



# THE Hans India



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**ONCE-WEEKLY**  
**Awigili**  
 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**



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

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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VICTORIS

# 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.

# 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 (APPCC).

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 APPCC, have been instructed to take necessary follow-up action for utilisation of the funds.

## 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 (Sanrakshan 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, Kosinipalli 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**

## గుంటూరు నగరపాలక సంస్థ

**"ఇ" ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ పిండర్ ప్రకటన**

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

గుంటూరు నగరపాలక సంస్థ పరిధిలో వివిధ అభివృద్ధి పనులు చేపట్టటకు గాను "ఇ" ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ ప్లాట్ ఫర్మ్ ద్వారా పిండర్ వద్దటిన రిజిస్టర్డ్ కాంట్రాక్టు దారుల నుండి పిండర్ కోరబడుచున్నవి. ఇతర వివరములకు [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) (procurement platform) వద్ద చూడవచ్చును.

అ) "ఇ" ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ పిండర్ ఇ.టి. నెం 38/2025-2026  
**ప్లాట్ పిండర్ నోటీసు**  
మొత్తం పనుల సంఖ్య : 3  
అంచనా మొత్తం : 46,70,000/-  
పనుల వివరములు : రోడ్లు, కాలువలు, మొక్కలు మరియు ఇతర అభివృద్ధి పనులు  
పిండర్ బిడ్ కనపడు తేదీ : 08.07.2026  
పిండరు బిడ్ లను వేయటకు ఆఖరు తేదీ: 16.07.2026  
పిండరు బిడ్ లను తెరచు తేదీ: 16.07.2026

ఆ) "ఇ" ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ పిండర్ ఇ.టి. నెం 23/2026-2027  
**ప్లాట్ పిండర్ నోటీసు**  
మొత్తం పనుల సంఖ్య : 3  
అంచనా మొత్తం : 1,80,00,000/-  
పనుల వివరములు : రోడ్లు, కాలువలు, మొక్కలు మరియు ఇతర అభివృద్ధి పనులు  
పిండర్ బిడ్ కనపడు తేదీ : 01.07.2026  
పిండరు బిడ్ లను వేయటకు ఆఖరు తేదీ: 16.07.2026  
పిండరు బిడ్ లను తెరచు తేదీ: 16.07.2026

ఇ) "ఇ" ప్రాక్యూర్మెంట్ పిండర్ ఇ.టి. నెం 15, 25/2026-2027  
**ప్లాట్ పిండర్ నోటీసు**  
మొత్తం పనుల సంఖ్య : 8  
అంచనా మొత్తం : 68,96,000/-  
పనుల వివరములు : రోడ్లు, కాలువలు, మొక్కలు మరియు ఇతర అభివృద్ధి పనులు  
పిండర్ బిడ్ కనపడు తేదీ: 08.07.2026  
పిండరు బిడ్ లను వేయటకు ఆఖరు తేదీ : 23.07.2026  
పిండరు బిడ్ లను తెరచు తేదీ: 23.07.2026

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

## FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on/after 18-07-2026 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount ₹	Branch Name
78314315	Pali Laxman Rao	06-02-26	20844	Bhimavaram
78872195	Bethala Varun Raj	18-02-26	12908	Eluru
64179409	Kodali Rudranath	17-04-25	45566	Eluru
74747133	Teki Siva Kumar	18-12-25	48034	Eluru
74866055	Matthe Ashokumar	23-12-25	21589	Eluru
75715194	Konathala Saikumar	08-01-26	44055	Gajuwaka
74876475	Januu Veera Kumar	23-12-25	71734	Guntur
78928931	Yenamala Venkat Swamy	19-02-26	12654	Guntur-Gt Road
75472296	Kotluru Venkata Subbamma	07-01-26	10352	Kadapa
76551728	Shaik Suleman	13-01-26	32176	Kurnool
77842452	Shaik Mansoor	29-01-26	110852	Nellore
77143747	Sigamala Sravani	21-01-26	112126	Nellore
78770478	Swarna Dinesh Prasanna	16-02-26	13517	Nellore
73954398	Udaragudi Vanaja	11-11-25	11158	Ongole
77857225	Gudluru Sriharshini	29-01-26	37753	Ongole
78451829	Jakkula Vijayagar	09-02-26	34096	Ongole
74622156	Leikkala Nares Kumarreddy	12-12-25	68137	Proddutur
79026205	Rayudu Hariram Kalyan	22-02-26	14477	Rajamahendravaram
77912297	Komara Ramu	30-01-26	21433	Srikakulam
77461602	Lakkula Muthyala Babu	23-01-26	17266	Tenali
78879083	Cm Gangadharan	18-02-26	16669	Tirupati
70795357	P Chengal Rayulu	11-09-25	25760	Tirupati
72110394	K Jayalakshamma	08-10-25	35575	Tirupati
74837916	Chengal Reddy Muntha	22-12-25	39463	Tirupati
74288116	Bandhila Padmraj	27-11-25	9486	Vijayawada
53490296	Varla Jaya Sree	14-08-24	28615	Vijayawada-Governorpet
78921297	Dokku Bhargava	19-02-26	14122	Vijayawada-Kanuru
78962909	Mohammad Sana	20-02-26	23743	Vijayawada-Kanuru
78964714	Katkinsa Uma Ramya	20-02-26	58645	Vijayawada-Kanuru
78882691	Singanapudi Rukminibai	18-02-26	13216	Vijayawada-Kanuru
75426738	Abdul Kalimunnisa	06-01-26	16593	Vijayawada-Kanuru
74167811	Ch Durgarao	21-11-25	13428	Vijayawada-Kanuru

