal arms manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh’s Mathura and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition, an official said on Saturday.

The operation was carried out by a team from Sarai Rohilla police station, following inputs about the supply of firearms being routed into the national capital, they said.

Earlier on September 1, police had busted a makeshift factory on Jattari Pishawa Road in Aligarh.

Inside two locked rooms, they found six finished pistols, 12 incomplete pistols, six live cartridges, raw material for over 250 more weapons, and equipment, including drills, blow machines, and barrel pipes. Further investigation is underway to identify the network involved in the supply and distribution of these weapons, police said. (PTI)

# Bootlegger held with 5,736 bottles of illicit liquor

NEW DELHI

THE Outer North District Police have arrested a 25-year-old bootlegger who was transporting thousands of bottles of illicit liquor concealed inside sacks of cattle feed in Shahbad Dairy, officials said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Saurabh Singh, son of Kehar Singh and a resident of Vijay Vihar, was apprehended late on September 10 following a tip-off, police said. Singh, already a repeat offender with two previous cases under the Excise Act, was found ferrying liquor from Haryana to Delhi



for illegal sale. According to Delhi Police, a secret informer alerted Head Constable Jaideep during patrol duty about the consignm A raiding team led by Inspector Pramod Tomar, along with SI Rohit Kharsa, ASI Narender, HC Jaideep, and HC Naveen Hooda, was quickly formed under the supervision of ACP (Operations) Dinesh Kumar and

overall command of DCP (Outer North) Hareshwar Swami. Police laid a trap in the Shahbad Dairy area and intercepted a Tata Intra pickup truck (DL-1LAL-0137).

On checking, officers discovered 15-20 sacks of cattle feed stacked inside the vehicle. Hidden within them were 5,400 quarters and 336 bottles of illicit liquor, all of which were seized on the spot.

“A case was registered under the Delhi Excise Act. The accused was planning to sell illegal liquor in Delhi. Suppliers have been using this technique to hide illegal liquor. After

the arrest of the accused, this technique used by the illegal liquor suppliers has been busted,” said Delhi Police in its press statement. During interrogation, Singh confessed that he had procured the liquor from Haryana to sell in Delhi. Police are verifying his claims and probing possible links with a larger supply network.

The seized vehicle, along with the illicit liquor, has been taken into custody, and a case has been registered under the Delhi Excise Act. Officials said efforts are underway to trace other members of the syndicate.

# Over 1 lakh Delhiites take pledge to become ‘Vayu Mitras’

NEW DELHI

OVER one lakh Delhi residents have taken the Vayu Mitra Pledge to act as champions of clean air as part of a programme supported by the Environment Ministry and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). The campaign successfully reached nine key hotspots, including Narela, Bawana, Mundka, Jahangir Puri, Vivek Vihar, Rohini, R.K. Puram, Okhla and Anand Vihar, along with several high-footfall public hubs, ensuring wide public participation, according to an official statement on Saturday. WWF-India EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building) Programme Centre - Resource Partner (PC-RP) was supported by the Min-

istry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF and CC) and held in collaboration with the CAQM. Between June and August 2025, the campaign team organised over 25 workshops under the flagship campaign ‘Breath of Change - Clean Air, Blue Skies’ during which students pledged to become eco-leaders and RWAs committed to reducing local pollution, and citizens.

The campaign encouraged people to become responsible citizens, not to burn crackers, and to stop others from doing the same.

These activities brought together students, RWAs, commuters, and local communities, with an outreach of over 1,32,481 across Delhi’s most critical air pollution hotspots, said the statement. From school classrooms to



bustling metro stations, industrial areas to green parks, the campaign sparked collective energy for sustainable living. Children, teachers, parents, commuters, RWA leaders, and citizens from all walks of life came forward to take the Vayu Mitra Pledge and act as champions of clean air, it said.

