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Stricter H1B, Green Card rules coming in August

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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 5



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 P5**

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 5**

'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 5**



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 5

More investments must to spur growth: Revanth

- ▶ CM firm on realising \$3T GDP by 2047
- ▶ Opens 5.6 GW solar facility
- ▶ Breaks ground for 12 GWh battery system plant

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

REAFFIRMING the state government's resolve to transform Telangana into a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has emphasised that infrastructure should be strengthened to attract additional investments for ensuring a robust economic growth of the state.

"We are striving to transform Telangana into the num-



ber one state in the country", the Chief Minister said, while acknowledging that the present flow of investments is insufficient to help the state compete globally.

The Chief Minister inaugurated India's state-of-the-art 5.6 GW solar module manufacturing facility of Premier

Energies Limited and attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the proposed 12 GWh battery energy storage system manufacturing facility as well as the 36,000 MT per annum aluminium extrusion & anodization plant at Seetarapur, Shahabad on Thursday. **Continued on Page 5**

Musi rejuvenation project kick-off soon

GOVT ACCORDS SANCTION FOR ₹7,345 CRORE

- ▶ Project gets Rs 4,500-cr ADB loan; Rs 2,845.12 cr grant
- ▶ Zone 1A to cost Rs 3,232 crore
- ▶ Zone 1B estimated to cost Rs 4,113.11 cr

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

WORKS relating to the Musi river rejuvenation project are set to begin soon as the state



Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju makes a field visit of Phase I stretch of the Musi Riverfront Development Project covering Osmansagar, Narsingi STP site and Gandhi Sarovar project on Thursday

government on Thursday issued orders, according administrative sanction for over Rs 7,345 crore, including Rs 4,500 crore loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for taking up the works from Himayatsagar to Babu Ghat under zone 1A and from Osmansagar to Babu Ghat under Zone 1B. The sanction includes a Rs 2,845.12 crore grant from the state government. **Continued on Page 5**



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KAVITHA FIRES RS 1.4K-CR FUND SALVO AGAINST BRS

BRS under fire as Kavitha raises Rs 1,400-cr fund allegation. Calls for distribution of alleged party funds to families of Telangana martyrs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

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



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

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

She levelled grave corruption allegations against KTR

and Harish Rao, exposing how public assets were systematically traded for corporate favours.

Kavitha exposed how KTR abused his ministerial powers to orchestrate a mas-

sive quid pro quo deal with his close associate, Pradeep Constructions, granting illegal building permissions for mega-structures.

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

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

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



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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

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

The Nizamabad MP said that the allegations made by Kalvakuntla Kavitha on BRS party funds, quid pro quo transactions, alleged agreements with Pradeep Con-

structions, political support to Phoenix, and land allocations to Andhra contractors by the previous and current governments are very serious. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to order a CBI investigation without any doubt on these allegations. Arvind stated that the delay in handing over the investigation into the corruption in the Kaleshwaram project to the CBI, protecting KTR from investigating despite evidence of corruption in the e-car race, and the

failure to take action against those responsible for the phone tapping scam so far have already made people doubt the sincerity of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and that people believe that the two parties, Congress and BRS, are in cahoots.

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

Centre keen to strengthen Singareni Collieries: Kishan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

BRICS TUFS Summit: Roadmap for future-ready workforce

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

social security benefits for cross-border workers has become increasingly important

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

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



ance of AI in the workplace."

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

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

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

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

HC grants bail to Bandi's son in POCSO case

Bageerath was arrested on May 16 and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody

HYDERABAD

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

The High Court on July 6 reserved its orders in the bail petition filed by Bageerath. The court allowed Bageerath's plea on furnishing two sureties of Rs One lakh each and other conditions, including directing him to cooperate with the investigation.

Earlier, Public Prosecutor Palle Nageshwara Rao had opposed the granting of bail to the accused and argued that he may influence the witnesses and tamper with evidence, if released on bail. The police are going to file a chargesheet, he further submitted. The petitioner's counsel argued that Bageerath had been in judicial custody for more than 40 days and sought for granting bail. Bageerath



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

She alleged that Bageerath had been in a relationship with her daughter and had sexually harassed her. After recording the girl's statement, more severe charges under the BNS and POCSO Act were subsequently invoked. Bageerath also filed a

counter-complaint, alleging that the girl had introduced herself to him and had invited him to family functions and group gatherings. In his complaint, he stated that, believing her family to be trustworthy, he accompanied them on visits to certain religious sites as part of a group.

He further alleged that the girl and her parents later pressured him to marry her, and when he declined, they demanded money and threatened to file false complaints against him if he refused to pay. An FIR was registered based on his complaint as well.

'Cordon and search' operation conducted

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: With an objective to eradicate illicit drug trafficking and anti-social activities in the city, the Hyderabad City Police executed a massive joint cordon and search operation, named 'Operation Thunderbolt', in the early hours of Thursday in Mangar Basti in Habeeb Nagar, and 15 drug offenders and 50 suspect property offenders were taken into custody.