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and conditions as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose. If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place: ANDHRA PRADESH  
Date: 10-07-2026  
Authorised Officer (HDB Financial Services Ltd)

## Value addition key to boosting coconut farmers' income

HANS NEWS SERVICE RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

PRINCIPAL Secretary (Food Processing) Chiranjeevi Chowdary said that coconut farmers' incomes could increase by 15 to 20% through value addition instead of selling raw produce alone. He stressed that products such as desiccated coconut powder, flakes, snacks, coconut milk, tender coconut water, coconut jaggery, coconut sugar, activated charcoal and bio-products offer significant business opportunities.

Emphasising the need to strengthen coconut-based value addition and micro enterprises, the AP Food Processing Society, in association with the Coconut Development Board and the Coir Board, organised a one day State-level seminar on coconut cultivation, productivity enhancement, and the promotion of coconut based industries at Manjeera Convention Hall here on Thursday. Chiranjeevi Chowdary inaugurated the seminar by lighting the ceremonial lamp along with AP Food Processing Society CEO Dr Shekhar Babu Geddam and Coconut Development Board Deputy Director Dr Manjunadha Reddy.

Addressing the gathering, Chowdary said agriculture and allied sectors contribute



Principal Secretary (Food Processing) Chiranjeevi Chowdary speaking at a state-level in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday

nearly 35% to the State's Gross Domestic Product. AP ranks fourth in the country in coconut cultivation and production while securing the top position in productivity. More than one lakh hectares are under coconut cultivation in the State, producing nearly 175 crore coconuts annually. He said the State government aims to facilitate the establishment of 100 to 125 coconut based micro enterprises during the current financial year. Interested entrepreneurs will receive subsidies, technical assistance and training under the PMFME, MIDH convergence and Coconut Development Board schemes. He encouraged youth to take up agri-business and agri-tech ventures, stating that sustainable earnings of Rs 50,000 to Rs 70,000 a month are possible through rural enterprises.

## CPM alleges sharp rise in power burden

VIJAYAWADA: CPM State Secretariat member Ch Babu Rao accused the coalition government of imposing a heavy financial burden on electricity consumers despite claiming that power tariffs had not been increased. Addressing a press conference at the CPM office here on Thursday, along with State committee member D Kasinath, Babu Rao alleged that the government's two-year power sector progress report contained "misleading claims" and "half-truths."

He claimed that while the government says electricity tariffs have remained unchanged or even been reduced, consumers have been paying additional amounts through adjustment charges ranging from 62 paise to Rs 1.88 per unit over the past 24 months.

According to Babu Rao, electricity consumers have paid nearly Rs 21,885 crore through true-up and adjustment charges during the last two years. He alleged that the collections included Rs 6,072 crore for 2022-23, Rs 9,412 crore for 2023-24, Rs 1,400 crore relating to earlier years, besides

around Rs 5,000 crore collected through an additional 40 paise per unit levy.

Questioning the government's claim that power purchase costs had declined from Rs 5.42 to Rs 4.90 per unit, he asked why the benefit had not been passed on to consumers. He also alleged that the government had delayed payment of more than Rs 13,000 crore in power subsidies to distribution companies.

Babu Rao criticised the installation of smart electricity meters, alleging that the coalition government had abandoned its pre-election stand against the project. He demanded that the installation of smart meters be stopped and existing smart meters removed. He also sought an inquiry into the solar power agreement involving Adani Group and the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), alleging that the government had failed to act despite corruption allegations. Kasinath said the CPM would continue its campaign against smart meters, adjustment charges and what it described as the growing burden of electricity costs on consumers.

## Star hotels' body urges GST relief for hospitality sector

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

A delegation of the AP Star Hotels Association (ASHA), led by its president R V Swamy, met minister for civil supplies Nadendla Manohar here on Thursday and sought the state government's support in securing key GST reforms for the hospitality sector.

The delegation urged the minister to take up with the Central government the demand for a reduction in GST on commercial LPG cylinders, stating that the current tax structure has sharply increased operating costs for hotels and restaurants.



A delegation of Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association led by its president R V Swamy with civil supplies minister Nadendla Manohar in Vijayawada on Thursday

The delegation expressed confidence that the Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, would strongly advocate for GST reforms benefiting the sector.

The delegation included Nageswara Rao, general manager of Vivanta Visakhapatnam, M V Pavan Kartheek, joint secretary, ASHA, Sharan, MD of GRT Vijayawada and Murthy Chittoory, general secretary, ASHA.

Minister Manohar gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that their representation would be examined and the matter would be taken up at the appropriate level.

# Jagan assures support to fisherman Kari Chinna

- Former Chief Minister talks to Chinna and enquires about the incident
- He assures the fisherman that the YSRCP will stand by the fishermen
- Party leaders from various constituencies offer moral support to Chinna

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

FORMER chief minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke to fisherman Kari Chinna, the lone survivor among the seven fishermen whose boat capsized in the sea, over phone and assured him that the YSRCP would stand by him and extend all possible support.

Chinna, who is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Visakhapatnam, explained the tragic incident to Jagan in detail, recalling



YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy talking to Kari Chinna over the phone in the presence of the party leaders in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

the horrifying night at sea, how the fishermen struggled after the accident, how he managed to swim such a long distance and was finally rescued.

