



THE Hans India



Nida Khan granted bail, court flags jail birth trauma
As it granted bail to a pregnant Nida Khan in a Nashik TCS case, a local court observed that the trauma of giving birth in prison is unbearable for any woman, drawing a comparison with the circumstances surrounding the birth of Lord Krishna. **P10**

Future of management careers in the era of AI
Every July, as new batches of management students walk into B-School classrooms with fresh hopes and excitement, the immense responsibility that higher education carries comes with it. An MBA or any postgraduate programme in management. **P6**

Equities recover, but caution prevails
Stock markets recovered on Thursday, with the benchmark Sensex closing higher by 238 points on broad-based buying by investors after a heavy correction in the previous session. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher and jumped further 823.05 points. **P11**

Krithi Shetty stuns with new photoshoot
Krithi Shetty continues to remain in the limelight for her style statements on social media. The actress, whose recent releases LIK and Vaa Vaathiyar failed to make an impact at the box office, was once again flooded with praises after sharing the latest. **P12**

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WINDOWS

No vending on Bengaluru's major roads, says Minister

BENGALURU: Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday said that the co-operation of street vendors was crucial to the ongoing footpath encroachment clearance drive, asserting that it was aimed at ensuring smooth and safe movement for citizens on public roads. During a meeting with representatives of the Joint Action Committee of Street Vendors, he assured them that the government would always stand by the poor. "The government intends that street vendors in Bengaluru should be able to earn their livelihood. At the same time, it is implementing the Supreme Court's directions by clearing all encroachments from footpaths," the Greater Bengaluru development minister said.

As part of the Greater Bengaluru Authority's 'Safe Footpath' campaign, which began on July 1, officials are conducting a drive to clear encroachments in an effort to improve pedestrian infrastructure across the city. According to a statement issued by the minister's office, Gowda said the ongoing drive was aimed at ensuring smooth and safe movement for citizens on public roads and footpaths. "There will be no compromise on ensuring that footpaths remain free and accessible to pedestrians, and the cooperation of street vendors is crucial to the footpath encroachment clearance drive," he said.

The minister said that street vending would not be permitted on the city's major roads, which together cover about 1,500 km. "However, vendors will be allowed to carry out their business on the remaining 80-90 per cent of ward roads, and the civic body will extend full support for this," he said.

The minister pointed out that, as of July 8, encroachments had been cleared from 430 km of roads in the city, and that the drive would continue. Stressing that the clearance drive was not limited to street vendors, Gowda said that encroachments by shops, petty shops, pushcarts, sheets, roofs or canopies, staircases, ramps, compound walls, advertisement boards, name boards, and temporary or permanent sheds on footpaths were also being removed. "In the coming days, the authorities will gradually remove all other obstructions from footpaths, including illegal parking and encroachments related to gardens," he said.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Of course, we are accountable in the donation theft case. We'll answer every question when the Lord asks us

Rs 10 crore extortion bid UPSC aspirant-turned-Maths teacher held for aiding Bishnoi gang

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A BTech graduate who taught Maths in coaching centres was arrested for allegedly aiding the Hari Boxer-Lawrence Bishnoi gang by conducting a recce of a businessman whom they tried to extort, police said on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Amit Bishnoi alias Rudra Pratap Singh (35), originally from Haryana's

Hisar, had been teaching Mathematics at various coaching centres in Mukherjee Nagar since 2018, they said.

According to Delhi Police Special Cell, Singh allegedly conducted a recce of the victim's office, recorded a video of the premises and shared it with gangster Hari Boxer, who later used the footage while threatening the businessman and demanding Rs 10 crore.



"On June 15, the businessman, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar,

Amit Bishnoi alias Rudra Pratap Singh allegedly conducted a recce of the victim's office, recorded a video of the premises and shared it with gangster Hari Boxer, who later used the footage while threatening the businessman

received a social media call from an international number. The caller, who

identified himself as Hari Boxer, threatened to kill the businessman and his

children if the money was not paid within a week," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Praveen Kumar Tripathi said in a statement.

Tripathi said the gangster subsequently contacted the victim through multiple foreign numbers and also shared a video of his office to demonstrate that the gang had gathered detailed information about him.

"The caller warned that the businessman would

be 'blown up' if he failed to meet the demand," the DCP said. The businessman filed a complaint at the Mukherjee Nagar police station, following which an FIR was registered on July 8, and an investigation was launched. During the probe, the Special Cell apprehended Singh, who allegedly admitted to collecting information about the victim, his family and business at the behest of Hari Boxer, police said.

MODI SEALS URANIUM DEAL WITH AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY

INDIA and Australia on Thursday sealed a raft of landmark pacts spanning civil nuclear energy, maritime security and critical minerals sectors, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese reinforced the vital role of the bilateral partnership in ensuring a peaceful Indo-Pacific.

The agreement on civil nuclear energy to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to fuel New Delhi's nuclear power projects came nearly 12 years after the two countries inked a historic civil nuclear cooperation pact.

In another significant decision, India and Australia decided to work expeditiously to firm up the proposed Comprehensive Economic

In another significant decision, India and Australia decided to work expeditiously to firm up the proposed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement as well as a bilateral investment protection framework



Cooperation Agreement as well as a bilateral investment protection framework.

A joint declaration on defence and security cooperation, a maritime security collaboration roadmap, a joint statement on energy

security and a partnership for cyber, critical technologies and supply chains were among 18 pacts signed following summit talks between the two prime ministers. Modi described as "unparalleled" the outcomes

from his talks with Albanese, especially in areas of renewable energy, climate action, nuclear energy, critical minerals, technology and education.

The agreements sealed at the summit also included one between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Maritime Border Command (MBC) of Australia and it will provide cooperation in the fields of maritime law enforcement, domain awareness, and maritime border protection.

The two sides also vowed to work closely in shipbuilding, ship repair and maintenance.

Modi landed in Australia from Indonesia on the second leg of his three-nation tour that is aimed at boosting trade, energy and defence ties against the backdrop of an increasingly fractured geopolitical environment.

US ends strikes on Iran after hitting 90 targets

DUBAI

THE US military said Thursday it had concluded its latest round of airstrikes on Iran after striking about 90 targets, according to a statement from US Central Command.

The military released black-and-white footage that appeared to show strikes on an airport runway and missile launchers.

"US forces remain vigilant, lethal, and prepared to execute operations directed by the Commander in Chief," Central Command said.

US airstrikes in Iran over the past two days have killed at least 14 people and injured 78 others, according to Iran's Health Ministry.

Missile alert sirens sounded in Jordan on Thursday as Iran retaliated across the wider Middle East over US airstrikes targeting it. The sirens could be heard in Amman, Jordan's capital, and

Missile alert sirens sound in Jordan as Iran retaliates; US airstrikes have killed at least 14 people and injured 78 others



Jordanian media said sirens also sounded in other areas of the kingdom. There was no immediate information provided from authorities.

Trump claimed that Iran wants to strike a deal with Washington, DC 'badly', while expressing uncertainty over Tehran's willingness to honour the deal.

He said that the Iranian

leadership called to make a deal after US forces started conducting additional strikes against Tehran. "We have already won militarily. They have very little left... They called a little while ago. They want to make a deal so badly. I just don't know if they're worthy of making a deal. I don't know that they're going to honour the deal," he said.

Thieves steal electrical wire in Bihar, train services hit

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GAYA

THIEVES allegedly cut and stole an overhead electrical wire between Tehta and Jehanabad railway stations in Bihar, disrupting train services for nearly three hours on Thursday, officials said.

The Railway Protection Force has recovered the stolen material, and an investigation is underway to nab the accused.

Talking to PTI, East Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Saraswati Chandra said, "Thieves cut a 25,000-volt OHE wire (roughly around 100 meters) at



3.05 am on Thursday between Tehta and Jehanabad stations in the Gaya-Patna section, disrupting train services. Affected down trains were operated under single-line working. The electrical wire was repaired by railway staff and declared fit at 6.26 am, the CPRO added.

CBI-DRI bust wildlife trafficking racket

NEW DELHI: From star tortoises and slow lorises to Egyptian vultures and Shikra birds, 53 protected animals and birds were rescued after the CBI and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted an inter-state wildlife trafficking racket in a joint operation, officials said on Thursday. Six accused were arrested in Mumbai and Kolkata, they said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a statement said the operation, carried out with support from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), led to the rescue of 15 slow lorises, two binturong, 28 star tortoises, six Egyptian vultures and two shikra birds, all protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Southwest monsoon covers entire country

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE southwest monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab, covering the entire country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

The department said that there has been a delay of a day in the monsoon, covering the whole country, as it normally takes place on July 8.

The monsoon onset over Kerala this year took place on June 4, marking the beginning of the southwest monsoon season (June-September) in the country. Usually, the arrival of the monsoon in the state occurs on June 1.

So far in July, India has witnessed a large surplus of



rainfall, while the normal rainfall in the first nine days of the month is 73.8 mm, the country as a whole has seen 101.9 mm of rainfall.

Note that in its monthly forecast on June 30, the IMD had predicted rain across the country in the first seven to 10 days of the month.

However, it added that July will be drier than usual, with rainfall across the country expected to be 94 per cent of the long-period average (LPA).

LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

Once-a-week diabetes injection launched

NEW DELHI: Danish pharma major Novo Nordisk on Thursday launched in India its once-weekly basal insulin injection, 'Awiqli' indicated for treatment of diabetes in adults. The company is introducing Awiqli in two pen representations of 700 units and 2,100 units, with per unit cost of Rs 3.73. Novo Nordisk India Managing Director, Vikrant Shrotriya told PTI. "It is a modern therapy, and we (India) are the seventh country to launch (the injection)," he added. Explaining the advantages of Awiqli, Shrotriya said in usual therapies patients with diabetes normally will have to take insulin injection every day, which leads to people actually denying insulin as "they think that they have to take every day and they have to take lifelong".

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

MANJUL

Probe call records of all those employed in Ram temple: Akhilesh

'The moment the CDRs are scrutinised, 99.9 per cent of them will turn out to be BJP people. You cannot imagine the 'bhagdad' (turmoil) that will break out within the BJP then'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

UPPING the ante on the Ram temple donation issue, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday demanded that the

call detail records of all those employed in the temple in Ayodhya be examined and claimed that 99.9 per cent of them would have links with the BJP. He stated that such a



revelation would trigger a "turmoil" within the ruling BJP. Talking to reporters here, Yadav also accused

the BJP of placing electoral considerations above religious values. Referring to the SIT probe into the alleged

embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple, he said the probe has become a matter of discussion "in every household". "All the call detail records (CDR) of those who were working in the temple complex should be examined.

The moment the CDRs are scrutinised, 99.9 per cent of them will turn out to be BJP people. You cannot imagine the 'bhagdad' (turmoil) that will break out within the BJP then.

The exodus has already

begun and many people have already started contacting us," Yadav claimed. Raising a question mark on the SIT, Yadav said, "What SIT is this? It is merely an attempt to cover up the matter. Who constituted this SIT? We are also hearing that questions have been raised about the SIT itself. One of its members is facing a cheating case. Tell me, will such a person continue to be part of the SIT?"

"This is a much bigger fight than you think. You

are not able to understand it. It is a fight between Delhi and Lucknow. If the people in Delhi (Centre) wanted a proper investigation, agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Income Tax Department would have conducted the probe," he said.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also alleged that the BJP changes its ideology according to electoral convenience.

WINDOWS

7 digital media outlets booked over communal content

PUTTUR: Police have registered seven cases against web news portals and social media accounts for allegedly spreading communally provocative content linked to an incident at Purusharakatte in Puttur on July 8. All cases were booked under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, at Puttur City Police Station. The outlets include Puttur Chavadi Instagram, Hosadiganta, Zoomintv.online, newsfocuskannada.com, Udayavani, PrakharaNews.com, and the Karnataka Portfolio Twitter handle. Police said the platforms misrepresented facts of the July 8 incident and portrayed it as a Hindu-Muslim clash, thereby disturbing communal harmony. Cases were registered based on complaints from local residents. The Dakshina Kannada police have warned of strict action against similar attempts to inflame communal tensions. Investigation is in progress.

Home dept refuses sanction, 4 cops dropped from scam case

BENGALURU: Four police officers accused in the Karnataka Bitcoin scam have been dropped from the case after the Home Department refused to grant sanction for filing a chargesheet. The officers are DySP Sridhar Poojar, Police Inspector Chandradhar, Police Inspector D.M. Prashanth Babu and Police Inspector LakshmiKanthaiah. The CID SIT, which was investigating the case, has now submitted a B-Report to the court, effectively closing the proceedings against the four officers. The allegations against them involved illegal transfer of Bitcoins worth Rs. 1.83 crore through international hacker Sriki. It was claimed that the officers, along with cyber expert Santosh Kumar, had misused the crypto wallets belonging to Sriki and Robin Khandewal. Under existing rules, prior sanction from the Home Department is mandatory before filing a chargesheet against government officers. Since the department rejected the proposal for prosecution sanction, the CID SIT had no option but to submit the B-Report and remove the four officers from the case. The investigation against the main accused, cyber expert Santosh Kumar, is continuing. Strong evidence has been gathered against him regarding the illegal transfer of Bitcoins from Robin Khandewal's wallet, involvement in cheating and tampering with evidence.

CISF jawan killed in Mangaluru while on leave

MANGALURU: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan on leave was tragically killed in a road accident in Mangaluru on Wednesday, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Sitaram Gowda, a resident of Putye in Koyila village, Kadaba taluk, Dakshina Kannada district. He was posted at the Central Jail in Jammu and had returned home on leave on July 3. According to police, Gowda had visited his native village on Monday to submit documents related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. While returning towards Mangaluru, he met with a serious road accident near the KPT area in Kadri police limits. Gowda sustained critical injuries in the crash and was declared dead before he could be shifted to a hospital. The exact cause and circumstances of the accident are still under investigation. Police have registered a case and initiated further probe. The news of Gowda's untimely death has cast a pall of gloom over his village in Koyila-Kadaba, where he was widely respected. His body is expected to be handed over to the family after the completion of post-mortem formalities. Details regarding the last rites are awaited. Gowda is survived by his family members in Dakshina Kannada.

Shivakumar receives grand welcome on first visit to Belagavi as CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BELAGAVI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar received a grand welcome from Congress leaders, legislators and thousands of party workers during his first visit to Belagavi after assuming office as Chief Minister.

Shivakumar arrived at Samba Airport on a special flight from Bengaluru, where enthusiastic supporters greeted him with chants of "DK... DK...", showered flower petals, presented bouquets and celebrated his arrival amid a festive atmosphere. Among those who welcomed the Chief Minister were Ministers M.B. Patil and Satish Jarkiholi, MLAs Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Ashok Pattan, Babasaheb Patil, Asif Sait, Vijayanand Kashappanavar, Mahendra Thammannavar, Vishwas Vaidya, Belagavi District Congress President Vinay Navalagatti, and several senior party leaders. Shivakumar later received a ceremonial guard of hon-



our from the police. Thousands of Congress workers had gathered outside the airport, where flower petals were showered from JCB machines as the Chief Minister's convoy passed by. Supporters also burst crackers and raised slogans in celebration. Speaking

to reporters before leaving the airport, Shivakumar said his ongoing tour across Karnataka is aimed at reviewing the prevailing rainfall situation, assessing crop conditions and monitoring development works. "My tour began in Basavakalyan and continued

through Bidar and Kalaburagi. Today, I have reached Belagavi. Along with ministers, I will hold meetings with local legislators to review development projects and discuss issues concerning the people of this region," the Chief Minister said.

Headmistress spends Rs 2 lakh for govt school renovation on her son's birthday

The school with 90 students from Class I to VII has its walls artistically designed to resemble railway coaches, creating an attractive and child-friendly environment that has delighted students and villagers alike

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HAVERI

AT a time when many parents prefer private schools citing poor infrastructure in government institutions, a government school headmistress in Karnataka has won widespread appreciation by choosing to celebrate her son's birthday in a unique way. Instead of spending on a lavish celebration, she used her personal savings to renovate the school where she serves, giving it a vibrant new look. Umair Salma Kadoor, headmistress of the Government Urdu School at Hamsabavi village in Hirekerur taluk, spent nearly Rs 2 lakh from her savings to repaint the entire campus. The school walls



have been artistically designed to resemble railway coaches, creating an attractive and child-friendly environment that has delighted students and villagers alike. The school, which has over 90 students from Classes 1 to 7, had remained without proper painting for several years, leaving the campus dull and unattractive. Parents had also expressed concern over the condition of the school.

Determined to improve the campus, Umair Salma discussed the proposal with members of the School Development and Monitoring Committee. She volunteered to bear the entire cost of painting the school as a birthday tribute to her 26-year-old son, Malik Rehan, while requesting the committee to take care

of the annual school function expenses. Following the renovation, the school has been transformed into a colourful learning space. The railway coach-themed artwork has generated excitement among students, many of whom say they now feel as though they are entering a train every time they come to school. The initiative has drawn praise from residents, parents and educationists, who described it as an inspiring example of social responsibility.

Instead of spending money on a private celebration, the headmistress chose to invest in the future of her students, demonstrating how personal milestones can be turned into meaningful contributions to society.

Six killed in head-on collision on Arvail Ghat
Three critically injuredHANS NEWS SERVICE
YELLAPUR

IN a horrific road accident on the treacherous Arvail Ghat (Aratibailu Ghat) in Yellapur taluk of Uttara Kannada district, six people were killed on the spot and three others sustained critical injuries on Thursday morning.

The victims, all residents of Dharwad district, were travelling in a Cruiser (multi-utility vehicle) for a leisure trip to Gokarna. The incident occurred when their vehicle collided head-on with a lorry coming from the opposite direction on the Yellapur-Ankola National Highway.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the Cruiser was completely mangled, leaving little chance of survival for the six occupants. Local residents and rescue personnel rushed the three injured individuals to a nearby hospital, where their condition is reported to be critical.

Yellapur police reached the spot immediately after receiving information, conducted an inspection, and shifted the bodies for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered, and an investigation into the exact cause of the accident is underway. Factors such as vehicle speed, road conditions on the ghat section, and possible driver fatigue are likely to be examined.

This stretch of the highway, known for its winding ghats and challenging terrain, has witnessed several accidents in the past. Authorities often urge motorists to exercise extreme caution while navigating the area, especially during early morning and night hours. Further details regarding the identities of the deceased are awaited.

Leopard spotted near Magadi Main Road

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

A leopard was spotted in the Byadarahalli and Bharat Nagar areas near Magadi Main Road in Bengaluru early on Thursday morning. The animal appeared around 4 AM close to NICE Road and was immediately noticed by local residents, creating widespread fear in the neighbourhood.

Forest department officials reached the spot quickly after receiving information about the sighting. They immediately began an operation to capture the leopard. Teams have placed traps in several locations and have also used firecrackers to drive the animal out of hiding.

Residents of the area stated that this is the first time in the past ten years that a leopard has been seen in this locality. The sudden appearance has left many people anxious and worried about their safety. Local residents have strongly urged the forest department to capture the leopard at the earliest.

