



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.

WOMENIA

Hindi, the golden foundation of self-reliant India

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.

P7

P6

PM likely to visit Odisha on Sept 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha on September 27 and address a public meeting in Berhampur, State Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari said on Saturday. The final itinerary of the Prime Minister's visit is yet to be finalised.

Esha wins women's air pistol gold

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

P8

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WINDOWS



Impose tariffs on countries buying Russian oil: US to G7

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

FIR over AI video by Congress on Modi, his mother



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

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GOVT TRANSFERS 14 IPS OFFICERS ACROSS THE STATE

VIJAYAWADA: THE state government issues orders transferring and posting of 14 IPS officers effective immediately on Saturday. Chief secretary K Vijayanand issued GO No 1690 to this effect.

REPORT: PAGE 2

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

NE is India's growth engine: PM

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

AIZAWL

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

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

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



said that the Northeast was earlier called a frontier state, now the region has become a front runner. He said that through the

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

Continued on Page 4

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

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

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused Modi of organising a grand

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

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

Continued on Page 4

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

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

CHURACHANDPUR: Urging various outfits to shun violence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

on Saturday asserted that his government stood firmly with the people of Manipur and was working towards the goal of making the strife-torn state a symbol of peace and prosperity. Addressing a public meeting in Kuki-dominat-



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

Continued on Page 4

PM interacts with IDP Kukis, Meiteis

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

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

Over 6-cr Income Tax returns filed so far

NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Low-pressure area to trigger rains in AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

A low-pressure area over the west-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal, along the North Andhra-South Odisha coasts, is expected to persist, says Prakhar Jain, Managing Director of the State Disaster Management Authority. According to him, this system is likely to

move west-northwestwards over South Odisha, North Andhra, and South Chhattisgarh in the next 48 hours. A trough is also extending from this system through Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha to South Maharashtra.

Under the influence of these weather systems, light to moderate rains accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning are expected in some parts of the state



on Sunday. Winds with speeds of 30-40 km/hr are also likely along the coast. So, Jain has advised people in low-lying areas to be

vigilant and warned against standing under trees.

On Sunday, Srikakulam, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, Guntur, Bapatla, Kurnool, and Nandyal districts are likely to experience light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and lightning. The remaining districts may receive light rainfall in a few places.

Continued on Page 4

Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated Nepal's interim PM Sushila Karki on assuming office, calling her appointment "a shining example of women empowerment". Addressing a rally in Manipur capital Imphal, Modi said India and Nepal have been close friends bound by shared history, faith and cultural ties, and New Delhi stood firmly with the people of the neighbouring country during its transitional phase.

Continued on Page 4

UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

KATHMANDU: The United Nations on Saturday sent a congratulatory message to Nepal's newly-elected prime minister Sushila Karki who has been appointed to lead an interim government following a week of violent anti-government protests. Hanna Singer-Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal, said, "At this pivotal moment, the United Nations stands alongside the people of Nepal in their aspirations for peace, justice, transparency, accountability and progress."

Continued on Page 4

LS Speaker to open women lawmakers' meet in Tirupati

HANS NEWS SERVICE TIRUPATI

LOK Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate a two-day national conference of the Committee on Empowerment of Women Parliament and State and Union Territory Legislatures scheduled here from September 14 (Today). Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and several others will attend the conference. "Lok Sabha Speaker will chair the inaugural and concluding sessions (of the conference)," said Andhra Pradesh Legislature Secretary General Prasanna Kumar Suryade-



vara in an official release. Following the deliberations, the two-day conference will culminate with a declaration on September 15.

According to Suryadevara, women's empowerment committee is a joint committee in Parliament, comprising 20 Lok Sabha members and 10 Rajya Sabha members.

Continued on Page 4

DRUG CASE AT MAHINDRA UNIVERSITY

'STUDENTS USED THEIR POCKET MONEY FOR DRUGS'

HARISH ANGADI HYDERABAD

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

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

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



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

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

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


The investigators highlighted the vulnerability of courier and parcel services, calling them the "most exploited platform", for narcotics trafficking. Unlike passenger screenings at airports, courier consignments often bypass verification processes. "There are no OTP authentications, proper address details, or digital verification. We spend days tracking

irregularly packed parcels that are divided into multiple compartments. "We have missed the right packages while scanning," the official admitted.


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

Continued on Page 4





Government of India
भारतसरकारपर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय
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email: iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in Regional Office, Chennai



OnlineProposalNo.: FP/AP/OTHERS/454129/2023Dated: 19/08/2025

To,
The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh ,Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503.
Subject: Proposal for diversion of 0.02 ha of forest land in Billagondipenta Chenchugudem Village, Compartment No.154, Markapur RF, Veerabadrapuram Beat, Y.Palem Range, Project Tiger Division, Markapur, Prakasam District for construction of 4G Telecom tower under 4G saturation Project in favour of DGM (Pig), M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Gunturu.

Sir/Madam, I am directed to refer to the online proposal No.FP/AP/OTHERS/454129/2023 received on 14/12/2023 seeking prior approval in accordance with section' 2' of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was granted "In-Principle" (Stage-I) approval by the Central Government online on 06/03/2024. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported/submitted the complete compliance report on 14/08/2025 to the conditions stipulated in the "In-Principle" approval and requested for grant of final approval.
After careful consideration of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh online dated 14/08/2025, I am directed to convey the "Final approval" under section 2' of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the proposal for diversion of 0.02 ha of forest' land in Billagondipenta Chenchugudem Village, Compartment No.154, Markapur RF, Veerabadrapuram Beat, Y.Palem Range, Project Tiger Division, Markapur, Prakasam District for construction of 4G Telecom tower under 4G saturation Project in favour of DGM (Pig), M/s. BSNL, subject to the following conditions:

1.General Conditions	
S.No	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged
1.2	At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
1.3	The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favor of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
1.4	No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
1.5	No labor camp shall be established on the forest land.
1.6	The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the laborers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas
1.7	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
1.8	The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
1.9	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
1.10	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
1.11	The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.02 ha.
1.12	The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted in accordance with the relevant guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC.
1.13	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor and take necessary mitigate measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.
1.14	The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated Conditions to the State Government and Regional Office by the end of March every year.
1.15	Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
1.16	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.


2.Standard Conditions	
S.No	Conditions
2.1	N/A

3.Specific Conditions	
S.No	Conditions
3.1	The State Government shall raise 100 saplings and maintain with the funds realized from user agency towards compensatory afforestation at the identified location.
3.2	The KML file of the forest area to be diverted and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with GPS id.
3.3	The State Govt./User Agency shall ensure that the conditions stipulated by SC-NBWL is strictly complied with.
3.4	The User Agency has made payment Rs. 4,01,060/- towards CA and NPV (Rs.278,200/- towards CA, and Rs.1,22,860 /- towards NPV). The levies paid by the UA shall be utilized for the same as per the approved plan/scheme.
3.5	The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the WP No.1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard.