Seven fishermen who had gone into the sea for fishing were returning when their boat capsized. Of the seven fishermen,

six went missing, but Chinna survived.

Chinna told YS Jagan that the boat had been purchased by taking loans and that the family had now lost everything.

He requested support, stating that the boat, worth nearly Rs.50 lakh, had sunk, and he had received

no assistance despite surviving the accident and being hospitalised.

Offering comfort to Chinna, Jagan said he would visit Visakhapatnam if required.

Jagan criticised the government for failing to provide compensation for the lost boat, pointing out

that when fishermen lose their boat, they also lose their livelihood.

He said the YSRCP would pressure the government to provide support and ensure justice is meted out to the affected families.

Meanwhile, the government provided compensation of Rs.10 lakh to each of the six missing fishermen's families.

However, the YSRCP leaders claimed that Chinna, who survived the tragedy and is undergoing treatment, was ignored.

Former Visakhapatnam South MLA Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, YSRCP Visakhapatnam district president KK Raju, party Bheemunipatnam coordinator Majji Srinivasa Rao, Gajuwaka coordinator Tippala Devan Reddy, Visakhapatnam east constituency M Appa Rao, among others, raised concerns over Chinna's condition and assured him that they would continue to fight until justice is meted out.

# Bhanu Chandhar's miniature wind turbine sets a new record!

RANI DEVALLA  
VISAKHAPATNAM

WHEN Maheswaram Bhanu Chandhar began experimenting with a 3-mm-diameter wind turbine for power generation for the first time, he was not quite sure that he would end up designing the world's smallest wind turbine over a few attempts.

After trying his hands at a couple of working models, his 8-mm X 8-mm wind turbine eventually gained a place in the 'International Book of Records'.

Delighted over the achievement, Bhanu Chandhar says that a lot of groundwork went into making the miniature innovation. "I did the tiniest silent wind turbine in just three hours," says Bhanu Chandhar with excitement writ large on his face.

Serving as an Assistant Professor in the Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE) department at Sri Sivan College of Engineering, Chilakapalem in Srikakulam district, his miniature work earned him a place in the International Book of Records for creating the tiniest silent wind turbine.

Made of copper sheets integrated with a miniature DC motor and a dash of enamel paint, Bhanu Chandhar, who did Ph.D in electrical engineering after completing M. Tech (electrical engineering) and B.Tech (power engineering), says that the silent wind turbine, meant to hide from enemy's attention, could be incorporated for the border security project.

"I am planning to work on it next," he mentions. Although the International



Book of Records uploaded Bhanu Chandhar's feat on its official website last month, he will receive the record certificate in a few days.

Talking about his support system, he says, "I feel grateful to my parents Maheswaram Nagaraju and Santhamani and the college management I work for as they extended complete support in every aspect of my innovation."

For years, Bhanu Chandhar has been focusing on smart grids and renewable energy systems. "In future, I would like to do an extensive research on green energy and propagate the concepts among students," the Assistant Professor shares with 'The Hans India'. Bhanu Chandhar exudes confidence that his innovation will set a new standard in his career graph.

# Collaborative inspection carried out for AI-based traffic management 'SARTHI'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

CITY Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi and Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ketan Garg carried out a collaborative field inspection and discussed the implementation of project SARTHI (Systematic Augmented Radial Traffic & Hoop Induction), an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), aimed at making traffic management in Visakhapatnam.

During the inspection, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi, and senior officials from GVMC and the City Police reviewed the technical aspects of Project SARTHI at the Police Command and Control Centre in Visakhapatnam.

Representatives of Keltron, the ITMS developer, gave a detailed presentation on the project design, AI-based traffic analytics, traffic



City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi briefing the details in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

management at major junctions, vehicle movement monitoring, signal optimisation, real-time traffic monitoring and other technological features.

Later, the GVMC Commissioner, the City Police Commissioner and senior officials conducted a joint field inspection at Maddilapalem junction to assess the proposed ITMS, evaluate traffic flow and junction management, and examine the practical implementation of AI-based traffic management solutions. The primary objectives of Project SARTHI are to reduce traffic congestion at major junctions across the city, eff-

iciently manage traffic signal timings based on real-time vehicular movement, provide priority passage for emergency service vehicles, enhance road safety and ensure faster, safer and uninterrupted transportation facilities for the public.

The GVMC Commissioner stated that GVMC and the Visakhapatnam City Police will work in close coordination to develop a state-of-the-art AI-based traffic management system tailored to the city's requirements.

He added that Project SARTHI would play a key role in transforming Visakhapatnam into a smarter and safer city.

# ECI officials inspect SIR process in Visakhapatnam

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

SENIOR officials from the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday inspected the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls being undertaken across the district to assess the progress and transparency of the exercise.

Principal Secretary at the ECI Avinash Kumar conducted field visits to several polling stations and interacted with voters to verify the implementation of the SIR process.

The officials visited polling station No: 193 in the Visakhapatnam West assembly constituency, where they examined the electoral roll revision process.

They interacted with vot-

ers, reviewed the mapped electoral rolls in detail and clarified doubts raised by the locals.

Subsequently, they inspected the digitisation process at Visakhapatnam North assembly constituency and gathered feedback from local voters regarding the ongoing revision exercise.

The Election Commission team also visited polling stations 280 and 281 in the Bheemunipatnam constituency, where they reviewed the SIR exercise.