Police also seized illegal items, including 150 sachets of ganja, 32-cough syrup bottles, one kg dry ganja and liquor bottles. According to police, the operation was executed with high tactical precision in Mangar Basti under the guidance of Hyderabad City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar.

Furious Surekha wants TPCC to take action against Kadiyam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Forest and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has intensified her efforts against turncoat BRS MLA Kadiyam Srihari, demanding action against him. The minister met TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday and submitted a complaint seeking immediate action. She is also scheduled to meet Con-

TPCC chief assures examination of complaint and appropriate action after reviewing facts

gress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan soon.

Surekha explained the issues she has been facing due to Srihari. Responding to her complaint, Goud assured her that he would examine the matter in detail and take appropriate steps after discussions.

The minister stated that she and her husband had resided in an attempt to resolve the dispute, but the MLA was not willing to settle the issue or reconcile. She said she would meet Meenakshi Natarajan on July 14 to discuss the matter

further. Surekha questioned Srihari for holding a meeting with Endowments officials without informing her. She said the officials explained that they had attended the meeting as Srihari had been pressuring them for the past three months.



She added that she had already brought the issue to the notice of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud. Both leaders, she said, assured her that action would be taken after examining all the facts.

The minister also reacted to the issue of donations collected in the name of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. She said that Lord Sri Rama would punish those who misused his name and exploited devotees for personal gains.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public in General are notified that Sri Kamshetti Kumaraswamy, S/o. Raji Reddy, R/o. # 16-2-107, Mothukullagudem, H/o. Jammikunta, has purchased the below mentioned part of the schedule property to an extent of 160.00 Sq.yds. from its previous owners: (1) Vijayagiri Rakesh, S/o. Yadagiri, (2) Uppala Karthik, S/o. Santhosh Babu, (3) Uppala Kalyan, S/o. Santhosh Babu, through registered Sale Deed Doc. No. 1412/2022, dated 06-04-2022, at SRO Huzurabad and that he obtained house construction permission from the Jammikunta Municipality. And that he approached SBI, Jammikunta for housing loan by mortgaging the schedule property at the same time, he informed the original link documents pertaining to part of the schedule property: (1) 3139/1992, dt. 19-10-1992, (2) 3681/2010, dt. 28-07-2010 of SRO, Huzurabad have been lost on 25-05-2026 while he was proceeding from his house to Xerox Center at Jammikunta and searched for it and could not find and that he also lodged a complaint before Police, Jammikunta in this regard and the concerned police also made efforts to trace it out, but in vain. Accordingly, the Police, Jammikunta had also issued a certificate bearing No. 15202705261134365940, dated 27-05-2026. Schedule Property: All that the open plot in Sy. No. 755F to an extent of 320.00 Sq. Yards, situated in Mothukullagudem, H/o. Jammikunta V/Md. Karimnagar Dist. within the boundaries: East: H.No. 2-7-56 of Bachu Veeramallu Industry, West: Huzurabad to Jammikunta R&B Road, North: Plot of Damerashetty Vijayalakshmi, W/o. Venkata Rajesham, South: Plot of Chandupatla Sunitha. Therefore, if anybody having any claim or right or title over the schedule property or on the above said lost documents No. 3139/1992 or 3681/2010 of SRO, Huzurabad may approach the undermentioned address with all necessary documents within (7) seven days from the date of this notice, otherwise the Bank will initiate necessary loan proceedings after the stipulated time by the SBI, Jammikunta.

GOSKULA SRINIVAS, Advocate
20-431/1, Vidyanagar, Huzurabad,
Dist. Karimnagar. Cell: 9440350466.