First plastic-free climate action 'Walk and Run' in capital on July 12

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

BENGALURU will hold its first-ever plastic-free walk and run event on Sunday, July 12, when the Climate Action Walk & Run 2026 brings together over 1,500 people at St. Joseph's Indian High School Grounds on Vittal Mallya Road.

The gathering, organised by Hasirotsava Forum and Suraksha Enviro Solutions in association with the Karnataka Jesuit Province Ecology Commission, is designed to encourage sustainable living and united action on climate issues. Participants are required to report by 5:30 AM, with the flag-off scheduled for 6:30 AM.

Arathi R, Co-Founder and Director of Hasirotsava Forum, explained that the event has been planned as a low-impact and environmentally conscious



public activity. Organisers have completely removed single-use plastics and introduced sustainable options such as seed paper race bibs and wristbands, along with other responsible practices in event management. The goal is to show that even large community gatherings can be conducted without sacrificing environmental standards.

The walk and run will include environmentalists, runners, students, corporate professionals, families and volunteers who will come together to spread awareness about climate change, cut down plastic pollution and promote simple sustainable habits in daily life.

Described as a community-driven movement, the event seeks to motivate citizens to take small yet meaningful steps toward protecting the environment and creating a greener future for everyone.

Charred body murder case solved with ATM footage, supply chain trail

AP police solve blind murder case using papad packet clue

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALLARI

ANANTAPUR district police have solved a blind murder case in which a completely charred body was found with almost no clues. The victim has been identified as Gururaju Rao, a deaf and mute happala (papad) trader originally from Ballari. Police arrested two men from Ballari — Basavaraju, aged 31, and Kotresh,

aged 36 — both of whom are also deaf and mute. The body was discovered on June 23 in an agricultural field near Pulakurthi village in D. Hirehal mandal. It had been burned beyond recognition. During a thorough search of the spot, forensic experts recovered a partially burned Kannada newspaper, burned clothes, a sacred thread and, most importantly, a small papad packet. This packet became the key



clue that helped crack the case. Police traced the manufacturer details on the packet and travelled to Chennai. By following the supply chain, they established a connection to Ballari. Inquiries in Ballari revealed that Gururaju Rao, a deaf and mute happala trader, had been missing. The Kannada newspaper and sacred thread found at the scene helped confirm that the charred body was his. Further investigation showed that the accused had used the victim's ATM card to withdraw money after the murder.

'Public service is the highest duty of governance'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BELAGAVI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday delivered a strong message on administrative accountability, public service and governance, warning that dereliction of duty by government officials would not be tolerated.

Addressing the Belagavi Divisional Progress Review Meeting at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister said the government is committed to development, transparency and administrative discipline while ensuring that governance reaches the doorstep of every citizen. "People have elected us to govern. It is now our responsibility to take the government to their doorsteps. Public service is the true duty of administration," Shivakumar said.

He reminded officials that while elected repre-

sentatives seek a public mandate once every five years, civil servants are accountable to the people every single day. "Failure to discharge one's duties is not merely an administrative lapse; it is a betrayal of public trust," he said.

Emphasising discipline within the administration, Shivakumar warned that officials found using mobile phones during official review meetings would face immediate suspension. "If any officer is seen talking on a mobile phone during the meeting, the suspension order will be ready before the meeting concludes. Discipline is the first rule of administration," he said.

The Chief Minister directed district and taluk-level officials to reside within their respective jurisdictions and remain accessible to the public. "Officials should be among the people, not confined within office walls. Citizens should

not be forced to move from one office to another for minor issues. Problems must be resolved at the local level wherever possible," he said.

He also instructed senior district officials to maintain daily records of field visits and the work carried out by subordinate officers. "Good governance is measured by effective field administration. Every official's field visits and grievance redressal efforts must be monitored regularly," he added.

Focus on citizen-centric governance

Shivakumar directed officials to strengthen the functioning of the Praja Seva Department, established to ensure faster resolution of public grievances. He said ministers, legislators and officials should proactively engage with citizens, adopting the government's Janaspadana model to resolve grievances promptly within



the framework of the law. The Chief Minister stressed that future urban expansion must be scientific and well-planned.

"There will be no room for unplanned layouts. Cities and towns must be developed keeping the needs of future generations in mind, and government policies must be implemented in both letter and spirit," he said.

E-Khata expansion across

Karnataka Highlighting reforms in the Revenue Department, Shivakumar described the state's e-Khata initiative as a model for the country. "The system delivers e-Khata services to citizens without any additional cost. It will now be expanded beyond Bengaluru to every district in Karnataka," he said.

Announcing new initiatives in the education sector, the Chief Minister said the

government would establish CSR Schools on the lines of the successful KPS Schools model to improve educational opportunities for rural students.

He said the government aims to develop 10 to 20 high-quality schools in every constituency through partnerships with industry under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. To improve employment opportunities for young people, Shivakumar announced the launch of the Yuva Udyoga Setu programme, which will connect students and job seekers with opportunities in the private sector.

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Chief Minister said the exercise must remain free from political interference. "Every eligible citizen's right to vote must be protected. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should visit every household at least three times, and no eligible voter

should be left out," he said. He also announced plans to establish 10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas across Karnataka, with each organisation receiving Rs 10 lakh in government assistance to promote constitutional values, communal harmony and the message of universal brotherhood inspired by poet Kuvempu.

Statewide audit of government land

The Chief Minister directed officials to conduct a comprehensive audit of government land across the state. "The government must have accurate records of every inch of public land.

A major programme to provide house sites to landless families will be launched soon," he said. Reiterating his government's priorities, Shivakumar said development, transparency and discipline would remain the three guiding principles of the administration.

IN BRIEF
Two tankers gutted after petrol-laden vehicle catches fire

BENGALURU: A petrol-laden tanker caught fire after crashing into a tree on Thursday, and the blaze spread to a milk tanker, gutting both vehicles, police said. The accident occurred at around 9.45 am near Doddaballapura in Bengaluru Rural district, they said. According to police, the petrol tanker crashed into a tree before catching fire, and the flames quickly spread to a nearby milk tanker. Both vehicles were completely gutted in the blaze. Police are investigating the exact cause of the accident and trying to ascertain whether the petrol tanker hit the tree while attempting to avoid a head-on collision with another truck that was reportedly reversing. Both drivers escaped unhurt after jumping out of their respective vehicles, police said. Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames, bringing the situation under control. A case has been registered at Doddabellavangala police station, and further investigation is underway.

Choice International's strategic investment

BENGALURU: Choice International Ltd has announced a strategic partnership with South Korea's NH Investment & Securities (NHIS), with the global financial major investing Rs 9,000 million (Rs 900 crore) in Choice Equity Broking Pvt. Ltd., the broking and wealth management arm of the company. The investment will be made through Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS), strengthening Choice's expansion plans in India's rapidly growing capital markets.

NBC hospital promises treatment at 30-40% lower cost

BENGALURU: A newly launched cancer care facility in Bengaluru has announced that it will provide comprehensive oncology treatment at 30-40 per cent lower cost than corporate hospitals, aiming to make quality cancer care more affordable while reducing treatment dropouts caused by financial constraints. Speaking at the launch of ARC Cancer Hospital, Founder and Chairman Dr. Dinesh Mavinahalli Gangaiah said the hospital has been established to bridge the gap between expensive private hospitals and government institutions by offering integrated, protocol-based cancer treatment under one roof. He said patients often discontinue treatment midway because of escalating costs and the need to visit multiple hospitals for surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and other specialised services.

Relaxo footwear expands presence

BENGALURU: Relaxo Footwears Ltd., India's largest footwear manufacturer, has strengthened its retail footprint in south India by opening four new Exclusive Brand Outlets (EBOs) in Bengaluru at JP Nagar, Attibele, Channasandra and Magadi Road, taking its nationwide store count to 429. The new stores were inaugurated by actor Adah Sharma, who also interacted with customers during the launch event. The expansion is part of the company's strategy to enhance its retail presence and deliver a more seamless shopping experience.

MG Group Unveils 'Starz' Premium Coach

BENGALURU: MG Group, one of India's leading bus and coach manufacturers, has unveiled its next-generation premium coach platform, 'Starz', at Pravaas 2026, reinforcing its focus on safer, smarter and sustainable passenger mobility. Developed through extensive customer feedback and market insights, the new platform combines contemporary design, advanced engineering, enhanced passenger comfort and improved operational efficiency.

Complaints filed with Lokayukta on misuse of Rs 2,000 cr meant for road infra

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) has formally filed two separate complaints with the Karnataka Lokayukta, demanding a thorough investigation into the irregular allocation and diversion of public money meant for the development of road infrastructure in the city. This follows the party's expose that revealed serious irregularities in how the funds were used across 28 constituencies. In its complaint, BNP has demanded a comprehensive,

transparent audit of the Rs 2,000 crore package and the immediate rollback of the unequal fund distribution. "We believe that a formal complaint with the Lokayukta was the next logical step towards forcing accountability from the authorities. We officially recorded our dissatisfaction that large sums from the Rs 2,000 crore package meant for road development has been channelled into the construction of MLA offices, name boards, and multi-purpose buildings that have nothing to do with road safety. Bengaluru has become

the deadliest metropolitan city for deaths due to civic negligence, primarily due to short term responses taking precedence over the root cause. "Every single day, citizens are suffering, navigating hazardous potholes, severe waterlogging, and crumbling infrastructure that put lives at risk. The government needs to be empathetic to the daily struggles of the public and prioritize basic human safety over political manoeuvring. It is unacceptable that funds explicitly meant for road upgrades are being callously

Allocation across 28 constituencies in Bengaluru was pushed through without any disclosed objective formula, resulting in disproportionately higher funding being allocated to Congress-run constituencies, says Bengaluru NavaNirman Party

diverted to disconnected political projects." Both complaints highlight a systemic misuse and partisan distribution of public funds earmarked for road development in Bengaluru. Specifically, the complaints allege that the Rs 2,000 crore allocation across 28 constituencies was pushed through

without any disclosed objective formula, resulting in disproportionately higher funding being allocated to Congress run constituencies compared to opposition run constituencies. The complaints further state that over 30% of the Rs 2,000 crore Action Plan (Rs 662 crore) includes projects



with substantial non-road components with approximately Rs 274 crore has been allocated to 60 standalone projects that are entirely un-

related to road infrastructure, raising serious questions about the legality of their inclusion in a road infrastructure grant.

'Blood protest' intensifies against Bidadi Township

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE agitation against the proposed Bidadi Township project intensified on Thursday as farmers in Bhairamangala village of Bengaluru South district launched a symbolic "blood protest," declaring they were willing to shed blood but not part with their agricultural land. The protesters pricked their fingers and dropped blood on the township layout map, raising slogans of "We will give our blood, not our land." Farmers and women participants demanded that the state government immediately withdraw the township proposal, warning that they would intensify the agitation if their concerns were ignored.

Justice Santosh Hegde backs farmers



The protest received a major boost with the participation of former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde, who expressed solidarity with the agitating farmers. At the protest venue, he drafted and submitted a memorandum urging the government not to acquire agricultural land forcibly in

the name of development. Addressing the gathering, Justice Hegde said he had ignored medical advice to stay indoors because he could not remain silent while farmers were protesting on the streets. He stressed that no development was possible without protecting agriculture.

"Artificial Intelligence cannot feed people. If agriculture declines, the country will face serious consequences in the future," he said. Hegde also criticised the destruction of lakes and green spaces for urban expansion, questioning the government's valuation of mature trees at Rs 40,000 without considering the decades required to grow them. "Governance means understanding the pain of farmers. Taking away their livelihood and asking them to do some other work is not development," he said. He assured the protesters that he would continue supporting their movement and urged the government to protect farmers and fertile agricultural land before pursuing large-scale development projects.

Yogish Gowda murder case HC reserves verdict on Kulkarni's appeal against life sentence

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Karnataka High Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on the appeal filed by former Karnataka minister and Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni challenging the life imprisonment imposed on him by a Special Court for People's Representatives in the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogish Gowda. The Division Bench, comprising Justice Mohammed Nawaz and Justice G. Basavaraja, concluded hearing arguments from both sides and reserved its judgment. Kulkarni has sought the suspension of his conviction and life sentence, along with bail pending disposal of his appeal. The outcome of the High Court's order is expected to have significant legal and political implications, including on the continuation of his membership in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.



Appearing for Kulkarni, senior counsel argued that the former minister had no role in the conspiracy or execution of the murder and contended that he had been falsely implicated due to political rivalry. The defence maintained that the trial court had erred in appreciating the evidence and urged the High Court to suspend the sentence and grant him bail while the appeal is heard. Opposing the plea, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) submitted that Kulkarni had allegedly used his political influence to orchestrate the conspiracy behind the murder of Yogish Gowda. The agency argued that the conspiracy extended beyond the killing

itself and included attempts to shield the real assailants by arranging for fake accused to surrender before the court, thereby misleading the investigation. The CBI contended that the gravity of the offence and the evidence on record did not warrant suspension of sentence or grant of bail. The case dates back to June 15, 2016, when BJP Zilla Panchayat member Yogish Gowda was hacked to death inside a gym in Dharwad. The investigation was initially conducted by the Dharwad Sub-Urban Police, which later filed a B-report. However, Gowda's family alleged that the investigation was inadequate and accused influential persons of attempting to derail the probe.

Bengaluru's second airport to come up in south of city: CM

Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said the city's second airport, planned to decongest Kempegowda International Airport, will come up in South Bengaluru. He said officials have been asked to submit a proposal to the central government after considering a location where land cost is low, which is technically feasible, and not too hilly. The CM chaired a meeting with Minister for Infrastructure Development M B Patil and top officials regarding the second airport near Bengaluru. "Regarding the airport, we discussed what happened in the past. We asked to ensure that no villages are disturbed and villagers should not be displaced," Shivakumar told reporters after the meeting. "We asked officials to submit a proposal to the central government after considering a location where the land cost is low, which is technically feasible, and not too hilly," he added. The CM said no specific site had been named yet,



but it would be in the South, as were the previously proposed sites. "We asked them to look for a location where land prices are low, so it doesn't burden the state government, and where no villages need to be displaced. A few scattered houses are not an issue, as they can be compensated, but villages should not be shifted for the project," he added. In the state budget presented in March, then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said that to decongest Kempegowda International Airport, which has emerged as the country's third-largest

airport, a second airport would be developed in Bengaluru, for which a feasibility report would be prepared after obtaining technical advice from the Airports Authority of India. AAI officials have already visited the three sites that were earlier shortlisted for Bengaluru's second international airport. The state government had shortlisted three locations: two on Kanakapura Road near Harohalli (South Bengaluru) and one on Kunigal Road in Nelamangala (to the west of the city).

Alliance University welcomes MBA cohort 2026-28 with an inspiring inaugural ceremony

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

ALLIANCE University inaugurated its MBA Batch of 2026-28 with a grand inaugural ceremony at its Central Campus on Thursday, welcoming a new cohort of future business leaders. The programme reflected the University's vision of nurturing innovation-driven, socially responsible, and globally competent professionals equipped to lead in an evolving business landscape. The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the University Invocation Song, symbolising the beginning of the students' academic journey. The event was attended by the University's leadership, distinguished industry experts, faculty members, and the newly admitted MBA students. Welcoming the gathering, Dr. Ray Titus, Pro Vice-Chancellor - Innovation and Incubation and Dean, Alliance School of Business, traced the remarkable growth of the School of Business and reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and strong industry engagement. Speaking about



the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence, he observed that while technology will continue to reshape industries, the future will belong to individuals who demonstrate originality, creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to solve complex business challenges. Delivering the inaugural address, Abhay G. Chebbi, Pro Chancellor, Alliance University, highlighted India's emergence as a global innovation powerhouse, pointing to landmark initiatives such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the country's thriving startup ecosystem. Encouraging students to maximise every learning opportunity, he urged them to move beyond classroom education, embrace experiential learning, and develop

into ethical leaders and responsible citizens capable of creating meaningful impact in society. Addressing the students, Dr. B. Priestly Shan, Vice-Chancellor, Alliance University, described the MBA programme as a transformative two-year journey that extends beyond academics. He encouraged students to cultivate curiosity, resilience, discipline, and a problem-solving mindset while leveraging the University's transdisciplinary ecosystem spanning research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration. He also highlighted the institution's vibrant startup ecosystem and its continued commitment to supporting entrepreneurial aspirations. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Jai Advani,

Managing Director, PwC, who shared valuable insights from his professional journey. Emphasising the growing influence of technology on businesses and careers, he encouraged students to remain adaptable, embrace lifelong learning, and invest in building strong professional relationships and networks that will support their future careers. The ceremony concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Surekha Shetty, Registrar General, Alliance University. She encouraged the incoming students to make every day of their MBA journey meaningful by upholding the University's values of excellence, integrity, innovation, and purposeful leadership while contributing positively to society.

CEO's notices to 35 BLOs prove SIR irregularities: HDK

BENGALURU

UNION Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday said the Karnataka CEO's decision to issue notices to over 35 BLOs was itself proof that irregularities had taken place during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in the state. He also accused the state government of attempting to divert attention from the issue. Kumaraswamy recalled that senior leaders from both the BJP and JD(S) had recently met the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar as well as the central Election Commission and submitted representations highlighting the ground realities during the Special Intensive Revision implementation. "We provided sufficient material for the EC to take action and issue directions to the BLOs and district magistrates," the union minister for Heavy Industries & Steel told reporters here. Following the representation, Kumaraswamy said the EC had assured that it would take necessary action if required. "Therefore, we are not worried. Several illegal activities are taking place, and that is precisely the issue we raised before the EC," he claimed. He said the Karnataka CEO has issued notices

to more than 35 booth-level officers. "Why were notices issued to 35 BLOs? Because there were irregularities. That itself shows the irregularities are real. However, due to interference from the state government, despite several mistakes and illegal activities committed by BLOs, attempts are being made to divert the issue by talking about something else," he claimed. Commenting on the Cauvery river-sharing issue with neighbouring Tamil Nadu, the minister said the dispute has to be fought legally and requested the leaders of all parties in Tamil Nadu to cooperate. "We have to

fight it legally. I would like to request the leaders of all parties in Tamil Nadu — we are like brothers and sisters. Whatever water God gives us, we should share fairly from the reservoirs. For that, they must cooperate with us," he said. Claiming that the farming community has been neglected, the minister urged the state government to immediately take care of farmers' interests. "This government is currently facing two kinds of disasters — floods on one side and drought on the other. In both situations, the farming community has been neglected," he alleged. Pointing out that there

is no agriculture minister in the cabinet at present, Kumaraswamy said the responsibility rests with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. "He (the CM) should issue immediate directions to all deputy commissioners to protect the interests of farmers," he said. Kumaraswamy urged the Karnataka government to immediately release water from the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir to protect standing crops in Mandya district, saying the crops are drying up. He said the government had earlier not released water to farmers, citing insufficient storage in the KRS reservoir. However,

with inflows into the reservoir increasing now, there is a need to release water for irrigation, he said. "There was no need to neglect the interests of Karnataka's farmers. Water can be released to Tamil Nadu after the reservoir fills up, and any surplus water will naturally flow downstream. At present, the priority should be to release water into the canals for farmers," he said. On the Hindustan Machine Tools land row, the union minister hit out at former Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, claiming that the HMT land has no connection whatsoever with the forest department and

that the department has no rights over the property. He said those making allegations should first verify the official records. Strongly objecting to Minister Khandre's remarks regarding a notice issued by a forest official over the HMT land, Kumaraswamy said the former forest minister appeared to have an "unusual interest" in the HMT property and questioned the reason behind it.