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, RDOs Dilip Chakravarthi and Sangeet Madhur, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) Gnavenavi and Madhusudhan, along with AEROs, accompanied the Commission officials during the inspection.



Election Commission of India officials visiting Visakhapatnam on Thursday

# 'World Population Day' posters and banners unveiled

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ANAKAPALLI

AS part of the 'World Population Day' programme to be held on July 11th, District Collector Vijaya Krishnan unveiled posters and banners here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijaya Krishnan directed medical and health department officers to organise rallies and awareness meetings at all Primary Health Centres (PHC) and Sub-Centre levels in the district from July 11th to 18th.

The Collector underlined that these programmes should be made successful with the slogan: 'Let's follow the right interval between children - Let's build a healthy and happy family'.

The Collector asked couples to be aware of family



Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan and other officials at the poster launch event organised in Anakapalli on Thursday

planning methods and instructed officials to create awareness at the field level about safe methods available, including oral contraceptive pills, PPIUCD, among others.

A lucky dip programme will be organised for couples who have successfully adopted family planning methods.

The district administration will distribute cash prizes to them.

District Medical and Health Officer M. Haimavati, District Immunisation Officer Chandra Shekhar, district statistical officer Ramachandra Rao, and other health department officials and staff participated.

# SCoR mandates round-the-clock monitoring at flood-prone railway underpasses

- The GM meticulously verified the operational readiness of essential equipment, including diesel and electrical dewatering pumps, sump arrangements, natural drainage channels, CCTV surveillance, and covered pump sheds
- The inspection also covered the installation and status of cross-drainage facilities, safety chains, stop boards, and speed breakers aimed at protecting commuters
- Mathur directed officials to monitor weather forecasts closely and deploy field staff 24/7 at highly vulnerable spots during intense rainfall events

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

GENERAL Manager of South Coast Railway Sandeep Mathur carried out a detailed inspection of Limited



General Manager of South Coast Railway Sandeep Mathur inspecting Limited Height Subways in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

Height Subways (LHSs) prone to water logging during the monsoon season in Visakhapatnam division here on Thursday.

The inspection was aimed at reviewing the preparedness of the railway officials to ensure public safety and effective management of water logging during heavy rainfall.

The General Manager was accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager of Visakhapatnam Division Lalit Bohra, Principal Chief Engineer BSK Rajkumar, senior officers from the zonal headquarters and from the Division.

During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed

the arrangements made at the vulnerable Limited Height Subways- between Pendurthi - Simhachalam north section and another one between Gopalapatnam - Visakhapatnam section.

The General Manager examined the preventive measures put in place to tackle water accumulation during periods of intense rainfall.

He reviewed the availability and operational readiness of diesel and electrical pumps, sump arrangements, natural drainage systems, CCTV surveillance, covered pump sheds, cross drainage facilities, safety chains, stop boards and speed breakers installed at the subways. Sandeep Mathur directed

the officers to maintain a high level of preparedness throughout the monsoon season and ensure that all dewatering equipment remains in serviceable condition at all times.

He emphasised that prompt action should be taken whenever water accumulation occurs so that the subways should be restored for safe public use.

The General Manager instructed officials to closely monitor weather forecasts, deploy field staff round the clock at vulnerable locations during heavy rains and ensure seamless coordination among engineering, electrical and operating departments for swift response.

# CITU demands committee report into VSP ladle blast incident

- CITU State President CH Narasingha Rao questions why the inquiry committee appointed by Union Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy has not submitted its report even after a month since the tragic ladle blast that killed 10 workers

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

CITU state president CH Narasingha Rao questioned why the inquiry committee appointed by Union Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy has not submitted its report even after a month of the tragic ladle blast incident that occurred at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) in which 10 workers lost their lives.

Addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, Narasingha Rao mentioned that the probe conducted by the state factory department identified eight major safety lapses in the plant.

He alleged that in last



CITU state president CH Narasingha Rao addressing the gathering in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

January, the department pointed out 645 safety deficiencies and sought an explanation from the steel plant management, but no response was submitted within the stipulated 15-day period.

The CITU state president stated that 12 workers died in different accidents at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant during 2025 and claimed that 37 cases related to safety violations of the steel plant management are currently pending before various courts.

Alleging gross negligence on the part of the management, the CITU state president demanded immediate arrest of the Chairman and Managing Director of the VSP.

Recalling the LG Poly-

mers gas leak tragedy in 2020, Narasingha Rao mentioned that 12 persons, including the company's South Korean director, were arrested and held accountable following the incident.

He questioned why Visakhapatnam Steel Plant management has not faced similar legal action despite

more serious industrial accidents happening at the plant. Speaking on the occasion, CITU state secretary RKSVM Kumar alleged that while each major department of the steel plant earlier had a dedicated safety officer, the entire plant is now functioning with only three safety officers in three shifts.

He said workers have been continuously raising concerns over inadequate safety measures and have brought the deficiencies to the notice of the Union Steel Minister. However, despite repeated representations, no corrective measures have been taken, while repeated accidents continue to recur at the plant.

Hans India Classifieds

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, SWETHA DURGASI, W/o. R.V.V. Prasad, Residing at D.No. 14-6-4/1, Anthony Nagar, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam - 530002. I have changed my Name as SWETHA RAYANA (New Name). Hereafter my name is known as SWETHA RAYANA (New Name).  
Ramesh-VSP

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

designated garage space for charging and maintenance during the contract period, after which the facilities will revert entirely to APSRTC. The land will continue to remain with the Corporation.