The sessions included informative discussions on air pollution - its causes, sources, and far-reaching impacts on human health and the environment. The Mission LiFE documentary was screened,

further reinforcing the message of sustainable living, and participants took the Vayu Mitra Pledge for Clean Air, committing to make conscious efforts to reduce pollution in their daily lives, the statement said.

A tree plantation drive was conducted, during which nearly 1,750 plants were distributed and planted under ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0’, involving students. An interactive quiz was also conducted.

Between June and September 8, the initiative made a significant impact by directly engaging over 2,00,000 participants through awareness and outreach activities, including various social media platforms. A total of over 65 schools were sensitised across major pollution hotspots. (IANS)

# 75 major schemes to be launched during Seva Pakhwada

NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday that 75 major schemes will be launched in the 15-day Seva Pakhwada beginning with the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17.

“On that day, the government will commence the Seva Pakhwada, under which significant schemes will be announced daily for 15 days,” the Chief Minister stated, adding that the initiative will play an important role in guiding the capital towards the vision of a ‘Viksit Delhi’.

A special meeting was convened on Saturday at the Delhi Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Gupta to discuss preparations for the Seva Pakhwada, which will be held from September 17 to October 2.

The meeting was attended by Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Members of Parliament, Ministers of the Delhi Government, MLAs,



Councillors, and party officials. In the meeting, the Chief Minister said that ever since the BJP government was formed in Delhi, special arrangements have been made to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since the formation of this government.

This occasion reflects the shared commitment of the Triple Engine Government (Central Government, Delhi Government, and Municipal Corporation). For this, the government has decided to launch 75 new schemes and programmes during the Seva Pakhwada. This decision, she said, will provide new momentum

and greater heights to Delhi’s development, playing a key role in the city’s progress towards becoming a ‘Viksit Delhi’.

Chief Minister Gupta further informed that during the Seva Pakhwada, Delhiites will receive a new ‘gift’ every day. Whether it is a cleanliness drive, a blood donation camp, the foundation laying or inauguration of new schemes, or the dedication of development projects, each activity will be devoted to the public and carried out with the active participation of public representatives.

She said that the forthcoming 15 days will prove to be historic for Delhi. During the Seva Pakhwada, new milestones in development will be achieved, new dimensions of good governance will be set, and continuous initiatives will be dedicated to the people.

She expressed pride in the excellent preparations made in a very short period by the Ministers, officials, and departments of the government. (IANS)





# THE Hans India



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

P5

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

P8

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

P9

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

P10

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## Impose tariffs on countries buying Russian oil: US to G7

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

## FIR over AI video by Congress on Modi, his mother



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



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

# NE is India's growth engine: PM

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

AIZAWL

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURACHANDPUR:

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

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

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

"We have seen that recently in the Hills and the Valley... negotiations have taken place for agreements with different groups.

## PM interacts with IDP Kukis, Meiteis

IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR:

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

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

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

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

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused Modi of organising a

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

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

## UP's Shahjahanpur tense over Fb posts; 2 held

SHAHJAHANPUR(UP)

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

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

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

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

A large number of police



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Row over hidden cameras in Rajasthan Assembly

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

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

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

His focus is more on women.

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

## Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi

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

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

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

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

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

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



## UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

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

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

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

ing applause from the gathering.

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

## Delhi CM restores promotion of 100 electricity dept employees

NEW DELHI

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

"With this commitment, we are forging new tra-



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

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

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

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

# Romanian PhD student at BHU found dead under suspicious circumstances

**VARANASI**

A Romanian student pursuing a PhD in Indian Philosophy at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was found dead under suspicious circumstances at her rented accommodation in Varanasi, police said on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as 27-year-old Philip Francisca, who had been residing in a room under the

Chowk police station area. According to officials, when Francisca failed to respond to repeated knocks on her door late Friday night, her landlord alerted the police.

Officers reached the spot, opened the room with a duplicate key, and discovered her lying motionless on the bed.

ACP Dashashwamedh Ghat, Atul Anjan Tripathi, told reporters, "Yesterday,

we received the information, and we reached the spot. Upon investigating, her friends informed that her name is Philip Francisca and that she is from Romania. She was a student at the BHU and had been living here for many years."