Your's faithfully

(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)



Government of India
भारतसरकारपर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
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Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada-520010, Andhra Pradesh,
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Online Proposal No.: FP/AP/OTHERS/449729/2023Dated: 20/08/2025

To,
The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh ,Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503.
Subject: Proposal for diversion of 0.02 ha of forest land in Compartment No. 19, Markapur RF, Peddamanthanal Beat, Korrapolu Range, Project Tiger Division, Markapur, Prakasam District for construction of 4G Telecom tower under 4G saturation Project in favour of DGM, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Guntur.

Sir/Madam, I am directed to refer to the online proposal No.FP/AP/OTHERS/449729/2023 received on 14/12/2023 seeking prior approval in accordance with section' 2' of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was granted "In-Principle" (Stage-I) approval by the Central Government online on 01/11/2023. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have complete reported/submitted the compliance report on 14/08/2025 to the conditions stipulated in the "In-Principle" approval and requested for grant of final approval.
After careful consideration of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh online dated 14/08/2025, I am directed to convey the "Final approval" under section 2' of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the proposal for diversion of 0.02 ha of forest' land in Compartment No. 19, Markapur RF, Peddamanthanal Beat, Korrapolu Range, Project Tiger Division, Markapur, Prakasam District for construction of 4G Telecom tower under 4G saturation Project in favor of DGM, BSNL, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh subject to the following conditions:

1.General Conditions	
S.No	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged
1.2	At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
1.3	The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favor of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
1.4	No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
1.5	No labor camp shall be established on the forest land.
1.6	The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the laborers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas
1.7	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
1.8	The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
1.9	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
1.10	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
1.11	The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.02 ha.
1.12	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor and take necessary mitigate measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.
1.13	The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Regional Office by the end of March every year.
1.14	The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
1.15	Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
1.16	The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the rules/guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with.
1.17	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

2.Standard Conditions	
S.No	Conditions
2.1	N/A

3.Specific Conditions	
S.No	Conditions
3.1	Compensatory afforestation for raising of 100 plants and maintenance shall be taken up by the State Government in the identified degraded forest land at the project cost.
3.2	The User Agency has made payment Rs. 4,21,867/- towards CA and NPV (Rs.278,200/- towards CA and Rs.1,43,667/- towards NPV). The levies paid by the UA shall be utilized for the same as per the approved plan/scheme.
3.3	The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the WP No.1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard.

Your's faithfully

(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Pawan cautions people against falling prey to caste conspiracies

- Says attempts are being made on social media to sow discord between castes and religions, urging vigilance to avoid anger and confrontation that could achieve the provocateurs' goals
- Citing a recent Machilipatnam incident involving offensive language on a YouTube channel, Kalyan stresses on pursuing criminal cases under the law rather than conflict, and calls for complaints against those instigating such acts
- Orders an internal party investigation into the incident with notices to involved parties, and advocated countering malicious propaganda democratically and legally to preserve harmony



create unrest and insecurity through their deceitful tactics, for the past decade,” Kalyan said in a statement. “Do not fall into their trap, give in to anger, or allow for a confrontational atmosphere. If you show anger, the conspirators will achieve their desired outcomes.” Kalyan cited the recent

events in Machilipatnam as an example. He noted that a person on a YouTube channel used offensive language, and argued that the malicious intent behind preparing and promoting such a person must be identified. “We should proceed with criminal cases under the law,” he stated. “Rushing into another path and engaging in conflict will only complicate the problem. Provocative leaders will emerge and spoil the harmonious atmosphere among the people.” The Deputy Chief Minister called for legal action against those who spread division. He urged Jana Sena and coalition leaders to file complaints to ensure that those who provoke and speak offensively, whether on social

media or in other forms, are brought to justice under the Indian Justice Code. “Complaints must also be filed and cases registered against those who are behind them, systematically instigating these conspiracies,” he added. Kalyan also revealed that he has ordered an internal investigation by the party leadership into the Machilipatnam incident. He said notices would be served to those involved to seek an explanation. “The public must be vigilant against the party and its leaders who have a malicious nature and engage in conspiracies,” he said. “Let’s counter their malicious propaganda democratically and legally.”

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALAGIRI

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Saturday warned citizens against falling for conspiracies designed to create discord and animosity within the state.

He urged people in a statement here to remain vigilant against those who are sowing discord between different castes and religions, particularly through social media and YouTube channels. “We have seen the nature of these individuals, who

YSRCP’s med college plan will take 23 yrs to complete: Minister

Health minister Satya Kumar Yadav writes a letter to Jagan, in which he accuses the former CM of hypocrisy and failing to secure full admissions due to poor infrastructure in medical colleges



vide the intended 150 student admissions per college. The minister's remarks came in a detailed, six-page letter to the former chief minister, in which he accused him of hypocrisy and spreading misinformation regarding the new government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for some of the colleges.

The minister said that while the previous government approved an estimated cost of Rs 8,480 crore for the 17 colleges,

it only spent Rs 1,450 crore over four years. He calculated that at this rate, it would take 23 years to complete the projects and a minimum of 16 years to finish construction. “Did you expect people to wait for 23 years, Jagan?” the Minister questioned. He noted that Jagan’s plan, which was supposed to start admissions for all 17 colleges by 2025-26, has been a complete failure. He accused Jagan Mohan Reddy of hypocrisy, recalling a news report in the former CM’s own newspaper on August 8, which stated that the previous government had introduced a self-financing model to provide high-quality medical education without financial constraints.

Yadav’s letter also addressed new National Medical Commission (NMC) regulations. He explained that while the previous government received approval for 150 seats in the first phase of five colleges, the Paderu college, which was supposed to get 150 seats for the 2024-25 academic year, was only granted 50 seats due to a lack of infrastructure. He blamed Jagan Mohan Reddy for the loss of 100 seats, as the previous administration was in power until June 2024 and was responsible for ensuring the necessary infrastructure was in place. “By your own admission in a press conference on September 10, even your prized Pulivendula Medical College has the

infrastructure for 50 seats,” the minister wrote, pointing out that Jagan had effectively conceded his own failure to build the necessary facilities for a full 150-seat capacity. Dismissing Jagan Mohan Reddy’s threats to cancel the PPP projects if he returns to power, Yadav stated that with just 11 seats in the recent elections, the former CM’s return to power is a “pipe dream.” “The PPP model is being adopted solely to expedite the completion of these 17 colleges that have been left in a dire state by the previous government,” the minister concluded. “This initiative is for the greater good, and spreading misinformation about it is highly inappropriate.”

