

# THE Hans India



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**ONCE-WEEKLY Awiqli**  
 Inspiri-headed Inspector 200 U/Wal  
**P7**  
**India gets world's first once-a-week insulin**

**P7**  
**PM to flag off India's first hydrogen train from Jind on July 17**

**P7**  
**Stricter H1B, Green Card rules coming in August**

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

## 'MELBOURNE MEETS MODI'

### DRIVEN BY VISION OF 'GROW MORE, ACHIEVE MORE' ...

# India working to become a developed nation: PM

MELBOURNE

INDIA, driven by the vision of "Grow More, Achieve More", is working towards the goal of becoming a developed nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, underscoring that the foundation of the country's big dreams and great aspirations is its people.

Speaking at an Indian diaspora event, 'Melbourne meets Modi', also attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, PM Modi said he was delighted that the partnership between the two countries in the areas of education, skills and innovation is deepening and strengthening.

"India of the 21st century is working towards the goal of becoming a developed nation. When one dream is realised, a new one is born. This is an India that believes in 'Grow More, Achieve More'," Modi said, amid cheers from the audience.

Continued on Page 7



PM Narendra Modi with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during a community event, in Melbourne on Thursday

### India, Australia unveil new defence declaration

MELBOURNE: India and Australia on Thursday unveiled a new Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, committing to deepen strategic collaboration across defence, maritime security, cyber technologies, counterterrorism and critical supply chains. **Cont'd on P7**

### Oz to fuel India's green future with uranium supply: PM

MELBOURNE: India and Australia on Thursday vaulted their partnership into a highly strategic orbit with the signing of a landmark nuclear energy agreement under which Canberra will supply uranium to fuel New Delhi's civil atomic programme. **Continued on Page 7**

## 'Terror camps crumbled during Op Sindoor'



**MODI TO INDIAN DIASPORA IN MELBOURNE**  
 MELBOURNE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking to the expat Indian community in Australia's Melbourne today, spoke of India's initiatives to tackle terror, and in this context, mentioned Operation Sindoor -- air strikes carried out in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir response to the Pahalgam terror attack. **Continued on Page 7**



### US, Iran trade strikes for 2nd night in a row

▶ Tehran aims at Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar  
 ▶ US says it hit 90 targets in Iran on 2nd night

DUBAI: The US and Iran have traded strikes for a second night, as observers report a "dramatic" drop in the number of ships travelling through the Strait of Hormuz since hostilities resumed. The US military says it struck some 90 military targets, some near the Strait. Iranian authorities say 14 people have been killed in the past two days. **Continued on Page 7**

## YSRCP backing anti-Hindu narratives, fumes CM Naidu

▶ Accuses Opposition of encouraging rowdiness, social unrest  
 ▶ 'NDA govt will not tolerate attempts to incite religious hatred'

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI



CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday mounted a sharp political attack on the YSR Congress Party, accusing it of backing controversial YouTuber Prasna Ravan, encouraging anti-Hindu narratives and promoting elements that threaten law and order.

Addressing the 'Mee Bhoomi Mee Hakku' public meeting at Banaganapalle in Nandyal district, Naidu reacted for the first time to

the controversy surrounding Prasna Ravan, against whom the state government has invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), alleging that he propagated Maoist ideology, attempted to radicalise youth and create social unrest.

The Chief Minister alleged that Prasna Ravan had insulted Hindu epics, made derogatory remarks against Lord Rama and Sita, and

supported terrorism and Pakistan. Claiming that the YSR Congress had extended financial support to such individuals, Naidu questioned the Opposition's motives and asked whether such actions were justified. Without naming specific individuals, Naidu accused the YSRCP of encouraging "rowdies, ganja gangs, drug users and anti-social elements" during its tenure. **Continued on Page 7**

## Lokesh urges Kia to expand EV hub

PITCHES STATE AS A STABLE, RELIABLE MANUFACTURING BASE

▶ Sunic Systems will evaluate display equipment facility proposal  
 ▶ Korea Industrial Park proposed

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI



IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh holding a high-level meeting with a team of Sunic Systems team, a leading South Korean manufacturer of semiconductors, in Seoul on Thursday

ANDHRA Pradesh has stepped up its campaign to position itself as India's preferred destination for South

Korea manufacturing and technology investments, with IT and Electronics Minister

Nara Lokesh holding a series of high-level meetings in Seoul to attract projects across

electric vehicles, semiconductors, displays, green energy, and advanced electronics. At a meeting with Kia Corporation Executive Vice-President Tae Hun Lee, Lokesh urged the automaker to expand its Andhra Pradesh footprint beyond passenger vehicles by establishing an integrated EV and hybrid vehicle manufacturing hub, including Platform Beyond Vehicle (PBV) models. **Continued on Page 7**

## MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA

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# Govt sanctions Rs 2,742.40 cr tariff subsidy to discoms

- Advance subsidy for second quarter of 2026-27 to ensure uninterrupted power supply across State
- Funds allocated to APSPDCL, APEPDCL and APCPDCL under Electricity Act provisions

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government accorded administrative sanction for the release of Rs 2,742.40 crore as advance tariff subsidy to the State's three power distribution companies (discoms) for the second quarter of the 2026-27 financial year. The decision is aimed at ensuring uninterrupted and quality power supply while strengthening the financial position of the utilities. To effect this, energy department special chief secretary K Vijayanand



issued GO Rt No 46 on Thursday. The sanction has been accorded under Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003, based on proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Power Coordination Committee (APCC). As part of the allocation, Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) will receive Rs 1,574.53 crore, APEPDCL will receive Rs

659.80 crore and APCPDCL will receive Rs 508.07 crore. The funds will be released under various budget heads earmarked for tariff subsidy payments. The government has directed the assistant secretary and drawing and disbursing officer of the energy department to remit the sanctioned amounts directly to the respective bank accounts of the three discoms. The chairmen and MDs of APSPDCL, APEPDCL and APCPDCL, along with the member convener of APCC, have been instructed to take necessary follow-up action for utilisation of the funds.

**Sri Boyakonda Gangamma Devasthanam**  
Diguvapalli Village, Chowdepalli Mandal, Annamaya District

**E-Procurement Tender Notice Dt: 06-07-2026**

Tenders are invited for One (1) Developmental work in the premises of Temple. Interested eligible contractors are requested to download the Tender Bid & BOO from <https://tender.apecprocurement.gov.in>. This bids can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 08-07-2026 on 5-00 pm to 23-07-2026 upto 5-00 PM. Please refer to [www.apecprocurement.gov.in](http://www.apecprocurement.gov.in) for details. For further details contact +91 9491000741.

**Sd/- J.EKAMBARAM, B.A.,**  
Deputy Commissioner & Executive Officer

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) National Highways Division – Kadapa

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform all the people that, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India has taken up **Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Newly declared National Highway NH 167K from Kurnool/ Kadapa Border-Jammalamadugu section of NH-167K i.e., Design Ch. Km 248+010 to Km 269+900 to 2 lane with paved shoulders in the State of Andhra Pradesh.** As part of said work it has been proposed to divert an extent of 0.19 Ha of forest land in Compartment No. 63, Pennar Plantation RF, Kalamalla Beat, Muddanur Range of YSR(T) Division.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central) vide FP / AP / ROAD / 532871 / 2025 Dt: 21.04.2026 has accorded in Principle (Stage-II) approval for diversion of 0.19 Ha forest land in Compartment No. 63, Pennar Plantation RF, Kalamalla Beat, Muddanur Range of YSR(T) Division for Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Newly declared National Highway NH 167K from Kurnool/ Kadapa Border-Jammalamadugu section of NH-167K i.e., Design Ch. Km 248+010 to Km 269+900 to 2 lane with paved shoulders in the State of Andhra Pradesh subject to the following conditions

- Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- No labour camp shall be established on the forest land
- The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas
- The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the Proposal
- The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government
- The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government
- No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused
- Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department
- The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted in accordance with the relevant guidelines issued by the MoEFCC
- The State Government shall monitor compliance of conditions of Forest Clearance and shall submit in this regard yearly report as on 31st December of every year
- Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife
- The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
- The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.19 Ha.
- No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less
- Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshana Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines.
- Overburden shall not be dumped outside the width of the road. The muck generated in the earth cuttings will be disposed of at the designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be allowed to roll down the hill slopes.
- The designing of culverts/bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals
- (The KML file of the area diverted and CA area shall be uploaded in the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report
- The State Government shall carryout Compensatory afforestation by raising of 3500 plants in the degraded forest land identified in Compartment.No.56, Kosinepalli Extn RF, Kalamalla Beat and maintain the same for the specific period as per the provision of FC rules 2023. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and mono-culture of any species may be avoided.
- The approved CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Govt. of India
- The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the WP No.1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard
- The User Agency has made payment Rs.22,61,132/- towards CA and NPV (Rs.20,27,700/- towards CA, Rs.2,33,432/- and towards NPV). The levies paid by the UA shall be utilized for the same as per the approved plan/scheme.

As per the Government of India instructions dated F.No.7-232012-FC Dt: 24.07.2013, the entire forest clearances granted is herewith published so as to make people's aware of the permission granted to the project proponent for use of forest land for non forest purposes.