Police confirmed that no notes or medicines were recovered from the room, though preliminary inquiries suggested that Francisca had a medical history.



"We also got to know through her friends that she had been suffering from epilepsy since childhood, and she used to take medicines regularly. Forensic samples have been collected, and the post-mortem report will clarify the cause of death," Tripathi said.

Authorities added that Francisca's family has been contacted through the Romanian Embassy and that her mortal remains will be

handed over once her relatives arrive in India.

Police have seized her passport, visa, and mobile phone as part of the investigation.

Officials said Francisca had a valid visa until 2027 and had been living in Varanasi for a considerable period, following earlier study stints in Surat and Amritsar.

Further investigations are underway, and more details are awaited. (IANS)

# Cloudburst buries vehicles in debris, damages farms in HP

**SHIMLA**

SEVERAL vehicles were buried under debris and crops were damaged due to a cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

No casualty was reported in the cloudburst that occurred around 3 am in the Gutrahan village in the Naina Devi assembly constituency.

Gushing waters carrying debris scattered all over agricultural lands, said Kashmir Singh, a villager whose land and crops have been damaged.

Four vehicles were buried under debris, said Deputy Commissioner of Bilaspur Rahul Kumar, adding that crop damage is being assessed and relief will be provided after receiving the



report. As soon as the information about the incident was received, officials reached the spot and took stock of the situation. The Public Works Department has begun removing the debris to restore traffic at the earliest.

There are reports of water and debris damaging houses in the Mamal and Kamlari villages of the Bhattiyat assembly constituency in Chamba district.

In the state capital of Shimla, fog engulfed reduced visibility to about a few metres, inconveniencing motorists. The local weather office has issued a yellow warning of heavy rains in isolated parts of the state on Saturday and Sunday.

Light to moderate rains continued to lash parts of the state, and Palampur received 86 mm of rain since Friday evening, followed by Murari Devi 69.2 mm, Kangra 58.2

mm, Jogindernagar 45 mm, Aghar 16.8 mm, Naina Devi 16.6 mm and Mandi 13.6 mm. A total of 577 roads, including the Attari-Leh stretch of National Highway-3, Aut-Sainj section of NH-305 and Amritsar-Bhota stretch of NH-503A, were closed for traffic on Saturday morning.

About 389 power transformers and 333 water supply schemes have been disrupted in the state due to the recent floods and landslides, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).

A total of 386 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents since the onset of the monsoon over the state on June 20. So far, the state has suffered a loss of Rs 4,465 crore, the officials said. (PTI)

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

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

**Jagga Reddy's support**

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



Nayak has mastered singing songs and narrating mythological stories like Komuravelli Mallanna and Beerappa in the form of songs and stories.

His native place is Lonka Thanda, Gandhari mandal, Yellareddy constituency, Kamareddy district. He lost eyesight at the age of three due to illness; he can also perfectly mimic dialogues of cartoon characters shown on TV. His father has been suffering from severe illness for the past two years as both his kidneys have failed.

parents, grandparents, and aunt, while studying hard to become a collector. For this, I request your support."

RESPONDING immediately to 12-year-old singer Vikas Nayak's request, TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy cleared Rs 7.5 lakh debt incurred by his parents in cash. Nayak, a fifth-class student at the school for the blind run by Sneha Society in Nizamabad, had requested Reddy: "I want to take care of my

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

## Bhopal college students rape case

# Authorities demolish homes of two accused

**BHOPAL**

ILLEGALLY constructed houses of two men arrested in the case of rape and blackmail of college students were demolished in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on Saturday, an official said. The action against another accused arrested in the case has been deferred due to a court hearing, the official said. Barricades were placed around the houses in the Arjun Nagar area on Friday evening, and the demolition began around 5am amid heavy police deployment, she said. Unauthorised houses of Shamsuddin aka Saad and Sahil Khan were demolished, while action against the house of another accused,



Farhan Ali, will be taken after his court hearing, the official said. Speaking to reporters, Govindpura Sub-Divisional Magistrate Raveesh Srivastava said that the demolition was carried out in keeping with rules, and illegal encroach-

ments on government land were removed in the presence of police. According to the police, the accused in the case, Farhan Ali, Saad, Sahil Khan, Nabeel, Ali Khan and Abrar face charges of raping students of a private college,

blackmailing and attempting to convert them.