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

HEALTH minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav criticised YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy’s approach to constructing 17 new medical colleges, stating that at the previous government’s pace, it would take 23 years to complete them and pro-

Govt transfers 14 IPS officers across the state

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government issues orders transferring and posting of 14 IPS officers effective immediately on Saturday. Chief secretary K Vijayanand issued GO No 1690 to this effect.

As per the order, Prakasam district SP A R Damodar has been transferred to Vizianagaram while Vizianagaram SP Vakul Jindal has been appointed as Guntur SP.

Annamayya district SP Vidhya Sagar Naidu has been relocated to the position of Krishna district SP and Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district SP B Krishna Rao has been reassigned to Palnadu district. Guntakal railway SP Rahul Meena has been designated as the new Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema District SP.

Other notable transfers include Tirupati Urban SP V Harsha Vardhan Raju, who has been moved to Prakasam district SP. Additionally, Visakhapatnam DCP (L & O)

Ajitha Vajendla has been appointed as Nellore district SP, while Red Sanders Anti Smuggling Task Force, Tirupati SP L Subbarayudu has been appointed as Tirupati SP. Bapatla SP Tushar Dudi has been transferred and appointed as Chittoor district SP. Further, CID SP (admin) B Uma Maheswara Rao has been shifted to Bapatla, and Alluri Sitarama Raju district additional SP Dheeraj Kunubili has been transferred with a promotion to Annamayya district SP.

Intelligence SP Shelke Nachiketh Vishwanath has been posted as YSR Kadapa SP, Greyhounds Group Commander Suneel Sheoran has been reassigned as Nandyal district SP, and Guntur urban SP Sathish Kumar has been transferred and appointed as Sri Satya Sai district SP.

The GO indicated that posting orders for officers who have been transferred but have not yet received new assignments will be issued separately.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS Need for industries–govt cooperation stressed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

INDUSTRIES and government must work together to place Andhra Pradesh among the leaders in Ease of Doing Business at the global level, said industries department principal secretary Dr N Yuvaraj. Addressing industrialists virtually at a regional awareness conference here on Saturday, Dr Yuvaraj stressed on simplifying systems, online facilities, and trust-based policies to achieve double-digit growth. He recalled that Andhra Pradesh has introduced initiatives like the Single Window System, Mee Seva centres, and Guarantee Act but noted that further improvement is required. “We must benchmark our state with global leaders like Singapore and European nations,” he said.

Calling for industry associations such as CII and SMEs to provide clear suggestions, he assured government support including grants for common testing and processing facilities. He also underlined that MSMEs, particularly micro and small units, need assistance to meet quality standards. “India is destined to emerge as the world’s top three economy by 2025 and move into the top two within the next 10–15 years,” he said. District collector Dr S Venkateswar, who attended the event, said industrial development is a top state priority and pledged speedy



Industries department principal secretary Dr N Yuvaraj virtually addressing a regional awareness meet of industrialists in Tirupati on Saturday. District collector Dr S Venkateswar and others are also present

redressal of investor issues through an online grievance platform.

He announced a special meeting for solving issues at Gajulamandyam IT Park and promised action on local civic infrastructure. Stating that industries contribute nearly 45 per cent to Tirupati district’s GDDP, the collector said the government, guided by the Chief Minister, is moving from Ease of Doing Business towards Speed of Doing Business.

Highlighting the district’s potential, he pointed to successful hubs like Sri City, Naidupeta, Krishnapatnam, and Routhumala Industrial Park, boosted by strong road, rail, port, and airport connectivity. APIIC zonal manager Vijay Bharat Reddy, officials, and industrialists were present.

TTD EO calls for adoption of modern tech

Inspects Common Command Control Centre, instructs officials to implement facial recognition technology for real-time identification of individuals and monitoring of incidents

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

THE TTD executive officer Anil Kumar Singhal carried out surprise inspections at various areas in Tirumala on Saturday morning.

He first inspected the Common Command Control Centre and directed the officials concerned to utilize advanced technology to provide better services to devotees.

He instructed that new software and modern technology should be adopted in line with rapidly changing advancements.

The EO emphasized the need to strengthen the process of tracing missing persons in Tirumala by making it faster and more effective and suggested enhancing the capacity of the Common Command Control Centre by deploying staff in such a way

that every inch of Tirumala can be monitored.

He instructed officials to implement facial recognition technology for real-time identification of individuals and monitoring of incidents. On this occasion, the EO also discussed with L&T staff the effective use of technology.

Later, the EO inspected the luggage centres and interacted with the devotees. He enquired them about the time taken between receiving the darshan tokens and completing darshan. The devotees expressed satisfaction with the services being provided by TTD to them. Subsequently, he visited Vaikuntham Queue Complex-2 and reviewed the facilities offered to devotees.



TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal interacts with devotees at Vaikuntham Queue Complex-2

tees. On this occasion, he interacted with Srivari Sevaks from Srikakulam, Nanded in Maharashtra and appreciated their services to devotees.

The EO also instructed the Chief PRO Dr T Ravi to provide enhanced training

to Srivari Sevaks so that they can extend better services to the scores of devotees.

CVSO Muralikrishna and heads of departments and other officials accompanied the EO during these inspections.

WHEELS OF ‘SARATHYAM’ YATRA REACH VIZAG

- ‘Sarathyam’ yatra is receiving an encouraging response across the districts
- As part of the yatra, a Sarathyam public sabha is organised in Visakhapatnam
- The public meeting is scheduled at New Railway Colony Grounds from 10 am

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

BHARATIYA Janata Party state president PVN Madhav mentioned that the ‘Sarathyam’ yatra is initiated with an aim of inspiring every worker to serve the party and people by drawing inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, he said that the concluding meeting of the yatra will be held in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Madhav said that



BJP state president PVN Madhav addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

BJP national president and Union Health Minister J P Nadda will be attending the concluding meeting as chief guest. He said that every BJP worker in Visakhapatnam is being involved in the Sarathyam public meeting at New Railway Colony Grounds from 10 am. The BJP state president mentioned that

the yatra, which commenced from Kadapa, received an encouraging response from the people across the state. Madhav expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the Central government schemes provided to the people in the state. He informed that Khadi fairs will be organised across the state

on October 2. The BJP state president opined that a majority of prices of the goods would come down with the decision of the Central government's new GST Act. The BJP state president informed that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will visit Visakhapatnam on September 17.

Speaking about the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, the state BJP president opined that the plant will march towards progress with the announcement of a special revival package. He appealed to the people not to believe in the propaganda of the Left parties on the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant privatisation issue. He recalled that the BJP was the first to demand the merger of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

PVN Madhav alleged that Left and YSRCP leaders are creating misconceptions about the VSP. He said that the previous YSRCP government played a drama in the garb of three capitals.