**Executive Engineer (R&B)**  
**NH Division, Kadapa**

## Juvvaladinne harbour opened to private operator ahead of launch

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

WITH the Juvvaladinne fishing harbour in Nellore district nearing completion, the state government has initiated the process of bringing the facility into commercial operation by inviting a private operator to manage and maintain the harbour. The government has approved the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select an operations and maintenance (O&M) operator for the harbour, marking the final step before the project becomes operational. Spread over 114.13 acres, the harbour has been developed on 47.31 acres with core fisheries and allied infrastructure. Construction has reached 96 per cent completion, and the facility

has been designed to serve the region's fishing sector for the next 40 years. Once operational, the harbour will have the capacity to accommodate 1,250 fishing vessels, including 1,000 boats of 9 metres, 100 each of 12-metre and 15-metre vessels, and 50 boats of 25 metres, with an annual fish handling capacity of 41,250 metric tonnes. The Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB) told the government that outsourcing operations has become the preferred model at major fishing harbours. A professional operator would ensure efficient harbour management, maintenance of infrastructure and uninterrupted services to fishermen, while reducing the government's long-term maintenance burden. To attract wider participation from experienced operators, the government has reduced the performance security requirement from Rs 6 crore to Rs 2 crore and extended the bid submission period to 45 days, giving prospective bidders more time to evaluate the project and submit proposals. The RFP was vetted by the tender evaluation and EPC committee, which recommended inviting bids after government approval. The Juvvaladinne fishing harbour is expected to significantly strengthen marine infrastructure in coastal Andhra Pradesh by providing organised berthing, fish landing, handling and allied facilities, benefiting fishermen across Nellore district and improving the region's seafood logistics and fishing economy.

## Scientists showcase nanotechnology applications during Nano Jatha

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

SCIENTISTS highlighted the growing importance of nanoscience and nanotechnology in agriculture, healthcare, industry, energy, electronics, space and environmental protection during Nano Jatha 2026, held at Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) on Thursday. The lecture series, roadshow and exhibition was jointly organised by Sri Venkateswara University and the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, as part of the curtain-raiser activities for Bengaluru India Nano 2026, which will be held from August 3 to 5 at Bengaluru. The programme aimed to create awareness among students, particularly those pursuing degree courses, about the importance of nanoscience, its practical applications and the career opportunities available in the field. Vice Chancellor Prof Tata Narasinga Rao inaugurated the event and appreciated the organisers for bringing the science outreach programme to the university. He encouraged students to develop curiosity, scientific thinking and an interest in emerging areas of research. Prof GU Kulkarni of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, and Prof BLV Prasad, Chief Scientist at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, delivered keynote lectures. They explained how nanoscience and nanotechnology are being used



SV University V-C Prof T Narasinga Rao along with other dignitaries releasing Bengaluru India Nano posters in Tirupati on Thursday

in agriculture, electronics, communications, healthcare, energy, material sciences, space research, industry and environmental protection. They said these technologies are opening up new possibilities for innovation and scientific development. Rector Prof Ch Appa Rao and Registrar Prof M Bhupathi Naidu appreciated the initiative, saying such programmes help introduce students to advanced scientific fields and encourage them to explore research opportunities. Dean of Research and Development Prof G Narasimha coordinated the programme and said Nano Jatha was designed to help students understand nanoscience through expert lectures, demonstrations and interactive learning activities. Students took part in expert talks, video presentations, interactive sessions, quiz competitions and live demonstrations. The exhibition featured displays on gold nanoparticles, galvanisation reactions, piezoelectric pavement, electricity generated from fruit juice, humidity sensors, among other things.

## Rs 500 cr spent for repairs of govt welfare hostels in State: TDP

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

NELLORE: TDP Nellore Parliament General Secretary Chejerla Venkateswara Reddy said the coalition government has brought significant improvements to government welfare hostels and residential schools in order to promote quality education to the poor. Addressing a press conference at party district office here on Thursday, Chejerla expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for approving 10 per cent increase in mess charges for students studying in government welfare hostels and residential schools, though the State is facing severe financial crisis. He recalled that Andhra Pradesh became first State in the country to introduce nutritious meals, including chicken in government hostels, while implementing several welfare measures for hostel residents during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure between



TDP leader Chejerla Venkateswara Reddy addressing a press conference in Nellore on Thursday

2014-2019. Criticising the previous YSRCP government for neglecting welfare hostels and residential schools which fell into disrepair, the TDP leader claimed that after assuming office in 2024, the coalition government led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu spent nearly Rs 500 crore on repairing SC, ST, BC and Minority welfare hostels across the State and constructing additional toilets to improve living conditions, in the last two years.

**గుంటూరు నగరపాలక సంస్థ**

**“ఇ” ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ బిందర్ నోటీసు**

ఇ.డి. నెం.15,23,25 (2026-27) & 38 (2025-26), తేదీ: 9-07-2026

గుంటూరు నగరపాలక సంస్థ పరిధిలో వివిధ అభివృద్ధి పనులు చేపట్టుటకు గాను “ఇ” ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ ప్రాజెక్టుల ద్వారా బిందర్ పద్ధతిని రిజిస్టర్డ్ కాంట్రాక్టర్ల ద్వారా నుండి బిందర్ కొరబడుచున్నది. ఇతర వివరములకు [www.apecprocurement.gov.in](http://www.apecprocurement.gov.in) (e-procurement platform) వద్ద చూడవచ్చును.

౧) “ఇ” ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ బిందర్ ఇ.డి. నెం 38/2025-2026 ప్రాెర్ బిందర్ నోటీసు

మొత్తం పనుల సంఖ్య : 3  
అంచనా మొత్తం : 46,70,000/-  
పనుల వివరములు : రోడ్లు, కాలువలు, మొక్కలు మరలూ ఇతర అభివృద్ధి పనులు  
బిందర్ బిడ్ కనపడవ తేదీ : 08.07.2026  
బిందరు బిడ్ లను చేయుటకు ఆఖరు తేదీ : 16.07.2026  
బిందరు బిడ్ లను తెరచవ తేదీ : 16.07.2026  
(౧) “ఇ” ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ బిందర్ ఇ.డి. నెం 23/2026-2027 బిందర్ నోటీసు

మొత్తం పనుల సంఖ్య : 3  
అంచనా మొత్తం : 1,80,00,000/-  
పనుల వివరములు : రోడ్లు, కాలువలు, మొక్కలు మరలూ ఇతర అభివృద్ధి పనులు  
బిందర్ బిడ్ కనపడవ తేదీ : 01.07.2026  
బిందరు బిడ్ లను చేయుటకు ఆఖరు తేదీ : 16.07.2026  
బిందరు బిడ్ లను తెరచవ తేదీ : 16.07.2026  
(౧) “ఇ” ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ బిందర్ ఇ.డి. నెం 15,25/2026-2027 బిందర్ నోటీసు

మొత్తం పనుల సంఖ్య : 8  
అంచనా మొత్తం : 68,96,000/-  
పనుల వివరములు : రోడ్లు, కాలువలు, మొక్కలు మరలూ ఇతర అభివృద్ధి పనులు  
బిందర్ బిడ్ కనపడవ తేదీ : 08.07.2026  
బిందరు బిడ్ లను చేయుటకు ఆఖరు తేదీ : 23.07.2026  
బిందరు బిడ్ లను తెరచవ తేదీ : 23.07.2026

**Sd/- Superintendent Engineer (FAC)**  
**Guntur Municipal Corporation**

**KVB Karur Vysya Bank** THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD, Asset Recovery Branch, II Floor, 5-8-36 to 362, Chirag Ali Lane, Abids, Hyderabad-500001. Ph. No.040-2320065.

**Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)**  
Issued under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, Asset Recovery Branch, Hyderabad under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 20.03.2026 calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors 1) M/s. MURALI FASHIONS Rep by its Sole Prop: Smt. MANCHIKANTI PADMAVATAMMA, D.No.2-8-109, Opp: Govt Hospital, Trunk Road, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist, Andhra Pradesh-523201. 2) Smt. MANCHIKANTI PADMAVATAMMA (Legal Heir), W/o. Manchikanti Rama Subbaiah, D.No.2-6-109, Opp. Govt Hospital, Trunk Road, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist., Andhra Pradesh-523201. 3) Mr. MANCHIKANTI RAMA SUBBAIAH (Deceased), D.No.10-14-5B, Kanumala Vari Street, Ward No.21, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist., Andhra Pradesh- 524201. 4) Mr. MANCHIKANTI MURALIDHAR (Legal heir), S/o Manchikanti Rama Subbaiah, D.No.10-14-5B, Kanumala Vari Street, Ward No.21, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist. Andhra Pradesh-524201. 5) Mr. MANCHIKANTI SUDHAKAR (Legal heir), S/o Manchikanti Rama Subbaiah, D.No.10-14-5B, Kanumala Vari Street, Ward No.21, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist, Andhra Pradesh-524201. 6) Mr. MANCHIKANTI NEERAJA (Legal Heir), D/o Manchikanti Rama Subbaiah, D.No.10-14-5B, Kanumala Vari Street, Ward No.21, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist, Andhra Pradesh-524201. 7) Mr. MANCHIKANTI MANJULA (Legal Heir), D/o Manchikanti Rama Subbaiah, D.No.10-14-5B, Kanumala Vari Street, Ward No.21, Kavali, SPNR Nellore Dist, Andhra Pradesh-524201 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.22,92,726.45 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty six paise Forty Five only) (A/c No.1496280000000117) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec.13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 08th day of JULY 2026. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, Kavali Branch, for an amount of being Rs.24,19,770.46 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy and Paise Forty Six only) and interest thereon from 30.06.2026 along with charges, expenses, costs etc. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Schedule-A (Details of the Mortgaged Property):** Residential vacant site situated at Kavali Btl-II, Sy.No.1061, Eastern side of D.No.10-13-3, 10th Ward, Chilla Vari Street, Kavali-524201, SPNR Nellore Dist., to the extent of 32 aknams or 256 Sq.Yds. being bounded by: East: Compound wall some extent and compound wall of others to some extent, North: Chilla Vari Street, West: Chilla Vari Street, South: Compound wall of this property.

