



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. **P6**

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. **P4**

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. **P7**

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 Vaathiyaar failed to make an impact at the box office, was once again flooded with praises after sharing the latest. **P8**

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095
Follow @ thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia

WINDOWS

2 docs assaulted by Shiv Sena corporator quit job

THANE: The two doctors, who were allegedly assaulted by a Shiv Sena corporator and his aides at a civic-run hospital in Thane district, have resigned from service, an official said on Thursday. The two doctors, including a woman, were under immense psychological trauma following the physical assault, their colleagues and family members said. A video that went viral on social media showed local Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre slapping and punching a helpless doctor and banging a register on his head. He is also seen hitting a female doctor on her hand. The incident, which occurred at the Shastri Nagar Hospital run by the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) on Monday evening, sparked massive outrage.

Snake bites 4 students in hostel, 1 dead

LOHARDAGA: A 12-year-old girl died and three others were hospitalised after a venomous snake bit them while they were sleeping in the hostel room of a private school in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district, police said on Thursday. The incident took place at Sanvasira Higher Secondary Residential School in Rocho Mahuatoli under Kuru police station limits on Tuesday night. "The snake bit four girl students and one among them died. Two students are undergoing treatment at Lohardaga Sadar Hospital, while one was referred to Ranchi's RIMS," Kuru police station in-charge Ajit Kumar told PTI. A school representative said that after dinner on Tuesday night, the students went to their hostel room on the ground floor.

Three former TMC MPs, including Sushmita join BJP

KOLKATA: Former Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MPs Sushmita Dev, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Prakash Chik Baraik joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kolkata on Thursday. The three leaders were inducted into the party in the presence of state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya. Bhattacharya welcomed the former MPs by presenting them with BJP flags during a programme attended by senior state leaders at the party's Salt Lake office.

Trust, Reliability & Service
Synonymous with Kapil Chits

KAPIL GROUP 46 Years

Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com

KAPIL CHITS
SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL

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 in the Gaya-Patna section 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

FULL TANK... PURE FUEL ETHANOL BLENDED

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.

Uttarakhand rains

7 districts on 'Red alert'; traffic at 107 routes disrupted

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN

CONTINUOUS rainfall over the past 24 hours across Uttarakhand has raised river water levels and triggered landslides in hilly areas, disrupting traffic on 107 routes across the state. The Meteorological Department has issued a 'Red Alert' for very heavy rainfall in seven districts, including Dehradun, and an 'Orange Alert' for the remaining districts.

Amid warnings of the heavy rainfall, the administration has been instructed

to remain alert and exercise caution. Additionally, schools for Classes 1 to 12 remained closed in four districts, including Dehradun, due to the rain. Heavy to very heavy rainfall was recorded at several locations across both the Garhwal and Kumaon regions of the state over the last 24 hours.

According to official data, Kashipur recorded the highest rainfall at 206 mm, followed by Jaspur 190 mm, Laksar 180 mm, Kotdwar 160 mm, Haridwar 132.9 mm, Roorkee 126.2 mm, Betalghat 118.5 mm, Tehri 115.2 mm,

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, landslides and rockfalls in several mountainous areas amid rainfall disrupted traffic on 107 routes across the state, including nine state highways and one Border Roads Organisation road

Roshanabad 115 mm, Nainital 107.5 mm, and Narendra Nagar 105 mm. Additionally, Dhanaulti recorded 100 mm of rainfall, Devprayag 98.6 mm, Pauri 93 mm, Rannikhet 92.3 mm, Tehri 79.4 mm, Jolly Grant 76.4 mm, Dehradun 70.8 mm, Mussoorie 70.1 mm, Rishikesh 64.4 mm, Almora 63 mm, and Rudrapur 50.4 mm. Mod-

erate rainfall was recorded in other areas as well. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), landslides and rockfalls in several mountainous areas amid rainfall disrupted traffic on 107 routes across the state, including nine state highways and one Border Roads Organisation (BRO) road. Information from the SEOC

indicates that an old, unoccupied house in the Tehri district's Kaddukhal area was damaged after being struck by a landslide on Wednesday evening. However, the administration had already evacuated two restaurants and some shanties located in the potential danger zone as a precautionary measure. Due to the rains, the River Ganga, Yamuna, and their tributaries are in spate, with water levels rising at several locations.

Data provided by the SEOC, citing the Central Water Commission, shows rising water levels in the Alakan-

da (at Srinagar), Pindar (at Karnaprayag), Ganga (at Devprayag and Rishikesh), Kali (at Dharchula), Saryu (at Pithoragarh), and Gauri (at Jauljibi) rivers.

The rivers are currently flowing below the danger mark.

The Dehradun-based Meteorological Centre has issued a 'Red Alert' for seven districts -- Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Udhampur Singh Nagar, Nainital, and Champawat -- predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall at some places and extremely heavy rainfall in isolated areas.