Visakhapatnam parliamentary constituency president MMN Parasurama Raju, state general secretaries Matta Prasad and N Ramesh Naidu participated in the meeting.

YSRCP accuses coalition govt of ‘putting state sale’

- Party leader Seediri Appalaraju slams the coalition govt's decision to develop 10 new medical colleges under the PPP model, branding it a ‘pay per project’ scheme steeped in corruption
- Claims CM Chandrababu Naidu has a long record of handing over public assets, from hospitals to roads , to private players for personal gain
- Criticises the govt for allegedly replacing state-run Aarogyasri health scheme with a costlier private insurance model, which he argues will limit access for the poor and middle class

HANS NEWS SERVICE PALASA (SRIKAKULAM)

YSRCP accused the coalition government of ‘putting the state on sale’ through its privatisation policies. The party has specifically criticised the decision to privatise state hospitals, with former minister



Seediri Appalaraju vowing to fight that move ‘tooth and nail’. Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, Appalaraju slammed ministers for attempting to mislead the public with what he called “fake pictures” and power-point presentations to justify the privatisation of hospitals. He singled out home minister V Anitha, stating that her presentation used misleading visuals to promote the controversial policy.

Appalaraju re-interpreted the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, calling it “pay per project” and alleging that the decision to hand over hospitals to private entities is “steeped in corruption.” He warned that all such “anti-poor” policies would be reversed if YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy returns

to power. According to Appalaraju, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has a history of pursuing privatisation for personal gain, citing past examples of medicare, roads, and tourism departments being given to private players. “Putting all infrastructures into private hands shows the inefficiency of the government and its greed for kickbacks,” he said. Appalaraju also addressed the replacement of the Aarogyasri health scheme with an insurance model, stating that this would also distance quality healthcare from poorer sections of society. He asserted that retaining Aarogyasri would be more cost-effective for the government, as the premium is less than the annual expenditure on the scheme.

AM/NS India bags two awards

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

ARCELORMITTAL Nippon Steel India Limited (AM/NS India), Visakhapatnam bagged the coveted Best Innovation Project Award and Excellent Environmental

Project Award at the 12th CII National Award for Environmental Best Practices-2025. ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited, Visakhapatnam received the Environmental Best Practices Award for reducing stack emissions by

upgrading the existing ESP using Modu Power HFPS. The award was received by AM/NS India officials Srinivasa Satya Prasad, M. Venugopal, Adinarayana Reddy and Soumya Ranjan Rout at the recent award presentation ceremony organised in Pune.



ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited officials receiving awards at the ceremony organised in Pune

‘VISTA 2K25’ a platform for 5,000 students to exhibit skills

- The fest serves as a powerful tool for students to explore latest advancements in technological innovations
- Project expo, hackathon and various technology stalls have been inaugurated on the occasion
- Experts highlighted that innovations of the students should be in alignment with the future needs of the industry

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

ADDITIONAL general manager, Bharat Dynamics Limited (VU Unit) R. Sridhar Singh believes that tech fest platforms will greatly help students to present their innovative ideas. Attending as chief guest at the national level tech fest ‘VISTA 2K25’ commenced at Vignan's Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous) (VIIT), here on Saturday, he advised the students to take advantage of such opportunities and prove their



Students briefing their projects to additional general manager of BDL R. Sridhar Singh in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

talent at national level. He suggested that the innovations of the students should be in alignment with the future needs of the industry. “The era of Industry 4.0 is a synergy of technology and innovation,” he highlighted. Highlighting the theme of the fest sustainable synergy: industry 4.0 in action, college principal J Sudhakar mentioned that the technical fest in the college is a powerful tool for students to explore latest advancements in technological innovations and learn from one another. The Principal stated that talented students will get

an opportunity to showcase their skills and learn a lot from experts through keynote speeches. The fest not only fosters a healthy competitive spirit but also encourages participants to share knowledge and creativity, he informed. Rector Dr V Madhusudhana Rao spoke about the creativity and innovation of students brought to the fore through such fests. He said that these platforms create an attractive environment that encourages practical learning and exchange cutting-edge ideas among communities.



VIIT management felicitating the guests at the fest organised in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

Convener Kranthi Kumar Gangu mentioned that the participation of students from all parts of the country made ‘VISTA 2K25’ a special event, a great platform for science students to experience national level fest, he opined. The event, began with a dance presentation by students at the Abdul Kalam Centre for Nation Building (AKCNB), saw distinguished guests garlanding the statue of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya as part of the Engineers Day celebrations. During the programme, the guests were felicitated by the institution management.

A number of national level technology competitions like hackathon, ideathon, app design, robot race, drone competitions, project expo, technical quiz, business idea, paper and poster presentations formed a part of the fest. Around 5,000 students showcased their skills in the event. Project expo, hackathon and various technology stalls were inaugurated on the occasion. Novel and innovative models put up by the students impressed the viewers, while a host of cultural programmes enticed the audience.



As many as 179 teachers and correspondents felicitated at the Best Teachers Awards ceremony organised by the Andhra Pradesh Private Unaided Schools Managements Association (APPUSMA) for Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts as part of the Teachers' Day celebration in the presence of TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao, APPUSMA district president MVV Satyanarayana, among others, in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

Call for collective fight against child marriages

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

NTR district collector Dr G Lakshminisha has directed that temple authorities must pay special attention to marriages held in temples and to ensure that every marriage is duly registered. He stressed that col-

lective participation is essential to build a society free from child marriages. On Saturday, a special meeting of religious leaders against child marriages was organised at the Pingali Venkaiah Meeting Hall on the collectorate premises in Vijayawada, in collaboration with Vasavya Mahila Mandali and

Just Right for Children NGOs. As part of the programme, awareness posters with details for display in temples were unveiled by Dr Lakshminisha, along with NGO representatives and temple officials. Speaking on the occasion, the collector directed that display boards should be set

up in every temple to inform devotees about legal marriage age, mandatory age certificates, and relevant laws. Vasavya Mahila Mandali President Dr B Keerthi, Endowments Assistant Commissioner Shanmukha Natarajan, representatives of Just Right for Children, and others took part in the meeting.



Collector G Lakshminisha unveiling awareness posters with details for display in temples model at the collectorate in Vijayawada on Saturday

Police alert students to refrain from clicking suspicious links

- Knockout Digital Fraud offers the cyber community valuable safety tips on safeguarding personal and sensitive information
- Students are told to refrain from sharing OTPs, PINs, clicking on suspicious emails, SMSs, links, QR codes, from unknown sources

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

DESPITE continuous efforts considered to curb cybercrime, the recovery rate of stolen funds remains alarmingly minimal, ranging anywhere between 5 percent to 10 percent, cautioned Sub Inspector of Police (Cybercrime) Ravi Kishore.