**Schedule-B (Details of the Hypothecated Assets):** Entire Current Assets Standing in the name of Murali Fashions

Place: Kavali Sd/- Authorized Officer  
Date: 08-07-2026 THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED

**SHRIRAM Finance** **SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032  
Branch: D.No.42/107-1, OBUL REDDY COMPLEX, APSARA CIRCLE, JAYANAGAR COLONY, KADAPA, (A.P.). Website: [www.shriramfinance.in](http://www.shriramfinance.in)

**(RULE-8(3)) POSSESSION NOTICE**

Note: "It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022."

Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SFL has been handed over the Physical Possession of the mortgaged Properties described herein below in pursuance of the order passed by the Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge ,kadapa under Section 14 of the said Act and Rules, on this 09.07.2026

**BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :**

- 1) NAYAB RASOOL SHAIK, S/o. KHASIM PEERAN, Door.No.1/95, Nazeerbagpalli, Obulampalli, Cuddapah-516162.
- 2) ARIFUN SHAIK, W/o. NAYAB RASOOL, Door.No.1/95, Chennur Mandalam, Nazeerbagpalli, Obulampalli, Chennur Post, Cuddapah Dist- 516162.
- 3) MAHABOOB BASHA SHAIK, S/o. HASSAN, Door.No.16/386-17, Ghouse Nagar, Cuddapah-516001.

Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay Rs.27,98,964/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Four only) with further interest and other contractual charges and penalties till date with further interest and other costs, charges and expenses. Under reference of Loan A/c Nos:- CUDP4TF2412160003 Demand Notice Dated: 13-01-2026

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

CUDP4TF2412160003- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: YSR Kadapa District, Kadapa Urban Registration District, Kadapa Town and Municipality, Ward No.16, Gouse Nagar, Chinnachowk Village Fields, Sy.No. 941/A an extent of Ac.1.33 cents piki Ac.1.24 cents piki Ac.0.13 1/2 cents ee piki Ac.0.03 cents 149 sq.links or 152.451 sq.yds of vacant site and in it 75.56 sq.yds of house bearing Door Number 16/399-7-3 Assessment No.1013025988 Bounded on:- East: House and House Wall Sold by Dastagiri to others, West: Avula Ravindra's Property and Sandhu, North: Avula Ravindra's Property, South: Road.

Within these boundaries measuring towards East to West on Northern side 15 1/2 sq.ft or 4.73 sq.mts on southern side 15 1/2 sq.ft or 4.73 sq.mts and on North to South on Eastern side 44 1/2 sq.ft or 13.49 sq.mts on Western side 43 1/2 sq.ft or 13.26 sq.mts total 75.56 sq.yds of house along with doors, door frames, windows, almarahs, current service and all other easementary rights and appurtenant site therein.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Physical Possession of the immovable properties mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Date : 09-07-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Place : Kadapa Shriram Finance Limited

# TTD gears up for Tirumala Brahmotsavams

- The mega event will commence from September 8
- The Additional EO directs Vigilance and Police departments to ensure stringent security measures, traffic regulation, clear route mapping and adequate parking facilities

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUMALA

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) is gearing up for Brahmotsavam of Lord Venkateswara to be held from September. Due to Adhika Masam this year, the mega event will be held twice in September and October. TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary directed all the Heads of Departments to finalise comprehensive plans and ensure completion of all arrangements within the prescribed time frame.

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

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

The Additional Executive Officer informed that VIP break darshan stands can-



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

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

Vigilance and Police departments are tasked with ensuring stringent security measures, traffic regulation, clear route mapping and adequate parking facilities. He said Anna prasadam distri-

bution must be arranged at queue lines, Mada Street galleries and other key locations to serve continuous food to devotees. Additional sanitation staff shall be deployed to ensure cleanliness of public

toilets and facilities. He told them to encourage youth participation for enlisting volunteers as Srivari Sevaks.

Venkaiah Chowdary informed that two-wheelers will be prohibited on Tirumala ghat roads from 9 pm from September 18 to 6am on September 20. The officials were told to maintain adequate buffer stock of Srivari laddus to meet anticipated demand.

TTD Chief Engineer Satya Narayana, Deputy EOs Lokanatham, Bhaskar, Sri Rajendra, and Somanna Narayana, Garden Deputy Director Srinivasulu, CMO Dr Kusuma Kumari, DE Chandra Sekhar, VGO Surendra, Catering Special Officer GLN Sastry and other senior officials attended the meeting.

## Keep division clean: Corporator Kartham



Corporator Kartham Pratap Reddy monitoring removal of garbage in 14th Division in Nellore on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

FOLLOWING the directions of Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana, 14th Division Corporator Kartam Pratap Reddy along with Sanitation Inspector K Pradeep and sanitation secretaries inspected sanitation works in the division on Thursday.

Corporator Pratap Reddy supervised maintenance of drainage systems and door-to-door garbage collection process, removal of plastic waste dumped on vacant lands and desilted mud from

drains. He appealed to residents not to dump household waste or plastic materials on roads as indiscriminate dumping of garbage on roads not only leads to unhygienic conditions and will become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. He asked them to handover their household waste to municipality vehicles. Reiterating the importance of public participation, Pratap Reddy called upon residents to work together with municipal authorities to keep the surroundings clean and transform 14th Division into a model division in the city.

## Two men stabbed to death at a wedding event in Tirupati

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

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

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

According to Tirupati East police, the incident occurred around 10 pm when Sunil, a resident of Jangalapalli village



Manikanta

in Yerpedu mandal, attended the wedding. Muniratnam and Manikanta reportedly approached him to discuss the ongoing differences between Sunil and his wife. What began as a conversation soon escalated into a heated argument.

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



Muniratnam

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

Investigators said Muniratnam had earlier helped arrange Sunil's marriage with the daughter of Sampoonamma, a resident of Tirumala, nearly six years ago. He

was currently living in Jeevakona and operated a small business in Tirumala. Manikanta was employed as a jeep driver.

Police said Sunil and his wife, who have two children, had been living separately due to marital differences. On learning that Sunil would be attending the wedding, Sampoonamma is believed to have requested Muniratnam to speak to him in an attempt to resolve the family dispute. Muniratnam reportedly took Manikanta with him to the function for the meeting.

Preliminary investigation suggests that five people, including a woman, were involved in the attack. Tirupati East police have registered a murder case. Tirupati East CI Srinivas visited the spot and formed special teams to trace the accused, who remain absconding.

## KIMS Cuddles team saves mother and infant



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

A pregnant woman from Vinjamuru, who was 33 weeks and 3 days into her pregnancy, was admitted to KIMS Cuddles Hospital in Nellore after suffering from severe seizures. An obstetric team performed an emergency operation and delivered a female infant weighing 1,620 grams.

The medical team at KIMS Cuddles comprising Neonatologists Dr Venkata Kumar and Dr Bhargav, Pediatric Intensivist Dr R Murarji, senior Gynecologist Dr Mohana Sai Rupa, Neurologist Dr Abhinaya Reddy, and HOD & Chief Anesthesiologist Dr Sivayya—managed the case.

Due to the infant's respiratory distress and the need for surfactant administration on two occasions, the baby was admitted to NICU and provided with advanced respiratory support, including High-Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation (HFOV), mechanical ventilation, NIPPV, CPAP, and HFNC. Post-delivery, the mother experienced seizures three to four times over the course of 72 hours; she received medical treatment for 13 days and both mother and baby recovered well.

Unit Head and Chief Administrative Officer Dr Rohini Priya Lakshmi congratulated KIMS Cuddles medical team following the healthy discharge of the mother and infant.

## Viswam students shine in JNV lateral entry results

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

VISWAM Educational Institutions achieved another academic milestone with 71 students securing admissions to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across Class VI, IX, and XI entrance examinations. P Nithesh Reddy and S Lekitha Sri were selected in the recently announced Class IX Lateral Entry second selection list for 2026-27 academic year.

Chairman Dr N Viswanatha Reddy congratulated the students, parents and faculty for the achievement. He said Viswam has been providing specialised



coaching for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Sainik School and Military School entrance examinations for the past 36 years, consistently producing excellent results and top ranks.

Applications for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Entrance Examination-2027 are now open.

## YSRCP alleges irregularities in SIR

Kakani Govardhan Reddy questions why either the Collector or Election Commission of India is not taking any action against Minister P Narayana for his involvement in SIR procedures and BLOs



YSRCP leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy and MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy addressing a press conference in Nellore on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

FINDING fault with the ruling government of resorting to irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), YSRCP district president Kakani Govardhan Reddy and party city in-charge and MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy warned the administration that it has to face legal action.

The duo has jointly addressed a press conference here on Thursday. Kakani Govardhan Reddy criticised that the administration was least bothered about the issue, despite his party submitted complaints to the district Collector. He questioned as to why either the Collector or Election Commission of India (ECI) didn't initiate any action against Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana for his involvement in SIR procedures and BLOs, who turned at the behest of

the ruling party. MLC Chandrasekhar Reddy alleged that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was more focused on political mileage instead of addressing public problems. He stated the ongoing SIR exercise is drawing serious public criticism at several places, alleging that TDP was using voter revision process to target YSRCP supporters.