The city police had registered a case against the accused on April 25 for allegedly raping three female students and then blackmailing them by making objectionable videos. (PTI)

## Greater Noida tragedy

# Mother, son end lives by jumping from 13th floor

**GREATER NOIDA**

A heart-wrenching incident shocked residents of a high rise apartment in Greater Noida West on Saturday morning when a woman and her young son died by suicide after jumping from the 13th floor, police said.

The incident happened in Ace City Society, located in the Bisrakh police station area.

The deceased have been identified as Sakshi Chawla (37), wife of Darpan Chawla, and their son Daksh (11).

According to police, the mother and child fell from the 13th floor in the morning hours, dying on the spot. Police teams rushed to the society immediately after receiving the information. The bodies were taken into custody and later sent for post-mortem after completion of the inquest proceedings.

During the inspection, police recovered a suicide note in which Sakshi expressed her desire to "leave the world."



Initial findings suggest that the family had been under considerable mental stress.

Sources revealed that the young boy, Daksh, was suffering from a prolonged mental illness. Investigators believe Sakshi was extremely distressed over

her son's medical condition, and this constant pressure may have driven her to the drastic step.

Eyewitnesses said panic spread in the society immediately after the fall, and residents were left in a state of disbelief. Police officers, however, quickly took control of the situation to restore order.

"This tragic incident has shaken everyone in the society. Neighbours are deeply shocked at what happened," said a police official.

Greater Noida police have launched a detailed investigation into the case. While preliminary reports indicate mental stress as the primary reason, officials said a clearer picture will emerge after the post-mortem report and further inquiries.

The double suicide has left the residents of the society mourning, highlighting once again the silent struggles many families endure behind closed doors. (IANS)

# Panel for Ambala Cantt industrial area established

**CHANDIGARH**

HARYANA Transport Minister Anil Vij, on Saturday, announced the formation of a five-member committee to improve infrastructure and services in the Ambala Cantonment industrial area.

He directed the establishment of a dedicated war room within the industrial premises to monitor and coordinate all arrangements until normalcy is restored.

The war room, set up in a factory unit, will include officials from the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), the Public Health Department, power discom, the Municipal Council and the police.

Representatives of the Industrial Area -- Subhash Dhiman, Gopi Sehgal, Kamaljit Jain, Kapil Verma and

Akhil Gupta, have also been included into the committee. They will work in close coordination with departments concerned to ensure prompt resolution of issues.

During his inspection visit to the industrial area, Minister Vij ordered an intensive cleaning campaign and large-scale spraying of disinfectants.

He instructed Municipal Council officials to deploy maximum manpower and resources to carry out cleanliness drives on a war footing.

He also directed immediate restoration of drinking water and uninterrupted power supply.

To address waterlogging, Minister Vij ordered the Public Health Department to deploy a super sucker machine for drainage. (IANS)

# SP MP flays Ramabhadracharyas 'Mini Pakistan' remark

**MUZAFFARNAGAR**

SAMAJWADI Party (SP) MP Harendra Malik has strongly reacted to the controversial comment made by Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya, who likened the Meerut region of Uttar Pradesh to a "Mini Pakistan" during a religious discourse.

Malik dismissed the statement, saying it reflects Ramabhadracharya's personal opinion and does not represent the reality of the region. "We were born here, we live here. This is an integral part of India, and all citizens here are Indian — Hindustani, Bharatiya," the SP leader asserted.

Malik also disagreed with Baba Bageshwar's call to turn India into a "Hindu Rashtra," stating, "We believe in the Constitution. We neither support nor accept any statement that goes against it."