Addressing students and faculty members at an awareness programme on cybercrime at TSR and TBK Degree and PG College in Gajuwaka, the



Gajuwaka police building awareness about cybercrime among students in Visakhapatnam

Sub Inspector highlighted various kinds of frauds that are common in and around Vizag and the need to be

cautious about fake OTP fraud, phishing, digital arrest, financial loan fraud and pension fraud, among

others. Building awareness among the audience, Inspector of Police (Crime), Gajuwaka, K Srinivas Rao said, “Online fraud is rising at an alarming rate and students turn out to be the most frequent victims.” He highlighted how 500 lost and recovered mobile phones were often misused to carry out digital scams. Inspector of Police (Law and Order), Gajuwaka A Parthasarathy laid emphasis on the growing cybercrime threats. “In today's digital age, one causal and careless

click on a fake link can handover your entire phone data to cyber criminals. So, stay alert and informed,” he alerted the participants. Organised by Bajaj Finance Ltd under the banner ‘knockout digital fraud—inform digital users about different types of threats and best practices to safeguard finances’, the event saw cops stressing on how young individuals are particularly vulnerable to cyber fraud due to their high engagement on social media platforms.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME
I, LAKSHMI DODDI (New Name) W/O. D Chinna Apparao Previously called LAXMI DODDI (Old Name), R/o.8, 465/1, Pedagadili silipeta, Visakhapatnam - District. Now changed my name from LAKSHMI DODDI (Old Name) to LAKSHMI DODDI (New Name) hence forth I will be called as LAKSHMI DODDI (New Name) for all purpose (TH_KVM)

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PADALA ADHI LAKSHMI, W/O. (Late) PADALA APPARAO, Ex-service in Army, RANK: NAIK, Residing at D.No: 31-1-18, South Jail Road, Near Vivekananda Statue, Allipuram, Visakhapatnam-530020, Changed my name from Adhi Lakshmi (Old Name) to PADALA ADHI LAKSHMI (New Name) Henceforth my name being called as PADALA ADHI LAKSHMI for all future correspondences. (TH_KVM)

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Gandikota wins 'Most Promising New Destination' award at BLTM 2025

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI /VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh Tourism wins 'Most Promising New Destination' award for Gandikota at BLTM 2025. The award was received by Padmarani Seela, chief marketing officer and communication officer of APTA, at the Business Leisure Travel and MICE Exhibition (BLTM 2025) in New Delhi.

The state's tourism department showcased its diverse offerings, including heritage sites, pristine beach destinations, rural tourism experiences, and eco-tourism initiatives, at the event held from Friday to Sunday at Yashobhoomi, India International Convention Centre (IICC). Gandikota, known as



AP tourism representative receives award at Business Leisure Travel and MICE Exhibition

'India's Grand Canyon,' received the award in the 'Responsible Tourism Awards' category, supported by ICRT and the Ministry of Tourism,

Government of India. This recognition is expected to boost Gandikota's appeal to adventure-seeking tourists. During BLTM 2025,

Andhra Pradesh Tourism representatives participated in B2B speed networking sessions, building relationships with corporate buyers, MICE

planners, tour operators, destination management companies (DMCs), hospitality brands, and international tourism boards from countries like Sri Lanka, Israel, and St. Petersburg.

The Andhra Pradesh government aims to develop world-class MICE facilities in destinations like Visakhapatnam, Gandikota, and Suryalanka Beach, targeting conferences, corporate events, and incentive packages to become a leader in the MICE tourism segment.

The BLTM event, focused on business and MICE tourism in India, featured over 500 exhibitors and 15,000 pre-qualified buyers, showcasing Andhra Pradesh's tourism potential to a global audience.

Bode demands ex-gratia to kin of deceased in Turakapalem

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

BCY party president Bode Ramachandra Yadav demanded the government to announce ex-gratia for the families of those who died in Turakapalem due to diseases during the last two months. He visited Turakapalem on Saturday and consoled the kin of the deceased. He announced financial assistance of Rs 10,000 for each family. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed concern over the unnatural deaths occurring in the last 2-3 months. He demanded that all individuals who consumed alcohol between 2019 and 2024 undergo health check-ups. He said families were suffering due to the loss of breadwinners in middle age, and it is the government's responsibility to support them. He also urged the state to monitor the details of youth being admitted to hospitals.

TTD Trust Board members take oath



Dr M Hari Jawaharlal



Sudarshan Venu

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

ENDOWMENTS Department Secretary Dr Hari Jawahar Lal and Sudarshan Venu took oath as ex-Officio Member and as TTD Trust Board member respectively at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple here on Saturday.

The oath was administered by TTD Additional

EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary. Later, along with their family members, they had Lord Venkateswara darshan. Vedic scholars rendered Veda Asheervachanam at Rangamayakula Mandapam.

The Additional EO presented them with the portrait of Srivaru and Tirtha Prasadam.

Deputy EO Bhaskar and other officials were present.

Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi

Continued from P1

"I want to congratulate Karki on behalf of 140 crore Indians. I am confident that she will pave the way for peace, stability, and prosperity in Nepal," the PM said.

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

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

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

Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between

President Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and the youth protesters, who spearheaded the agitation.

The PM also lauded the resilience of the Nepali people, noting how citizens, especially young men and women, were taking part in cleaning and painting buildings in the past few days, amid political turbulence.

"I also want to congratulate the people of Nepal who, despite such turbulent times, have kept democratic values supreme," Modi said, drawing applause from the gathering.

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.

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

Continued from P1

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

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

still continues," he said.

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

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

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

"I am glad that he has decided, after two years, that it is worth visiting (Manipur)."

He should have gone long before. It is very unfortunate that he has allowed what is happening there to continue for so long and for so many people to be killed. That has not been the tradition of prime ministers in India," she said.

CM Naidu urges SPs to focus on public safety

Continued from P1

He stressed that instilling fear in criminals is the best way to reduce crime, citing the example of how he brought an end to rowdiness in Vijayawada, which also helped Hyderabad become the brand it is today.

The Chief Minister asked police officers to take up the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy as a case study. "A brutal murder was first called a heart attack, then a murder, and later was blamed on me," he said. He highlighted the numerous twists and turns in the case, calling it an "unprecedented" case study for police officials.

Naidu also brought up the recent death of a political worker named Singaiah, who was run over by a car belong-

ing to a party leader. "The incident was initially hidden from the police, and when it was exposed, the same party leaders manipulated the victim's family to speak against the government," he said. "You have to understand their criminal politics."

The Chief Minister advised the police to utilise technology to the hilt in investigations.