Equally significant, the Chief Minister reiterated that no APSRTC employee will lose his or her job because of electric buses. Employees shifted from depots undergoing electrification works will be redeployed and later brought back after commissioning. APSRTC is also floating India's first 'Dry Lease' model for electric buses to utilise surplus drivers while protecting employee interests.

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

# AP sets new benchmark in paddy procurement

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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

Civil supplies special chief secretary K



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

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

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

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

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

# Strengthen party at grassroots level, Madhav to BJP cadre

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

He told the party workers to aspire to become public representatives, 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.

# V-P LAUNCHES HIGH SEAS FISHING SCHEME

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

VICE-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Thursday launched the national programme for issuance of Letters of Authorisation (LoAs) for sustainable harnessing of fisheries in the high seas. He presented LoAs for high seas fishing to 10 Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and fishermen from across the country. On the occasion, he also launched the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission Document.

In his address at the event, the Vice-President said that while fishing activities have traditionally remained close to the shore, the new framework would enable Indian fishermen to confidently venture into deep waters for the sustainable harvesting of high-value species such as tuna.

"The initiative marks the beginning of a new chapter in India's maritime journey



by enabling Indian fishermen to sustainably harness the vast potential of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the high seas," he said. India possesses over 11,000 kilometres of coastline and an Exclusive Economic Zone of nearly 24 lakh square kilometres, with immense marine wealth that remains largely untapped, he noted. Highlighting the rapid growth of India's fisheries

sector, the Vice-President said that India is today the world's second-largest fish-producing country, contributing around 8 per cent to global fish production. He noted that the sector supports the livelihoods of nearly three crore fishermen and fish farmers and that seafood exports crossed Rs 73,000 crore during the last financial year. He expressed confidence that the High Seas initiative would

further strengthen India's export potential and generate employment in harvesting, processing, cold chain, transportation, packaging, logistics and export services.

The Vice-President further stated that the new framework gives priority to fisheries cooperatives, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations, and Indian fishermen for the issuance of Letters of Authorisation. He described the initiative as a significant step towards empowering coastal communities and emphasised that collective efforts can bring about transformational change in the fisheries sector.

He observed that the programme reflects the collective resolve of the Union government, the State government, and fishing communities to usher in a new era of growth, sustainability and prosperity in the fisheries sector. Emphasising that sustainable fishing is a moral responsibility, the Vice-President said that

economic progress must go hand in hand with conservation of marine resources. He underlined the importance of digital authorisation systems, vessel tracking, international certification, and strict compliance with measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Urging young people to view fisheries as a modern profession driven by science, technology, innovation and global opportunities, he called upon institutions to continue supporting fishing communities with knowledge, technology and finance to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The programme was attended by Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati; Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi; Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and several other dignitaries.

# Odisha to attach PM Surya Ghar scheme to PMAY

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR



ODISHA'S Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo on Wednesday announced that PM-Surya Ghar Yojana will be attached to different housing schemes of the Odisha government, including Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), reflecting the State's focus on renewable energy and affordable housing. The Deputy Chief Minister revealed the plan while chairing a high-level review meeting on power sector reforms, safety measures, and implementation of Central and State government schemes.

"It will be an option for the beneficiary. Our aim is to ensure that every beneficiary under PMAY and other housing schemes also gets the benefit of solar power. By attaching PM-Surya Ghar with State housing programmes, we will provide 24x7 clean and affordable electricity to the people, while reducing their electricity bills," said Singh Deo.

Under the scheme, a subsidy of Rs 30,000 from the Centre and Rs 25,000 from the State will be provided for 1 KW

roof-top solar installation in urban areas. The beneficiary has to pay Rs 1,875 for 1 KW solar panel. The Deputy Chief Minister directed DISCOMs to prioritise public safety measures across urban and rural areas.

The key decisions taken during the high-level meeting included undertaking a Rs 3,708-crore underground cabling project across all four DISCOMs to replace overhead power lines; preparing a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) on safety for Odisha's DISCOMs; shifting low-hanging wires; replacing bare conductors with insulated conductors; installing fencing at distribution substations; constructing boundary walls around power sub-stations (PSS); providing cradle and guard wires for LT line protection; and developing a utility shifting portal/app along with

an LTDB for LT protection.

The Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed the implementation of PM-SGMBY and ULA Model for both urban and rural electrification, including poles, wiring and streetlights. Singh Deo emphasised that the State government is committed to providing safe, reliable, and sustainable power to every household in Odisha. He directed officials to ensure time-bound execution of all safety and infrastructure projects. All the above departments will work in coordination to provide safe and reliable service.

The meeting was attended by Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, along with other senior officials.

## Season's first floodwater released from Hirakud

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

AUTHORITIES of the Hirakud Dam in Sambalpur district released the season's first floodwater on Thursday, after alerting districts downstream of the Mahanadi river, officials said. Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida was present on the occasion.

A total of four of the 67 dam gates were opened around 11 am, and 64,000 cusec of water is flowing downstream, Water Resources Department Engineer-in-Chief Dillip Kumar Rout said. Apart from the gates, 25,000 cusec water is also flowing through the power channel route while another 5,000 cusec is flowing in a canal system, Rout said. Another six gates of the dam are likely to be opened by this evening, he said. Rout said the water level in river Mahanadi at Mundali near Kataka was 2.24 lakh cusec at 11 am, which will come down to 50,000 cusec before the released water reaches the barrage.