Alliance with Cong depends on resolution of public issues: CPI national secy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

NATIONAL CPI secretary Palla Venkat Reddy on Thursday said the alliance between the Congress and the Communist parties would continue only if the government sincerely addresses public issues. He urged the government to demonstrate its commitment to people-centric governance by issuing pattas and constructing Indiramma houses for the poor of Gundla Singaram.

Reddy, along with CPI State assistant secretary Takkallapalli Srinivasa Rao and MLC Nellikanti Satyam, visited Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy Nagar at Gundla Singaram, where houses

were recently demolished. They inspected the demolished Sudhakar Reddy Bhavan and hundreds of huts, interacted with the affected families, and enquired about their problems.

Addressing a meeting chaired by CPI district assistant secretary Thota Bikshapathi, Reddy demanded the government fulfil the poll promises.

He criticised the government for demolishing the huts after coming to power despite promising an "Indiramma Rajyam". Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy should emulate the welfare-oriented approach of former CM YSR by addressing the concerns of the poor and earning their trust.

He demanded eligible poor

living in huts at Gundla Singaram and across the State be provided pattas and Indiramma houses.

Srinivasa Rao stated that there is no tank buffer land in survey nos 174 and 175 of Gundla Singaram and recalled that during the tenure of YSR, sites were allotted to 1,360 poor in the area. Poor families have been residing there in huts for the past five years following the party's land rights movement.

Satyam assured the issue of allotting pattas to every eligible family in Gundla Singaram would be taken to the CM's notice and raised in the council. He advised the poor to continue struggle until they secure their rightful pattas.



Old Mumbai highway, DLF street



Nallagandla circle

Rain-battered roads in Cyb'bad give motorists a harrowing time

Damaged roads, hidden potholes and waterlogging leave commuters struggling across Gachibowli, Nallagandla and Tellapur

GOUDA SWIYACHANDRA
HYDERABAD

WITH the onset of the rainy season, the main roads and internal roads of the colonies within the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) area are becoming worse. Due to the intermittent rains, the BT layer has been washed away in many places, resulting in potholes and gravel being exposed.

As rainwater accumulates in the potholes, motorists are unable to estimate their depth, leading to accidents.

In particular, incidents of two-wheeler riders losing control and falling and sustaining serious injuries are increasing day by day. If this is the case now, people are expressing concern that the condition of the city roads is likely to worsen after the heavy rains.

Roads in Serilingampalli zone areas such as Gachibowli, DLF Junction, Nallagandla, Janardhan Reddy flyover, Old MIG Tellapur and the lanes leading to the Old Mumbai National Highway in Cyberabad have been severely damaged.

Employees are facing serious problems due to the formation of potholes on many roads connected to the IT corridor. In the recent light rain, water flowed on the roads in Aminpur and Tellapur



Gachibowli, DLF

areas and gravel came up, increasing the risk of vehicles slipping. Incidents of two-wheelers losing control and falling down due to failure to notice small potholes are frequently reported. The fact that potholes are not visible due to rainwater increases the severity of the accident.

The situation becomes even more dangerous at night. The risk of collision with vehicles coming from behind is also increasing as motorists suddenly change lanes to avoid potholes.

Traffic jams are also increasing due to the poor condition of roads. Employees and students travelling to offices and educational institutions are reaching their destinations late every day. Locals have expressed concern that emergency service vehicles are also being de-

layed due to traffic congestion and damaged roads.

Sandeep kumar, 26, a resident of Gachibowli, said that special attention be paid to the city's main roads and internal roads of colonies before the monsoon season begins in full force. He demanded permanent repairs with quality BT instead of temporarily filling the potholes.

He suggested strict measures be taken to restore the roads with scientific standards after pipeline, cable and other utility works.

Mohan, 32, an auto driver of UBER, said that the roads in DLF Street, Nallagandla Road and near the Janardhan Reddy Flyover are full of potholes and badly damaged. Every day we have to slow down or take detours to avoid accidents, which waste time and fuel.



Janardhan Reddy flyover

Passengers also complain about the bumpy ride, and our vehicles need frequent repairs. We urge the authorities to repair these roads at the earliest to ensure safe and smooth travel for everyone.

An officer of the Sherilingampally zone stated that they have taken note of the issues raised by the residents. The departments concerned have been instructed to take up the necessary works, and they will be completed at the earliest.

BJP appoints Erukala Ganapathi as State Executive member

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUPALAPALLY

ERUKALA Ganapathi from Bhupalpally district has been appointed as a member of the BJP State Executive, announced party's State unit president Ramachandrarao at the BJP state executive meeting held Hyderabad on Thursday.

Ganapathi expressed gratitude to the central ministers G Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Etala



Rajender, Bhupalpally constituency in-charge Keerthy Reddy, senior leaders

Vennampalli Papayya, Ramchandra Reddy, and district president Edunuthula Nishidhar Reddy for trusting him and giving him the opportunity in the state leadership. He joined the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in 1999 and led movements on student issues such as fee burdens and hostel facilities. He gained recognition in student activism while serving in roles from town secretary to state executive member.



New Jagtial-Hyderabad TSRTC bus service launched

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAGTIAL

GOOD news for commuters in Jagtial and its surrounding areas. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has launched new Super Luxury bus services connecting Jagtial district headquarters to Kukatpally in Hyderabad.

According to Transport officials, the decision to introduce

these new services was taken keeping in view the growing passenger rush and public demand.

To ensure hassle-free travel, these buses will operate two trips daily from both sides. The schedule is as follows:

From Jagtial to Kukatpally, the first bus will start at 3 am while the second bus leave Jagtial at 3pm.

On the other hand, the first

bus will start for Jagtial from Kukatpally at 9 am and the second one at 9:30 pm.

The grand inaugural event was attended by Jagtial Depot Manager Ramesh, CI Srinivas, and other depot staff. Speaking on the occasion, the officials

urged the public to utilize these newly launched Super Luxury services in large numbers to ensure a safe, secure, and comfortable journey.

Cong govt days in TG numbered; BRS poised for a comeback: KTR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao alleged that the Congress government in Telangana had lost public support and claimed that the party's political future in the state was nearing its end.

Speaking at a special review meeting with BRS leaders from the city at the residence of MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav in Jubilee Hills, Rama Rao said that even a survey reportedly commissioned by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy reflected growing public dissatisfaction with the government's performance and leadership after the completion of half of its term.

According to KTR, the survey suggested that if elections were held immediately, the BRS would secure around 78 Assembly seats and return to power. He further claimed that similar findings had emerged from opinion polls conducted by two media organisations as well as assessments by central and state intelligence agencies. KTR asserted that many people expressed a desire to see former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao return to office. KTR alleged that the Chief Minister's recent public statements were a reaction to the negative feedback reflected in these surveys. He accused the Congress government of attempting to divert attention from its administrative failures by levelling allegations on issues such as the Kaleshwaram project and the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

He also claimed that the government had failed to fulfil its election guarantees and promises, leading to widespread disappointment among different sections of society. The BRS leader further stated that public confidence in the Congress government had eroded and claimed that the people were increasingly viewing the BRS as the primary alternative, while showing little interest in other opposition parties.

Beware! SIR scammers on the prowl with OTP frauds

No OTP, bank details or personal information should be shared with callers claiming to be election officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls, the District Election Officer and Hyderabad police issued public advisory warning citizens about a rise in fraudulent phone calls made in the name of voter verification.

The advisory warns that fraudsters may impersonate Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or Election Commission officials and attempt to obtain One-Time Passwords (OTPs) from voters under the pretext of updating voter details or verifying names in the electoral roll. DEO RV Karnan has urged citizens not to fall for such scams, clarifying that the Election Commission of India (ECI) and BLOs will never ask voters to share their OTP over phone calls. Citizens have been advised to remain vigilant and refrain from sharing

OTPs, bank account details, or any personal information with unknown callers. The advisory further cautions voters never to share their OTP, bank account details, or any personal information with anyone over phone calls or messages. Citizens have been advised to use OTPs only on official ECI platforms while accessing or verifying voter-related services and never disclose them to any individual.

Hyderabad City police commissioner VC Sajjanar also posted an advisory by stating "Your vote is precious. So is your personal information. Don't let scammers steal your identity in the name of SIR-2026. Remember: No election official will ask for your OTP; never share OTPs or banking details over phone calls, hang up, report suspicious calls to 1930, and spread awareness, and one OTP shared can put your money and personal data at risk.

Authorities advised, in case of receiving such suspicious calls, voters have been advised to immediately disconnect the call, report the incident to the Cyber Crime Helpline 1930 or the nearest police station, and alert family members, friends, and especially senior citizens about the scam, who are often targeted by cyber fraudsters.

The authorities stressed that "One OTP shared can put your bank account and personal information at risk," urging citizens to spread awareness and ensure that their votes and personal data remain secure during the SIR-2026 exercise. Appealing to the public to remain cautious throughout the SIR-2026 process, the authorities are reminding voters that protecting personal information is as important as protecting their right to vote has also urged citizens to widely share the advisory to help protect fellow voters from cyber fraud.

El Niño effect: Uttam prods babus to come out with contingency plans

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH forecasts indicating the possibility of El Niño influencing the current monsoon, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday directed officials to be ready with comprehensive contingency plans to effectively tackle any challenges arising from the weather phenomenon.

Stating that Telangana could not remain immune if El Niño affected the country, the Minister called for seamless coordination among the Irrigation, Agriculture, and Meteorological Departments to minimise risks to agriculture and protect farmers' livelihoods. Chairing

a high-level review meeting on El Niño preparedness at the Secretariat, Uttam Kumar instructed officials to prepare detailed contingency plans at both the State and district levels, taking into account rainfall projections, groundwater availability, reservoir storage, irrigation potential and local cropping patterns. He said every district should be equipped with a clear response strategy to address any adverse impact arising from deficient rainfall or prolonged dry spells.

Following the review meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy held a video conference with District Collectors and senior officials of the Irrigation, Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, directing them to

immediately initiate district-specific preparedness measures and maintain constant coordination at the field level.

Emphasising scientific crop planning, the Minister advised farmers not to depend exclusively on traditional water-intensive crops wherever water availability was uncertain.

Instead, he directed officials to promote suitable alternative crops based on expected rainfall and available irrigation resources. Gram Sabhas, Rythu Vedikas and field-level extension programmes should be extensively utilised to create awareness among farmers about appropriate cropping choices and climate-resilient farming practices.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also

instructed officials to provide transparent information on reservoir storage and water availability so that farmers could make informed cultivation decisions. Agricultural scientists, he said, should ensure that technical recommendations on crop selection and cultivation practices reach every farmer well in advance of critical sowing decisions.

Reviewing the irrigation scenario, the Minister directed the Irrigation Department to keep all infrastructure ready to efficiently store inflows in the Godavari basin, including the Sripada Yellampalli Reservoir, immediately after substantial rainfall is received in the upstream catchments of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Farmers can now book subsidised urea through Mee Seva Kendras

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FARMERS across the state can now book their subsidised urea through MeeSeva Centres. The Telangana government on Thursday decided to facilitate farmers in easily booking urea without any problems and to maintain transparency.

The Commissioner, Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) - MeeSeva said in a statement that to enhance transparency and ensure timely distribution of urea, the state agriculture department has made urea booking service avail-

able through all MeeSeva Kendras across the state.

The decision was taken as farmers who are unable to book urea through the fertiliser booking app can visit their nearest MeeSeva Kendra and book urea with the help of an operator. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu will launch the new initiative in collaboration with the agriculture department.

Following the news facility, farmers have to first visit the nearest MeeSeva Kendra with their Pattadar Passbook (PPB) number. The MeeSeva operator will collect the farmer's details

and enter the cultivation area and crop details. Then the farmer will book the required quantity of urea with the fertiliser dealer he has selected. In turn, the Booking ID will be issued immediately after the farmer verifies the OTP sent to the registered mobile number.

However, farmers were informed that the Booking ID obtained through Mee Seva is valid for only 48 hours excluding the date of booking. Upon receiving the booking ID, farmers should contact their selected fertiliser dealer before the booking period ends to purchase urea. The

State Agriculture Department advised farmers to book urea either through the official fertiliser booking app or at Mee Seva Kendras. For this, farmers should ensure that the mobile number linked to their Pattadar Passbook is active so they can receive the OTP. The new facility can be availed by all farmers through MeeSeva at a nominal service fee of just Rs. 10. In case of any queries or assistance, they can contact the nearest Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO), Mandal Agricultural Officer (MAO), or the nearest MeeSeva centre.

Govt bets big on all-electric APSRTC, to buy 1,950 buses

- CM targets 100% electric RTC fleet by 2029 without job cuts
- Centre-backed funding slashes operating costs, brings Rs 1,774 cr incentive
- Assures depots remain with APSRTC, employees will be protected

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state has launched one of India's most ambitious public transport transitions, with the State government approving the induction of 1,950 new green buses as part of its plan to convert the entire APSRTC fleet of 10,661 buses with electric vehicles by 2029.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed APSRTC to procure only air-conditioned electric buses in



future, positioning the State's public transport system for a complete shift away from diesel under the AP State Electric Mobility Policy (SEMP) 4.0.

The government has approved procurement of 1,450 electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model and 500 CNG buses through direct purchase, with tenders already under way. Of these, the Centre has sanctioned 1,050 electric buses under the PM eBus Sewa Scheme, backed by substantial financial support

that significantly lowers APSRTC's costs. The Centre will bear 100 per cent of electrical infrastructure costs, 60 per cent of civil infrastructure costs, besides providing Rs 24 per km for 12-metre buses and Rs 22 per km for 9-metre buses for up to 10 lakh kilometres or 12 years.

The incentive package is expected to fetch about Rs 1,774 crore for APSRTC. The Centre has already sanctioned Rs 145.39 crore for charging and depot infrastructure.

Unlike earlier FAME-II contracts, the new procurement has been finalised at substantially lower operating costs through CESL, with 12-metre buses costing Rs 48.55 per km for the first 200 km and Rs 36.28 thereafter, while 9-metre buses will operate at Rs 40.17 per km, making electric operations commercially more attractive. To address concerns over privatisation, the government categorically clarified that APSRTC depots are not being leased to private operators. Operators will only use

designated garage space for charging and maintenance during the contract period, after which the facilities will revert entirely to APSRTC. The land will continue to remain with the Corporation. Equally significant, the Chief Minister reiterated that no APSRTC employee will lose his or her job because of electric buses. Employees shifted from depots undergoing electrification works will be redeployed and later brought back after commissioning. APSRTC is also floating India's first 'Dry Lease' model for electric buses to utilise surplus drivers while protecting employee interests.

The first phase will deploy 750 electric buses across 12 depots in 11 cities, while new greenfield e-bus depots are being developed at Simhapuri and Rajahmundry, with additional facilities planned at Tirupati, Tirumala, Kuppam and other locations as Andhra Pradesh accelerates its transition towards a fully electric public transport network.

AP sets new benchmark in paddy procurement

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has emerged as a national leader in paddy procurement by implementing farmer-friendly reforms that have significantly improved transparency, efficiency, and payment speed, food, civil supplies and consumer affairs minister Nandendra Manohar said on Thursday.

Speaking at a two-year review meeting on paddy procurement held here, the minister said the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, has introduced transformative changes in the procurement system to ensure greater confidence among farmers.

He said the state procured a record 74 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in its second year, compared to 42 lakh metric tonnes during the previous government. Paddy worth Rs 31,000 crore was purchased, benefiting 11.53 lakh farmers, with 95 per cent of payments credited to farmers' bank accounts within 24 hours.

The minister spoke of several technology-driven initiatives, including QR codes on every paddy bag, Track-and-Trace systems, and WhatsApp-based farmer registration, which have enhanced transparency. He added that from the coming Kharif season, gunny bags will be made available at Rythu Seva Kendras, while transportation charges will be reimbursed within 48 hours.

To ensure uniformity in quality assessment, the government is installing standardised moisture meters of the same make and model across the state, with 90 per cent of the work already completed.

Civil supplies special chief secretary K



Civil supplies minister Nandendra Manohar addressing the two-year review meeting on paddy procurement in Vijayawada on Thursday

Kannababu said the reforms have made the procurement process faster and more transparent, while urging rice millers to work closely with farmers.

Civil supplies commissioner Dilli Rao noted that paddy procurement had increased by 74 per cent compared to 2023-24, attributing the achievement to the coordinated efforts of officials, district administrations, rice millers, and transport agencies.

FCI regional general manager Vijay Kumar Yadav praised AP's procurement reforms, stating that the state's QR code-based tracking system and improved rice procurement model are now being recognised as best practices for adoption across the country.

The minister also interacted with farmers during the meeting, assuring them that issues related to procurement and banking would be taken up with the Chief Minister for resolution. Officials and district teams who excelled in paddy procurement were felicitated on the occasion.

Strengthen party at grassroots level, Madhav to BJP cadre

- Party state unit chief says 'Mana Ooru-Mana Jenda' campaign aims to ensure party representation in every village
- Urges cadre to become public representatives and take Centre's welfare schemes to every household

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

BJP state president P V N Madhav called upon party members to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level and ensure that the BJP has elected representatives in every village throughout the state.

He was speaking at a state-level workshop for the 'Mana Ooru-Mana Jenda' campaign at the BJP state office in Vijayawada on Thursday. Madhav was felicitated by senior party leaders to mark his first anniversary as the BJP's state president on the occasion. He also released a commemorative souvenir that highlighted the party's activities and achievements over the past year.

In his speech, Madhav said that the party's long-term goal is to build a robust organisational network from the village level upwards.

He told the party workers to aspire to become public representatives, in-



BJP leaders felicitate party state unit president P V N Madhav marking completion of one year in office, at the party state office in Vijayawada on Thursday
(Hans photo Ch Venkata Mastan)

cluding ward members, Sarpanches, MPTCs, ZPTCs, and directors of cooperative societies.

Madhav stated that the growth of the BJP relies on committed grassroots leaders who actively engage with the community and effectively communicate the welfare and development programs initiated by the Central government.

He pointed out that the BJP has become the largest political party in the country, having formed governments in 21 states, and that its governance model and organizational strength are gaining widespread recognition.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political journey, Madhav noted that the Prime Minister rose through the ranks due to his dedication and hard work, illustrating that development-oriented governance earns lasting public trust.

Mentioning the flagship programmes of the Union

government, including the Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, rural infrastructure development, and maternal and child welfare schemes, he said that these initiatives have significantly improved the lives of the people.

Reiterating the BJP's commitment to the philosophy of Antyodaya, Madhav called on party workers to bring the Central government's welfare schemes to every household and work towards hoisting the BJP flag in every village through service, dedication, and principled politics.

BJP state general secretaries Matta Prasad and Ramesh Naidu, state Kisan Morcha president Kumaraswamy, state vice-presidents Bitra Siva Narayana, Sandi Reddy Srinivas and Kola Anand, Matta Prasad coordinated the program, while Karanam Sanjeev gave a digital presentation on the campaign.