10K Pb drug addicts granted immunity from prosecution

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

UNDER the AAP government's 'Yudh Nashean Viruddh' campaign launched in March 2025, 10,656 drug addicts have so far been granted immunity from prosecution under Section 64A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Instead of being prosecuted for consuming illegal drugs or possessing small quantities for personal use, they have been admitted to government-run de-addiction and rehabilitation centres for treatment and recovery, an official statement issued here on Thursday said.

The Punjab Police registered 51,516 FIRs under the NDPS Act and arrested 67,519 persons from March 1, 2025, to July 6, 2026. During the same time, over 10,000 people were given immunity from prosecution, reflecting the force's

'This compassionate view of the state reflects its understanding that individuals suffering from substance abuse need rehabilitation and treatment rather than punishment'

dual approach of curbing the supply of drugs in Punjab and connecting people in need of health intervention with the state facilities, it said.

"This compassionate view of the state reflects its understanding that individuals suffering from substance abuse need rehabilitation and treatment rather than punishment. It is, in effect, also a proof that Section 64A of the NDPS Act is being used as intended by the state," the statement said. "The provision grants immunity from prosecution to drug addicts who voluntarily



undergo de-addiction treatment, allowing them to avoid the punishment otherwise prescribed under relevant sections of the Act," it added.

Medical professionals assess each beneficiary and prepare an individualised treatment plan that includes detoxification, psychiatric care, counselling, behavioural therapy,

and relapse prevention, it said. Given the recent success of this programme, in the days to come, the police will continue to connect more victims to de-addiction and rehabilitation centres.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, "The fight against drugs is not only about arresting peddlers

but also about giving every person trapped in addiction a fair chance to recover.

"We as a police force remain committed to supporting every effort that combines strict enforcement with compassion to ensure the state gets rid of drug addiction as early as possible for the better future of our youth," he said.

Sukhu: New industrial policy to promote ease of doing business

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA

THE Himachal Pradesh government is in the final stages of formulating a new industrial policy which will be notified shortly, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said.

Chairing a review meeting of the Industries Department on Wednesday evening, he said that the new policy would play a significant role in attracting investment to the state, creating employment opportunities for youth and further improving the ease of doing business in Himachal Pradesh, a statement issued here on Thursday said.

He added that consultations with all stakeholders are being held to ensure the policy is comprehensive and industry-friendly. The state government is also strengthening the single-window clearance system to facilitate investments,



he added. Sukhu said the government is simplifying rules and procedures under the ease of doing business initiative so that industrialists can establish and operate their enterprises with greater ease. Several policy initiatives and legal reforms have already been undertaken in this direction during the last three and a half years.

The Chief Minister also

reviewed the progress of the Bulk Drug Park at Una and the Unity Mall being constructed at Dharamshala and directed officers to expedite both projects. He said reputed companies from across the country should be invited to invest in the Bulk Drug Park. He added that the Rs 2,071 crore project would generate substantial employment opportunities for the youth.

Opposition 'fond of graveyards': Yogi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BANDA

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday accused the SP and the Congress of insulting Sanatan traditions and opposing the development of major Hindu religious sites like the Ayodhya Ram temple, saying they were "fond of graveyards". Some political parties have made it their "sole objective" to demean Hindu traditions and Sanatan Dharma and don't want India to emerge as a prosperous and developed nation, he said addressing a public gathering here after inaugurating and laying foundation stone of 229 development projects costing Rs 710 crore in Banda and Baberu assembly constituencies and distribution of appointment letters. Targeting the previous SP government, Adityanath alleged that funds meant for heritage conservation were utilised differently during its tenure. "The difference is that after the BJP came to power, the money is being spent on the development and beautification of temples. During the



Samajwadi Party government, the same funds were spent on building boundary walls of graveyards," he claimed. The chief minister further alleged that the opposition SP and Congress opposed the development of religious sites because of their political approach. "They are fond of graveyards, and that is why they oppose the development of the Ram Temple, Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Vindhayavasi Dham, Naimisharanya and Chitrakoot Dham. They also oppose the efforts of public representatives towards the development of these places," he said. "There are people who insult our heritage. Some have made it the sole purpose of their lives to insult Hindu traditions and Sanatan Dharma. They do not want to see India become prosperous and developed," the chief minister said.

Action will be taken in Ram temple donation theft case: UP BJP chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MIRZAPUR

UTTAR Pradesh BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary on Thursday described the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya as a "very unfortunate" incident, and said strict action would be taken against all those found involved. Talking to reporters during his one-day visit to Mirzapur, Chaudhary said both state and central governments are ensuring that the matter is investigated thoroughly.

"We consider this a very unfortunate incident and are deeply saddened by it. Whoever is found involved will face strict action," he said. Taking a swipe at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Samajwa-



di Party president Akhilesh Yadav over their criticism, Chaudhary said, "What Rahul Gandhi or Akhilesh Yadav say is their concern. Those who never cared for Lord Ram and those under whose rule Ram devotees were fired upon are now talking about Lord Ram. The people of the country understand them well."