# Odisha police facing manpower shortage: DGP

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA police is facing an acute manpower shortage resulting in heavy workload on personnel, DGP Y B Khurania said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters in Kataka, Khurania said that against a sanctioned strength of around 89,000 personnel, nearly 33,000 posts in various ranks are vacant. "This is the factual position and no one can deny this. Due to the large number of vacancies, personnel posted in police stations and outposts work more than their counterparts in other States," he said.

The DGP said Odisha's police-population ratio remains below the national average, adding that the State currently has about 129 police personnel per 1 lakh population against the national average of 153. He thanked Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for approving the creation of 17,000 new posts in the Police department. "Combined with the exist-



ing 16,000 vacancies, around 33,000 posts will now be filled," Khurania said, expressing hope that the Odisha Uniformed Services Recruitment Board would begin the recruitment process soon. He said filling the vacancies would significantly strengthen policing and improve public service delivery as the State modernises its police force.

Khurania's remarks come amid concerns over work pressure within the force following the resignation request of

Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena and the alleged suicide of a woman police inspector in Kataka. Asked whether excessive workload was a factor, the DGP said resignations from government service were not uncommon. "People join government service and also resign," he said. On the death of the woman police inspector, Khurania said the cause would be known only after completion of the investigation and appropriate action would be taken based on its findings.

# Identify land for model schools: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

IRKED over the delay in implementation of Godabarish Mishra Model Primary Schools (GMMPS) programme, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday asked the district collectors to identify land for setting up at least 2,200 such institutions by March 2027.

The Chief Minister issued this direction while reviewing the progress in the GMMPS, a flagship programme of Odisha's BJP government. He said the programme is crucial for strengthening primary education across the State.

The State government has planned to build GMMPS in all the gram panchayats for which Rs 2,200 crore has been allocated in the 2026-27 fiscal. The previous year's allocation was Rs 50 crore. Majhi expressed wonder when he was informed about the difficulties in acquiring five acres of land for the model school.

He said it may be difficult to get one patch of a 5-acre



plot in the coastal region, but there should not be any problem in other districts. He asked the district collectors to acquire private land near schools if there is an inadequacy of government land. "Take help of local MLAs in acquiring land for setting up the GMMPS," the Chief Minister suggested to district collectors.

Majhi instructed district collectors to monitor the implementation of the scheme on a weekly basis and submit progress reports to the

Secretary of the School and Mass Education department every seven days. Majhi said he would personally review the progress of the project every month to ensure timely execution. The Chief Minister said the objective of the GMMPS programme is to set up world-class primary schools at the Gram Panchayat level in line with the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

According to an official

statement issued by the CMO, construction has already begun for 322 GMMPS where foundation stones have been laid. The Chief Minister said the success of the programme largely depends on the effective coordination at the district level and the collectors have a key role to play in achieving the goal. "Treat this as a top priority. Work with full commitment and ensure we meet our targets on time," he told the School and Mass Education department.

# Lower Vamsadhara Stage-1 project begins

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK  
BRAHMAPUR

IN a major boost to the long-pending Lower Vamsadhara Stage-I Irrigation Project, the Odisha government has invited tenders for consultancy services to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), marking a significant step towards implementation of the ambitious project.

The proposed project envisages the construction of a 3.2-km earthen dam across the Sana Nadi near Khaira, a 1.85-km barrage across the Vamsadhara river near Panidanagar, and an extensive canal network



comprising a 74-km Left Main Canal and a 48-km Right Main Canal. Once completed, the project is expected to provide assured irrigation to large agricultural areas in Rayagada and Gajapati districts.

The irrigation project is expected to enhance agricultural productivity, encourage crop diversification, improve farmers' incomes, generate rural employment, strengthen water security and accelerate the

socio-economic development of the region. The latest development is being viewed as the outcome of sustained efforts by the Odisha government, elected representatives, civil society organisations, farmers'

associations and local residents who have consistently pursued the project for decades. Public campaigns, awareness programmes, representations and legislative interventions helped keep the long-pending proposal on the government's agenda.

Residents and stakeholders have welcomed the move and expressed hope that all statutory clearances will be secured at the earliest, paving the way for construction to begin without further delay. The successful implementation of the Lower Vamsadhara Stage-I Project is expected to become a landmark development initiative for the Gunupur region and a major milestone in the development of southern Odisha.

# KIMS surgeons extract arrow

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR



DEMONSTRATING exceptional clinical coordination, doctors at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Bhubaneswar, saved a 22-year-old Rourkela businessman who had an arrow lodged in his chest. The patient sustained a grievous injury when the arrow became lodged deep inside his body. His family rushed him to several hospitals, but due to the complexity and high risk of the case, none would agree to remove the weapon. Ultimately, their refusal to operate proved crucial in saving his life, as it prevented a fatal premature extraction.

With little hope left, the family brought him to KIMS, where a multidisciplinary team of specialists from the Department of General Surgery, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS), Anaesthesiology and other departments immediately planned an emergency operation. The team was led by Dr Amaresh Mishra, HOD, Department of General Surgery. The other surgeons included Dr S K Sahu, Dr P S Pujari, Dr D Hota and Dr

S Samal. The Department of General Surgery emphasised the extreme rarity and danger of the case. "These injuries carry immense risk," the team explained. "Patients often bleed out and die the exact moment an arrow is removed, as the weapon itself may be blocking catastrophic blood loss. Fortunately, previous hospitals refrained from pulling it out, which granted us the critical time needed to plan a precise surgical intervention," the doctors said. The Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr Achyuta Samanta, congratulated the doctors for their accomplishment, emphasising the advanced care and treatment provided to patients at KIMS.