VIJAYAWADA AIRPORT

New terminal to be completed by Dasara

- Airport Advisory Committee for more domestic and international flights, including Dubai and Sri Lanka
- Road connectivity, passenger amenities and pending land issues also discussed at high-level meeting

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Airport Advisory Committee reviewed crucial development projects at Vijayawada International Airport located in Gannavaram on Thursday. The primary focus was on enhancing domestic and international air connectivity, completing the long-awaited new terminal building, improving passenger amenities, and strengthening road access to the airport.

The meeting took place at the airport director's conference hall in Gannavaram and was chaired by Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry, who leads the committee. Other attendees included Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), committee co-chairman, government



Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), government whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao, airport director Lakshminanth Reddy and officials at the Airport Advisory Committee meeting held at Vijayawada International Airport in Gannavaram on Thursday

whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao, vice chairman, airport director Lakshminanth Reddy, RDO Subrahmanyam, SP V Vidyasagar Naidu, airport officials and representatives from various departments.

After the meeting, Balashowry informed the media that the Centre had appointed a new contractor for the long-delayed terminal building, and construction is moving forward more rapidly. He expressed confidence that the terminal would be completed by Dasara or, at the latest, by November, significantly improving passenger capacity and

overall travel experience.

He mentioned that the committee proposed expanding international connectivity by introducing direct flights to Sri Lanka and establishing an Emirates service to Dubai. This would facilitate seamless global travel to destinations across the United States, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, he said. The proposal has already been discussed with civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, he added.

Furthermore, he said that the committee meeting additionally requested more domestic flights from Vijayawada to

Varanasi, Kolkata, Kochi, Goa and Mumbai. They also proposed morning and evening services to Mumbai to accommodate the increasing passenger demand.

To boost airport accessibility, Balashowry stated that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for a seven-km, four-lane road connecting the airport to the Vijayawada West Bypass. Once complete, this road is expected to significantly reduce travel time for passengers heading to Amaravati, Guntur, and Hyderabad. This proposal would be presented to Union Road

Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, he added.

Airport Advisory Committee co-chairman and Vijayawada MP Sivanath said the Vijayawada International Airport has been accorded priority under the double-engine government, with efforts underway to complete the new terminal by Dasara.

He said the committee recommended direct flights to Kochi for Sabarimala pilgrims and additional services to Surat, Ahmedabad and Mumbai, besides supporting a direct Dubai flight to strengthen the airport's international connectivity.

Venkata Rao urged the authorities to expedite the settlement of pending compensation and land record issues of families who had surrendered land for the airport.

He also proposed an alternative road linking the airport to NH-16 via HCL Road, stating that the Rs.37.70-crore project would reduce travel time to Amaravati by 15 to 20 minutes.

The MLA further called for the early development of 45,000 square metres of greenery between the airport and Ramavarappadu and urged better coordination among departments to speed up infrastructure works.

AP ready to meet power demand despite less rains

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ENERGY department special chief secretary K Vijayanand on Thursday said the state government is fully prepared to meet the state's growing electricity demand despite the challenges posed by the delayed southwest monsoon and deficient rainfall, while ensuring uninterrupted and quality power supply to consumers.

Chairing a high-level review meeting through video conference with senior officials of APGenCo, APTransco and power distribution companies, Vijayanand reviewed the prevailing power situation, hydel generation, thermal power preparedness, reservoir water availability and coal stocks.

He said poor monsoon progress had severely affected hydel power generation, with output dropping from 25-30 million units (MU) per day during the corresponding period last year to just 5-6 MU per day due to inadequate inflows into reservoirs.

- Special CS Vijayanand says uninterrupted and quality power supply remains govt's top priority
- Thermal stations directed to maximise generation as hydel output drops sharply due to poor rainfall



Special chief secretary K Vijayanand

eration this season. He instructed all power utilities to strictly implement the guidelines issued by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to minimise the impact of deficient rainfall on the power sector.

To bridge the shortfall in hydel generation, Vijayanand directed APGenCo to operate all thermal power stations at maximum capacity, except units undergoing

scheduled annual maintenance. He instructed officials to complete overhaul works on schedule, improve plant performance, minimise forced outages and strengthen preventive maintenance.

The special chief secretary also directed thermal stations to maintain coal stocks sufficient for at least 10 days of operation and ensure uninterrupted fuel supply through close coordination with the Railways and ports.

Reiterating that reliable and quality power supply remains the state government's foremost priority, Vijayanand called for close coordination among the energy department, APGenCo, APTransco and distribution companies to effectively manage demand and ensure uninterrupted electricity supply across the state despite challenging weather conditions.

Genco in-charge managing director and APCDCL CMD P Pulla Reddy, Genco directors M Sujaya Kumar, P Ashok Kumar Reddy, V Usha and APDCL director Srinivas Rao attended the meeting.

AEE recruitment will be merit-based only: APTransco

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

APTransco joint managing director (vigilance & HRD) G Surya Sai Praveen Chand on Thursday assured that recruitment of assistant executive engineers (AEEs) in Andhra Pradesh power utilities will be fair, transparent and strictly merit-based. He urged aspirants not to fall for rumours or middlemen promising jobs.

The notification issued on June 25 has drawn nearly 23,000 applications for posts in APTransco, APGenCo and distribution companies. Chand dismissed false claims on social media suggesting postponement of the computer-based test (CBT), changes in syllabus or jobs through monetary influence. He confirmed the CBT will be held as scheduled from August 22 to 29.

He said the exam will follow the same standards of confidentiality and security as national-level tests like GATE, UGC-NET, CAT, CUET, CDS and JEE. Strict measures are in place to prevent impersonation and malpractice. Clarifying syllabus concerns, Chand said no changes were made. Only



APTransco joint managing director G Surya Sai Praveen Chand

the 30 marks earlier allotted to Analytical Aptitude were redistributed among General Intelligence & Reasoning, English, Quantitative Aptitude and Computer Knowledge.

He stressed that written exam performance alone will decide selection. Candidates were advised to report fraudsters and use the 24x7 grievance redressal system on the AP Power Recruitment Portal for queries.

Tight job mkt, salary cuts put US-returned desi techies in a spot

Global technology industry is constantly in a state of flux. Artificial intelligence (AI)-led developments are bringing in significant changes in the operating models of technology companies. Improving efficiency has been prompting several tech giants to lay off thousands of staffers.

According to layoff tracker platform-Layoffs.fyi, around 119,000 staffers have lost their jobs across 219 organisations since the beginning of this year. This figure was more than 100,000 in 2025. Leading tech firms including Oracle, Meta, Cisco, and Google among others laid off thousands of employees in the last two years.

A major chunk of these employees was operating out of the US. Given that US has a substantial

number of technology professionals from India, several thousands of them had lost their jobs owing to these mass firings. As the job market in the technology industry remains tight in the US, many of these Indian professionals are not able to get another job immediately in the North American country. Adding to this agony is the strict and unfriendly immigration policy followed by the Trump administration.

Under Trump, the US administration has increased the H1B visa fee, changed the Green Card application rules and discouraged American employees to hire foreign professionals like Indians. Without any way out of the conundrum, many Indian techies are now returning home in their search for new jobs.

According to survey conducted by professional networking platform- Blind, 53 per cent of respondents of the survey said that they had seen colleagues or job candidates return from the US because of visa-related problems. Now, the survey has also found out some interesting dynamics of the current job market. According to it, a significant shift is happening among the US companies as far their management of global workforce is concerned.

It found out that the US companies, which have GCCs (Global Capability Centres) in India, are shifting Indian techies to location back home than replacing them. This step makes immense sense for this US corporations in terms of cost. While Indian techies earn way higher when in US, their sal-

ary gets reduced in India, matching a salary of their colleagues here.

This way, US companies are able to reduce cost and retain the same talent. The survey quoted one Google professional saying that the average pay had fallen in recent months with some US-returned Indian techies drawing as low as one-fifth of their US compensation. So, while these professionals get an immediate respite from visa-related concerns, the financial impact is severe.

The survey also found out that 57 per cent of Amazon employees, 58 per cent of Walmart employees and 55 per cent of Uber staffers in India had had seen colleagues return from the US because of visa issues.

However, not all tech professionals in the US are able to get

jobs in Indian GCCs of their parent organisations. Many are landing in India without a job and are hunting for opportunities here. The survey pointed out that job market in India remained tight despite India being the largest delivery centre for global firms. Openings in the GCCs are there but are fewer in number than a year before. Situation in the IT services companies and large startups is not great either. As an outcome, these technology professionals have to settle for less paying jobs. Meanwhile, entry of these US-returned professionals is making the Indian job market more competitive in the mid to mid-senior levels. Overall, AI has created a great churn in the technology job market with professionals navigating a tight situation both at home and abroad.

LETTERS

Hyderabad cops deserve appreciation

As per your report, "Hyderabad cybercrime police crack 14 cases, arrest 36 across states," the city police deserve immense praise for dismantling widespread, multi-state cybercriminal networks. Successfully cracking 14 major cases in a single month and recovering nearly ₹49 lakh for victims shows exemplary investigative efficiency. The report highlights a terrifying reality: innocent citizens lost over ₹5 crore to sophisticated scams like digital arrests, trading, and OTP fraud. While enforcement initiatives like C-MITRA and aggressive social media patrolling are highly reassuring, public awareness remains our strongest defence. The government and social platforms must work in tandem to preemptively block fake customer care numbers and malicious APK links to completely neutralize these digital fraudsters.

Andrea Anthony, Hyderabad

Playing the war 'trump' card has failed US

US President Donald Trump's declaration of an end to the truce and his fresh military strikes on Iran came as disappointing, but not unexpected news. It is sad that the prospect of peace has now receded. It does not occur to the President of the 'most powerful nation in the world' that diplomacy is always better than war and war is always a bad thing, a terrible thing. Trump has clearly misjudged Iran's capability to attack the US assets in the Gulf. The US' attempt to gain control of the Strait of Hormuz has met with legitimate resistance by Iran. By now, Trump ought to have realized the folly and futility of war. But then Trump is Trump. How to get it into his thick skull that the use of military force, as against diplomatic means, cannot settle the issues in West Asia is the question that the world is left to grapple with.

G David Milton, Maruthancode

The tug-of-war continues between US, Iran

The end of truce between warring Iran and USA has surprised none. It had started with lack of trust both sides and was being violated few times and now has been declared as terminated abruptly. Both rivals are cautious in their moves and are interested in buying time rather to find solution. The contentious issue that is the strait of Hormuz has remained a non-negotiable thing for both parties. Iran cannot leave its grip on that strait, the step which would weaken it strategically and economically. The USA cannot feel satisfied with its failure in making Iran compliant, that too when its ally Israel is bent upon continuing the war. It's unfortunate that the situation in West Asia has come to square one making energy security of the world still worse.

D V G Sankararao, Vizianagaram

Include non-teaching staff for mid-day meals

It is intriguingly interesting to note that in its endeavour to ensure that the mid day meals served free at the government schools are of good quality, the Telangana government advised that the teaching staff in the school also to have free meals along with the pupils and thereby satisfy about the maintenance of the good quality of such meals catered to the students under such mid day meals scheme. Alas!, the only group left are now those very few of non-teaching staff in such schools. Herein lies, a worthy point to be taken note of by the Management Gurus!

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

Ice Shivalingam melts, dampens devotees

The naturally formed ice Shivalingam at the Amarnath cave-shrine has melted considerably just days into the annual pilgrimage. This premature depletion has left lakhs of yatis unable to perform darshan, despite enduring an incredibly grueling journey. These lakhs of devotees travel from far-off corners of the country to undertake the Yatra. The trek is exceptionally difficult, serving as a mentally and physically challenging test of endurance through steep, high-altitude mountain terrain, oxygen-depleted air, and volatile weather. Reaching the holy cave after such an arduous trek only to find the Shivalingam already shrunk has caused profound heartbreak and immense disappointment among the pilgrims who sacrifice so much to get here. While the official Yatra spans 57 days, the early melting means thousands traveling later in the season will miss witnessing the sacred formation, turning their intense physical and spiritual journey into a deep test of faith.

Aditi Nawandar, Hyderabad

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Future of management careers in the era of AI

DR MYLAVARAM
CHANDRA SHEKAR

Every July, as new batches of management students walk into B-School classrooms with fresh hopes and excitement, the immense responsibility that higher education carries comes with it. An MBA or any postgraduate programme in management is not just about textbooks, case studies, or exams. It is about shaping their lives, careers, and futures in ways that ripple far beyond the campus. The stories of young graduates prove this time and again, offering lessons worth sharing with a wider audience to prepare well in advance to achieve success.

Resilience in career journeys

Take the case of a graduate who joined a global financial research firm. The job was prestigious, and they successfully completed on-the-job training, but the night shifts took a toll on their health. Instead of resigning themselves to fate, they prepared again, took on a role at a leading private-sector bank, and later moved to a nationalised bank. This journey shows resilience, the ability to adapt, re-strategise, and move forward. In today's uncertain job market, resilience is perhaps the most important skill a graduate can carry with them.

Building portfolios beyond degrees

Another example comes from two graduates who expanded their CVs from a single page to eight, showcasing not just academic achievements but also internships, projects, a business plan, pitches and certifications.

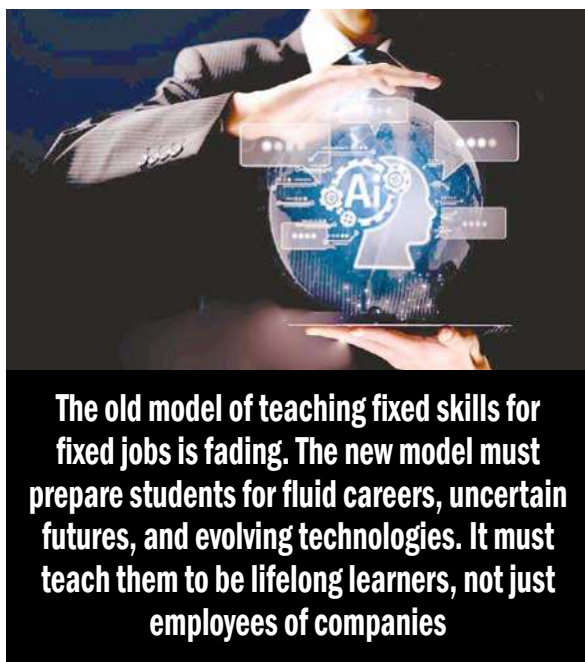
Both secured roles in a Big Four consulting firm, one later pursuing a fully funded PhD while the other continued in corporate life. Their story highlights the importance of building a portfolio of experiences. Employers today are not just looking for degrees; they want evidence of initiative, curiosity, and the ability to learn continuously.

Choosing passion over comfort

Then there are those who choose passion over comfort. Two graduates who were placed at a fintech company left within a year. One transitioned to a global financial services firm; the other to a private-sector bank. Their decision was not about chasing higher salaries but about aligning work with their personal interests. In a world where "quiet quitting" and burnout are becoming common, these choices remind us that career satisfaction often comes from meaning, not money alone.

Success is not linear

A graduate at a multinational investment management firm shared "double good news": a salary hike and a promotion. Another at a consulting firm completed his fast-track training and won a gold medal for outstanding performance. Alumni from earlier batches have moved across analytics, consulting, and international banking institutions, reaching leadership roles, and one is now pursuing certification in the airline industry at a premier Indian Institute of Technology. These journeys show that success is not linear. Careers evolve through experimentation, risk-taking, and some-



The old model of teaching fixed skills for fixed jobs is fading. The new model must prepare students for fluid careers, uncertain futures, and evolving technologies. It must teach them to be lifelong learners, not just employees of companies

times sheer persistence.

The power of networking

Networking, in particular, is often underestimated. Graduates sometimes believe that grades alone will secure their future. But in reality, conversations, mentorship, and peer learning play a far greater role. Alumni networks are guiding forces of wisdom. A LinkedIn connection today can become a career opportunity tomorrow. In fact, the first assignment for new MBA admits is to connect with alumni online. It is not just a task; it is a habit that will serve them for life.

The future of work and AI

The future of work adds another layer of complexity. Chatbots are already shortlisting CVs and conducting interviews. In the next decade, graduates may find themselves reporting to AI supervisors that allocate tasks, track performance, and even design workflows. At

the same time, AI colleagues will sit alongside them to handle routine analysis, resolve customer queries, or perform compliance checks. Some professionals may even become solopreneurs, running businesses with teams of AI "employees" managing finance, marketing, and operations. The challenge for management graduates is to embrace this reality rather than resist it, and to focus on the uniquely human skills, i.e. empathy, resilience, creativity, that machines cannot replicate.

Embracing uncertainty

At the same time, uncertainty will only grow. The ecosystem ahead will bring double the challenges. Economic cycles, technological disruptions, and global crises will test every professional. But living with discomfort is not a curse; it is a catalyst for growth. Graduates who learn to embrace uncertainty will not just survive; they will thrive.

Balancing technology with humanity

Of course, AI cannot replace lived experiences. It cannot narrate the struggles of someone who worked nights and studied days, or the joy of someone who cracked a tough exam after repeated failures. But AI can help connect people, analyse trends, and open doors. The human element, such as empathy, resilience, and creativity, will remain irreplaceable. That is why management education must balance technology with humanity.

Lessons from contemporary trends

Contemporary examples reinforce this. Consider the rise of gig work platforms where professionals are building careers outside traditional corporate structures, leveraging networks and skills rather than degrees alone. Or look at the startup ecosystem in India, where founders often come from diverse educational backgrounds but succeed through adaptability and networking.

Even global leaders echo these lessons. Satya Nadella of Microsoft often speaks about empathy as a leadership skill. Sundar Pichai of Google emphasises curiosity and continuous learning. These are not abstract ideas; they are practical traits that determine success in volatile environments. Management graduates must internalise them early.

A roadmap for graduates

So what should graduates do? First, talk to people. Learn from experiences, both successes and failures. Second, build networks, not just for jobs but for knowledge and support. Third,

plan careers with flexibility. Ask: Where do I want to be in two years? In five years? And be ready to change the answer as circumstances evolve. Fourth, embrace discomfort. Growth rarely comes from comfort zones. And finally, use technology wisely. Let AI be a tool, not a master.

The role of educators

For educators, the responsibility is equally heavy. We must design curricula that go beyond rote learning. We must encourage projects, internships, and real-world problem-solving. We must mentor students not just for exams but for life. And we must remind them that success is not about one big break but about small, consistent steps.

A message to the new batch

As I reflect on these journeys, I am convinced that management education is at a crossroads. The old model of teaching fixed skills for fixed jobs is fading. The new model must prepare students for fluid careers, uncertain futures, and evolving technologies. It must teach them to be lifelong learners, not just employees of companies.

To the new batch of MBA students, the message is simple: Your degree is not just about classes. It is about conversations, networks, and the courage to embrace uncertainty. Use these two years to build not just a career, but a future that is uniquely yours. And remember, success is not defined by where you start, but by how you adapt, connect, and grow.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad)

Hindu rate of growth controversy: Is it time for a new name?



DR P SUBRAMANYACHARY

Recently, while speaking on the occasion of the NDA government completing 12 years in office and recalling his record as India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi criticized the historical term "Hindu Rate of Growth." He argued that the phrase unfairly linked India's economic sluggishness to Hindu culture.