Naidu suggested a four-point strategy for police officials: React, Reach, Respond, and Result. React immediately to any serious incident and do not leave it to junior staff. Reach the crime scene quickly to collect evidence and take necessary investigative steps. Respond to misinformation and fake news on social media by taking strict action against those spread-

ing it. Work towards a quick Result in every case.

Naidu instructed the SPs to be friendly with the public, while instilling fear in anti-social elements and controlling "social media psychos" who engage in character assassination. He emphasised that the alliance government's policy is to punish offenders, regardless of their political affiliation.

The Chief Minister warned against political parties' attempts to create unrest under the guise of protests. "I am not against protests, but I will not tolerate any illegal activities," he asserted.

"I have chosen you after a long process, considering all factors. Now, prove yourselves and deliver the best performance," he exhorted the SPs.

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

Continued from P1

After meeting them, I can say with confidence that a new dawn of hope and trust is rising in Manipur," he said.

"For development to take root anywhere, peace is essential.

In the 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.

These are part of the

efforts of the Government of India to establish peace while giving importance to dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding," he said.

"I would appeal to all organisations to move forward on the path of peace and fulfil their dreams.

I am with you... The Government of India is with the people of Manipur. We are working towards the goal of making Manipur a symbol of peace, prosperity and progress," he said.

Modi said the Centre is providing support to build 7,000 new houses for families who have been displaced by the violence. A special package of about Rs 3,000 crore has recently been approved, he said, adding that Rs 500 crore has been specifically allocated to assist the displaced people.

'Students used their pocket money for drugs'

Continued from P1

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

Many students from well-off families use their pocket money in unhealthy ways, such as through substance abuse. Easy access to cash sometimes makes them feel

independent, but without real responsibility. Often, just to feel included and part of a group, students get pulled into these habits, creating a dangerous cycle that harms their studies and personal growth," she added. Officials stressed that strict surveillance is being paired with the rehabilitation of students. One of the students recently caught is currently undergoing regular blood tests and counselling. "We are also conducting regular awareness campaigns, in collaboration with universities like ICAFI, to sensitize students to the dangers of substance abuse," an anti-narcotics officer said.

Meanwhile, Mahindra University, in its official

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

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

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

ACCUSES BRS WORKING PRESIDENT OF ACTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF BJP LEADERS TO EVADE INQUIRIES RELATED TO KALESHWARAM PROJECT

HYDERABAD

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

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

During a media briefing at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh Kumar Goud accused the BRS working president of acting



under the influence of BJP leaders to evade inquiries related to the Kaleshwaram project.

"BJP leaders are behind

KTR's statements. His criticism of Rahul is an attempt to win praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he asserted.

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

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

The TPCC chief called

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

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

UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

Continued from P1

She also recognised the contributions of the president, the chief of army staff and 'Gen Z' youth leaders, noting that their efforts "helped make this transition possible". Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Ram Chandra Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and representatives of youth protesters.

President Paudel administered the oath of office to former chief justice Karki, 73, on Friday three days after Oli resigned from the prime minister's post following the worst unrest that the Himalayan nation has witnessed in decades. Oli quit on Tuesday shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during Monday's protests.

NE is India's growth engine: PM

Continued from P1

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

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

He said that earlier the political parties were doing vote bank politics in Northeast and due to this attitude the entire region suffered greatly. "Our attitude, plans and vision are different. We want peace and development of the region. Rail, road, air, waterway connectivities were developed a lot in the region and these would be further

developed in the coming days," the Prime Minister said.

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

During 'Operation Sindoor', India's armed forces taught lessons to 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.

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

Low-pressure area to trigger rains in AP

Continued from P1

Jain also provided a summary of rainfall recorded as of 5:00 pm on Saturday.

Heavy rainfall was recorded in several areas, including Thallapudi in East Godavari district and Lingapalem in Eluru district (87.2 mm), Pedakakani in Guntur district (77.2 mm), Sattenapalli in Palnadu district (75 mm), Vallabhapuram in Guntur (74 mm), Guntur (72.2 mm), Nuzvidu (71 mm), Thotlavalluru (70.7 mm), Kouthavaram (70.2 mm), and Darsi in Prakasam district (68.5 mm). More than 40 mm of rain was recorded in 47 other locations.

PM likely to visit Odisha on Sept 27



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha on September 27 and address a public meeting in Berhampur, State Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari said on Saturday. The final itinerary of the Prime Minister's visit is yet to be finalised, but preparations are in full swing, he said. This will be Modi's sixth visit to Odisha in the last 15 months, after the BJP came to power in the State, he added.

"The Prime Minister has given his consent to visit Odisha on September 27. Our Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena has already started prepara-

tions for the visit, and I will be there in Berhampur from September 15," Pujari told reporters.

Modi will attend the BJP's 'Seva Pakshya' programme, which will start on his birthday on September 17 and continue till Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the minister said. He last visited the State on June 20 to attend the first anniversary celebrations of the BJP government in Odisha.

"Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, during his recent visit to Delhi, had extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to come to Odisha on September 17, but it could not be possible due to pre-engagement," Pujari said. He said the State

government has sent the tentative programme to the PMO, which will finalise the itinerary for September 27.

Pujari said the BJP and the State government have planned to plant 75 lakh saplings on September 17, marking the 75th birth anniversary of the Prime Minister. During 'Seva Pakshya', State BJP workers are planning to organise blood donation camps, health check-ups, sanitation drives and community assistance programmes, he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Majhi said the Prime Minister's five-State visit to Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar is "a testament to the scale and speed of progress across the nation."

Majhi said this reflects how the nation is "emerging as a global leader while ensuring inclusive development."

"Mizoram gets connected to the Indian Rail Network for the first time with the inauguration of Bairabi-Sairang new rail line, a historic milestone to be etched in the annals of history forever, symbolic of national unity and integration," he posted on X.

Hailing the Prime Minister's initiative, Majhi said, "With each such step, Bharat is moving closer to its vision of becoming strong, #atmanirbhar and prosperous. We are emerging as a global leader while ensuring inclusive development for every region and every citizen."

Chief Secy bats for preventive vigilance

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR



ODISHA Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja directed all department heads and district collectors to adopt preventive vigilance measures to eliminate corruption and exclude officials of doubtful integrity from sensitive roles. In a letter addressed to additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, the Director General of the Vigilance directorate, commissioner-cum-secretaries of all departments, revenue divisional commissioners (RDCs), and collectors, Ahuja emphasised the State government's commitment to clean, transparent and citizen-centric governance.

Referring to recent cases of corruption detected by the Vigilance department, the Chief Secretary highlighted the urgent need for proactive and sustained focus on preventive vigilance. "Mere punitive action is not sufficient; root causes of corruption must be systematically eliminated through administrative, legal, social, economic and educative measures," he said.