Responding to questions over the Opposition raising doubts about the Special In-

vestigation Team (SIT) probe, the BJP leader said the Opposition has a habit of questioning constitutional institutions. "They even question the Election Commission and courts. The SIT investigation is underway and nobody involved will be spared," he said.

Earlier in the day, Chaudhary offered prayers at the Vindhayavasi temple in Vindhayachal before proceeding to the BJP office for a press conference. Asked whether the BJP, which had taken credit for the construction of the Ram temple, should also accept the responsibility for the alleged embezzlement of donations at the temple, Chaudhary said a trust had been constituted after the temple's construction and it was responsible for overseeing its affairs.

U'khand is now country's sixth fully literate state

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN

UTTARAKHAND on Wednesday became the country's sixth fully literate state under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the 'ULLAS' (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme, officials said.

The state achieved the significant milestone after meeting the prescribed adult literacy benchmarks set by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Union Ministry of Education, they said. Following this, Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh approved the proposal declaring the state fully literate. Before Uttarakhand, five other states - Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim - had already achieved full literacy status. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami described the achievement as a "milestone" for the state. He said the active participation of the people, along with the government's sustained ef-



orts, played a key role in achieving this feat. Congratulating the people of the state, Dhami said, "Such collective efforts will help in realizing the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047. Furthermore, the government will continue to work with full commitment to ensure that digital literacy, financial literacy, continuing education, and life skills reach every citizen." The state cabinet had approved the proposal to declare Uttarakhand fully literate on June 19. According to officials, Uttarakhand's literacy rate currently stands at over 98 percent.

2 die after family of 4 consumes poison over monetary dispute

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PATIALA

TWO members of a family died while two others are battling for their life as they allegedly consumed poison

due to a domestic dispute linked to financial matters, police said on Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Vikas Batish (45), a private bank employee, and his daughter Khushi Batish

(13). His wife Tamanna Batish (43) and son Kanav Batish (11) remain admitted in hospital and are said to be in critical condition.

According to police, the incident took place at the

family's residence in Officers Colony on Wednesday night. Soon after allegedly consuming the poisonous substance, all four family members fell ill and were rushed to Rajindra Hospi-

tal for treatment by Vikas's in-laws. Despite medical efforts, Vikas Batish and his daughter Khushi Batish succumbed during treatment, while doctors continue to monitor the condition of

Tamanna Batish and Kanav Batish. Deputy SP City-1 Sanjeev Singla said that preliminary investigations suggest a domestic dispute over financial transactions may have led to the incident.

Punjab Congress buzz

Will meet Baghel, present our views: Pargat Singh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

SENIOR Congress leader Pargat Singh on Thursday said he and other party leaders would meet Punjab in-charge Bhupesh Baghel to present their views, days after the latter began his five-day visit to the state, even as several leaders considered close to former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi are yet to meet him.

Pargat Singh and senior leader and MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa asserted that the Congress was "united and strong", saying the party's larger objective was to return to power after the 2027 Assembly polls.

Pargat Singh, however, acknowledged that some "differences of opinion" existed and said these would be conveyed to Baghel. "One or two (leaders) have been authorised to talk. Baghel is our in-charge and the meet-

Pargat Singh and senior leader and MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa asserted that the Congress was united and strong, saying the party's larger objective was to return to power after the 2027 Assembly polls

ing will take place with him. Sukhjinder Randhawa ji will fix the meeting time with him," he said. Earlier in the day, senior Congress leader and MLA Rana Gurjit Singh dismissed reports of factionalism, asserting that no one was above the party high command. "No one is

above the high command," Singh told reporters here when asked about Channi and senior leaders, including himself, Randhawa, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, and some others, who are yet to meet Baghel. On Thursday, Channi, Randhawa, Pargat Singh, Ashu, and Gurkirat

Singh met at MLA Rana Gurjit's residence here. However, Rana said they had all come to meet him on a civic poll-related issue in Kapurthala.

Later, Pargat, Randhawa, and Rana briefly interacted with the media. Baghel has been holding a series of meetings here with party leaders in the run-up to the 2027 polls after his arrival here on Monday on a five-day visit. On July 1, the Congress announced

that Amrinder Singh Raja Warring would continue as the Punjab unit president and appointed Channi as chairperson of the campaign committee. Several senior leaders held a meeting in Mohali in Channi's presence on Monday, days after several incumbent and former MLAs threw their weight behind him to be reconsidered for the state unit chief's post. Replying to a question, Rana Gurjit tried to portray that "All is



Well" in Punjab Congress. When asked whether the perceived deadlock in

the party would end, he replied, "Where is the deadlock? All is well".

31,700 oxytocin injections seized over cold chain violation

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

IN a major crackdown on violations of drug safety norms, the Delhi Government's Drugs Control Department on Thursday seized 31,700 Oxytocin injections after they were found to have been stored at room temperature instead of under mandatory refrigerated conditions, raising concerns over the medicine's quality and effectiveness.