According to him, the term was used to conceal the failures of past economic policies and that the situation should instead be viewed as the result of the governance and policy decisions of previous governments. Modi suggested that the period of slow economic growth should have been called the "Congress Rate of Growth" rather than the "Hindu Rate of Growth."

Modi stated that the dec-

ades of low growth following independence pushed India into poverty, despair, and a sense of inferiority. He also questioned why the country's current rapid economic growth is not similarly associated with Hindu culture. According to him, this issue reflects the persistence of a colonial mindset in India. He called for greater confidence in India's civilization and cultural heritage. Modi also compared the pre-1991 period with the country's current economic performance. He remarked that economic reforms, innovation, infrastructure development, and policy continuity have transformed India into one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

In fact, the term "Hindu Rate of Growth" was coined by economist Raj Krishna in 1978. It was used to describe India's relatively slow economic growth from the 1950s through the 1980s. During that period, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average annual rate of only about 3-4 per cent. Although the name appears to be related to Hinduism, the term has no connection to the Hindu religion.



Supporters of the concept of the "Hindu Rate of Growth" argue that it highlights the shortcomings of India's economic policies before 1991. They contend that factors such as excessive government control, industrial licensing requirements, and trade restrictions reduced productivity and investment. They believe that the term helps explain why economic growth accelerated after the economic liberalisation reforms

It was simply used to describe the low growth rates that persisted after independence.

According to economists, the main reasons for this slow growth included the License Raj system, extensive government control over industries, restrictions on the private sector, high import tariffs, limits on foreign investment, low productivity, and economic policies that reduced competition. At the same time, rapid population growth meant that

increases in per capita income remained very modest.

In 1991, economic liberalisation reforms were introduced under the leadership of then Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. These reforms reduced industrial licensing requirements, opened certain sectors to foreign investment, and lowered trade barriers. Participation by the private sector was also encouraged. As a result, India

achieved much higher rates of economic growth in the following decades.

Referring to the term "Hindu Rate of Growth," Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that India should not return to the highly regulated economic policies that existed before 1991. Instead, he stated that reforms, entrepreneurship, and investment are essential for sustaining high economic growth.

However, supporters of the concept of the "Hindu Rate of Growth" argue that it highlights the shortcomings of India's economic policies before 1991. They contend that factors such as excessive government control, industrial licensing requirements, and trade restrictions reduced productivity and investment. They believe that the term helps explain why economic growth accelerated after the economic liberalization reforms. Critics, however, argue that the term is misleading and unfair because it appears to associate slow economic growth with Hinduism, even though the causes of the slowdown were economic and political rather than religious. They emphasize that, de-

spite the relatively low growth rates, India made significant progress during that period in areas such as industrialization, education, and self-sufficiency. Critics also point out that the phrase may reinforce misconceptions and stereotypes about Hinduism.

Furthermore, some economists argue that colonial legacies, widespread poverty, low savings rates, and global economic conditions also played important roles in limiting economic growth. Therefore, while the term has been useful in historically describing India's economic performance, debate continues regarding its wording and implications.

Many economists believe that more neutral expressions such as "the low-growth period" or "the pre-liberalization growth era" would be more appropriate. They argue that the term "Hindu Rate of Growth" should no longer be used in the future. Replacing it with a more neutral term could promote inclusiveness and reduce the risk of cultural and religious misunderstandings.

(The writer is Professor, School of Commerce and Management, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati)

BENGALURU ONLINE

Blood protest intensifies against Bidadi Township

BENGALURU: The agitation against the proposed Bidadi Township project intensified on Thursday as farmers in Bhairamangala village of Bengaluru South district launched a symbolic "blood protest," declaring they were willing to shed blood but not part with their agricultural land.

The protesters pricked their fingers and dropped blood on the township layout map, raising slogans of "We will give our blood, not our land." Farmers and women participants demanded that the state government immediately withdraw the township proposal, warning that they would intensify the agitation if their concerns were ignored.

The protest received a major boost with the participation of former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde, who expressed solidarity with the agitating farmers. At the protest venue, he drafted and submitted a memorandum urging the government not to acquire agricultural land forcibly in the name of development.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Hegde said he had ignored medical advice to stay indoors because he could not remain silent while farmers were protesting on the streets. He stressed that no development was possible without protecting agriculture.

"Artificial Intelligence cannot feed people. If agriculture declines, the country will face serious consequences in the future," he said.

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

'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' mega meet outlines massive infrastructure blueprint

- Minister Janardhan Reddy announces that a new RTO office has been sanctioned.
- Additionally, the Banaganapalle bypass road is 70% complete, and a 41-km underground drainage network is targeted for completion by December
- Rural development projects valued between Rs 80 lakh and Rs 1 crore are being actively executed across every village utilizing MGNREGS and DMFT funds



Minister BC Janardhan Reddy addressing the public meeting "Mee Bhoomi- Mee Hakku" Banaganapalle on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE BANAGANAPALLE

ROADS and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy on Thursday stated that the Andhra Pradesh Government is committed to the comprehensive development of the Banaganapalle constituency under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Addressing the "Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku" programme alongside Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari and District Collector G Raja Kumari, the Minister outlined an extensive infrastructure and industrial blueprint. He announced the sanctioning of a local RTO office and noted that the Banaganapalle bypass road is now 70% complete. Furthermore, a 41-km underground drainage network is underway with a completion target set for December. Janardhan Reddy added that village-level development works worth up to ₹1 crore are being executed uti-

lizing MGNREGS and DMFT funds, while an AutoTech industry is slated to commence operations soon. To boost agriculture, he has urged the Chief Minister to strengthen water supply to the Srisailem Right Branch Canal (SRBC) lower canals, which would benefit 25,000 acres of ayacut.

Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari highlighted strategic efforts to transform Rayalaseema from a drought-prone region into a thriving horticulture and industrial hub, focusing on cold-chain infrastructure to support six lakh local farmers. District Collector G Raja Kumari reported that land reforms are moving on a fast track. New Pattadar Passbooks have already been distributed to 1.10 lakh farmers across 203 villages.

The administration aims to complete the re-survey of eight lakh acres by December, ensuring full passbook distribution to all eligible farmers by March 2027.

JNTU Anantapur declares first-year regular and supplementary B Tech results



JNTU Anantapur Engineering College Principal Prof. P Chennareddy, along with faculty members, displays the B.Tech first-year second semester regular and supplementary examination results after their release at the college in Anantapur on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE ANANTAPUR

THE Engineering College under Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) Anantapur on Thursday announced the results of the B.Tech first-year second semester regular and

supplementary examinations. College Principal Prof P Chennareddy said the results were released on Thursday. He advised students to contact the college's Academic Section for details of their examination results and any related assistance.

The announcement was made in the presence of Vice-Principal Prof B Dileep Kumar, Professor-in-Charge of Examinations Prof K Madhavi, Prof Jayalakshmi, Prof Kalyani Kumar, Dr K Kalyani Radha, Dr M Rama Sekhar Reddy, Dr S Aruna Mastani, Dr Ajitha, and Dr Zareena

ORVAKAL AIRPORT EXPANSION

Safety panels seek 41.5 acres for crash gates and growth

- Airport authorities urge the administration to expedite the acquisition of 3 acres for emergency CFT movement and an additional 38.5 acres for future airport expansion

- While land has been earmarked for a dedicated waste disposal yard matching DGCA parameters, the formal property transfer remains pending

- Officials warned that open blasting activities nearby generate heavy dust that hinders aircraft movement



DRO Venkatanarayanamma conducting a high-level review meeting at the Collectorate in Kurnool on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE KURNOOL

THE Airfield Environment Management Committee on Thursday convened a high-level review meeting at the District Collectorate to comprehensively evaluate environmental compliance, operational aviation safety standards, and critical infrastructure requirements at Orvakal Airport.

The strategic session was chaired by District Revenue Officer (DRO) Venkatanarayanamma.

During the meeting, airport authorities urged the district administration to fast-track pending land acquisitions.

They requested the immediate clearing of three acres to facilitate the unhindered movement of Crash Fire Tenders (CFT) through

emergency gates, alongside completing the acquisition of an additional 38.5 acres earmarked for the airport's future expansion.

Furthermore, officials reported that while land for a dedicated waste disposal yard matching Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) norms has been identified, the formal transfer process remains pending.

Aviation hazards were heavily flagged by the technical team, who pointed out that open blasting activities in nearby areas generate

excessive dust, severely affecting aircraft visibility and movements.

They called for immediate pollution control measures, jungle clearance around the runway premises, and strict enforcement of Civil Aviation Ministry regulations that prohibit high-rise buildings and tall trees within the notified airport zone.

To bolster emergency medical response and disaster readiness, the panel requested a dedicated round-the-clock ambulance and a domestic fire tender from the district department.

Responding positively, DRO Venkatanarayanamma assured that all expansion and safety issues would be addressed swiftly through inter-departmental coordination. Kurnool Airport Director Vidyasagar and other senior officials attended the session.

Puttaparthi tops state with 93.56% positive rating for housing schemes



Housing Managing Director Arun Babu and Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad reviewing the progress of housing schemes with officials during a high-level meeting at the Collectorate in Puttaparthi on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE PUTTAPARTHI

SRI Sathya Sai district has secured the top rank in Andhra Pradesh in Positive Public Perception for the implementation of housing schemes, Housing Managing Director Arun Babu said during a high-level review meeting with District Collector A Shyam Prasad. The district recorded a 93.56% positive public per-

ception in June, while 28,639 of the 57,889 sanctioned houses have been completed and work on the remaining units is progressing. Arun Babu directed officials to expedite the completion of pending houses and layouts, while Collector A Shyam Prasad said timely financial assistance is being released to beneficiaries and instructed officials to intensify field-level monitoring to achieve housing targets.

Kurnool district Yoga selection trials to be held on July 16

HANS NEWS SERVICE KURNOOL

THE Kurnool District Yoga Association in a press release on Thursday has announced that the Kurnool District-Level Yoga Tournament-Selection Trials will be held on July 16 at the United Club.

The event will be organised under the leadership of United Club President Bhimeswar Reddy and Secretary Balaram.

District Yoga Association Chairman Lakshmi Kanth Reddy, President Avinash Shetty and Secretary Muniswamy said the

competition aims to identify talented yoga practitioners from across the district for higher-level competitions.

The organisers stated that the selection trials will be conducted for both male and female participants across various age categories, including 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, 14-16, 16-18, 18-21, 21-25, 25-30, 30-35, 35-45 and above 45 years.

Outstanding performers at the district-level event will earn the opportunity to represent Kurnool district in the 51st Andhra Pradesh State Yoga Championship, which will be organised

shortly under the aegis of the Yoga Sports Association of Andhra Pradesh.

The association has invited yoga enthusiasts from across the district to participate in the selection trials.

Interested participants can directly register at the venue by paying an entry fee of Rs.50.

The organisers expressed confidence that the event would encourage greater participation in yoga and help nurture talented athletes capable of excelling at the state level. For further details, participants may contact 7981515467.

TTD gears up for Tirumala Brahmotsavams

HANS NEWS SERVICE TIRUMALA

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) is gearing up for Brahmotsavam of Lord Venkateswara to be held from September. Due to Adhika Masam this year, the mega event will be held twice in September and October.

TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary directed all the Heads of Departments to finalise comprehensive plans and ensure completion of all arrangements within the prescribed time frame.

Along with Joint Executive Officer Dr A Sharath and CVSO Murali Krishna the Additional EO held a review meeting here on Thursday.



TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary at a review meeting in Tirumala on Thursday

He said Srivari Salakata Brahmotsavams will begin from September 8 with Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam and conclude with Chakrasnanam on September 23. Vahana Sevaks will be conducted daily between 8 am and 10 am and again between 7 pm and 9 pm.

The Additional Executive Officer informed that VIP break darshan stands cancelled for all categories during

Brahmotsavams, except for protocol dignitaries. Darshan for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, parents with infants, NRIs and donors remains suspended.

Vigilance and Police departments are tasked with ensuring stringent security measures, traffic regulation, clear route mapping and adequate parking facilities. He said Anna prasadam distribution must be arranged at queue lines, Mada Street galleries and other key locations to serve continuous food to devotees. Additional sanitation staff shall be deployed to ensure cleanliness of public toilets and facilities. He told them to encourage youth participation for enlisting volunteers as Srivari Sevaks.

Two men stabbed to death at a wedding event in Tirupati

HANS NEWS SERVICE TIRUPATI

A wedding celebration in Tirupati turned tragic after two men were fatally stabbed following an altercation reportedly linked to a long-standing matrimonial dispute. The incident took place late on Wednesday night at Sri Padmavathi Kalyana Mandapam near Lakshmiapuram Circle, sending guests into panic.

The deceased have been identified as Muniratnam Yadav (50), a native of Gollapalli village in Yerpedu mandal, and Manikanta (42) of Subba Reddy Nagar in Tirupati. While Muniratnam succumbed to his injuries at the venue, Manikanta was rushed to Ruia Hospital, where he later died during treatment.

According to Tirupati East police, the incident occurred around 10 pm when Sunil, a resident of Jangalapalli village in Yerpedu mandal, attended the wedding. Muniratnam and Manikanta reportedly approached him to discuss the ongoing differences between Sunil and his wife. What began as a conversation soon escalated into a heated argument.

Police said Sunil allegedly contacted his family members after the dispute intensified.



Manikanta



Muniratnam

Within a short time, his father, brother, sister and another associate arrived at the marriage hall and allegedly attacked the two men with knives before fleeing the scene.

Investigators said Muniratnam had earlier helped arrange Sunil's marriage with the daughter of Sampooramma, a resident of Tirumala, nearly six years ago. He was currently living in Jeevakona and operated a small business in Tirumala. Manikanta was employed as a jeep driver.

Police said Sunil and his wife, who have two children, had been living separately due to marital differences. On learning

that Sunil would be attending the wedding, Sampooramma is believed to have requested Muniratnam to speak to him in an attempt to resolve the family dispute. Muniratnam reportedly took Manikanta with him to the function for the meeting.

Preliminary investigation suggests that five people, including a woman, were involved in the attack. Tirupati East police have registered a murder case.

Tirupati East CI Srinivas visited the spot and formed special teams to trace the accused, who remain absconding.

Baseless attacks diverting focus from devpt: Senior TDP leaders

- MLA Amilineni demands a public apology from Thopudurthi, asserting that abusive language crosses political propriety and action must be taken against provocative statements
- Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy reminded leaders of Anantapur's rich political legacy, emphasizing that personal abuse erodes public confidence and political debate must remain issue-based
- Government Whip Kalava Srinivasulu stated that while Minister Lokesh is working tirelessly to attract global investments, the Opposition's baseless mudslinging only serves to divert attention from real public concerns



Senior TDP leaders addressing the media in Anantapur on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE ANANTAPUR

SENIOR Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders on Thursday strongly condemned the remarks made by former YSRCP MLA

Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy against IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh and Madakasira MLA MS Raju, labeling them contrary to democratic values.

In a strong show of solidarity, Puttaparthi MLA

Palle Sindhura Reddy, former minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy, and Kalyandurg MLA Amilineni visited Raju's residence. Speaking to the media,

Dr Raghunatha Reddy emphasized that while political criticism is free in a democracy, it must remain within the bounds of decency. He noted that personal

attacks diminish public life and damage political traditions. MLA Amilineni demanded an immediate public apology from Thopudurthi, calling for action against provocative statements. Concurrently, Government Whip Kalava Srinivasulu criticized the YSRCP leaders for engaging in baseless personal tirades.

Addressing a press conference at Raju's residence, Srinivasulu stated that Minister Nara Lokesh is aggressively focusing on bringing investments and driving state development. He urged opposition leaders to act responsibly and offer constructive suggestions instead of making degrading allegations that lower the standard of public discourse.



Can thyroid disorders make it harder to conceive?

Thyroid problems are far more common than most women realise, and they can quietly affect fertility, conception, and pregnancy. Getting your thyroid checked early can make a real difference to your chances of a healthy pregnancy

DR. CHAITRA GOWDA K N

Thyroid disorders are one of the most common hormonal issues, affecting women who are in their reproductive years, and they can seriously affect fertility, getting pregnant, and how pregnancy goes overall. The thyroid gland, located in the neck, makes hormones that help run metabolism, energy levels, and the way different organs work, including the reproductive system. When the thyroid hormone levels become off balance, it can disturb that kind of careful hormonal “back and forth” that’s needed for ovulation, steady menstrual timing, and then a successful conception.

Both hypothyroidism (an underactive thyroid) and hyperthyroidism (an overactive thyroid) can make conception more difficult. With hypothyroidism, the thyroid doesn’t produce enough hormones, which then brings symptoms like tiredness, increased weight, feeling unusually sensitive to cold, and also menstrual irregularity. Low thyroid hormones may mess with ovulation, so cycles can get erratic, or become anovula-

tory, which basically means that an egg is not released. If ovulation doesn’t happen in a predictable way, the odds for natural pregnancy tend to drop. Hypothyroidism also can push prolactin levels higher, and this hormone may further dampen ovulation and fertility, kind of in a domino effect, yeah.

Hyperthyroidism, although not as common, can still mess with reproductive health in a real way. When the body is flooded with too much thyroid hormone, periods can get all out of sync, the menstrual flow can be lighter, and ovulation may become less reliable or even wobble. For some women, if hyperthyroidism isn’t treated, conceiving can be harder, and if pregnancy does happen, there may be a higher chance of miscarriage. On top of that, serious thyroid problems can influence egg quality and also the whole setting that an embryo needs for implantation, so it’s not just one piece of the puzzle. Autoimmune thyroid problems kind of deserve extra focus when we talk about fertility. For example, autoimmune thyroiditis happens when the immune system—kind of oddly—

targets the thyroid gland by mistake. Women who have thyroid autoantibodies might see a greater risk of infertility, repeat pregnancy loss, and other pregnancy complications, even if thyroid hormone numbers look “fine” on paper. Some research implies that immune related mechanisms could lower implantation success, and raise the likelihood of early pregnancy failure in certain women.

The link between thyroid health and fertility is a big deal, especially for women who are doing fertility procedures like ovulation induction, intrauterine insemination (IUI), or in vitro fertilization (IVF). A number of studies have suggested that if thyroid issues go untreated, the success chances of assisted reproductive techniques can drop, sometimes quite a bit. Because of this, fertility specialists usually check thyroid performance as part of the infertility evaluation, not as an afterthought but more like a routine step. Bloodwork that measures thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) and free T4, and when it makes sense, thyroid antibodies, can point



to deeper thyroid problems that might be interfering with conception. The good side is that many thyroid-related fertility obstacles can be addressed. For example, women with hypothyroidism are often given thyroid hormone replacement therapy, which works to bring hormone levels back toward normal, and can support steadier ovulation and more regular menstrual cycles.

In a similar vein, hyperthyroidism can be handled using medications and other options depending on what is causing it and how intense it is. After thyroid function is brought under control, a lot of women notice an improvement in fertility, and they may move toward successful pregnancies.