# Rayagada SSD hostel deaths spark concern

C B SINGH  
RAYAGADA

THE death of 10-year-old Chandu Ulaka, a Class IV boarder at Suri Upper Primary School's SSD hostel in Rayagada district, has once again cast a harsh spotlight on the management of tribal residential schools. The student's death from malaria has exposed critical shortcomings in the district's residential education system, highlighting severe gaps in health surveillance, emergency

medical response, and hostel management.

Sources said at least 10 inmates have died over the past 11 months across various SSD residential schools and hostels in Rayagada. Most of the victims were Scheduled Tribe (ST) students, the primary beneficiaries of these state-run facilities.

Among the reported cases is Nandini Tadingi, a Baising Primary Ashram School student, who died on October 29 last year. While local residents claim

five hostel inmates have died at the institution over the past two years, this remains unverified. Other recent student fatalities include Geeta Majhi, Lagna Ulaka, Manisha Mandangi, Ashok Jhodia, Jackson Mandangi, Tapaswini Piribaka, Saroj Tadingi, Manas Sabar and Chandu Ulaka. All the victims were inmates of residential schools and hostels across Dangalodi, Durgapadu, Baising, Kucheipadar, Panichhatra-Bhoimada, Paikapada, Bilelu and Padmapur.

Previously, the tragic death of Judas Sabar, found hanging inside a Tolana Upper Primary School classroom, sparked statewide outrage and intensified calls for stricter accountability in residential institutions.

Chandu Ulaka tragically died during treatment at the Kolnara Community Health Centre after his condition deteriorated. School authorities stated the student initially developed a fever, and a blood test confirmed malaria, for

which he received medication. Following his death, family members alleged that they were denied a government mortuary vehicle, forcing them to transport the child's body home on a motorcycle.

While departmental inquiries were conducted, local residents and community representatives allege accountability stopped at lower-level functionaries. These claims remain unconfirmed as official findings are not made public. The recurring incidents

expose critical failures in routine health screening, emergency referral, hostel supervision and institutional accountability in SSD residential schools. In response, civil society members and local stakeholders demand an independent high-level inquiry and a comprehensive social audit of SSD residential schools in the district.

Attempts to contact the District Welfare Officer (DWO), Rayagada, regarding the recent incidents have gone unanswered.



## 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.



### Hyderabad cops deserve appreciation

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

Andrea Anthony, Hyderabad

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

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

G David Milton, Maruthancode

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

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

D V G Sankararao, Vizianagaram

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

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

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

### Ice Shivalingam melts, dampens devotees

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

Aditi Nawandar, Hyderabad

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# Future of management careers in the era of AI

DR MYLAVARAM  
CHANDRA SHEKAR

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

### Resilience in career journeys

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

### Building portfolios beyond degrees

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

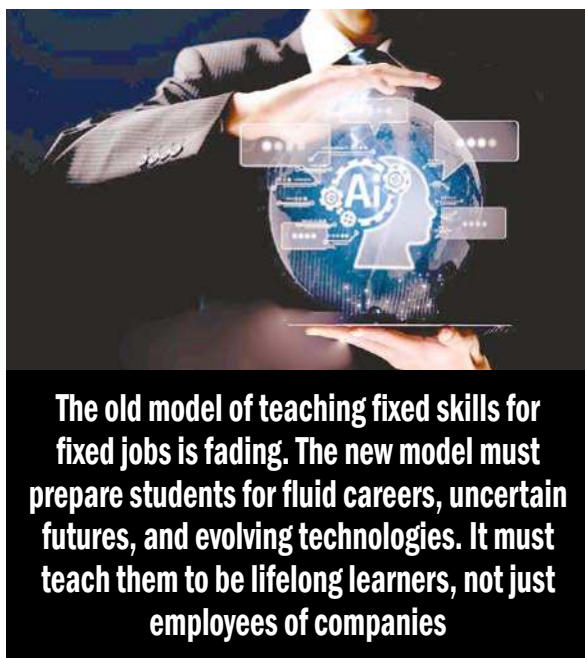
Both secured roles in a Big Four consulting firm, one later pursuing a fully funded PhD while the other continued in corporate life. Their story highlights the importance of building a portfolio of experiences. Employers today are not just looking for degrees; they want evidence of initiative, curiosity,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

### Choosing passion over comfort

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

### Success is not linear

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



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

times sheer persistence.

### The power of networking

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

### The future of work and AI

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

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

### Embracing uncertainty

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

### Balancing technology with humanity

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

### Lessons from contemporary trends

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

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

### A roadmap for graduates

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

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

### The role of educators

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

### A message to the new batch

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

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

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

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



DR P SUBRAMANYACHARY

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

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

Modi stated that the dec-

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

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



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

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

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

increases in per capita income remained very modest.

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

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

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

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

They emphasize that, de-

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

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

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

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

# 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.

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## '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, LI 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 administration'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 'Saraswathichandra' in 2013 and went on to feature in popular shows including 'Jamai Raja', 'Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant', 'Laal Ishq', 'Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurani', 'Pandya Store' and 'Barsatein - Mausam Pyaar Ka'.