The action was taken

The action was taken during a special inspection ordered by Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh as part of an intensified enforcement drive against violations of drug storage and quality regulations across the national capital

during a special inspection ordered by Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh as part of an intensified enforcement drive against violations of drug storage and quality regulations across the national capital. The raid was conducted at a pharmaceutical establishment in

the Patparganj Industrial Area, where officials found a batch of Oxytocin Injection IP 5 IU/ml being stored in violation of prescribed cold chain norms.

Oxytocin, a temperature-sensitive medicine widely used in obstetric care, must be stored between 2°C and



8°C to retain its potency and therapeutic efficacy. According to the inspection report, the seized stock

had allegedly remained at room temperature since it was procured in May 2026, increasing the risk that its

effectiveness had been compromised. Officials found that although the premises had a functional refrigerator, medicines requiring cold storage had not been kept inside, amounting to a violation of Rule 65(17) of the Drugs Rules, 1945, which mandates proper storage conditions for medicines.

Considering the potential health risks, the department seized the entire stock under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to prevent distribution of medicines

whose efficacy may have been affected. Authorities have also traced the distribution network of the affected batch and will issue stop-sale notices and product recall orders wherever necessary.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against those responsible.

Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that only safe and effective medicines reach patients. "The Delhi Government has zero tol-

erance for any compromise with the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines. Patient safety will remain our highest priority," he said.

The minister directed the Drugs Control Department to intensify surprise inspections across Delhi and warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone violating statutory storage and quality norms. Officials said the enforcement drive will continue across the city to strengthen regulatory oversight and safeguard public health.

Delhi building collapse: Toll climbs to 3, rescue Op ends

Before the fire personnel reached the spot, the locals managed to rescue one person, who was declared dead at the hospital

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE death toll in the building collapse in northwest Delhi's Rohini climbed to three, with two more bodies pulled out from the rubble during the rescue operation that went on through the night, Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials said on Thursday. Five people were rescued during the operation, which has now ended. It was launched on Wednesday evening after the four-storey building



that was under construction collapsed amid heavy rain. A total of three people were rescued by fire personnel.

While two of them were declared dead after being pulled out of the debris, one was injured and hospitalised,

a DFS official said. Before the fire personnel reached the spot, the locals managed to rescue one person, who was declared dead at the hospital. The death toll in the incident stands at three, the official said.

"The rescue operation has been completed. DFS crews are still at the site," the official said. The building collapsed on Wednesday at property no. G-4/152 and G-4/153 near an MCD school in Sector 16.

Police, DFS, National Disaster Response Force,

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Revenue Department and other agencies launched a massive rescue operation, deploying heavy machinery to clear the debris. The MCD said on Wednesday that the collapsed structures had received sanctioned building plans under the SARAL Scheme, which allows property owners to get automatic clearance and building permits by submitting a self-verified undertaking through certified architects or engineers.

MCD reports drop in waterlogging locations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI recorded 169 waterlogging locations during the 2025 monsoon, down from 194 in 2024, with the MCD claiming only nine of these fall under its jurisdiction, officials said on Thursday. According to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)'s monsoon preparedness report for 2026, most of the waterlogging stretches identified by the Delhi Traffic Police are maintained by the Public Works Department (PWD), while only nine locations are under the civic body's jurisdiction.

It further suggested that waterlogging at these locations generally lasts between one and three hours, causing traffic disruption and inconvenience to commuters.

To ensure a swift response during heavy rainfall, nodal officers have been assigned for each of the 793 major drains and all identified waterlogging points under the MCD's jurisdiction.

According to the official report, to tackle water accumulation during the monsoon, the civic body has kept 79 permanent pumping stations operational round-the-clock with dedicated staff and nodal officers. It has also increased the number of temporary pumps from 427 last year to 465 this year, while an-



other 40 pumps are under procurement. The civic body said it had removed 1,80,595 metric tonnes of silt from 793 major drains covering 545.35 km up to July 3, achieving 128.08 per cent of its desilting target of 1,41,003 metric tonnes.

It said desilting of major drains is being carried out through outsourced agencies using excavators, JCBs and manual labour, while 2,239 "nallah beldars" have been deployed to clear floating waste on a daily basis.

The MCD has also set up 12 zonal control rooms and a central command and control room at its headquarters, besides constituting ward-level teams to respond to complaints and emergencies during heavy rainfall.

The report said all zonal heads have been directed to remain on alert and ensure prompt deployment of manpower and machinery to minimise waterlogging in areas under the corporation's jurisdiction.

Ex-staffer among 3 held for running fake IT dept job racket

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI Police has arrested three people, including a former employee of the Income Tax Department, for allegedly running a fake recruitment racket to dupe government job seekers, Delhi Police said on Thursday.

The police in a statement said the accused allegedly cheated at least six to seven people of around Rs 10 lakh by posing as officials and conducting fake recruitment procedures inside the Income Tax Department premises at the Civic Centre to make the process appear genuine.