He described India as a constitutional and secular nation, where history has shown Hindus and Muslims living together in harmony. He said such divisive remarks are unfortunate and called on the government to take strict action to prevent damage to social harmony.

Raising concern about the timing of such remarks, Malik said, "These kinds of statements usually emerge close to elections. There might be a political conspiracy behind them to instigate Hindu-Muslim riots."



He warned that such deliberate provocations could damage the image of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the state government. He added, "Western Uttar Pradesh follows the politics of respect, not pressure."

When asked about the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and BJP contesting district panchayat elections separately, Malik declined to comment, calling it an internal matter between the two parties. (IANS)

# Bomb threat to Taj Palace Hotel turns out to be hoax

**NEW DELHI**

PANIC gripped the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi's Chanakyapuri on Saturday after a threatening email claimed that 16 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) had been placed inside the hotel premises.

The hotel, which often hosts VVIP guests, was swiftly inspected by police teams, but nothing suspicious was found.

According to officials, the email, sent around 2 a.m., warned that "16 RDX IEDs have been placed in Delhi's Taj Palace Hotel for an explosion in the afternoon. The presence of VVIPs has been confirmed, so please evacuate all innocent guests by 11 a.m." The threat triggered a massive security response.

Local police along with bomb disposal squads and other agencies thoroughly searched the hotel.



After hours of checks, no explosives were found, and the message was declared a hoax.

Police sources said that the same email ID had been used on Friday to send similar threats to the Delhi and Bombay High Courts.

Following the incident, Delhi Police registered a case against unknown persons and launched an investigation. Cyber experts are examining the servers and technical details to pinpoint the source of the threatening emails.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Police confirmed that an FIR

has been filed in connection with threat to the Bombay High Court.

The case has been registered at Azad Maidan Police Station under Sections 353(1) and 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"Investigations are underway to trace the culprit behind the threatening mail," a Mumbai Police spokesperson said.

Both Delhi and Mumbai Police have increased security measures at key locations, especially around courts and luxury hotels, while investigations continue.

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# Innovative medical device offers hope for lymphedema patients

TWO CELEBRITY WOMAN SURGEONS INVENTED THE DEVICE

MV SYAM SUNDAR

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

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

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

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



Dr. Kruti Nanduri

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

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

children have benefited from these life-changing operations.

“It is deeply rewarding to support underprivileged

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

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

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

Meet the Inventors

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

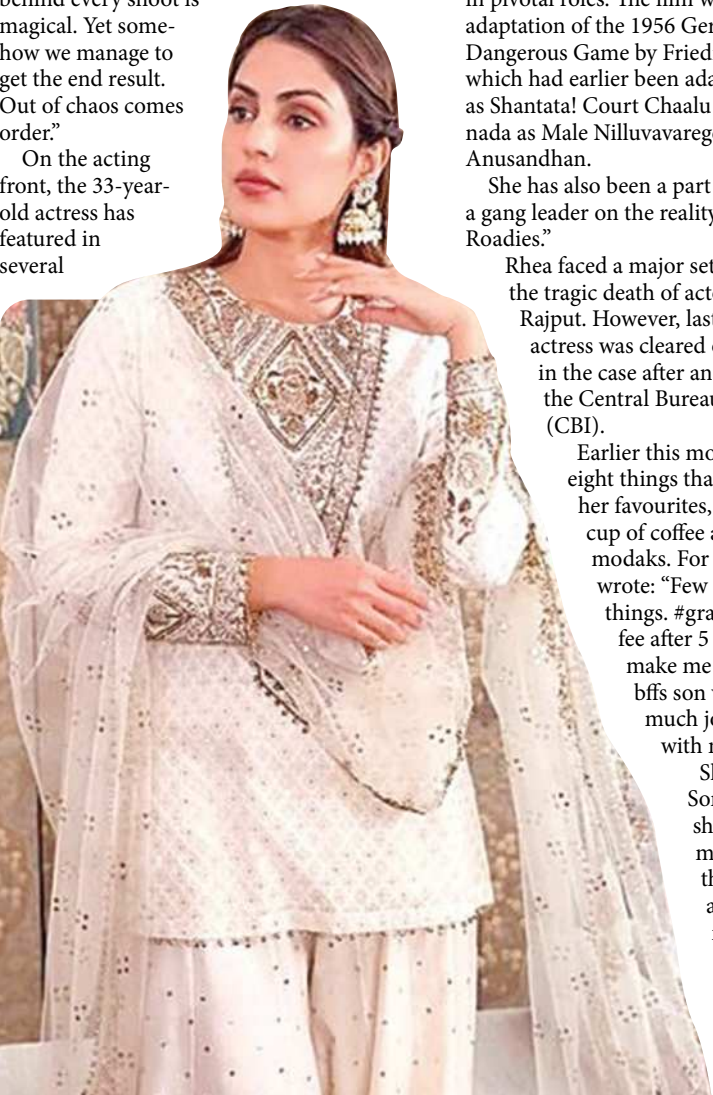
## Rhea Chakraborty finds ‘chaos’ behind shoots ‘magical’