He criticised that the district Collector and the Municipal Commissioner remained mute spectators, even though his party brought the issue to their notice with documentary evidences. He further alleged that TDP Booth Level Agents were participating in SIR process using colour-coded voter lists, which he described as a violation of election norms. He said they had already lodged complaints with the State Election Commission and the Election Commission of India and finally planning to approach court over issue.

## Four-day State blind cricket tournament begins in Tirupati



TTD Board member Panabaka Lakshmi, SAAP Chairman A Ravi Naidu and others inaugurating the blind cricket tournament in Tirupati on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

STATE Level Cricket Tournament for the Blind, organised by Blind Cricket Association of Andhra Pradesh, began at Gollavani Gunta stadium in Tirupati on Thursday. TTD Board member Panabaka Lakshmi, Yadava Corporation Chairman G Narasimha Yadav and Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman A Ravi Naidu attended the inaugural programme. Speaking on the occasion, Ravi Naidu praised blind cricketers for representing India at international tournaments and bringing pride to the country. He said blind cricket had not received enough recognition in the past, but the State government is now giving special importance to the sport.

He also said the government plans to develop Tirupati as a major centre for para

sports. Funds will be provided to improve stadium facilities, build additional infrastructure and create venues capable of hosting international-level competitions.

Steps are being taken to launch a special project worth around Rs 50 crore, with support from the Central government, to develop dedicated sports infrastructure for differently abled athletes.

A total of 118 players from eight men's teams representing different parts of the State are participating in the four-day tournament, which will continue until July 12. Ravi Naidu expressed hope that the event would be successful and said such competitions help build confidence among differently abled athletes while bringing recognition to the state. Panabaka Lakshmi praised the determination and self-confidence of blind cricketers and wished them greater success in the future, expressing hope that they would continue to bring laurels to the country.

## Ensure effective implementation of VB-G RAM G Act: Collector

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

DISTRICT Collector Himanshu Shukla has directed the officials to ensure effective implementation of the Central government's newly introduced Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G Act) for the benefit of rural poor.

Addressing an awareness programme on VB-G RAM G Act, organised by District Water Management Agency (DWMA) at the Collectorate here on Thursday, the Collector stressed the need to implement the scheme effectively at grassroots level, which aims to prevent labor from migrating to other places in search of livelihood. M Rajeswari, Director at Ministry of Rural Development, explained the key features of VB-G RAM G Act, including the latest reforms and policy changes introduced by the Central government. She discussed various aspects of the scheme's implementation and clarified doubts of the participants. Earlier, DWMA Project Director CS Srinivas Prasad gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the implementation strategy of the scheme in the district.

Deputy Director Isha and Section Officer Asha Wahane from Union Ministry of Rural Development, DRDA Project Director Nagaraja Kumari, DWMA officials and others participated in the programme.

## Hans India Classifieds

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, VALIKALA SUVARSHINI (Old name) D/o VALIKELA UMA MAHESWAR, Resident of Main Road, Veguru, Kovur, SPNR Nellore Dt, AP. Hereby declare that I have changed my Surname as VALIKELA SUVARSHINI (New name) D/o VALIKELA UMA MAHESWAR.</p> <p>Madan-NLR</p>   | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, CHOWDRI FAHEEM AKTHER, W/o CHOUDERI KHALANDAR BASHA, R/o D.No. 27-177/9-8, Rahamath Nagar, Near Sachivalayam, Punganur T&amp;M, Annamayya Dist, AP-517247, have changed my surname to CHOUDERI FAHEEM AKTHER.</p> <p>Rajendra-TPT</p>             | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME &amp; NAME</b><br/>I, BANDIREDDY SANKAR REDDY (Old Surname) W/o Pathan Nadeem Khan D.No.18-185, Sikkharam Vari Street, Chinna Bazar, Nellore, Sri Potti Srinamulu District, A.P.-524001. I changed My Name to PATHAN HAZEERA BEGUM (New Name). Henceforth, I shall be known as PATHAN HAZEERA BEGUM (New Name) for all Purposes.</p> <p>Rajendra-TPT</p> |
| <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, SHAIK PABABHAI IRSHAD AHMED, S/o Late P. KHADER BASHA, residing at D.No. 9/185-A, Sarpeta, Kadapa, YSR Kadapa (Dt), A. P. here declare that my SSC Certificate Roll No. 0335541, my name is as P. IRSHAD AHMED (Old Name). But my original name is SHAIK PABABHAI IRSHAD AHMED (New Name). Hence forth, I will be known as SHAIK PABABHAI IRSHAD AHMED (New Name).</p> <p>Srinivas-ATP</p> | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME &amp; NAME</b><br/>I, SHEK SHAKEELA (Old Name), Resident of D.No.8-116A, Thurpu Street, Atmakur SPNR Nellore District (A.P) hereby declare that I have changed my surname &amp; name as SHAIK HASEENA (New Name) W/o SHAIK KALESHA.</p> <p>Madan-NLR</p>     | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME &amp; NAME</b><br/>I, KAMALESH JAIN (Old Name), Resident of D.No.16-1453, Shanti Rupa Residency, Achari Street, Nellore, SPNR Nellore District (A.P) hereby declare that I have changed my name as KAMALESH KUMAR (New Name) S/o TILOKCHAND RAMESHWAL.</p> <p>Madan-NLR</p>  |
| <p><b>PASSPORT LOST</b><br/>I, Damodaram Hitesh Kumar S/o Damodaram Ramaswamy Shammugam, residing D.No.35-46D, Indiramma Colony, 75 Duddipalli, Chittoor Town &amp; Mandal, Chittoor Dist, AP hereby declare that I have lost my Indian passport No. R9344766 on 20-06-2026 while I was shifting House. If any body found said Passport please handover to me at above address or contact: 9390889133</p> <p>TPT-4598</p>     | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, KORRAPATI RODA MERCY (old name), D/O. KOPPERLA RAJARATHNAM, residency of 295.ZION COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, R S ROAD, CUDDAPAH, ANDHRA PRADESH 516001, India. Have changed my name to KOPPERLA RODA MERCY (new name).</p> <p>RO NO 34249</p> | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, KORRAPATI SANJAY RATHAN (old name), S/O. KORRAPATI SUMAN, residency of 2185, Main Road, Vissavaasa Mandalam, Gopipetapalem, NTR, District, Andhra Pradesh-521180, India. Have changed my name to KORRAPATI SAHAS RATHAN (new name).</p> <p>RO NO 34249</p>  |
| <p><b>CHANGE OF NAME</b><br/>I, YERA MAHAMMED ASLAM (OLD NAME) S/O YERA GHOUSE MOHDUN, R/o 21/293-C, JOKE PALLEM Street, Probstator-516050, YSR Dist.A.P. Now I am changing my Name to YERRA HUSSAIN SAB GARI MOHAMMAD ASLAM (NEW NAME). Henceforth, I will be known as YERRA HUSSAIN SAB GARI MOHAMMAD ASLAM.</p> <p>RO NO 34249</p>   | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, KORRAPATI RODA MERCY (old name), D/O. KOPPERLA RAJARATHNAM, residency of 295.ZION COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, R S ROAD, CUDDAPAH, ANDHRA PRADESH 516001, India. Have changed my name to KOPPERLA RODA MERCY (new name).</p> <p>RO NO 34249</p> | <p><b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br/>I, KORRAPATI SANJAY RATHAN (old name), S/O. KORRAPATI SUMAN, residency of 2185, Main Road, Vissavaasa Mandalam, Gopipetapalem, NTR, District, Andhra Pradesh-521180, India. Have changed my name to KORRAPATI SAHAS RATHAN (new name).</p> <p>RO NO 34249</p>  |

**CORRECTION**  
A typographical error in the headline of a news story on swearing-in of K Kannababu, IAS, as TTD Trust Board ex-officio member, published in these columns in the issue dated July 9, 2026, conveys a highly inappropriate meaning. We would like to express our deep regret about the mistake.

Editor

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# AP sets new benchmark in paddy procurement

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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

Civil supplies special chief secretary K



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

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

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

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

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

# Strengthen party at grassroots level, Madhav to BJP cadre

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Mentioning the flagship programmes of the Union

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

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

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

## VIJAYAWADA AIRPORT

# New terminal to be completed by Dasara

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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



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

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

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

overall travel experience.

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

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

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

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

Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, he added.