Ahuja asked the authorities to constitute an internal vigilance committee (IVC) in all departments to identify sensitive areas and prepare short- and long-term action plans, adopt and scale up technology-driven reforms such as eODB (ease of doing business), WAMIS (Works and Accounts Management Information System),

e-tendering, e-procurement, Work Passbook, DBT for funds transfer and online HR management systems.

"Enforce transparent HR practices including staff rotation, fair and transparent online transfers and exclusion of officials of doubtful integrity from sensitive roles," Ahuja said in the letter asking authorities to empower citizens by displaying service timelines under ORTPS (Odisha Right to Public Service) Act, 2013 in offices, monitoring compliance through dashboards and actively using feedback systems.

He also directed the heads of departments to institutionalise a culture of zero tolerance towards corruption by periodic review, open discussions among senior officers and structured monitoring of feedback.

Ahuja directed officials that these instructions must be disseminated among all officials for compliance and emphasised that a strong preventive vigilance framework will enable realisation of a truly responsive and people-oriented government.

AIIMS-BBSR ranked 14th best

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director and CEO Dr Ashutosh Biswas said the institute has been placed in the top 100 institutions in the country in the overall category, making it one of the few medical institutions to achieve such a distinction.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been ranked 14th among medical colleges in India, as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025. This outstanding performance marks a significant leap from 31st position in 2021 and 15th position in 2024, underlining the institute's continued commitment to excellence in

medical education, healthcare, and research, Biswas said.

The Executive Director and CEO said AIIMS Bhubaneswar has made notable progress across key domains such as infrastructure development, patient care, education, research, and institutional perception — all of which have contributed to its impressive ranking.

"This recognition is the result of the collective hard work and dedication of our entire AIIMS Bhubaneswar family. We remain committed to our mission of delivering excellence in healthcare, fostering world-class research, and nurturing the next generation of medical professionals," he said.

Glue applied on eyes of students

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PHULBANI



AT least eight boys of a State-run tribal welfare residential (TRW) school in Kandhamal district were admitted to hospital on Friday after some fellow students allegedly applied a strong adhesive on their eyes while they were asleep, police said. The incident took place at Sevashram school in Salaguda.

The affected children, aged around 12 years and studying in classes 4 and 5, were initially taken to Gochhapada primary health centre. Seven of them were

later shifted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Phulbani for further treatment, a police officer said.

One of the eight students was discharged from the

primary health centre after he could open his eyes, police added. "Around 7 am, I visited the hostel and found that eight students were unable to open their eyes. Later, I found out that some

students applied an adhesive on their eyes," teacher Premalata Sahoo said.

The teacher said she helped the students brush their teeth and feed them breakfast before taking them to the nearby primary health centre. "We do not know whether there is any criminality behind this, but suspect that some students did it for fun. We are inquiring into the matter," Sahoo added. However, the victims' parents and local leaders demanded stringent action against the wrong-doers. Local sarpanch Rohit Kahanra held the school teachers responsible for the incident.

Woman cop goes missing

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR



ODISHA police on Saturday announced a Rs 25,000 cash reward to anyone providing information on missing woman traffic constable of Bhubaneswar. The 25-year-old woman traffic constable posted in Bhubaneswar and identified as Subhamitra Sahoo, a native of Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, had been missing since September 6.

Giving details of the missing woman constable, the DCP Bhubaneswar, in a post on X, said: "Have you seen her? Name: Subhamitra Sahoo Missing since: 06.09.25 Reward: Rs 25,000/- Call: 7008264419 | WhatsApp: 8280338302."

The photograph of the missing constable was also attached in the social media post.

Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena said a reward of Rs 25,000 will be given to anyone providing credible information on her whereabouts, and the identity of the informer will not be revealed.

The police social media post said she had left for duty from Surya Nagar in Bhubaneswar at around 10 am on September 6. Though her duty ended by 7 pm, she did not return home.

Meanwhile, the family members of the woman traffic constable have met the Twin City Commissioner of Police (CP) here and sought his help to trace her. After she went missing, her family had lodged a complaint with the local police, suspecting that she could have been abducted.

Six held for looting jewellery shop



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

POLICE arrested six persons in connection with a jewellery shop loot in Khurda district, officials said on Friday. Police recovered 1.9 kg of gold, 4.5 kg of silver and over Rs 9.45 lakh in cash from the accused, along with a country-

made gun, a live round and a sharp weapon used during the crime. According to the FIR, 11.5 kg gold ornaments and 5 kg silver ornaments, worth around Rs 11.55 crore, were looted during the heist. During investigation, police found that a gang of 10 persons were involved in the crime and eight have been identified. While

four accused were arrested on September 1, two others were arrested on Friday, a police officer said. "We have launched an operation to crack the case. So far, we have arrested six persons and recovered 1.9 kg of gold, 4.5 kg of silver and Rs 9.45 lakh cash from them," Khurda SP Vivekanand Sharma said.

UP man held in Rs 98 lakh cyber fraud case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Commissionerate Police arrested a cyber criminal from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly duping a person of over Rs 98 lakh on the pretext of investment in shares and securities, said Jagmohan Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar, on Friday.

The accused, identified as Mohd Shadab (33), is a resident of Rahimpur village in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh. During a media briefing, DCP Meena said the victim in June this year received a WhatsApp link with the invitation to join the WhatsApp Group namely "X05-IIFL SECURITIES LTD".

Later, the accused cyber fraudsters contacted the victim impersonating as

officials of IIFL Securities Limited by using the company's logo. They lured the complainant into investing by promising huge trading benefits through misleading and biased communication in the said WhatsApp group.

"The complainant was duped and deceived by the lucrative offers of the cyber fraudsters with a false promise of high returns. The complainant has deposited his hard-earned money to the tune of Rs 98.10 lakh in various bank accounts supplied by the fraudsters during the period from June 17 to July 1, 2025," informed the Commissionerate Police sources.

The police further said the cyber fraudsters used two websites, <https://cequityinsightyu.com> and <https://fintrendhub.com>, for the commission of the offence. When the victim realised

that he had fallen prey to the cyber criminals, he lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime and Economic Offences Police Station in Bhubaneswar on July 4.

Police, during the investigation, found that Rs 30 lakh have been transferred by the victim to a firm 'M/s CHAUDHARY CONTRACTOR AND SUPPLIER' located at Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, a team of Commissionerate Police, with the help of Kotwali City Police Station, arrested the accused, Shadab, on Wednesday, as Rs 30 lakh had been transferred to Bijnor-based firm's bank account registered in the name of the arrested fraudster.

The police on Friday produced the accused, who was brought to Odisha on transit remand, before the court that sent him to judicial custody.