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## OF STYLE AND LUXURY

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

ARUNA CHANDARAJU

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



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

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



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

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

These sentiments were echoed by Darshana, Managing Director, The Colosseum.

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

their Privé collection.

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

Designer Sheetal Zaveri revealed: “At Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas, we believe jewellery isn’t merely an accessory—it reflects much more value as it carries heritage, craftsmanship, and personal-

ity. Our sterling silver pieces, with their timeless motifs and contemporary finishes, are handcrafted by Hyderabad craftspeople, so every item tells its own story.”

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

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

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

# Hindi, the golden foundation of self-reliant India

September 14 is Hindi Diwas Day

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

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



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

In healthcare, Hindi is

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

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

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

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

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

Prof R K Jain, Barwani (MP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

M Somasekhar Prasad, Hyderabad-20

### Fee reimbursements and salaries

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

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad.



### Role cut out for new V-P

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

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

### Neighbourly interactions essential in gated communities

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

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad



### Save birds from dying

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

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

Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

## Give physiotherapists their fair share of credit

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

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



Sukruti Paturi, Hyderabad

## China's incredulous change of heart

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

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

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

During Operation Sin-

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

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

B H Indu Sekhar, Hyderabad

### Poor quality food in Adilabad school

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

Guidipati Shanti Priya, Secunderabad-11



### No sign of gas supply through pipes

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

G Murali Mohan Rao, Secunderabad-11



### Modi's tribute to Bhagwat

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

G. David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)







It is the essence of genius to make use of the simplest ideas

— Charles Péguy

# Different Strokes

## Grooving to the melodies at New Orleans’ iconic music venues

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

### Snug Harbor

Located in a restored



New Orleans beats to rhythms all its own, often hailed as the birthplace of Jazz. Its historic venues are more than stages—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

1800s storefront in the Marigny, this jazz bistro offers music alongside delicious dining. Its intimate setting makes it a perfect stop for pure New Orleans sound.

### 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 flavor.

### Vaughan’s Lounge

Tucked in Bywater, this quirky lounge is accessed through a buzzer at its side door. Inside, you’ll find jazz, blues, cheap drinks, and the kind of character that makes New Orleans unforgettable.

### d.b.a.

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.

### 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

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 family!

VIJAYA PRATAP

Chef Daisy is calling “Jamva Chalo!” at Vivanta Hyderabad to savour the delicious feast that she has curated and created with lots of love especially for the Hyderabadi. “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 Food

In the Parsi world, food is more than nourishment—it’s the glue that binds generations together. Be it the vibrant feasts of Navroz or the quiet reflection of Muktaad, 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 with love, rooted in family



Mawa Cake



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 chalo ji!”