Thyroid health stays important even after conception, you know, it still mat-



ters a lot. In early pregnancy the developing baby, basically relies on the mother thyroid hormones, for brain development and the nervous system side of things. If thyroid problems go untreated during pregnancy, it can raise the chances of miscarriage, preterm birth, pregnancy induced hypertension, having a low-birth-weight baby, and even later developmental concerns. Because of that, women who

are planning a pregnancy should ideally get their thyroid function checked, and brought to a good place before conception.

It also helps to keep monitoring during the pregnancy itself, since the needed thyroid hormone amounts can change quite a bit across trimesters. Women may want to get a medical evaluation if they’re struggling to conceive after several months of trying. Also, if menstrual

cycles are irregular, or if there is a past miscarriage, or if thyroid dysfunction symptoms seem to show up. Catching it early, and then doing the right treatment, can really improve reproductive outcomes and the overall chances of a healthier pregnancy.

(The writer is a Senior Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynecology, Rainbow Children’s Hospital, Sarjapur Road)

Shiny Doshi: Girls in my family didn’t have that liberty



Actress Shiny Doshi looked back on her journey in the entertainment industry and revealed how once even thinking or dreaming of being an actress, was never considered an acceptable career choice for girls in her family.

However, she credited her mother for being the pillar of strength who stood by her through every step of her journey.

Shiny said, “The kind of family that I belong to, we girls didn’t have the liberty to go on screen and act or become a heroine. We didn’t have so much of support back then.”

The actress noted that

times now have changed and families have become far more accepting of careers in the entertainment industry.

“Now, people have become very supportive about it. So, coming here without the support of my family, wherein my mother was the only person who was standing like a rock, and the support that I have received from her, the support that I am where I am today. So, it was a very beautiful journey,” she shared.

Shiny also reflected on her professional growth over the years, and said every project has contributed to her evolution as an actor.

“I have worked with a dif-

ferent team in every show. I have learnt something new from every show. And I have seen a growth from every show, which I feel is very important. And I am very happy to be working with everyone I have worked with till now,” she added.

Talking about the actress’ career, Shiny began her professional journey with the television show ‘Saraswathichandra’ in 2013 and went on to feature in popular shows including ‘Jamai Raja’, ‘Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant’, ‘Laal Ishq’, ‘Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurani’, ‘Pandya Store’ and ‘Barsatein – Mausam Pyaar Ka’.

She was also seen in the reality show ‘The 50’.

Sudha Reddy commands Paris Haute Couture Week front row



Manish Malhotra's collection



Elie Saab's collection

Three days, three couture houses, one very full jewellery box. The Hyderabad-based billionaire and philanthropist returned to Paris Haute Couture Week for the first time since 2022, following her much-talked-about Met Gala look earlier this year, with an estimated \$30 million in personal jewellery across her front-row appearances.

At Giorgio Armani Privé, she wore Look 74 — an iridescent blue jacket with hints of violet and forest green, fitted at the waist in classic Armani style. A crystal-covered Louis Vuitton Capucines bag added shine, but her jewellery stood out most: a 30-carat panther-motif ear piece set fully in diamonds, along with the 23-carat yellow diamond ring and 30-carat rose-cut polki ring she’d worn to the Met Gala. The next day was Elie Saab’s Citrus & Salt collection, and a completely different mood — a strapless gown in citrus tones with delicate floral embroidery. A custom turquoise Elie Saab ear cuff, a rare gesture from the house, and a seashell-shaped Cult Gaia clutch rounded out the look, alongside a 21-carat pigeon-blood ruby ring and a 25-carat emerald ring. Her last stop was Manish Malhotra’s Indian couture debut in Paris. A structured corseted gown with a cropped chocolate-brown jacket, sharp puff sleeves and hand-embroidered 3D floral detailing gave the outfit real weight and texture. Here she wore the standout piece of the week: a custom

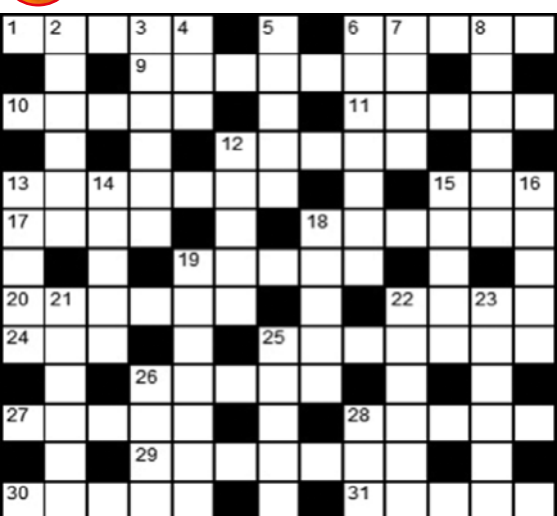


Manish Malhotra's collection

75-carat diamond bow necklace inspired by Persian design, paired with a floral diamond hair piece, a 25-carat square-cut diamond ring and a 21-carat round-cut diamond ring. Three houses, three very different looks — Armani’s

restraint, Saab’s romance, Malhotra’s scale — and Reddy matched each one with jewellery and presence to spare. Across all three appearances, she showed that a front-row seat can be its own kind of statement.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Permit (5)
- Artist’s stand (5)
- An excuse (7)
- Agreement of aims (5)
- The house of justice? (5)
- Sharply inclined (5)
- Leading lady (7)
- Boxing wins (3)
- Chief Norse deity (4)
- Ancient enemy of Athens (6)
- Peter, Paul or Xavier (5)
- Expose a fraud (6)

- This one’s ___ : I’ll pay the bill? (2,2)
- East Anglian city - “ley” anagram (3)
- Frontiers (7)
- Appear suddenly (3,2)
- Pursue stealthily (5)
- Defamation in writing (5)
- Most weird or bizarre (7)
- Candice’s father (5)
- Expiring (5)

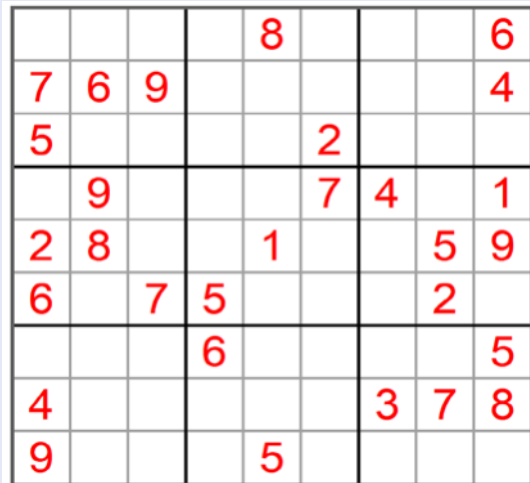
DOWN

- Joined (6)
- Alternative (6)
- Lopsided (3)
- Condition (5)
- Extract (7)
- Over or above (4)
- Implant deeply (6)
- Tell-tale (5)
- Throng (5)
- Eleanor of song (5)
- Currency unit of Norway (5)
- Strong boxes (5)
- Nose around (5)
- Variety of pool (7)
- Jubilant (6)
- Peculiarity (6)
- British comic role (2,4)
- Prehistoric chisel-like tool (5)
- Earnest request (4)
- Psychedelic drug (3)



Solution to July 9

SUDOKU



Solution to July 9



Young Hans

Scholarships

Scholarship Name 1:	Satya Scholarship Program 2026
Description:	The Satya Scholarship Program 2026, an initiative by Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust, offers 100% tuition fee coverage and accommodation support to meritorious Class 12 graduates from Punjab pursuing 3-5 year undergraduate or integrated master's programmes in Commerce, Engineering, and Medical & Health Sciences at select institutes - ensuring financial barriers do not stand in the way of higher education.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to first-year students in 3 to 5-year undergraduate or integrated master's courses in BBA, B.Com, B.Tech, B.E. (all streams), B.Sc. (Engineering), BCA, B.Arch, MBBS, BDS, BPT, B.Sc. (Nursing), B.Sc. (Allied and Healthcare). Must have passed Class 12 Board Exam from a recognised board in Punjab with at least 60% aggregate. Students from Punjab in 38 selected institutes in Ludhiana or top 50 NIRF-ranked institutions in India are eligible. Annual parental income must not exceed INR 8 lakh; guardian income limits apply for orphans. Applicants must be Indian citizens and not recipients of any other educational scholarship. <p>Note: Preference for girl students, sportspersons, persons with disabilities (PwD), orphans, and children of single parents.</p>
Prizes & Rewards:	100% annual course fee coverage for the entire course duration, with additional support for hostel, accommodation, and meals as per program guidelines.
Last Date to Apply:	30-07-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/SAT3
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/satya-scholarship-program-20261783398813.png
Scholarship Name 2:	MPOWER Women in STEM Scholarship 2026
Description:	The MPOWER Women in STEM Scholarship 2026 is being offered by MPOWER Financing. It is a fintech company offering student loans to international students, US citizens, and DACA students committed to supporting and recognising the potential of women in science.
Eligibility:	Application is open to women equal to 18 years old or more, enrolled or accepted as full-time students in a STEM degree program at one of the MPOWER's partner universities. Applicants must be an international student legally permitted to pursue studies in the US or Canada, holding a valid US study visa (or DACA status) or a Canadian study permit, as applicable.
Prizes & Rewards:	A scholarship award of up to USD 5,000.
Last Date to Apply:	31-12-2026
Application mode:	Application Online Only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/MPOW1
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mpower-women-in-stem-scholarship-20261783398847.png
Scholarship Name 3:	Inlaks Fine Arts Awards 2027
Description:	The Inlaks Fine Arts Awards 2027 is being offered by the Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation, a non-profit organisation to emerging young artists to develop their creative talent.
Eligibility:	Application is open to Indian passport holders or those currently residing in India born on or after 1 January 1996. Applicant must be an emerging artist, a recent graduate/postgraduate in visual arts or a final-year students enrolled in a leading Indian visual arts institute. First-year Master's students are not eligible. Applicants must not hold a similar government scholarship or award during the same period. Previous applicants must submit a new body of work while reapplying.
Prizes & Rewards:	Award worth Rs 3,00,000 for a period of one year.
Last Date to Apply:	15-08-2026
Application mode:	Application Online Only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IFAA1
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/inlaks-fine-arts-awards-20271783398833.png
Scholarship Name 4:	Schaeffler India Hope Engineering Scholarship Program 2026
Description:	The Schaeffler India Hope Engineering Scholarship Program 2026 supports female first-year engineering students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with special consideration for students with disabilities (PwD). Established in 2019, the program offers selected scholars financial assistance of INR 50,000 per year, along with mentorship support from Schaeffler India professionals to help them succeed academically and build strong engineering careers.
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to female students across India enrolled in the first year of an engineering program at any UGC/state/AICTE-recognised college. Applicants must have secured at least 60% marks in Class 12 (Science stream) in the academic year 2025-26. For PwD applicants, the minimum required marks are 40% in Class 12 (Science stream). The annual parental income of the applicant must not exceed INR 5,00,000. Children of employees of Schaeffler India or Buddy4Study are not eligible. <p>Note: Preference will be given to students with disabilities and students pursuing the following engineering branches: Automobile, Mechanical, Mechatronics, Electrical and Electronics, Electronics and Communication, Production, Instrumentation, Computer Science Engineering & Information Technology</p>
Prizes & Rewards:	Selected students will receive a scholarship of INR 50,000 per year for four years.
Last Date to Apply:	15-08-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/SIHE17
QR Code:	https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/schaeffler-india-hope-engineering-scholarship-program-20261783398824.png



Today is Chronic Disease Awareness Day

Why awareness and empathy matter

Living with a chronic disease can make school life more challenging than it appears. Conditions such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, arthritis and autoimmune disorders often require students to balance their studies with regular medication, medical appointments and lifestyle adjustments. While these health conditions may not always be visible, they can affect concentration, attendance, participation in activities and emotional well-being.

For students, awareness about chronic illnesses is just as important as academic success. Understanding that a classmate may need extra support or flexibility helps create a more inclusive and compassionate learning environment. Small acts of kindness, patience and empathy can make a significant difference to someone managing a long-term health condition.

Schools also play an important role by promoting health education, encouraging open conversations and ensuring that students with chronic illnesses have access to the support they need.

Teachers, classmates and parents can work together to reduce stigma and foster a culture where no student feels isolated because of their health.

Chronic Disease Awareness is a reminder that good health education goes beyond textbooks. It teaches students to value empathy, respect individual differences and support one another through life's challenges. By spreading awareness and encouraging understanding, schools can help build caring communities where every student has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of the health challenges they face.

6 habits that turn ambition into leadership success

Who reach the top doesn't rely on chance—they develop the skills, mindset and relationships needed to lead with purpose, resilience and impact

AMNEET KAUR SAHRA

The path to senior leadership is rarely linear and for women, it often comes with an additional layer of complexity. Yet, across industries, women who rise to the top share certain traits that set them apart. These are not innate traits but intentional practices, cultivated over time with purpose and consistency. Here are the key habits that are helping women break barriers and claim their seat at the table.



1. Build Visibility
Competence alone does not get you to the boardroom - visibility does. Women who rise to senior roles understand that their work needs to be seen, not just done. They actively seek opportunities to present ideas, lead initiatives, and contribute to conversations that matter. Building visibility means showing up consistently in spaces where decisions are made and ensuring that the right people are aware of the value you bring.

2. Develop Executive Presence
Executive presence is not about how you look - it is about how you make others feel when you walk into a room. It is the ability to communicate with confidence, command attention, and inspire trust. Women who rise to leadership invest in developing a strong point of view, speak with clarity and conviction, and carry themselves with an authority that is both earned and expressed. Presence is a skill, and like any skill, it can be built.

3. Seek Mentors and Sponsors
Mentors guide you. Sponsors advocate for you. Both are essential. Women who rise intentionally build

Climbing the leadership ladder requires more than talent—it demands intentional action. Women who reach senior leadership roles often cultivate habits that strengthen their visibility, confidence, decision-making and influence. From building executive presence and seeking mentors to embracing challenges, leading collaboratively and continuously upgrading their skills, these practices help navigate workplace complexities and unlock new opportunities. While the journey may not always be straightforward, consistent effort and strategic career choices can accelerate growth. By adopting these leadership habits, aspiring professionals can position themselves for greater responsibility, drive meaningful impact, and confidently take their place in today's evolving corporate landscape

relationships with senior leaders who can offer perspective, open doors, and champion their growth when they are not in the room. Seeking mentors and sponsors is not a sign of weakness - it is a strategic move that accelerates growth and expands access to opportunities that may otherwise remain invisible.

4. Embrace Risks and New Opportunities
Playing it safe has never built an extraordinary career. Women who rise to senior leadership roles are those who raise their hand for the stretch assignment, take on roles they are not fully ready for, and step into discomfort with intention. Every risk taken is a signal to yourself and to others that you are ready for more. The willingness to embrace uncertainty is one of the most powerful accelerators of career growth.

5. Lead Through Collaboration
The most effective leaders do not lead alone. Women who rise to the top understand that leadership is not about having all the answers it is about bringing the right people together to find them. They build strong teams, create psychologically safe environments, and lead with empathy and inclusion. Collaborative leadership is not soft leadership. It is smart leadership, and it is increasingly what organisations need at the top.

6. Continuously Invest in Upskilling
The workplace is evolving faster than ever before. Women who sustain their growth into senior roles are those who never stop learning. Whether it is staying current on industry trends, developing financial acumen, building

digital fluency, or sharpening strategic thinking the commitment to continuous learning signals ambition, adaptability, and readiness for greater responsibility. Upskilling is not a one-time investment. It is a career-long habit.

Final Thought
Rising to senior leadership is not about waiting for permission, it is about showing up prepared, purposeful, and unapologetically ambitious. These habits are not reserved for the few. They are available to every woman willing to practise them, consistently and courageously. The question is not whether you are ready. The question is whether you are willing to begin.

(The author is Founder, Catalyze | HR Leader | Advocate for Women in Leadership)

IMT welcomes diverse PGDM class of 2026 with focus on leadership and sustainability

The Institute of Management Technology (IMT) Ghaziabad has welcomed the Class of 2026 for its flagship two-year full-time PGDM programmes, with the new batch reflecting greater diversity, strong academic credentials and a balanced mix of fresh graduates and working professionals. The incoming cohort has been admitted to the institute's PGDM, PGDM Marketing, PGDM Financial Management, PGDM Banking & Financial Services (BFS), and PGDM Dual Country Programme (DCP) through a comprehensive selection process that assessed academic performance, aptitude and leadership potential.

One of the highlights of this year's admissions is the increased representation of women, who account for 45 per cent of the batch, marking an improvement over the previous year. Students have joined the institute from 23 States and Union Territories, contributing to a geographically diverse learning environment. The cohort also represents a wide range



of academic disciplines, including engineering, commerce, management, arts and science.

IMT Ghaziabad said this multidisciplinary background is expected to encourage collaborative learning and diverse classroom discussions. A significant number of students secured above the 93 percentile in national management entrance examinations, while

the batch includes graduates from several leading colleges and universities across the country. The class also comprises both fresh graduates and candidates with prior work experience, creating opportunities for peer learning through the exchange of industry insights and practical perspectives.

The academic session commenced with orientation programmes featuring

industry leaders from sectors including manufacturing, banking, financial services and human resources. Speakers encouraged students to embrace continuous learning, innovation, resilience and ethical leadership as they prepare for careers in a rapidly changing business environment.

Addressing the new batch, Dr. Barnali Chaklader, Dean (Academics), IMT Ghazi-

abad, said management education must prepare students to navigate digital transformation, sustainability challenges and global business complexities. She noted that the institute aims to provide an industry-relevant and globally oriented learning experience that equips future managers with the knowledge and skills required to create long-term value for organisations and society.



Nobody can question the integrity of the FIFA World Cup match officials. When this happens, it may provoke reactions that lead to threats against them and their families. This is not right. Of course, constructive discussion about decisions will always be part of football, but unfounded allegations have no place in our sport
- Pierluigi Collina, FIFA chief refereeing officer

FIFA CHIEF FACES OLYMPIC RED CARD

GENEVA

FIFA's president Gianni Infantino is being referred to Olympic ethics investigators for a possible breach of political neutrality, a human rights group, after U.S. President Donald Trump helped block a World Cup player's ban.

Trump took credit Monday for FIFA's decision — unprecedented in modern World Cup history — to let United States forward Folarin Balogun play Monday against Belgium despite getting a red card in the team's previous game. A Belgium team clearly fired up by the furor won 4-1 in Seattle.

The IOC cites neutrality among "fundamental principles of Olympism" for sports bodies like FIFA, and has jurisdiction over Infantino since he joined its exclusive group of 100-plus invited members in 2020.

"FairSquare will file a complaint to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding FIFA President Gianni Infantino's repeated breach of political neutrality rules," the

Trump lobbying Infantino on Balogun ban triggers complaint to ethics body

London-based sports and human rights NGO said in a statement Wednesday.

The pledge to file a formal complaint to the IOC Ethics Commission came one day after the Olympic body's president Kirsty Coventry told reporters none had yet been received.

"Obviously if they do they would look into it," Coventry said Tuesday in an online news conference when asked about the Balogun controversy fueled by the Trump administration lobbying FIFA and Infantino.

"Yes, we have been obviously watching everything play out," the IOC presi-

dent had said earlier when asked about interference in field-of-play issues by the World Cup co-host nation, which also will stage the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

FIFA was asked for comment about the complaint to the IOC about its president.