The arrests were made by the Central District police



following an investigation into a complaint lodged by a resident of Ajmeri Gate, who alleged that he was cheated of over Rs 2 lakh on the false promise of a multi-tasking staff (MTS) job in the Income Tax Department.

"An FIR was registered at the Hauz Qazi police station on May 18 after the complainant alleged that the accused had induced him to part with his provident fund savings," a senior police officer

said. The complainant told the police that in December 2025, one of the accused introduced himself as an employee of the Income Tax Department and assured him of arranging a government job.

Another accused allegedly collected Rs 5,000 in cash, while the remaining amount of Rs 1.98 lakh was transferred digitally into a bank account provided by the gang between December 22 and December 31, 2025.

"To convince the victim, the accused allegedly prepared fake verification forms and continued assuring him that the recruitment process was underway until March this year before becoming untraceable," the police officer said.

Court moved against order granting TV, 4 raw eggs to 2020 riots accused

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has moved a court here seeking recall or modification of an order that allowed 2020 Delhi riots accused Shahrukh Pathan to receive four raw eggs daily and keep a separate television in his high-security prison cell, saying the directions require reconsideration. Pathan has been accused of pointing a gun at a police constable during the riots. The plea has been filed against an order passed by Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai on June



4 after the counsel of the accused submitted that his client, who is lodged in the Tihar Jail, is facing frustration and depression due to prolonged incarceration. In the June 4 order, the court allowed an application moved by Pathan seeking four raw eggs every day instead of boiled eggs and permission to have a separate television in his cell at his own

expense. Pathan's counsel had argued that boiled eggs did not suit him and made him ill.

The defence had also submitted that since Pathan was lodged in a separate cell as a high-risk inmate, he was unable to watch television programmes of his choice on the common TV meant for multiple prisoners, adding that prolonged incarceration had left him frustrated and depressed. Accepting the request, the court directed the Tihar Jail superintendent to provide Pathan four raw eggs every day instead of boiled eggs.



Govt only talking about Minto Bridge, ignoring other flooded areas: Kejriwal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

FORMER Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday alleged that the Delhi government was focusing only on the resolved waterlogging at Minto Bridge underpass while ignoring other parts of the city. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener said several areas across Delhi were facing flooding, poor sanitation and damaged roads. His remarks came after the BJP government in Delhi claimed it had permanently resolved the waterlogging problem at the Minto Bridge underpass by constructing an additional drain.

"Entire Delhi is submerged, but they keep on talking about the Minto Bridge underpass. We solved that problem during our government. Besides that, several other areas are facing waterlogging, there is filth

spread around and broken roads in other parts of the city," Kejriwal said. AAP's Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj also criticised the BJP government, saying it should focus on other affected areas as well.

"At Sadar Bazar, Asia's largest wholesale market, there is knee-deep water. Delhi government is only talking about Minto Bridge, look at the entire city, there is waterlogging in Burari, Sangam Vihar, Ring Road and other areas too where the condition is bad," Bharadwaj said.

Leader of Opposition Atishi, also posted pictures and videos of waterlogged areas on social media, questioning the government's response to the monsoon. Earlier, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had said that the waterlogging problem at Minto Bridge underpass had been permanently resolved and that government was on alert for other vulnerable locations.

Inderlok-Indraprastha Metro Line launched

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday launched the construction of the Inderlok-Indraprastha Metro corridor, a fully underground Magenta Line ex-

tension that will connect key areas, including Sarai Rohilla, Karol Bagh, New Delhi Railway Station and central Delhi landmarks.

The 12.377-km corridor will be developed as a fully underground extension of the Magenta Line (Line-8)

and will have 10 underground stations at Inderlok, Daya Basti, Sarai Rohilla, Ajmal Khan Park, Jhandewalan Temple, Nabi Karim, New Delhi, Delhi Gate, Delhi Sachivalaya-IG Stadium and Indraprastha, a statement said.

The corridor, after completion, will operate as part of the driverless Magenta Line.

The ongoing priority corridor works of the Magenta Line, including sections between Janakpuri West-R K Ashram Marg, are being

executed in phases, with some stretches already operational, it stated. The Magenta Line will become the longest corridor in the Delhi Metro network, extending nearly 89 km from Botanical Garden to Inderlok, it stated and added that the line will



also have the highest number of interchange stations and underground stations in the network, improving connectivity across the national capital.

HERITAGE BODY RENAMED

Chandni Chowk redevelopment at centre of Old Delhi revival

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The decision was taken at the corporation's annual meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who said the initiative aims to transform Old Delhi into a world-class heritage destination without compromising its historical character

IN a major push to preserve and revitalise the historic heart of the capital, the Delhi Government has renamed the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation as the Indraprastha Heritage Redevelopment Corporation (IVPN), broadening its mandate to conserve Delhi's rich cultural and architectural legacy while upgrading civic infrastructure. The decision was taken at the corporation's annual meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta,

who said the initiative aims to transform Old Delhi into a world-class heritage destination without compromising its historical character.