One dies as shop collapses in Koraput

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KORAPUT

ONE person died and two others were injured when a shop in a market complex collapsed in Koraput district here on Saturday, police said. The incident took place at a two-storeyed shop, part of Biswasray Marketing Complex,

located in front of the district police headquarters along National Highway-26 in Koraput town.

The deceased has been identified as P Lokesh (63), a shopowner, who was among the three persons pulled out from the debris of the collapsed building. The personnel of the ODRAE, Fire Service personnel, along with the district police,

conducted rescue operation. "One shop owner, P Lokesh succumbed to the injury," said Premlal Hial, the Sub-Collector of Koraput, who visited the building collapse site. Officials confirmed that no other person was trapped under the debris.

The shop, which had reportedly weakened due to continuous rains in the town, was under repair at the

time of the incident. Authorities clarified that the main Biswasray Marketing Complex remained unaffected as the collapsed stalls had been constructed independently outside its foundation.

Vehicular movement on the highway through the town was temporarily halted during the rescue operation.



BJD to stage protest on Sept 15 over fertiliser crisis

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ALLEGING that Odisha's BJP government has failed to meet the fertiliser requirement of farmers, the Opposition BJD on Friday said it will stage a protest near Raj Bhavan on September 15. The BJD's announcement came a day after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi claimed that there was no shortage of fertiliser for the ongoing kharif crop cultivation in Odisha.

The BJD vice-president Sanjay Das Burma and Opposition chief whip Pramila

Mallik, at a press conference here, however, rejected the Chief Minister's claim and alleged that the State government was "misleading" the farmers, who constitute 70 per cent of the State's population.

"We are demanding immediate supply of fertiliser to the farmers as they need it now. Any further delay in fertiliser supply would adversely affect the kharif crop," Das Burma said. The fertiliser supplied by the government is not in an adequate amount, he said.

The CMO on Thursday in a statement had claimed that



Odisha required a total of 9,55,000 tonnes of fertilisers for the 2025 kharif season (by September 30), and this entire quantity was allocated by the Central government.

Alleging that the State government's repeated claim that fertiliser stocks are sufficient is "false", Das Burma said a shortfall was reported in various districts. Citing instances, he said while Ganjam district submitted an indent of 19,561 metric tonnes (MT) of fertiliser, but it got only 10,640 MT.

While Bhadrak district sought 6,188 MT of fertiliser, it was supplied only 863 MT. Similarly, Balasore district demanded 2,600 MT and got only 900 MT, and Angul also received only 4,954 MT against its demand of 8,100 MT of fertiliser, the BJD

said.

"There is a huge gap between the demand and supply of fertiliser across the State," Das Burma said, adding that the farmers have now hit the streets and are blocking highways across the State to protest the shortage, even as the Chief Minister claims "no fertiliser crisis" in Odisha. Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik alleged that the fertiliser crisis has deepened in Odisha due to the "careless" attitude of the BJP government.

"Former chief minister and Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik had

written a letter to Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers J P Nadda and sought his intervention. But no follow-up action is taken, leading to such a situation," Mallik said.

Mallik recalled that about seven years ago, the work of Talcher fertiliser plant was started by the Central government, and then it was promised that the factory would be functional in 36 months. However, even after more than seven years, the plant has not become functional, she pointed out, holding the Centre responsible for the fertiliser crisis.

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)



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. Kruthi Nanduri

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

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

children have benefited from these life-changing operations.

“It is deeply rewarding to support underprivileged

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

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

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

Meet the Inventors

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

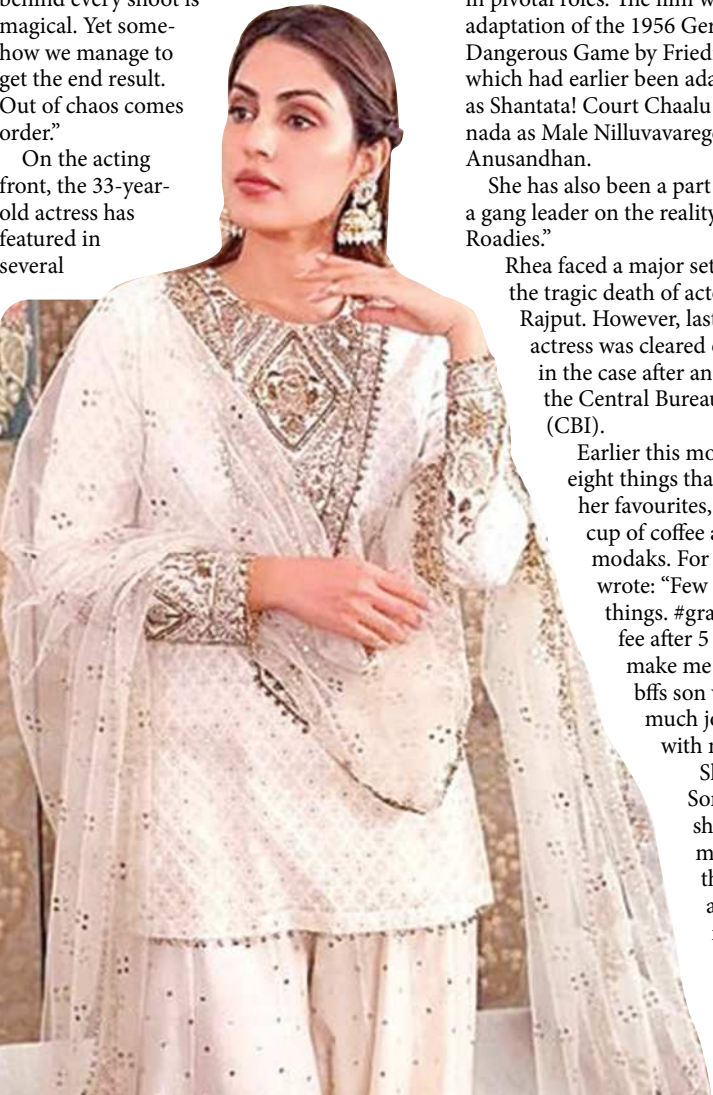
Rhea Chakraborty finds ‘chaos’ behind shoots ‘magical’

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

OF STYLE AND LUXURY

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

ARUNA CHANDARAJU

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



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

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



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

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

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

their Privé collection.

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

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

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

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

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



Double delight for India

Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag enter Hong Kong final

HONG KONG

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

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

Earlier in the day, Satwik and

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

Satwik, 24, has battled a re-

Indians disappoint on opening day of World Athletics C'ships

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

Another Indian in the fray

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

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



THIRUCHIRAPPALLI (TAMIL NADU)

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

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

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

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 as-

serted.

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

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

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