Mutton Dhansa

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

ROHIT YAGYA

The modern Indian wedding is undergoing a seismic shift, moving away from fragmented, family-managed affairs toward meticulously curated, all-in-one celebrations. This trend, driven

by a new generation of couples, is paving the way for bundled wedding packages to become the future of Indian celebrations.

### Why are bundled packages the new normal?

Today’s couples, often busy professionals, are no longer willing or able to take on the daunting task of individually sourcing and coordinating an army of vendors. A traditional Indian wedding can involve over 10 different vendors, from caterers and decorators to photographers and entertainment, leading to endless meetings, negotiations, and logistical headaches. Bundled packages offer a powerful solution by consolidating all these services under one roof, providing a single point of contact 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 high-pressure ordeal, and for a millennial or Gen-Z couple,



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

navigating the expectations 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 each other’s work.

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

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 last-minute “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-in-one package makes a destination wedding a smooth, effortless experience.

(The writer is – Founder & CEO, Event Planet)



# Wars begin in the mind, so does peace



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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

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

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

Such violence is a violation of divinity and it drags

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



AIR ATMAN IN RAVI

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

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

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

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

Letting go is critical in relationships. Holding on



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(Writer is a Happiness Ambassador and Spiritual Leader)*

# The arithmetic of life



Sadhguru

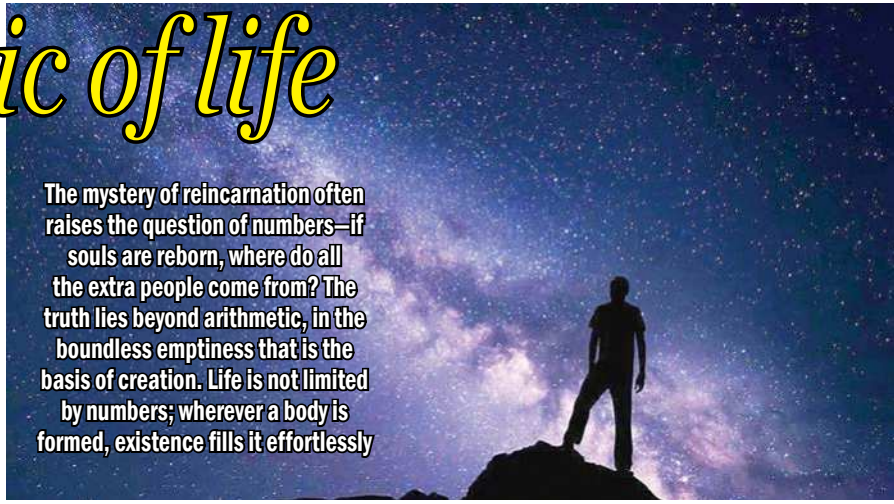
Sadhguru, I have a question about birth, rebirth and karma. If the total energy in the universe is constant, is the number of souls in the universe also a constant thing?

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

BEJAN DARUWALLA'S

HOROSCOPE

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

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

Scorpio

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

Sagittarius

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

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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

CHIRAG

DARUWALLA



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

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

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



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

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

Teja further acknowledged the unwavering support of

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SDT urges collective action against child abuse



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

Prominent personalities

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

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

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

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

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



## 'Parasakthi' locks Pongal 2026 release date

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

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

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

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

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

## Saba Azad: Acting is about empathy, not shared experiences

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

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

The film, directed by Anurag Kashyap and produced by Nikhil Dwivedi, was showcased in the Special Presentations section at the 50th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). According to Saba, *Bandar* is a film that cannot be ignored. "Kashyap's films always stay with you long after you leave the cinema. This one will stir conversations and evoke contradictory emotions — you may like it, you may hate it, but you won't be able to ignore it," she said. *Bandar* delves into themes of power, trauma, and memory, centering on a superstar accused of rape and exposing cracks within the legal system. Sharing her approach to such layered storytelling, Saba noted, "It's like any other script — approached with curiosity and honesty."