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

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

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

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

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

# AP ready to meet power demand despite less rains

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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



Special chief secretary K Vijayanand

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

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

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

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

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

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

# AEE recruitment will be merit-based only: APTransco

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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



APTransco joint managing director G Surya Sai Praveen Chand

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

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

## WINDOWS

## 7 digital media outlets booked over communal content

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

## Home dept refuses sanction, 4 cops dropped from scam case

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

## CISF jawan killed in Mangaluru while on leave

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

## Shivakumar receives grand welcome on first visit to Belagavi as CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BELAGAVI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HAVERI

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



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

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

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

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

## Six killed in head-on collision on Arvail Ghat

## Three critically injured

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
YELLAPUR

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

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

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

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

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

## Leopard spotted near Magadi Main Road

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## AP police solve blind murder case using papad packet clue

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BALLARI

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

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



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

## 'Public service is the highest duty of governance'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BELAGAVI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Focus on citizen-centric governance

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



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

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

## E-Khata expansion across

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Statewide audit of government land

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS

### Hyderabad cops deserve appreciation

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

Andrea Anthony, Hyderabad

### Playing the war 'trump' card has failed US

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

G David Milton, Maruthancode

### The tug-of-war continues between US, Iran

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

D V G Sankararao, Vizianagaram

### Include non-teaching staff for mid-day meals

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

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

### Ice Shivalingam melts, dampens devotees

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

Aditi Nawandar, Hyderabad

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# Future of management careers in the era of AI

DR MYLAVARAM  
CHANDRA SHEKAR

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

### Resilience in career journeys

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

### Building portfolios beyond degrees

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

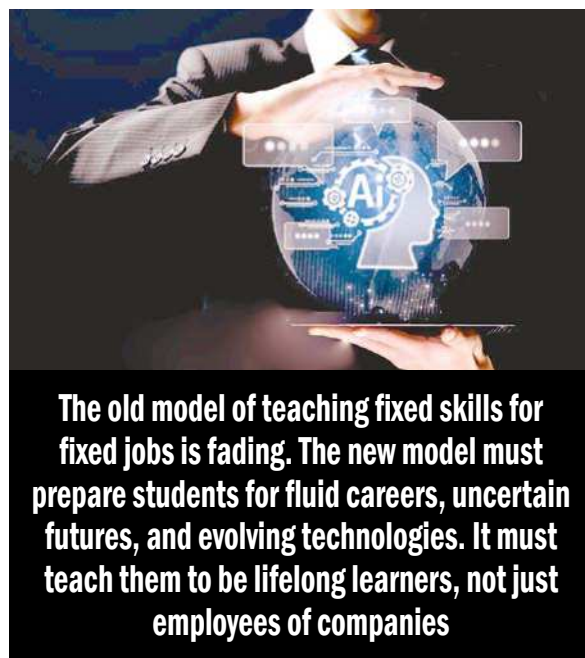
Both secured roles in a Big Four consulting firm, one later pursuing a fully funded PhD while the other continued in corporate life. Their story highlights the importance of building a portfolio of experiences. Employers today are not just looking for degrees; they want evidence of initiative, curiosity,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

### Choosing passion over comfort

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

### Success is not linear

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



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

times sheer persistence.

### The power of networking

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

### The future of work and AI

The future of work adds another layer of complexity. Chatbots are already 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

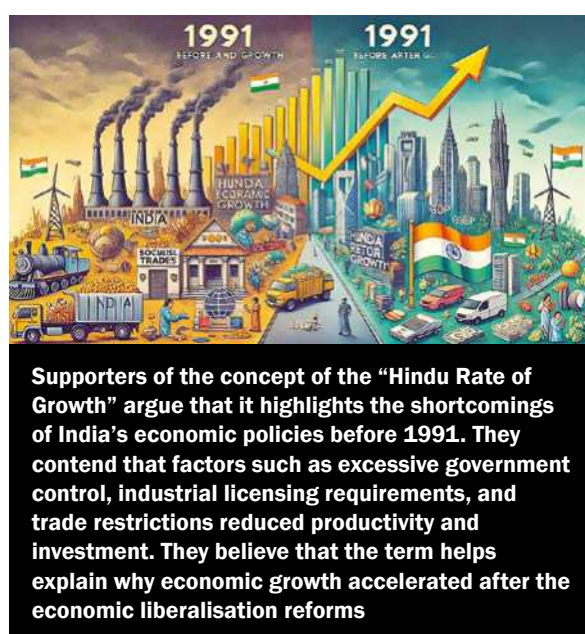
Recently, while speaking on the occasion of the NDA government completing 12 years in office and recalling his record as India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi criticized the historical term "Hindu Rate of Growth." He argued that the phrase unfairly linked India's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

Modi stated that the dec-

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

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



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

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

increases in per capita income remained very modest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# NAIDU CLEARS LAND HURDLES FOR 920 FARMERS

- Frees 2,175 acres from prohibited lists
- 920 farmers regain full land rights
- CM orders on-the-spot online clearance

HANS NEWS SERVICE BANAGANAPALLE (NANDYAL DISTRICT)

IN a major relief to farmers, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu personally supervised the resolution of long-pending land disputes by removing 2,074 acres from the prohibited 22-A list, benefiting 897 farmers of Gutupalli village in Bethamcherla mandal of Nandyal district.

During the 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' programme held at the Banaganapalle tahsildar's Office on Thursday, the Chief Minister also ensured the removal of 101 acres belonging to 23 farmers in Banaganapalle from the dotted land (Chukkala Bhhumi) prohibited list and handed over the official land release orders and Pattadar Passbooks to the



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu accompanied by the district collector G Raja Kumari supervises the resolution of long-pending land disputes by removing 2,074 acres from the prohibited 22-A list, benefiting 897 farmers of Gutupalli village in Bethamcherla mandal of Nandyal district on Thursday

beneficiaries. The issue had been brought to the Chief Minister's notice during his visit to Dhone in March this year, when farmers appealed for the removal of their ancestral lands from the 22-A prohibited category.

Following his directions, the State government initiated the required

administrative process. While reviewing the status at the Tahsildar's Office, the Chief Minister found that the district collector G Raja Kumari had already issued the clearance orders, but the online deletion process was still pending. He immediately instructed officials to complete the formalities

on the spot, leading to the instant removal of the lands from the prohibited list.

With the completion of the exercise, hundreds of farmers regained full ownership rights over their agricultural lands, enabling them to carry out registrations, obtain crop loans and undertake other

legal transactions without restrictions. Beneficiary farmers expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, stating that they had struggled for years after their lands were brought under the 22-A category, preventing them from accessing financial assistance and property-related services. They said the government's prompt intervention had ended years of uncertainty and restored their confidence.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed that the government is committed to resolving decades-old land disputes and strengthening the revenue administration.

He said similar issues had already been settled in several parts of the state and that the present government is systematically correcting land-related irregularities, issuing updated pattadar passbooks and removing eligible lands from the prohibited lists after due verification. The initiative, he added, reflects the government's resolve to safeguard farmers' land rights and ensure hassle-free access to all legal and financial benefits.

# MSME disputes to go for online arbitration

- State govt reconstitutes state and four regional facilitation councils for two years
- All new MSME cases to be handled through Centre's Online Dispute Resolution portal

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI



change is the complete shift to the MSME Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) portal, as mandated by the Union ministry of MSME.

All new payment dispute cases will now be filed, heard and processed digitally through the national platform, replacing the conventional manual process.

To support the online mechanism, the government has authorised four specialised Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) institutions empanelled by the Centre to conduct digital conciliation and arbitration. These include institutions in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Visakhapatnam, allowing disputes to be resolved electronically with recognised arbitration agencies.

Under the revised structure, the State Facilitation Council at Mangalagiri, headed by the commissioner of industries, will hear disputes involving principal claim amounts exceeding Rs 50 lakh, besides

cases referred by regional councils. It has also been empowered to directly conduct arbitration or appoint any of the empanelled ADR institutions to resolve disputes under Section 18 of the MSME Act.

To decentralise the process, four Regional Facilitation Councils will continue functioning at Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Tirupati and Kurnool. These councils will handle disputes involving claims of up to Rs 50 lakh, reducing the burden on the state level council and enabling quicker disposal of cases closer to businesses.

Each council will comprise representatives from the Industries department, Federation of Andhra Pradesh Small Industries Association (FAPSIA), Andhra Pradesh State Finance Corporation (APSSFC), Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) and the industries department, ensuring both government and industry participation in dispute resolution.

The government believes the strengthened digital dispute resolution mechanism will improve payment discipline, reduce litigation delays and enhance confidence among MSMEs while reinforcing State's efforts to build a more investor-friendly and business-efficient ecosystem.

## US, Iran trade strikes for 2nd night in a row

Continued from P1

Iran reported explosions in several coastal areas and said it targeted US assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar in response. Iran's foreign ministry denounced the US strikes as a "gross war crime", saying it said targeted civilian infrastructure including railway bridges. In a statement, the ministry described the US administration as "evil and psychopathic" and that it condemned the attacks which have damaged bridges and a railway route connecting Tehran to the city of Mashhad, where the late supreme leader Ali Khamenei is due to be buried at a funeral service later on Thursday.

## India gets world's first once-a-week insulin

NEW DELHI: One injection a week instead of one every day, Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has launched Awiqli, or insulin icodec, in India -- the world's first once-weekly basal insulin-cutting the annual injection count for diabetes patients from 365 to just 52. Approved for adults with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and delivered through a pen device called FlexTouch, the launch makes India the sixth market globally to get the therapy. It's aimed squarely at the single biggest reason patients delay insulin: the fear of daily injections. The injections will be manufactured in Denmark and the Danish drugmaker will import it to India.

Affordability is central to Novo Nordisk's India strategy. The company has drawn on its experience pricing semaglutide in India and has applied similar lessons to Awiqli.

The 1 ml Awiqli FlexTouch pen, containing 700 units of insulin, is priced at Rs 2,611, while the larger 3 ml pen, with 2,100 units, will cost Rs 7,833. At an indicative weekly dose of 70 units, that works out to roughly Rs 261-263 a week for a patient.

The combination of fewer injections, competitive pricing and Novo Nordisk's distribution reach, built in partnership with Abbott, could turn Awiqli into a high-volume product.

Novo Nordisk's Awiqli is not a like-for-like swap with existing insulins, it is far more concentrated, which changes how it behaves in the body. Endocrinologists says that the shift from up to seven injections a week to just one addresses three concerns simultaneously, convenience, effectiveness and safety. On convenience, they noted there is no longer a need for a daily jab.