The meeting, attended by Urban Development Minister and IVPN Vice-Chairper-

son Ashish Sood, Managing Director Sandeep Kumar and senior officials, outlined an ambitious roadmap covering heritage conservation, tourism promotion and infrastructure development.

The redevelopment of



Chandni Chowk emerged as the government's top priority. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure that the market's redesign preserves its historic identity,

traditional layout and cultural essence while improving convenience for traders, shoppers and tourists. She stressed that every aspect of the project should reflect

Chandni Chowk's heritage and restore its original grandeur. To improve visitor experience, the government approved the construction of modern public toilet blocks and expansion of civic amenities in the bustling market, which attracts lakhs of visitors every day. Plans are also underway to establish a dedicated tourist control room offering information, navigational assistance and emergency support, along with organised parking facilities to reduce congestion.

The meeting also reviewed the redevelopment of the his-

toric Town Hall, with directions to create a dedicated entrance and exit facing Chandni Chowk to enhance its appeal as a major heritage and tourism landmark. The Chief Minister emphasised that the interests of local traders and shopkeepers must be protected alongside heritage conservation.

Beyond Chandni Chowk, officials were asked to prepare redevelopment and beautification plans for the Hanuman Temple at Yamuna Bazaar, the Jama Masjid precinct, and the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg stretch out-

side the Old Delhi Railway Station.

Officials noted that Old Delhi, spread across 7.12 sq km with a history of over 350 years, is home to one UNESCO World Heritage Site, 10 centrally protected monuments, 10 state-protected monuments and more than 700 locally protected heritage sites. The government believes the redevelopment programme will boost tourism, improve civic infrastructure, strengthen local businesses and preserve Delhi's historic legacy for future generations.

For Advertisement please Call: 9717809984/ 9718673567

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

thehansreader@gmail.com

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>

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 short-listing 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."

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-

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 Nandendla 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 Nandendla 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, including 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.

Centre keen to strengthen Singareni Collieries: Kishan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy received a grand welcome on his arrival at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) on Thursday and reiterated that the Central government's goal is to strengthen Singareni Collieries and it is committed to workers' welfare. Addressing the party cadre and leaders, who gathered in good numbers on his arrival at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) on Thursday to greet him, after the Union Government decided to allocate the Tadicherla coal mine to the Singareni Collieries.

A large number of BJP leaders, activists, Singareni workers and fans, who arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) welcomed him. The workers, who believe that the allocation of the Tadicherla coal mine to Singareni, will improve employment opportunities for thousands of workers and the company will recover financially.

BJP workers showered him with flowers while raising slogans like 'Jai Shri Ram and Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. Local BJP leaders expressed that this allocation will positively impact the future of Singareni and Telangana's coal sector.

BRICS TUFs Summit: Roadmap for future-ready workforce

Summit under India's chairmanship to discuss social security, AI transformation, skill development and women's participation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRICS Trade Union Forum Summit (TUFs) Chairman S Mallesham said that the forthcoming BRICS TUFs in the city will be a pivotal step towards shaping the future of work in a rapidly changing global landscape.

He said on Thursday that, under India's chairmanship, it will put forward a special agenda highlighting four critical issues for deliberation among member nations. Recognising the vital role of employees' voices, the forum aims to foster multilateral cooperation and social justice in the world's leading emerging economies.

As part of the proposed agenda for the summit, "The universalisation of social security and international portability" will be on the agenda. As migration corridors actively connect several BRICS countries, the continuity of social security



benefits for cross-border workers has become increasingly important"

"Building on the 2016 BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration and subsequent discussions," the forum, during the ensuing summit, seeks to advance policies that ensure migrant workers can access and transfer social security entitlements seamlessly, regardless of their country of employment, he added. This would provide much-needed stability and protection to the growing migrant workforce within BRICS nations.

Mallesham said the second issue on the agenda is

the rapid digital transformation of workplaces driven by artificial intelligence, automation, and digitalisation. Against this backdrop and as the BRICS nations experience significant changes in labour dynamics, "The forum calls for a debate on human-centric technology and the responsible governance of AI in the workplace."

This was with a view to achieving a goal "to ensure that technological advancements respect workers' rights, promote fair employment practices, and are implemented in a way that benefits both businesses and employees. This discussion is particularly timely, given the global debates on balancing innovation with ethical, inclusive policies," he said.

The BRICS TUFs Chairman stated that skill development will also be discussed, as it is emerging as the third focal point. The Forum emphasises the trade unions' proactive role in

driving continuous, state-supported acquisition of vocational, sector-specific, and digital skills. "The objective was to address labour shortages and surpluses collaboratively among BRICS members, ensuring that workers are equipped for the demands of the new digital economy." Besides, Mutual recognition of qualifications and the ability to pivot to new skill sets are seen as key to both national and international economic resilience.