Infantino has built close ties to Trump since 2018 when the U.S., Canada and Mexico won a vote to host soccer's World Cup this year.

The FIFA leader has been a regular White House visitor since attending the second Trump inauguration in January 2025 and said in November "we should all support" the president's work as it was "pretty good." Infantino famously created

World Cup Quarterfinals fixture
FRIDAY, JULY 10
France vs Morocco
1:30 am at Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Massachusetts
SATURDAY, JULY 11
Spain vs Belgium
12:30 am at SoFi Stadium, Inglewood, California

the FIFA Peace Prize given to Trump at the World Cup tournament draw in Washington DC last December. Senior soccer officials said privately creating the peace award was an executive decision by Infantino.



Belgium gets serious for World Cup quarterfinal with Spain after gleefully routing US

CARSON (US)

NO more playful dances. No more taunting social media posts. Done celebrating it the host United States at work on extending Cup run on Ameri-

The Red Devils the Los Angeles area on Wednesday with the memory still fresh of their 4-1 thrashing of the Americans in Seattle on Monday. After surviving a test from Senegal with a thrilling comeback and then thoroughly dominating the U.S. in its first two knockout games, Belgium faces its toughest challenge yet against unbeaten Spain in the quarterfinals on Friday.

But this tumultuous World Cup run has sparked something in this Belgian team, goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois believes.

"We gained a lot of confidence, because we knew it was going to be a hard game against America," Courtois said at the LA Galaxy's suburban stadium.

"They're obviously the home team with a full stadium (that's) with them, so it's nice to perform in a good way defensive, offensively, and just play our game."

Belgium went into the U.S. matchup with a world of indignant motivation after star American forward Folarin Balogun's one-game red-card suspension was curiously lifted by FIFA. The Red Devils took it out on an outclassed

Belgium is victory over and hard its World can soil. trained in

American team and then celebrated gleefully, both on the pitch and in the dressing room.

In the most viral moment, many players did the simplistic dance associated with U.S. President Donald Trump and performed by numerous athletes across the sports world in recent months, including American star Christian Pulisic.

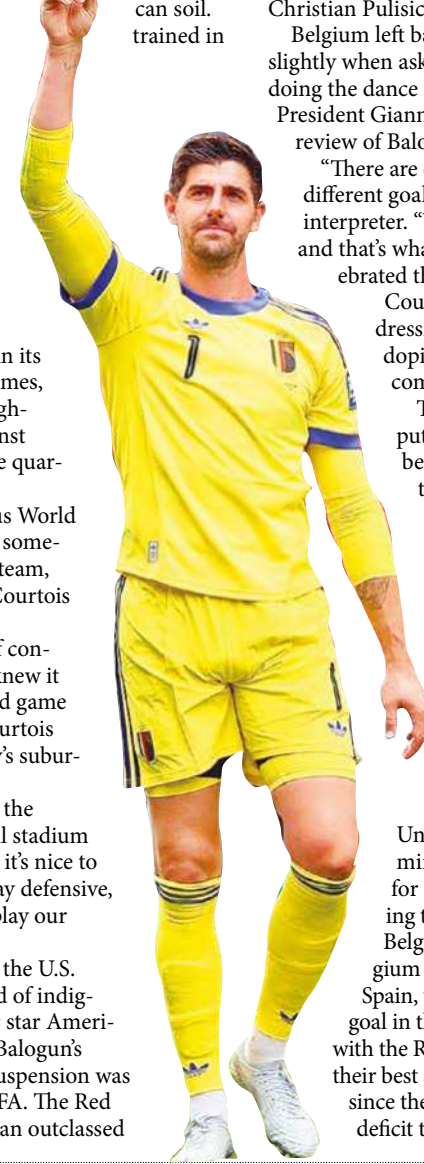
Belgium left back Diego Moreira smiled slightly when asked about the meaning of doing the dance after Trump called FIFA President Gianni Infantino to ask for a review of Balogun's red card.

"There are different ways to celebrate different goals," Moreira said through an interpreter. "You can do different dances, and that's what we've done. We just celebrated the win after the game."

Courtois said he wasn't in the dressing room because he was at doping control, so he couldn't comment on the dance.

The Red Devils say they've put that cathartic evening behind them after landing for their second game of the tournament to be played at SoFi Stadium in the Los Angeles area.

Belgium was still in a mood to argue with Americans, however: The team moved its training base on Wednesday with FIFA approval after deciding that its assigned fields at Los Angeles' Loyola Marymount University "did not meet the minimum standards required for our training session," according to a statement from the Royal Belgian Football Association. Belgium will be an underdog against Spain, which has yet to concede a goal in this World Cup. That's fine with the Red Devils, who have played their best soccer of the tournament since their stirring rally from a 2-0 deficit to beat Senegal 3-2.



Egyptian FA "cannot remain silent" about unfair officiating



Egypt head coach Hossam Hassan was furious after Egypt's loss against Argentina

ATLANTA: The Egyptian Football Association (EFA) said Wednesday it "cannot remain silent" after what it believes was unfair and biased officiating in Egypt's 3-2 round of 16 loss against Argentina.

Egypt coach Hossam Hassan and several players criticised the officiating after being left in disbelief as Argentina scored three unanswered goals in 13 minutes to pull off one of the biggest comebacks in World Cup history.

"Defending the rights and interests of the Egyptian national team is not a matter that can be ignored, minimised, or treated as secondary," the EFA said in a statement. "It is a responsibility that we carry with full conviction and determination."

FIFA's chief of refereeing Pierluigi Collina, in a statement

issued later Wednesday, said while constructive discussion about decisions would always be part of football, "unfounded allegations have no place in our sport."

"Nobody can question the integrity of the FIFA World Cup match officials," he said. "When this happens, it may provoke reactions that lead to threats against them and their families. This is not right."

The EFA said that the referee failed to use the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system appropriately, leading to the loss to Argentina.

Egypt appeared to have netted its second goal in the 58th minute, but a VAR review determined that Marwan Attia had fouled Argentina defender Lisandro Martínez early in the buildup up to the goal.

"Several key incidents raised serious concerns and left profound questions about the consistency and fairness of decisions that directly influenced the course of the game," the EFA statement read.

Collina said "during a competition, we prefer not to focus on specific incidents," but he defended the Attia decision.

TG20 winners trophy tour kicks off Sreenidhi Founder's Day festivities

HYDERABAD: Sreenidhi University welcomed the TG20 Winners Trophy Tour to its campus late on Wednesday, setting the stage for its Founder's Day 2026 celebrations scheduled for July 10. As the title sponsor of the TG20 Tournament, the university hosted the trophy amid enthusiastic participation from students, with the campus buzzing with excitement and sporting spirit.

The trophy tour showcased the institution's vibrant campus culture and underscored its commitment to fostering excellence in academics, sports and overall student development. Large crowds gathered to witness the trophy, celebrating the spirit of competition and teamwork.

The celebrations will culminate on July 10 with Founder's Day, when the university will formally



recognise student achievements and reaffirm its vision of developing globally competent graduates.

Nida Khan granted bail, court flags jail birth trauma

NASHIK

AS it granted bail to a pregnant Nida Khan in a Nashik TCS case, a local court observed that the trauma of giving birth in prison is unbearable for any woman, drawing a comparison with the circumstances surrounding the birth of Lord Krishna.

In his order, Additional Sessions Judge (Nashik Court) K G Joshi, however, noted that the overall investigation shows that Khan, with the help of co-accused, attempted to "brainwash the victim", and tried to change her ideological views and religion. Citing the probe into a sexual harassment and alleged religious conversion case, the order also said that they tried to convince the victim that "there are objectionable stories in the Hindu religion". While the court had granted bail to Khan, who was arrested nearly two months ago, on July 6, the reasoned order was made available on Thursday, with the judge asserting that the FIR clearly mentions Khan's alleged role. The judge allowed her plea, considering the defence argument that she was five months pregnant. "The trauma of giving



birth in a prison like Lord Krishna or the related social stigma is not bearable for anyone," the court said.

"To avoid such an agonising situation and for the welcome and overall welfare of the newborn baby, it would be just and proper to exercise judicial discretion in favour of the applicant-accused," it added. The judge said that keeping the pregnant applicant detained would serve no purpose as the investigation was complete and the charge sheet had been filed.

Besides her pregnancy, Khan's lawyer Rahul Kasliwal also claimed that she was innocent and had been falsely implicated. He sub-

mitted that Khan was highly educated and was previously employed as an "Associate" at TCS before being terminated in April 2026.

Public prosecutor Vijay Gaikwad, along with lawyers Milind Kurkute and Nitin Pandit, appearing on behalf of one of the victims, opposed the bail pleas of Khan and co-accused Danish Shaikh. Their contention was that enough evidence of sexual assault and religious coercion came to the fore during the investigation of the case.

The court allowed Khan's bail on a personal bond of Rs. 75,000 along with one solvent surety of the same amount.

3,000 gas cylinders swept away into river

RAIGAD

TORRENTIAL rainfall and severe flooding in the Khalapur area of Raigad district have triggered a major industrial emergency, with approximately 3,000 gas cylinders from an HPCL bottling plant being swept away into the Patalganga River, officials said on Thursday. The incident occurred at the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) bottling plant located in Chavane, Panvel taluka. As the Patalganga River swelled due to incessant rains in the Khalapur taluka, the strong currents washed away a massive stock of both filled and empty cylinders into the water. Khalapur Police Inspector (PI) Abhijit Bhujbal confirmed the incident, following which the district administration issued an urgent appeal to the public to exercise extreme caution.

Raigad District Collector Kishan Jawale has issued a serious warning to residents living along the riverbanks. "If any gas cylinder is spotted in the river or along its banks, do not touch it under any circumstances, nor should any attempt be made to move it or take it home," the Collector stated. The administration



highlighted the high risk involved, noting that it is impossible to determine the technical condition or the gas content of the cylinders washed away in the flood. Officials warned that any tampering could lead to a catastrophic gas leak or an explosion, potentially resulting in heavy loss of life and property.

"Currently, a search operation for the missing cylinders is being carried out by the administration, the Disaster Management Department, and the concerned company," the administration said.

Citizens have been urged to maintain a safe distance and immediately report any sightings of suspicious cylinders to the local police or the Disaster Management Department.

The search teams are currently monitoring the course of the Patalganga River to recover the missing stock and prevent any untoward incidents.

'Those joining BJP must answer on temple funds theft, NEET leak'

MUMBAI :Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aadiya Thackeray on Thursday questioned leaders contemplating a political future with the BJP, asking whether they were willing to realign themselves with a party facing allegations over the Ram Temple donation theft and NEET paper leak. The former Maharashtra minister asserted his outfit will continue to stand up against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"Those who are planning or thinking of joining the BJP should answer whether they are joining hands with those accused of embezzling Ram temple donations. Youths are protesting at Jantar Mantar (in Delhi) over the NEET paper leak. Are those who wish to go with the BJP comfortable with the NEET paper leak and the suppression of the Opposition's voice?" he asked while talking to reporters in Vidhan Bhavan premises here. The MLA from Worli in Mumbai was replying to questions over Opposition leaders joining the BJP and a meeting between NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, on Wednesday. Pawar is an ally of the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT), while Shinde's party is a constituent of the BJP-led ruling Mahayuti coalition.

Flight school pilot leaps to death midair, student lands plane

TOLEDO: A pilot jumped out of the door of a moving plane to his death, leaving the student he was teaching to fly to land the aircraft by herself. Flight instructor Leandro Andrés Bertazzo, 42, was found dead following the incident, which took place in Toledo, central Argentina, according to a statement from the country's public prosecutor.

Bertazzo was on board the Cessna 150 aircraft with a 22-year-old student named Rosario, CNN affiliate TN reported. The student said Bertazzo told her, "You know what you have to do, carry on," before taking off his headset and seatbelt, opening the door and jumping out of the plane, TN reported. Eduardo Álvarez, director of the Flying Parrot Córdoba flying school

where Bertazzo worked, told TN that there were no signs that the pilot was planning to throw himself from the plane.

Bertazzo had gone on a flight with another student earlier that day, Álvarez said. "He made this tragic decision on board an aircraft with another person by his side," he said. "It's impossible to think about it or understand it, but the human mind is so complex." Bertazzo was "a beautiful person with a great smile," said Álvarez. "We are surprised that this has happened."

Opening the door of a plane in mid-air is extremely difficult, explained Álvarez, who compared it to trying to open the door of a car traveling at 200 kilometers an hour (124 miles per hour).



India has commissioned around 7.5 gigawatt-hours of storage capacity, while more than 140 gigawatt-hours are under construction, awarded, or under tendering. We remain committed to achieving 500GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and net-zero by 2070." -Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy

BIZ BRIEFS

Choice, NHIS in partnership

Choice International Limited, one of India's leading diversified financial services groups, announced a strategic partnership with NH Investment & Securities Co., Ltd. (NHIS), a leading South Korean financial institution and subsidiary of NH Financial Group, through an investment of Rs 900 crore in Choice Equity Broking Private Limited (CEBPL), the broking & wealth management arm of Choice. This strategic investment marks a significant milestone in Choice's growth journey and reflects the confidence of NHIS in Choice's vision.

MakeMyTrip's OneCircle

MakeMyTrip launched OneCircle, a global rewards program built around the Indian traveller, bringing together a collaborative network of 13,376 accommodation properties including hotels and alternate accommodations across 1,002 cities worldwide onto a single platform. OneCircle brings together a diverse mix of accommodation partners, ranging from independent hotels to homestays and villas, across luxury, premium, and budget segments. Travellers stand to earn a minimum of 10 per cent of their accommodation spend back as reward points on every booking.

EMotorad plans AP plant

EMotorad, India's leading electric cycle brand, is set to build a new manufacturing facility in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, as part of the region's Green City Initiative. The company has been allotted a 7-acre site for the plant, a move that advances its goal of making electric mobility accessible to Indians. The project is being carried out with the Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA), as part of a broader development effort led by IIT Kanpur and KADA.

Tata Power's new initiative

Tata Power launched its EZ Home Automation Solutions in Visakhapatnam, bringing simple, app-based smart home technology electricity savings to households across the city. With Tata Power EZ Home, residents can control lights, fans, air conditioners and other appliances right from their phone - or with a simple voice command via Alexa or Google Assistant.

Biometric UPI payments rise

UPI on-device biometric authentication-based payments accounted for over 611 million transactions in June 2026, with a total transaction value of Rs 25,416 crore, reflecting strong adoption across everyday payment use cases. This feature enables users to authorise UPI payments using smartphone's fingerprint or facial recognition. Sohini Rajola, Executive Director - Growth, NPCI, said, "The growing adoption of biometric authentication reflects the increasing preference among UPI users for payment experiences that are simple and efficient."

Centre waives customs duty on key electronics mfg inputs

MOVE AIMS TO BOOST DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF DISPLAY ASSEMBLIES, LITHIUM-ION CELLS AND WIRELESS CHARGING COMPONENTS

NEW DELHI

THE government has waived basic customs duty on goods used in the manufacturing of display assemblies, lithium-ion cells and inductor coil modules as it looks to promote domestic production of electronic devices like smartphones, laptops, wearables and smart TVs.

The finance ministry issued three separate notifications giving effect to the basic customs duty (BCD) waiver on the goods used in the manufacture of the three key components used in electronic devices. This exemption is in line with the government's efforts to promote domestic electronics manufacturing under the PLSI scheme. The duty waiver would reduce import dependence and strengthen the electronics ecosystem with local production. The exemptions on inputs used



in display assemblies and inductor coil modules would be valid till March 31, 2029, the notifications said. AMRG Global Managing Partner Rajat Mohan said the government has now consolidated separate customs exemptions for machinery used in the manufacture of lithium-ion cells for mobile handsets and electric vehicles into a single technology-neutral exemption applicable to machinery

used for the manufacture of 'lithium-ion cells'. "This simplifies the customs framework, removes end-use-based distinctions, and significantly reduces compliance and industrial challenges for manufacturers," Mohan said.

The amendment is expected to encourage fresh investments in domestic lithium-ion cell manufacturing by providing greater flexibility to manufacturers operating

integrated production facilities. "The biggest beneficiaries will be battery gigafactories, electric vehicle manufacturers, consumer electronics companies, battery energy storage system (BESS) manufacturers, renewable energy projects, telecom infrastructure providers, data centres, medical device manufacturers, drone manufacturers and industrial automation sectors, all of which increasingly depend on lithium-ion cells," Mohan added. Grant Thornton Bharat Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader Manoj Mishra said the exemption for inputs used in display assemblies for automotive, medical and industrial applications broadens support beyond consumer electronics, while the relief for inductor coil modules used in wireless charging will benefit smartphone manufacturers adopting advanced features.

Indian embassy pitches deeper economic engagement with Chinese businesses

BEIJING: Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami has met senior representatives of various Chinese companies and conveyed the embassy's readiness to facilitate greater economic and commercial engagement with India.

Doraiswami held a luncheon interaction with select Chinese businesses and friends of India on July 7, the Indian Embassy posted on X on Wednesday.

"He exchanged views with company chairpersons and senior representatives, and conveyed the Embassy's readiness to facilitate greater economic and commercial engagement with India," it said. The development comes in the backdrop of China overtaking the US to become India's largest trading partner in 2025-26, with bilateral trade reaching USD 151.1 billion, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

Corporate revenues surge 11% in Q1 despite West Asia turmoil

NEW DELHI

INDIA Inc's revenue growth accelerated to 11-11.5 per cent year on year in the Q1 FY27, marking the fastest pace in two years, a new report has said.

Strong domestic demand and price hikes offset the impact of higher input costs triggered by the West Asia conflict, helping corporates to maintain strong growth rate, the report from ratings agency Crisil Ratings.

Even as supply disruptions in West Asia pushed up fuel, freight, packaging and feedstock costs, the resilient domestic demand helped companies across sectors to pass on a part of the higher costs to consumers. Sehul Bhatt, Director, Crisil Intelligence said revenue growth in the past two years was powered largely by volume. "But this

time around, pricing was the primary driver, contributing more to revenue growth than volume in sectors such as aluminium, steel, cement, airlines, fertilisers, and gems and jewellery," Bhatt said.

Growth was uneven across industries, but broad-based enough to lift aggregate corporate revenues, he added. India Inc's revenue grew 9.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY26. The report was based on Crisil's analysis of more than 400 listed companies across 47 sectors, excluding banking, financial services, and oil and gas.

The automobile sector led revenue growth, at 22-24 per cent year-on-year, supported by GST-led demand, healthy passenger vehicle and two-wheeler sales, stronger commercial vehicle demand, export growth and selective price increases.

Zerodha-Groww rivalry heats up over mutual fund model

Kamath says direct plans remain the lowest-cost option for investors

NEW DELHI

ZERODHA founder and CEO Nithin Kamath on Thursday took a swipe at rival platforms on X after Groww, one of India's largest retail brokers by active users, began offering regular mutual funds through its subscription service Groww Prime.

In a social media post, Kamath said many platforms that launched direct mutual fund offerings around the time Zerodha introduced its Coin platform have since "disappeared or pivoted to something else."