## 'Terror camps crumbled during Op Sindoor'

Continued from P1

Underscoring that "terror camps crumbled during Operation Sindoor," PM Modi said India's initiatives to combat terror have sent a clear message across the world, which is now also witnessing the "capability and credibility of India's defence platforms". "During Operation Sindoor, you must have seen the explosions that struck terrorist hideouts. Those explosions have resonated across the world," he said. "When such a decisive strike was carried out against terror camps, didn't it

make you feel proud?" he said. At the same time, he also highlighted India's governance, tweaking the Sanskrit adage of Athithi Devo Bhaba (a guest is a god) to "Nagarik Devo Bhava (the Citizen is a god)". In this context, he mentioned the key initiatives of the government, including the healthcare system where records are now stored, digilocker and the current ease of getting passports. In a strong pitch for "Make in India", he said Indian products were gaining recognition worldwide.

## Stricter H1B, Green Card rules coming in August

NEW DELHI: The Trump administration is preparing a fresh set of immigration rules that could make it more difficult for foreign professionals, students and employers to navigate the US immigration system. The proposed changes cover some of the most popular routes used by Indians to study and work in the United States. Therefore, Indians, who form one of the largest immigrant groups in the US, could especially face more hurdles under proposed changes to the H1B programme, L1 visas and student visas. The proposals are part of the latest Unified Regulatory Agendas released by the US Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), Labor (DOL) and State (DOS). While none of the measures has taken effect yet, they offer the clearest indication of the administra-

tion's plans. If implemented, the changes could mean stricter eligibility rules, more paperwork, closer scrutiny of employers and higher costs for companies that hire foreign workers.

India is likely to be among the countries most affected because Indians account for a large share of H1B visa holders, employment-based Green Card applicants and international students in the US.

One of the biggest proposed changes concerns the H1B visa programme, which allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialised fields. Every year, 85,000 new H1B visas are available under the annual cap. The DHS is expected to publish a proposed rule in August that would tighten several parts of the programme.

# India working to become a developed nation: PM

Continued from P1

"We are a nation of 1.4 billion people brimming with aspirations; we are impatient and eager. We are the world's fastest-growing economy, yet we aim to become one of the top three economies in the world as quickly as possible. Because our driving force is 'Grow More, Achieve More,'" he added. Modi said the mantra of "Nagrik Devo Bhava" has become the guiding principle of governance in India. "The foundation of India's big dreams and great aspirations is its people... We, the People," he said, adding that the government's policies are centred on citizens' welfare.

The PM talked about the rapid progress taking place in India, based on sustained high growth, policy reforms, digital revolution and next-generation infrastructure development. "Today, India has become the world's

second-largest 5G market. Moreover, India is rapidly working on 'Made in India' 6G technology as well. This is because Indians believe in the mantra: "Grow More, Achieve More," he said.

"India does not want to stop here... a new manufacturing ecosystem -- spanning everything from chips to ships -- is being developed in India today," he added. He underlined that India's approach was not just to focus on its own progress, but to walk hand in hand with its friends and partners.

PM Modi also mentioned 'Operation Sindoor', saying the world has witnessed the capability and credibility of India's defence platform. "You must have seen the demo during 'Operation Sindoor'. Explosions were taking place at the terrorists' hideouts, and the echo was reverberating across the world," he said. "Did you feel proud of the

action taken against terrorist camps?" Modi asked, amid cheers and applause from the audience.

Modi said India has more than 200,000 registered start-ups and more than 4,000 new start-ups are being registered every month. He said hundreds of start-ups are working in sectors such as defence and space. These sectors were opened to private entrepreneurship only a few years ago, and today, India's first private space start-up is set to launch a satellite on its own rocket very soon, he said.

"You are all aware of Chandrayaan's landing on the Moon's south pole. No country, other than India, has been able to achieve this. But India is not satisfied with this. As we say, 'Grow more. Achieve More.' Now India will send Gaganyaan, and we are working towards the goal of building our own space station," Modi said.

# India, Australia unveil new defence declaration

Continued from P1

By doing this, the two countries seek to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and contribute to a free, open and stable Indo-Pacific. The declaration, adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, reaffirms the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2020 and builds on the foundation laid by the India-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2009.

The two leaders said strategic convergence between India and Australia has accelerated in recent years, with stronger economic ties, closer people-to-people links and enhanced cooperation through bilateral mechanisms such as the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue and the Defence Ministers' Dialogue. They also highlighted the role of multilateral platforms, including the Quad, in promoting peace, security and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific. PM Modi is in Australia as part of his three-nation tour. Expressing concern over growing geostrategic uncertainty and threats to regional peace and stability, the two countries called for the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law and without the threat or use of force or coercion. Reaffirming their commitment to a rules-based Indo-Pacific, India and Australia underscored the importance of

respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and strengthening transparent and inclusive regional institutions. The declaration also reiterated support for regional organisations, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN and ASEAN-led regional architecture, and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). As part of the enhanced partnership, the two countries agreed to accelerate defence cooperation by strengthening strategic dialogue, expanding military engagement and enhancing interoperability between their armed forces.

The declaration outlines plans to consult regularly on defence-related developments affecting shared interests in the Indo-Pacific, increase the complexity of bilateral and multilateral military exercises, improve information sharing, expand aircraft deployments from each other's territories, deepen exchanges and training for defence personnel, and explore cooperation in developing skilled defence workforces.

Recognising the strategic importance of the maritime domain, India and Australia announced plans to strengthen cooperation through a dedicated India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap aimed at enhancing the depth, sophistication and regularity of bilateral maritime engagement.

# Lokesh urges Kia to expand EV hub

Continued from P1

He also proposed an EV components and battery systems manufacturing centre, a CKD assembly and export hub near Visakhapatnam Port, and an EV powertrain testing and homologation centre. Kia said it would examine the proposals through its global leadership.

Lokesh also met Sunic Systems, a South Korean manufacturer of semiconductor, OLED, and perovskite deposition equipment, inviting the company to establish a display equipment manufacturing facility at Sri City. He assured support through the India Semicon-

ductor Mission 2.0, Andhra Pradesh's semiconductor Policy and skill development partnerships with the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and universities. Sunic Systems said it would evaluate the investment proposal.

In meetings with South Korea's Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and International Trade & Investment, Lokesh pitched Andhra Pradesh as a stable and reliable manufacturing base amid global geopolitical uncertainties. He highlighted the state's '3 S' policy—Speed, Stability and Service—investor-friendly incentives,

low-cost industrial land and strategic location on India's east coast with six ports, seven airports and four upcoming greenfield ports.

Seeking to institutionalise bilateral economic ties, Lokesh proposed a Korea Industrial Park in Andhra Pradesh, a dedicated AP-Korea Investment Desk, annual economic partnership dialogues, direct air connectivity, Korean language centres, and joint skill academies to prepare local youth for Korean manufacturing standards. He also invited Korean universities and research institutions to collaborate on AI, quantum computing, semiconductors,

cybersecurity, clean technology, and shipbuilding.

The Minister further invited Korean companies to participate in Andhra Pradesh's 10-GW data centre programme, renewable energy expansion, green hydrogen, battery manufacturing, and shipbuilding ecosystem. Highlighting the state's investment momentum, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh has attracted over USD 240 billion in investment commitments over the past two years and aims to become a major logistics, advanced manufacturing, and technology hub under its Swarnandhra-2047 vision.

# YSRCP backing anti-Hindu narratives, fumes CM Naidu

Continued from P1

He asserted that the NDA government had maintained law and order over the past two years and would not tolerate attempts to incite religious hatred or disturb communal harmony.

The Chief Minister also referred to the recent incident at the Shiva temple on Ranamandala Hill in Adoni, where a youth allegedly lit a cigarette using a temple lamp, warning that the government would deal firmly with anyone hurting religious sentiments. Stepping up his attack on YSR Congress president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu accused him of indulging in political theatrics. Referring to Jagan's proposed Tirumala visit, Naidu said devotees who do not profess the Hindu faith are required to sign the temple declaration, alleging that Jagan

refused to do so despite expressing his desire to visit the shrine.

The Chief Minister also revived allegations of temple desecration during the previous YSRCP government, claiming that attacks on temples, damage to idols and the Tirumala laddu adulteration controversy reflected the previous regime's failure to protect religious institutions.

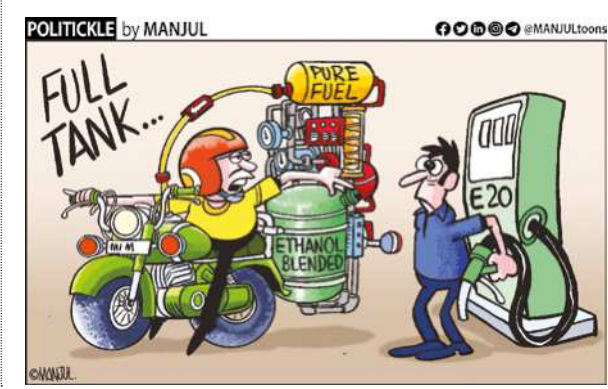
Naidu further accused Jagan of exploiting religion and family issues for political gain, alleging that while he publicly invokes the legacy of his late father for electoral purposes, he has failed to treat his mother with respect. Calling on the public to reject politics based on religious provocation and social divisions, Naidu said no government would be allowed to encourage anti-social forces or create conflicts in the name of caste or religion.

# Oz to fuel India's green future with uranium supply: PM

Continued from P1

Delivering a joint press conference alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Melbourne, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the atomic breakthrough a transformative catalyst for India's ecological targets.

"Australia will supply uranium to India. We have signed an important agreement in the field of nuclear energy. It will give new momentum to our clean energy goals," PM Modi announced. The Prime Minister framed the deepening consensus within a shared geopolitical vision, noting that India and Australia, as "two vibrant democracies, multicultural societies and important ocean powers", share a common worldview that continues to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.