Given the overall expectations from the ensuing summit, he said, the forum will reaffirm the bedrock principle of inclusive labour markets by proposing a special discussion on "Women and Future of Work." Equal opportunities for all, irrespective of gender, are essential for social justice and sustainable economic progress. The BRICS Trade Union Forum is committed to gender equality and a more inclusive future of work.

Arvind demands CBI probe into Kavitha's charges on KCR family



The delay in handing over the case to the Central agency will give impression that Cong and BRS in cahoots

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

BJP MP Arvind Dharmapuri has demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy immediately order a CBI investigation into the corruption and quid pro quo allegations made by Kavitha against the KCR family and Harish Rao.

The Nizamabad MP said that the allegations made by Kalvakuntla Kavitha on BRS party funds, quid pro quo transactions, alleged agreements with Pradeep Constructions, political support to Phoenix, and land allocations to Andhra contractors by the

previous and current governments are very serious. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to order a CBI investigation without any doubt on these allegations. Arvind stated that the delay in handing over the investigation into the corruption in the Kaleshwaram project to the CBI, protecting KTR from investigating despite evidence of corruption in the e-car race, and the failure to take action against those responsible for the phone tapping scam so far have already made people doubt the sincerity of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and that people believe that the two parties, Congress and BRS, are in cahoots.

Therefore, he said, to maintain the trust of the people, the government should immediately hand over this matter to the CBI, bring the truth to light with complete transparency and take strict action against the accused.

Kavitha fires Rs 1.4K-cr fund salvo against BRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Kalvakuntla Sena president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday demanded that the alleged Rs 1,400 crore corruption funds of the BRS be allocated to the families of martyrs (Amaraveerulu).

The TRS leader said that she would never return to the BRS.

She made these comments during her visit to Kothagudem on Thursday. Addressing a massive gathering, Kavitha made it clear that despite systematic, state-sponsored intimidation, her fight for the people, the martyrs, and the working class of Telangana remains unstoppable.

Striking at the very core of the BRS leadership, Kavitha demanded that the Rs 1,400 crore currently sitting in the BRS party account, which she labelled as illicit proceeds accumulated through systemic corporate quid pro



quo; be immediately confiscated and distributed to the families of Telangana martyrs at Rs 1 crore each.

She levelled grave corruption allegations against KTR and Harish Rao, exposing how public assets were systematically traded for corporate favours.

Kavitha exposed how KTR abused his ministerial powers to orchestrate a massive quid pro quo deal with his close associate, Pradeep Constructions, granting illegal building permissions for mega-structures. She further alleged that Rs

188 crore of these ill-gotten funds were recently used by KTR to acquire The Pioneer English newspaper in a desperate bid to buy out the mainstream media narrative and suppress TRS's grassroots anti-corruption exposés.

Kavitha branded Harish Rao as "anaconda of corruption" behind the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru Lift Irrigation projects.

She lambasted the BRS for continuing to project a leader whose tenure left permanent stains of corruption on the state.

HC grants bail to Bandi's son in POCSO case

HYDERABAD

THE Telangana High Court on Thursday granted conditional bail to Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bageerath, who was arrested in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.

The High Court on July 6 reserved its orders in the bail petition filed by Bageerath. The court allowed Bageerath's plea on furnishing two sureties of Rs One lakh each and other conditions, including directing him to cooperate with the investigation. Earlier, Public Prosecutor Palle Nageshwara Rao had opposed the granting of bail to the accused and argued that he may influence the witnesses and tamper with evidence, if released on bail. The police are going to file a chargesheet, he further submitted. The petitioner's counsel argued that Bageerath had been in judicial custody for more than 40 days and sought for granting bail. Bageerath was arrested on



the night of May 16 in the POCSO case and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. The case was registered on May 8 under relevant sections of the BNS and the POCSO Act at Petbasheerabad police station, based on a complaint lodged by the mother of a 17-year-old girl.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER

Open Tender Notice No. SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2026-27-T10, Date: 08.07.2026
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Eastern Railway, Izzatnagar for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work: S.N.-1, Name of work:- TRD related work for provision of 3rd loop line at CHRU station. Tender reference no:- SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2026-27-T10. Approx. Cost (in Rs):- 1,17,60,853.32. Earnest money/Bid Security (in Rs):- 2,35,200.00. Cost of tender documents (in Rs):- 00. E-Tender closing date and Time:- 31.07.2026 11:00. Completion period:- 12 Month. E-Tender Online will be submitted upto 11:00 Hrs on date: 31.07.2026. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website if Indian railways i.e., www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO/Elect.-89 Izzatnagar
Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

| Name of work with its location | Part-C: Provision/Improvement of earthing arrangement in existing TSS and Switching posts in DUK section in connection with improvement of supply arrangement and augmentation of PSI assets in DUK section. |
|--|--|
| Approx. Cost of work | Rs. 1,76,82,874.88/- |
| Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 3,53,700/- |
| E-Tender Bid Online Submission period | 20.07.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 03.08.2026 (15.00 Hrs.) |
| E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time | 03.08.2026 (15.00 hrs) |
| Fund Allocation | RRSK (PH-36) |
| Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen | www.ireps.gov.in |
| E-Tender No.:- 23-TRD-NDLS-2026-27 Dated : 09.07.2026 | 2363/2026 |

Serving Customers With A Smile

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

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."