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



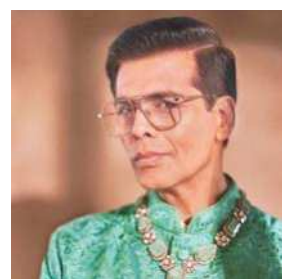
## KJo drops cryptic note on handling negativity

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

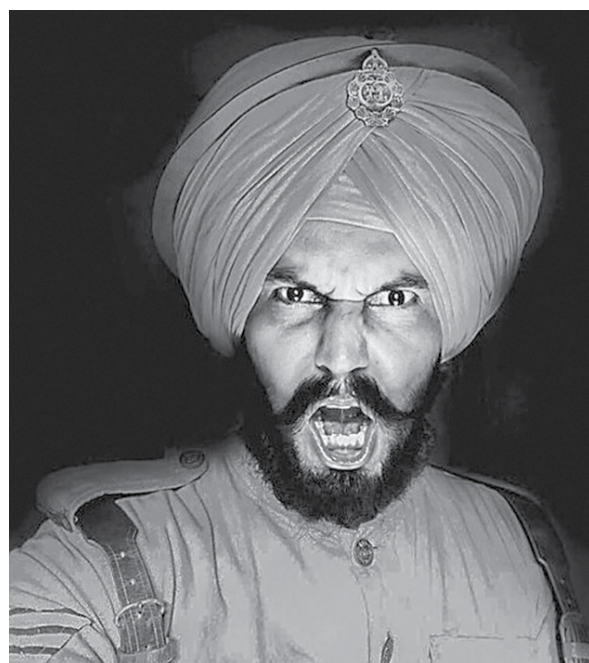
Hooda, who once prepared to play Havildar Ishar Singh in a shelved film project based on the epic battle, reflected on the extraordinary courage of the Sikh soldiers. Sharing his sentiments on Instagram, he wrote: "A dream I missed sharing with the world! The #BattleOfSaragarhi fought by 21 Sikh soldiers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

and sacrifice."

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

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

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





BIZ BRIEFS

ITC Candyman's new campaign

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

Esri, Dhruva Space in pact

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

No products from Relaxo

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

Amazon Pay renews pact

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

Festive offers from Scoot

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

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

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

DR NARENDRA MAIRPADY

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

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

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

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



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

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Key takeaways from Sebi's move to ease IPO norms

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

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

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

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



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

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

## FIMI for zero export duty on low-grade iron ore

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

FIMI stated that the do-

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

# Great AI Divide: Can technology bridge development gaps?

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

KRISHNA KUMAR & RAKSHITHA REDDY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### South America charts cooperative course

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



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

emerging as the continental leader.

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

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

ported technology to building indigenous capabilities.

### Agriculture proves AI's development relevance

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

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

These aren't pilot projects

or development experiments. They're profitable businesses solving real problems with measurable impact.

### Investment patterns reveal global disparities

The funding landscape starkly illustrates development challenges facing AI adoption. Global AI investment reached \$100-130 billion annually, while African AI startups raised \$803 million over five years total. Latin American venture capital investment fell to \$3.6 billion in 2024, the lowest in five years, with early-stage funding dominating 80 per cent of deals.

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

### Risks of digital colonialism loom large

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

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

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

### Toward inclusive AI futures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Double delight for India

Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag enter Hong Kong final

HONG KONG

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

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

Earlier in the day, Satwik and

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

Satwik, 24, has battled a re-

World Boxing C'ships

Minakshi, Jaismine, Nupur storm into finals

LIVERPOOL

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

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

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

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

In the women's 48kg semi-

Women's Hockey Asia Cup

India qualify for final, to face China in Sunday final

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISSF World Cup

Esha wins women's air pistol gold

NINGBO (CHINA)

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

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

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

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

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



TIRUCHIRAPPALLI (TAMIL NADU)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGARTALA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Pigeons cause no harm, firecrackers can: Maneka

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AIZAWL

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

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

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

The chief minister said the 51.38 km-long railway line



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

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

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

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

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