## Can thyroid disorders make it harder to conceive?

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

DR. CHAITRA GOWDA K N

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

*(The writer is a Senior Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynecology, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Sarjapur Road)*

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



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

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

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

The actress noted that

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

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

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

"I have worked with a dif-

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

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

She was also seen in the reality show 'The 50'.

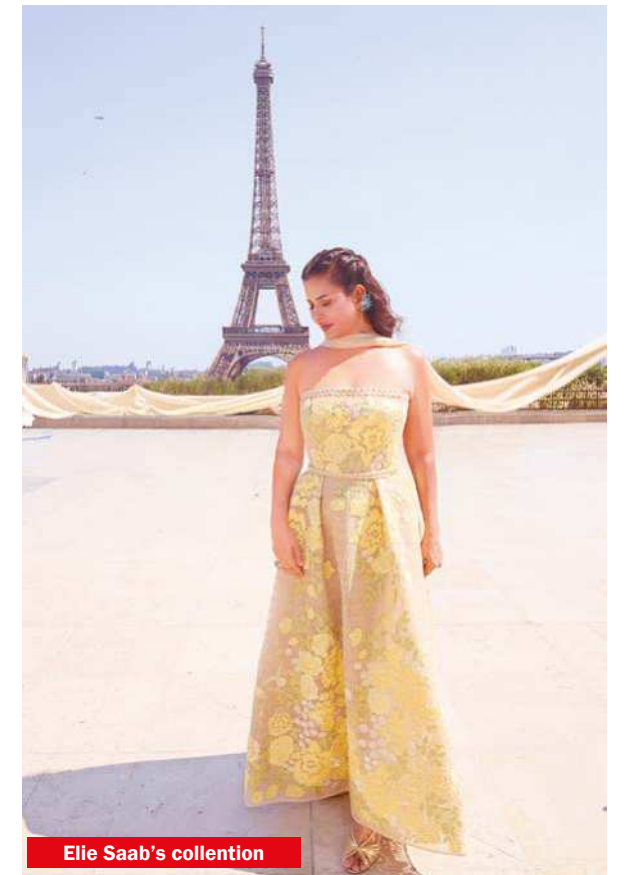
## Sudha Reddy commands Paris Haute Couture Week front row



Manish Malhotra's collection

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

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



Elie Saab's collection



Manish Malhotra's collection

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

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

### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

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

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

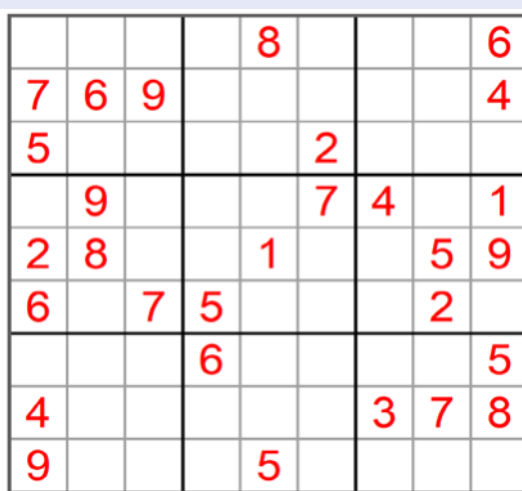
#### DOWN

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



Solution to July 9

### SUDOKU



Solution to July 9

## IN BRIEF

### Two tankers gutted after petrol-laden vehicle catches fire

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

### Choice International's strategic investment

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

### NBC hospital promises treatment at 30-40% lower cost

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

### Relaxo footwear expands presence

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

### MG Group Unveils 'Starz' Premium Coach

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

transparent audit of the Rs 2,000 crore package and the immediate rollback of the unequal fund distribution.

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

the deadliest metropolitan city for deaths due to civic negligence, primarily due to short term responses taking precedence over the root cause.

"Every single day, citizens are suffering, navigating hazardous potholes, severe waterlogging, and crumbling infrastructure that put lives at risk.

The government needs to be empathetic to the daily struggles of the public and prioritize basic human safety over political manoeuvring. It is unacceptable that funds explicitly meant for road upgrades are being callously

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

diverted to disconnected political projects."

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

without any disclosed objective formula, resulting in disproportionately higher funding being allocated to Congress run constituencies compared to opposition run constituencies.

The complaints further state that over 30% of the Rs 2,000 crore Action Plan (Rs 662 crore) includes projects



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

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

## 'Blood protest' intensifies against Bidadi Township

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

The protesters pricked their fingers and dropped blood on the township layout map, raising slogans of "We will give our blood, not our land."

Farmers and women participants demanded that the state government immediately withdraw the township proposal, warning that they would intensify the agitation if their concerns were ignored.

### Justice Santosh Hegde backs farmers



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

the name of development. Addressing the gathering, Justice Hegde said he had ignored medical advice to stay indoors because he could not remain silent while farmers were protesting on the streets.

He stressed that no development was possible without protecting agriculture.

"Artificial Intelligence cannot feed people. If agriculture declines, the country will face serious consequences in the future," he said. Hegde also criticised the destruction of lakes and green spaces for urban expansion, questioning the government's valuation of mature trees at Rs 40,000 without considering the decades required to grow them.

"Governance means understanding the pain of farmers. Taking away their livelihood and asking them to do some other work is not development," he said. He assured the protesters that he would continue supporting their movement and urged the government to protect farmers and fertile agricultural land before pursuing large-scale development projects.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

THE Karnataka High Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on the appeal filed by former Karnataka minister and Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni challenging the life imprisonment imposed on him by a Special Court for People's Representatives in the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogish Gowda. The Division Bench, comprising Justice Mohammed Nawaz and Justice G. Basavaraja, concluded hearing arguments from both sides and reserved its judgment.

Kulkarni has sought the suspension of his conviction and life sentence, along with bail pending disposal of his appeal. The outcome of the High Court's order is expected to have significant legal and political implications, including on the continuation of his membership in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.



Appearing for Kulkarni, senior counsel argued that the former minister had no role in the conspiracy or execution of the murder and contended that he had been falsely implicated due to political rivalry. The defence maintained that the trial court had erred in appreciating the evidence and urged the High Court to suspend the sentence and grant him bail while the appeal is heard.

Opposing the plea, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) submitted that Kulkarni had allegedly used his political influence to orchestrate the conspiracy behind the murder of Yogish Gowda. The agency argued that the conspiracy extended beyond the killing

itself and included attempts to shield the real assailants by arranging for fake accused to surrender before the court, thereby misleading the investigation. The CBI contended that the gravity of the offence and the evidence on record did not warrant suspension of sentence or grant of bail.

The case dates back to June 15, 2016, when BJP Zilla Panchayat member Yogish Gowda was hacked to death inside a gym in Dharwad. The investigation was initially conducted by the Dharwad Sub-Urban Police, which later filed a B-report. However, Gowda's family alleged that the investigation was inadequate and accused influential persons of attempting to derail the probe.

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

Bengaluru

**KARNATAKA** Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said the city's second airport, planned to decongest Kempegowda International Airport, will come up in South Bengaluru. He said officials have been asked to submit a proposal to the central government after considering a location where land cost is low, which is technically feasible, and not too hilly.

The CM chaired a meeting with Minister for Infrastructure Development M B Patil and top officials regarding the second airport near Bengaluru.

"Regarding the airport, we discussed what happened in the past. We asked to ensure that no villages are disturbed and villagers should not be displaced," Shivakumar told reporters after the meeting.

"We asked officials to submit a proposal to the central government after considering a location where the land cost is low, which is technically feasible, and not too hilly," he added.

The CM said no specific site had been named yet,



but it would be in the South, as were the previously proposed sites. "We asked them to look for a location where land prices are low, so it doesn't burden the state government, and where no villages need to be displaced. A few scattered houses are not an issue, as they can be compensated, but villages should not be shifted for the project," he added.

In the state budget presented in March, then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said that to decongest Kempegowda International Airport, which has emerged as the country's third-largest

airport, a second airport would be developed in Bengaluru, for which a feasibility report would be prepared after obtaining technical advice from the Airports Authority of India.

AAI officials have already visited the three sites that were earlier shortlisted for Bengaluru's second international airport. The state government had shortlisted three locations: two on Kanakapura Road near Harohalli (South Bengaluru) and one on Kunigal Road in Nelamangala (to the west of the city).

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

ALLIANCE University inaugurated its MBA Batch of 2026-28 with a grand inaugural ceremony at its Central Campus on Thursday, welcoming a new cohort of future business leaders. The programme reflected the University's vision of nurturing innovation-driven, socially responsible, and globally competent professionals equipped to lead in an evolving business landscape.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the University Invocation Song, symbolising the beginning of the students' academic journey. The event was attended by the University's leadership, distinguished industry experts, faculty members, and the newly admitted MBA students.

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. Ray Titus, Pro Vice-Chancellor - Innovation and Incubation and Dean, Alliance School of Business, traced the remarkable growth of the School of Business and reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and strong industry engagement. Speaking about



the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence, he observed that while technology will continue to reshape industries, the future will belong to individuals who demonstrate originality, creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to solve complex business challenges.

Delivering the inaugural address, Abhay G. Chebbi, Pro Chancellor, Alliance University, highlighted India's emergence as a global innovation powerhouse, pointing to landmark initiatives such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the country's thriving startup ecosystem. Encouraging students to maximise every learning opportunity, he urged them to move beyond classroom education, embrace experiential learning, and develop

into ethical leaders and responsible citizens capable of creating meaningful impact in society.