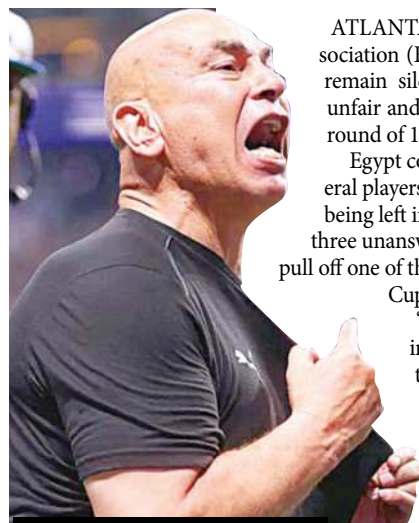
Courtois said he wasn't in the dressing room because he was at doping control, so he couldn't comment on the dance.

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 Martinez 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 Aaditya 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-

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

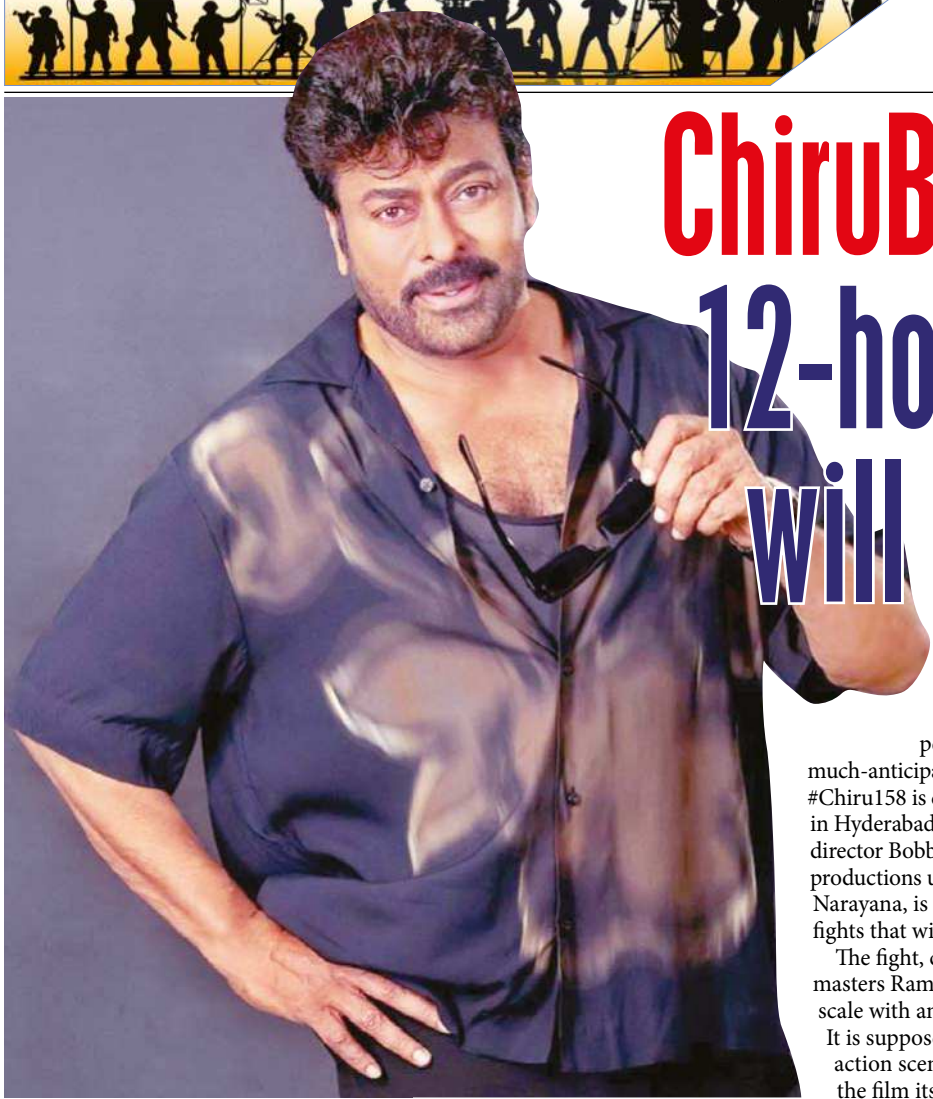
July 1, 2017. About 53 per cent of survey respondents reported that tax administration has evolved towards a more collaborative approach; however, industry feedback on interactions with tax authorities remains mixed, with 47 per cent highlighting variation in interpretation and implementation.

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 Tammarady Bharadwaja under Charitha Chitra Production is all set to hit the theaters on July 17. The movie stars Laya and Hrihika 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, Tammaraddy 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, Hrihika 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.

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.



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.