Remaining competitors are "rethinking their choice of offering direct plans," he said, adding that "Zerodha will continue to offer direct mutual funds for free."

His remarks followed Bengaluru-based Groww expanding its product mix to



include regular mutual funds on its subscription-based Groww Prime platform. The product, initially launched for a select set of users earlier this year, has now been rolled out to the company's two-core customer base.

Groww had previously offered only direct mutual funds, claiming them to be a low-cost investment option that can generate better long-term returns by eliminating distributor commissions.

Kamath said that Zerodha's pricing philosophy has remained unchanged since it pioneered the discount brokerage model in 2010.

"When we started the discount brokerage model in



STOCK markets recovered on Thursday, with the benchmark Sensex closing higher by 238 points on broad-based buying by investors after a heavy correction in the previous session.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher and jumped further 823.05 points, or 1.07 per cent, to hit a high of 77,326.65 later in the day. The index, however, pared gains due to some profit-taking in the last hour and closed at 76,741.82, up by 238.22 points, or 0.31 per cent.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 80.75 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 23,962.80. The broader index hit a high of 24,134.70 before giving up some of the gains at fag-end. Analysts said caution prevailed in the market as the US and Iran exchanged fire for a second consecutive day.

Among Sensex shares, Sun Pharma emerged as the big-

gest gainer, rising by 2.7 per cent. Bharti Airtel rose by 2.15 per cent, lending major support to the benchmark index. Gains in Bajaj Finserv, InterGlobe Aviation, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HDFC Bank helped Sensex close in the green.

Infosys emerged as the biggest loser, dropping by 1.8 per cent. Maruti, NTPC and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

TCS shares declined by 0.52 per cent. After mar-

ket hours, the company reported a modest 4.61 per cent increase in its net profit to Rs 13,349 crore for the June 2026 quarter. Revenue jumped by nearly 14 per cent year-on-year to Rs 72,275 crore. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,962.80 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded marginally higher by 0.15 per cent to USD 78.14 per barrel.

TPTL joins Salesforce to boost manufacturing

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

TRIVENI Power Transmission Limited (TPTL), manufacturer of high-speed gearboxes and engineered power transmission solutions, has announced its collaboration with Salesforce, as part of its broader digital transformation strategy aimed at strengthening customer engagement, enhancing business visibility, and enabling sustainable growth. The collaboration marks a significant milestone in TPTL's journey toward becoming a more connected, data driven, and customer centric organisation. By leveraging Agentforce Sales and Agentforce Service, TPTL aims to unify customer information, improve forecasting, and strengthen collaboration across key business functions. Through this implementation, TPTL will establish a single, integrated platform that enables teams to access real time customer insights, track opportunities more effectively, and make faster, data-backed decisions.

ADB aligns with RBI, pegs FY27 GDP growth at 6.6%

NEW DELHI

ASIAN Development Bank on Thursday lowered India's GDP growth projection to 6.6 per cent as against 6.9 per cent estimated earlier for the current fiscal on concerns of higher energy prices fuelled by the Middle East crisis.

Despite the growth moderation, India still continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

India's GDP growth forecasts are revised down to 6.6 per cent for FY2026 (ending 31 March 2027) and maintained at 7.3 per cent for FY2027, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) July 2026 said. "The FY2026 (2026-27) forecast is lowered from 6.9 per cent projected in April, reflecting elevated energy prices, which squeeze real incomes.

Growth will be supported

by policy interventions to attract more foreign capital, as well as fuel tax cuts, targeted credit support, strong services exports, and public capital expenditure," it said.

The FY2027 growth forecast remains unchanged from April, underpinned by improved global conditions and export competitiveness gained through trade agreements with various partners, it said.

New-age India aims for \$1-trillion market cap by 2030

NEW DELHI: INDIA'S listed new-age ecosystem is projected to reach USD 1 trillion market capitalisation by 2030, driven by a robust pipeline of companies preparing to tap public markets, according to a report released by strategy consulting firm Redseer on Thursday. The report, Redseer India IPO Report: 2026, said the country currently has around 210 new-age companies that are



IPO-ready over the next 24 months, identified through an assessment of 1,400 firms.

Based on an analysis of more than 300 mainboard IPOs between FY21 and FY26, the report said India's listed new-age companies

currently account for around USD 150 billion in market capitalisation, or about 4.6 per cent of the country's total market value. This share could expand to nearly 11.5 per cent by 2030 under Redseer's base-case scenario.

The report noted that India's IPO market has grown nearly eightfold in terms of proceeds over the past decade, making it the only major capital market to sustain

uninterrupted growth in primary issuances. India now ranks third globally in IPO proceeds.

According to the report, the country's IPO market has also become more resilient due to rising participation by domestic institutional investors, including mutual funds, insurers and pension funds, supported by sustained systematic investment plan (SIP) inflows.

GST wins industry confidence, but compliance hurdles persist

Survey calls for simpler rules, quicker refunds and fewer disputes

NEW DELHI

THE overall sentiment of businesses towards GST remains positive after 9 years of its implementation, but addressing compliance complexities and reducing litigation will be critical to strengthening the ease of doing business and unlocking the full potential of the goods and services tax, a survey said on Thursday.

The KPMG in India-FICCI GST Survey said GST has matured considerably

through greater digitisation and transparency, creating a more unified and efficient indirect tax framework.

Businesses continue to prioritise simplification, certainty, faster dispute resolution, seamless credit flow and technology-enabled compliance as critical areas for reform.

The survey also highlights that businesses continue to seek simplification, certainty, faster refunds, seamless input tax credit flow and more effective dispute resolution as



GST enters its next phase of reform. Enabling unfettered input tax credit flow, correcting inverted duty structures

and enhancing certainty in tax administration.

"Nine years after its introduction, GST stands as a re-

form that has unified India's indirect tax framework and driven transparency and digital adoption.

"Going forward, addressing compliance complexities, enabling unfettered credit flow, correcting inverted duty structures and enhancing certainty in tax administration will be critical to strengthening ease of doing business and unlocking the full potential of GST," the survey said. GST, which subsumed 17 indirect taxes and 13 cesses, was rolled out on

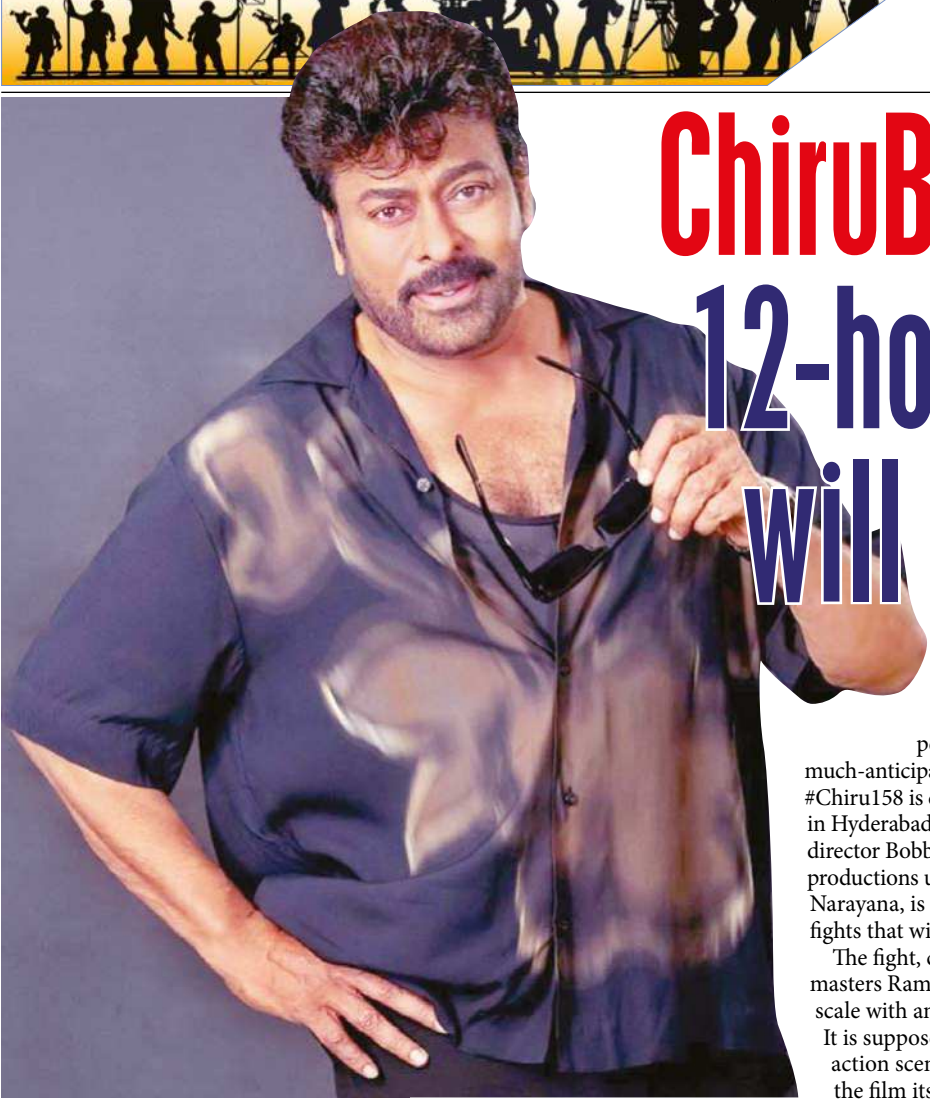
July 1, 2017. About 53 per cent of survey respondents reported that tax administration has evolved towards a more collaborative approach; however, industry feedback on interactions with tax authorities remains mixed, with 47 per cent highlighting variation in interpretation and implementation.

As per the survey, 72 per cent rated GSTAT benches as moderately accessible, while 76 per cent described the GSTAT appeal process and digital platform as moder-

ately effective.

Among future GST reform priorities, respondents identified effective utilisation of GST credits across GSTINs, rationalisation of the ITC framework, and inclusion of oil and gas within the GST framework as key areas.

Resolution of inverted duty structure, including refunds of accumulated credit on input services and capital goods, emerged as a key industry ask to ease working capital constraints and support business competitiveness.



ChiruBobby2: Chiranjeevi's 12-hour rain action shoot will be major highlight

Once again, the mega star Chiranjeevi is breaking the boundaries with his performance. The shooting of his much-anticipated entertainer #ChiruBobby2 / #Chiru158 is currently happening at full speed in Hyderabad. The film, directed by blockbuster director Bobby Kolli and presented by KVN productions under the banner of Venkat K. Narayana, is in the middle of one of the largest fights that will be seen in the film. The fight, choreographed by renowned stunt masters Ram Lakshman, is mounted on a large scale with an equally large group of fighters. It is supposed to become one of the biggest action scenes both in Chiru's career and in the film itself.

What surprised everybody, though, was Chiranjeevi's involvement in the shoot. It is stated that the actor came to the shoot at 9 am and worked non-stop until almost 9 pm. He managed to do a tremendous amount of work during the 12-hour long shoot, including multiple action scenes. He was especially enthusiastic about this particular fight. His amazing dedication and devotion to work once again proved why Chiranjeevi is one of the best actors in the industry. It is also worth mentioning that soon the makers are planning to release the title teaser of the film. The film features a great team of technicians, including music composer Thaman S, Cinematographer Vijay Karthik Kannan, Production designer Avinash Kolla, and Editor Antony Ruben. Screenplay is written by Kona Venkat, K. Chakravarthy Reddy, Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri, with dialogues provided by Bhanu-Nandu.



Rashmika performs India's first female underwater fight sequence

National Crush Rashmika Mandanna is taking risks for the Pan-India Action entertainer. The film directed by debutant Rawindra Pulle and produced by Unformula films is reaching the finish line with a quick pace, while the makers get ready to unveil the first look of the movie soon. It may be noted that one of the core attractions of the film is the underwater action sequence, in which the star performer spends almost 20 hours below the water surface for two days, as she does it all on her own without using a body double for the shot. The makers claim that it is India's first female underwater fight

face-off, which will keep the viewers glued to the edge of their seats. As for the plot, in Mysaa, Rashmika has donned the role of a Gond tribal lady, for which she has done immense hard work and training prior to the commencement of the shoot. Her preparations for the role have stunned everyone, including the technical crew and the action stunt team. The film also stars Rahul Ravindra and Eshwari Rao in the pivotal roles. The cinematography has been brilliantly captured by Shreyas P. Krishna, while the music has been composed by Jakes Bejoy. Notably, internationally acclaimed stunt choreographer Kecha Khamphak-dee has designed the action portions of the movie.

'Maremma' story moved me deeply: Lyricist Mittapalli Surender

Debutant Madhav (son of popular actor Raghu and nephew of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja) is coming with In the upcoming village action drama Maremma. The movie directed by Manchala Nagaraju and presented by Moksha Arts production house is all set to allure the Telugu movie buffs with the fascinating storyline and melodious music. Recently in an interaction with media persons, lyricist Mittapalli Surender disclosed that the story of Maremma has moved him deeply. Further adding that he was emotional while listening to the climax narration of the film, he even ended up sobbing alongside the director. The lyricist expressed, "The song Maari, which is about the hero's calf and its emotional bonding with



him, is very special for me. I have spent my childhood days witnessing this kind of bonding between people and animals. I want this song to live forever." Talking about the performance of debutant Madhav, Surender says, "The young hero has indeed gone to great lengths to essay the character of Karni. In fact, I feel the audience will see Karni and not the

man playing him." He also appreciated the efforts of producer Mayur Reddy Bandaru for giving him this opportunity without minding the expenses and complemented the directorial skills of Manchala Nagaraju who has meticulously worked on each and every department, including the lyrics of the film. Surender concluded by mentioning that he has been busy writing some of the most emotional songs for the film Peddi. Further adding that he has also been working on almost ten films and hopes that his work in the films will bring back the legacy of the legendary lyricist Veturi and Chandrabose. He also said that his motive has always been to write songs that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Jagapathi Babu's 'Vadala' trailer creates buzz

Versatile hero Jagapathi babu's family thriller 'Vadala' directed by Akella V. Krishna and presented by Kishore Naidu Chirumamilla and Tammaredy Bharadwaja under Charitha Chitra Production is all set to hit the theaters on July 17. The movie stars Laya and Hrithika Srinivas in the lead roles and the makers have released the trailer recently which has created quite an impression among the viewers. The trailer introduces Yogi, a loving father figure to his two kids, whose blissful family life is shattered when a young girl falls in love with him, as the mysterious forces start targeting his wife. The thrilling tale delves into the minds of the characters, portraying the intricate psychological game of family secrets revealing a host of startling twists. Shot by noted photographer Chota K Naidu, music composed by Karthik



Kodakandla, well edited by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao and supported by the compelling story of Lakshmi Bhupal, the film seems to be a treat for the audience. While talking about the film at the trailer launch event, the star himself said that the viewers will witness his different genre in the film. He also added that he had a great opportunity to deliver as the lead hero in the film. Further, he urged the people to watch the films on the big screen to spread positivity. On the other hand, Tammaredy Bharadwaja, one of the producers of the film,

said that 'Vadala' will connect with the audience as the film industry is witnessing a paradigm shift at the present time. Meanwhile, the heroine, Laya appreciated the team for giving her an opportunity and said that she is happy to work with Jagapathi Babu once again. The other leading lady of the film, Hrithika Srinivas, said that the film is an incredible opportunity for her. Akella V. Krishna, director of the film, thanked the team for their immense efforts and said that the movie will leave the film lovers glued to their seats after its release on July 17.



'Kotha Cinema' new song celebrates the dreams of aspiring filmmakers

Kotha cinema, a special Telugu movie, has been created by the local Godavarikhani talents and is going to be released soon, presenting almost 100 new faces to Tollywood. Starring Suresh and Rakesh, debut director Azhar directed the film. Mohammed Wasim Akram, Sagi Sudheer Rao, and Yadandla Satish Yadav are the producers of the movie. Recently, a press meet was held in Hyderabad to release the promotional song 'Memu Kuda Cinema Teesinamuro'. The song, which has been composed and tuned by Charan Arjun, narrates the dreams of the young aspirants from Godavarikhani



who wish to make a career in film industry but who do not get the required platform. The function was graced by the presence of Ramagundam MLA Makkan Singh Raj Thakur, producer Madhura Sreedhar Reddy, director Sailu Kampati, actor RK Sagar, etc. Speaking on the occasion, the director said, "It is a message to the people that cinema is not the exclusive preserve of the city and that even in the village, with the local talent, one can make good films." Suresh, a local shopkeeper, and Rakesh, an employee of Singareni,

quickly pointed out that they had participated in the local auditions and grabbed the chance. They called upon the people to support the new talent. Meanwhile, the producer of the film, Madhura Sreedhar Reddy, who also watched the movie, praised the unit for doing a fabulous job. The MLA also congratulated them for their first venture saying that the government would support such films that promote the local talent. He also hoped that it would motivate many young people in Telangana to take up direction and screenplay.

Krithi Shetty stuns with new photoshoot

Krithi Shetty continues to remain in the limelight for her style statements on social media. The actress, whose recent releases LIK and Vaa Vaathiyar failed to make an impact at the box office, was once again flooded with praises after sharing the latest glamorous pictures with fans. Looking stunning in a black backless outfit, the actress stole the hearts of many who complimented her on the latest look. Krithi has been going strong with her style quotient and the latest photo shoot also saw her looking alluring in the bold backless attire. Looking gorgeous, she stunned in the picture with wavy hair, minimal jewelry, and beautiful poses that fetched her massive appreciations on social media. With fans calling her the best-dressed star in South Indian cinema, Krithi is once again being called the best in her industry for the style statements that she makes. Though, the box-office collections are not as expected of her recent releases, Krithi Shetty has been continuously ruling the hearts of the people. In her professional career, Krithi is now eyeing the Genie movie, which is a fantasy entertainer, where she is set to surprise her fans with new looks and style statements.

Dil Raju unveils 'Adhe Neevu Adhe Nenu' teaser

The latest romantic thriller 'Adhe Neevu Adhe Nenu' starring Trinath Varma, Yashwanth Pendyala and Tanvi Negi has sent ripples all over the place as the film's mysterious teaser was unveiled with none other than big producer Dil Raju. The film directed by Kondal and produced by Govindu Kandregula under Sri Lakshmi Veerabhadra Creations banner is a realistic crime fiction potboiler set in a gated community, which captures the consequences of a rash decision made by one of the characters as it has been engulfed by

everyone recently. "Each second of this movie will surprise you; the second half of the film has various twists and turns to keep the viewers engrossed," says Kondal, while adding that the film is a treat for the younger generation, but it would simultaneously entertain and engage the whole family. The filmmaker also claimed that the audiences would be glued to the edge of their seats throughout the flick due to its enthralling narrative and emotional quotient. "The film has been made without any compromises in terms of technical excellence. We have built the

huge gated community on a real-time basis to let the filmmakers get an immersive experience; the crew has also worked together to fulfill the director's creative needs," said Govindu. While on the other hand, he praised Dil Raju for sharing the teaser and reacted positively to his reactions after watching the trailer. Moreover, the filmmaker announced that they have also roped in Jaipal Reddy, Chota K. Prasad, and singer-cum-music composer Kanishka for the project, as the post-production process has been completed, and the makers will soon unveil the release date of the film.