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

## Sudha Reddy commands Paris Haute Couture Week front row



Manish Malhotra's collection

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

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 PLI scheme. The duty waiver would reduce import dependence and strengthen the electronics ecosystem with local production. The exemptions on inputs used



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

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

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

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

## Indian embassy pitches deeper economic engagement with Chinese businesses

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

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

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

## Corporate revenues surge 11% in Q1 despite West Asia turmoil

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Zerodha-Groww rivalry heats up over mutual fund model

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

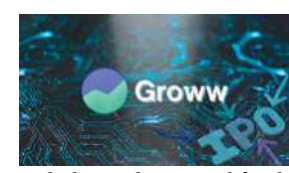
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

"When we started the discount brokerage model in



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

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

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

Among Sensex shares, Sun Pharma emerged as the big-

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

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

TCS shares declined by 0.52 per cent. After mar-

## TPTL joins Salesforce to boost manufacturing

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

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

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Growth will be supported

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## GST wins industry confidence, but compliance hurdles persist

Survey calls for simpler rules, quicker refunds and fewer disputes

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

and enhancing certainty in tax administration.

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

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

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

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

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

ately effective.

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

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

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



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).





# Young Hans

## Scholarships

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



Today is Chronic Disease Awareness Day

### Why awareness and empathy matter

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

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

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

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

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

## 6 habits that turn ambition into leadership success

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

AMNEET KAUR SAHRA

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

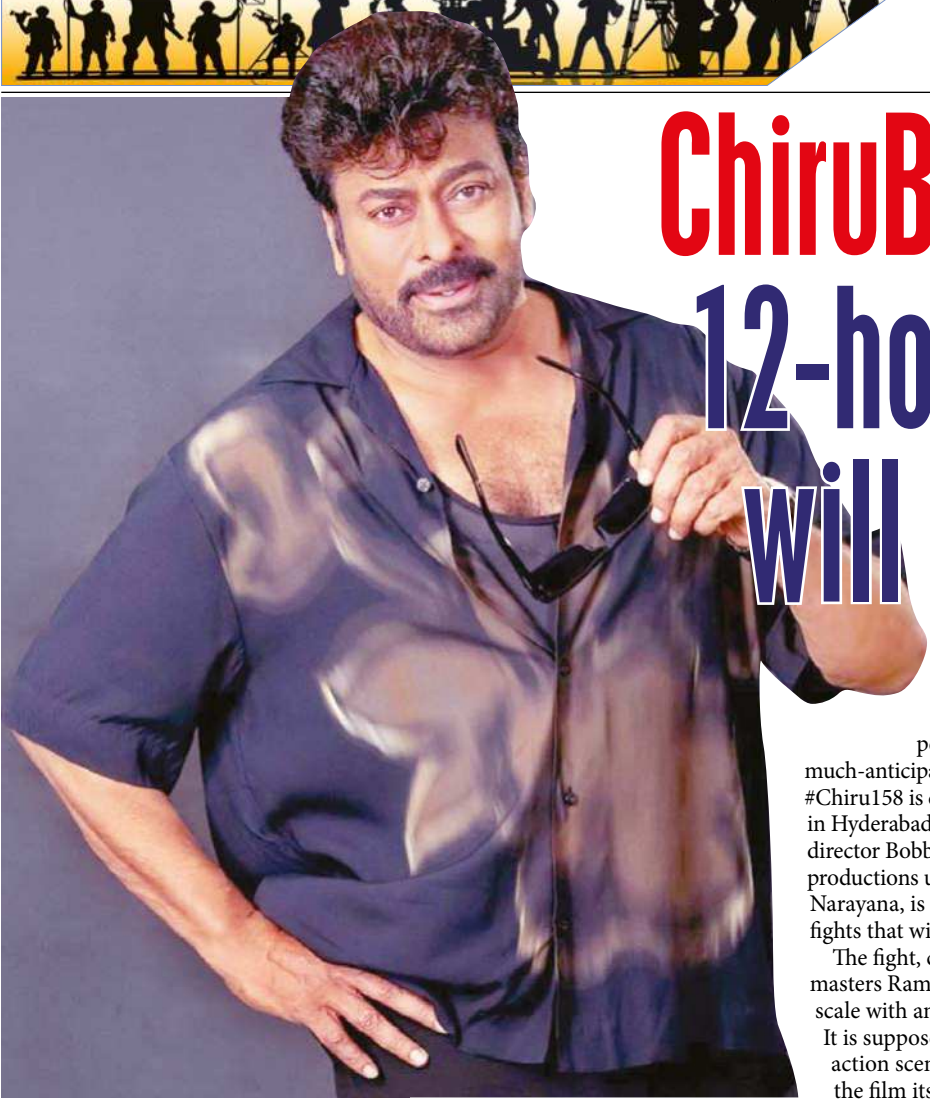
The academic session commenced with orientation programmes featuring

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

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

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





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



Kodakandla, well edited by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao and supported by the compelling story of Lakshmi Bhupal, the film seems to be a treat for the audience. While talking about the film at the trailer launch event, the star himself said that the viewers will witness his different genre in the film. He also added that he had a great opportunity to deliver as the lead hero in the film. Further, he urged the people to watch the films on the big screen to spread positivity. On the other hand, 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, Hrihika Srinivas, said that the film is an incredible opportunity for her. Akella V. Krishna, director of the film, thanked the team for their immense efforts and said that the movie will leave the film lovers glued to their seats after its release on July 17.



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

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



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

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

## 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.