Addressing the students, Dr. B. Priestly Shan, Vice-Chancellor, Alliance University, described the MBA programme as a transformative two-year journey that extends beyond academics. He encouraged students to cultivate curiosity, resilience, discipline, and a problem-solving mindset while leveraging the University's transdisciplinary ecosystem spanning research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration. He also highlighted the institution's vibrant startup ecosystem and its continued commitment to supporting entrepreneurial aspirations.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Jai Advani,

Managing Director, PwC, who shared valuable insights from his professional journey. Emphasising the growing influence of technology on businesses and careers, he encouraged students to remain adaptable, embrace lifelong learning, and invest in building strong professional relationships and networks that will support their future careers.

The ceremony concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Surekha Shetty, Registrar General, Alliance University. She encouraged the incoming students to make every day of their MBA journey meaningful by upholding the University's values of excellence, integrity, innovation, and purposeful leadership while contributing positively to society.

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

BENGALURU

UNION Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday said the Karnataka CEO's decision to issue notices to over 35 BLOs was itself proof that irregularities had taken place during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in the state. He also accused the state government of attempting to divert attention from the issue.

Kumaraswamy recalled that senior leaders from both the BJP and JD(S) had recently met the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar as well as the central Election Commission and submitted representations highlighting the ground realities during the Special Intensive Revision implementation.

"We provided sufficient material for the EC to take action and issue directions to the BLOs and district magistrates," the union minister for Heavy Industries & Steel told reporters here. Following the representation, Kumaraswamy said the EC had assured that it would take necessary action if required.

"Therefore, we are not worried. Several illegal activities are taking place, and that is precisely the issue we raised before the EC," he claimed. He said the Karnataka CEO has issued notices

to more than 35 booth-level officers. "Why were notices issued to 35 BLOs? Because there were irregularities. That itself shows the irregularities are real. However, due to interference from the state government, despite several mistakes and illegal activities committed by BLOs, attempts are being made to divert the issue by talking about something else," he claimed.

Commenting on the Cauvery river-sharing issue with neighbouring Tamil Nadu, the minister said the dispute has to be fought legally and requested the leaders of all parties in Tamil Nadu to cooperate. "We have to

fight it legally. I would like to request the leaders of all parties in Tamil Nadu — we are like brothers and sisters. Whatever water God gives us, we should share fairly from the reservoirs. For that, they must cooperate with us," he said.

Claiming that the farming community has been neglected, the minister urged the state government to immediately take care of farmers' interests. "This government is currently facing two kinds of disasters — floods on one side and drought on the other. In both situations, the farming community has been neglected," he alleged.

Pointing out that there

is no agriculture minister in the cabinet at present, Kumaraswamy said the responsibility rests with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. "He (the CM) should issue immediate directions to all deputy commissioners to protect the interests of farmers," he said.

Kumaraswamy urged the Karnataka government to immediately release water from the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir to protect standing crops in Mandya district, saying the crops are drying up. He said the government had earlier not released water to farmers, citing insufficient storage in the KRS reservoir. However,

with inflows into the reservoir increasing now, there is a need to release water for irrigation, he said.

"There was no need to neglect the interests of Karnataka's farmers. Water can be released to Tamil Nadu after the reservoir fills up, and any surplus water will naturally flow downstream. At present, the priority should be to release water into the canals for farmers," he said.

On the Hindustan Machine Tools land row, the union minister hit out at former Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, claiming that the HMT land has no connection whatsoever with the forest department and



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

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

# FIFA CHIEF FACES OLYMPIC RED CARD

GENEVA

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

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

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

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

Trump lobbying Infantino on Balogun ban triggers complaint to ethics body

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

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

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

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

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

FIFA was asked for comment about the complaint to the IOC about its president. Infantino has built close ties to Trump since 2018 when the U.S., Canada and Mexico won a vote to host soccer's World Cup this year.

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

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

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



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

CARSON (US)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

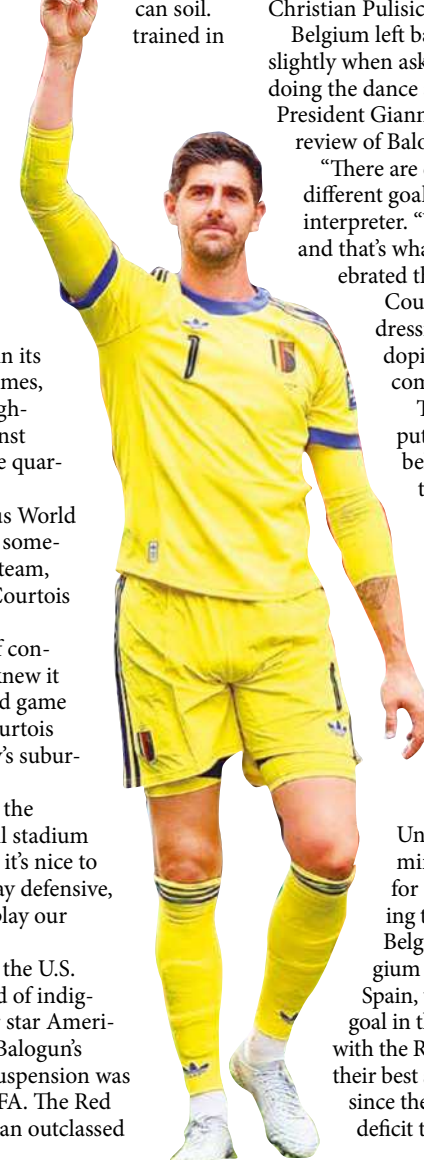
Belgium left back Diego Moreira smiled slightly when asked about the meaning of doing the dance after Trump called FIFA President Gianni Infantino to ask for a review of Balogun's red card.

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

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

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

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



## Egyptian FA "cannot remain silent" about unfair officiating



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

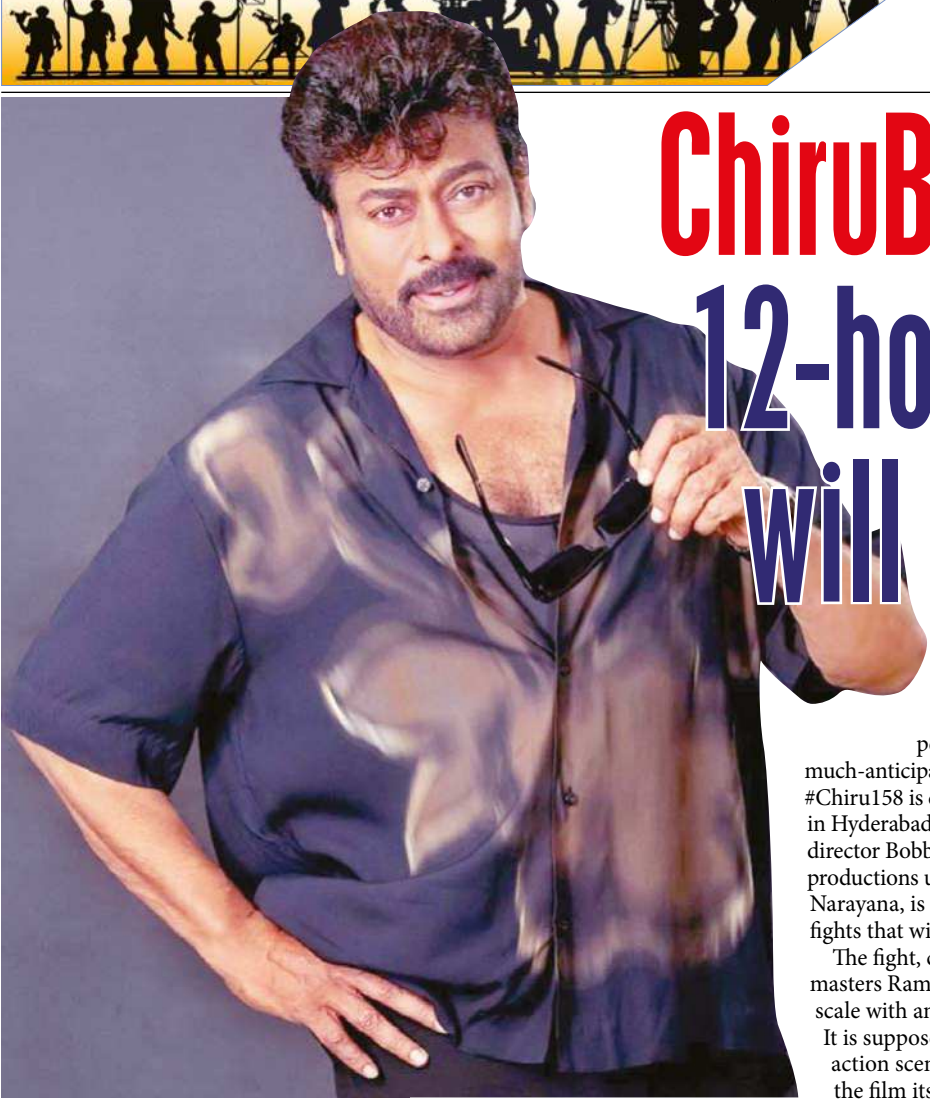
July 1, 2017. About 53 per cent of survey respondents reported that tax administration has evolved towards a more collaborative approach; however, industry feedback on interactions with tax authorities remains mixed, with 47 per cent highlighting variation in interpretation and implementation.

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

## Krithi Shetty stuns with new photoshoot

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

## Dil Raju unveils 'Adhe Neevu Adhe Nenu' teaser

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

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

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