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

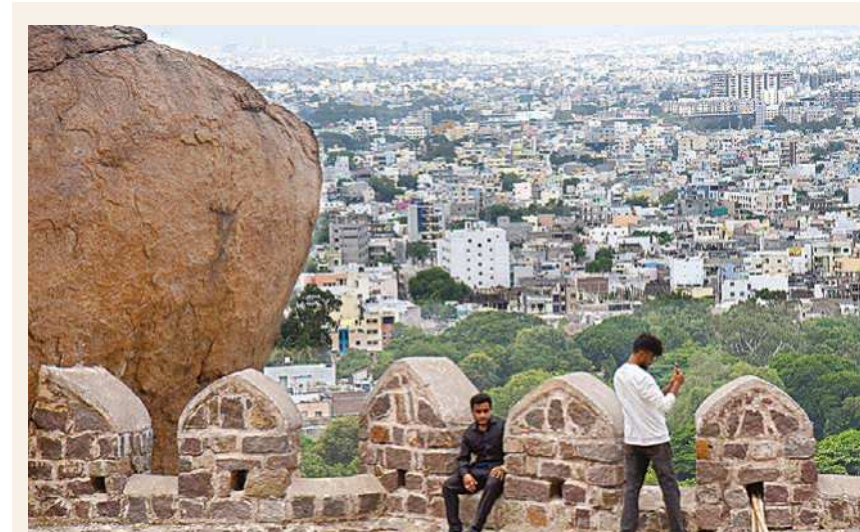
TENDER NOTICE NO.COMM/GWMC/CTN/05/E-PROCUREMENT/2026-27, DATED:- 08-07-2026

I. Fresh Work:- 04 No. of Works costing Rs. 458.00 Lakhs
II. Recall Works:- 11 works costing Rs. 1213.90 L
i) CTN 03/2026-27 (2nd Call) - 01 work costing Rs. 100.00 L
ii) CTN 02/2026-27 (3rd Call) - 05 works costing Rs. 452.90 L
iii) CTN 21/2025-26 (5th Call) - 01 work costing Rs. 86.00 L
iv) CTN 18/2025-26 (8th Call) - 04 works costing Rs. 575.00 L
Start & Last Date of receipt of bids:- 10-07-2026 from 5.00 PM Onwards & 20-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM.

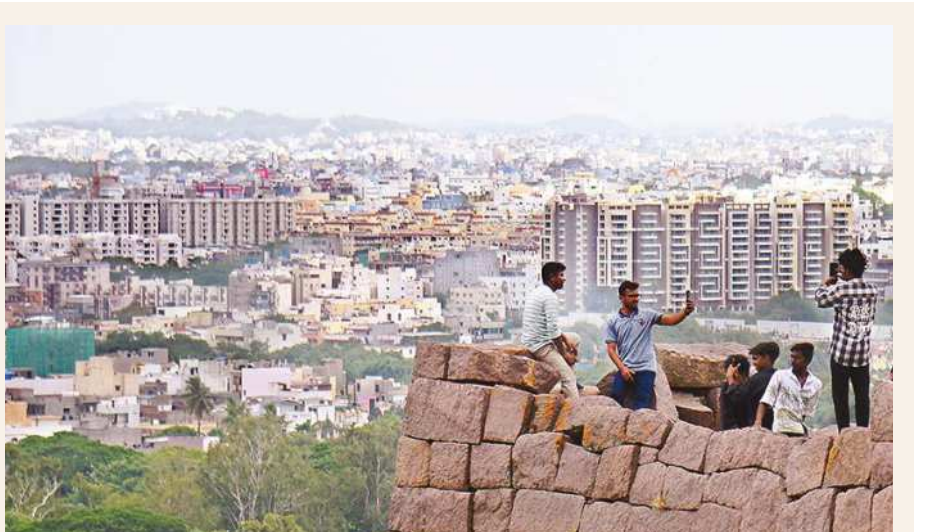
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DIPR.R.O. No. 5786-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 09-07-2026



Visitors capture panoramic views of Hyderabad from the historic Golconda Fort, a popular destination for tourists and photography enthusiasts.



Photos: Adula Krishna

Govt welfare schemes must reach the last beneficiary: Guv

* Reviews development, welfare programmes in Hanumakonda, Warangal

HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

GOVERNOR Shiv Pratap Shukla on Thursday directed officials to ensure benefits of the Central and State development and welfare schemes reach the last eligible beneficiary through coordinated and efficient implementation. He stressed the need for transparency, quality, accountability and greater use of technology in governance to deliver better public services.

He chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Hanumakonda collectorate to assess the implementation of development and welfare programmes in Hanumakonda and Warangal districts.

The meeting was attended by Social Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Dr Banda Prakash, State Finance Commission chairman Sircilla Rajiah,



MLAs Naini Rajender Reddy and KR Nagaraju, Hanumakonda collector Chahat Bajpai, Warangal collector Dr Satya Sharada, Warangal Police Commissioner N Swetha, and senior officials.

The DCs made detailed presentations on historical significance of two districts and progress of welfare and development programmes covering healthcare, agriculture, education, infrastructure, and other key sectors. Swetha briefed the Governor on law and order, public safety and policing initiatives being implemented in the commissionerate.

The Governor reviewed the implementation of the TB Mukta Bharat programme, medical services for TB patients, screening camps, construction of Indiramma/2 BHK houses, and progress of the Pulse Polio. He instructed

officials to intensify TB eradication efforts through large-scale screening and ensure 100% implementation of the Pulse Polio through inter-departmental coordination.

He told officials governance should be a continuous process of improvement, with shortcomings identified and rectified promptly. He appreciated efforts of the administration, police and departments in implementing development initiatives and maintaining effective public administration.

Shukla observed there is scope for improving quality and efficiency across all sectors and emphasised development is an ongoing process. Officials should ensure the benefits of welfare schemes reach genuine beneficiaries in a transparent and responsible manner.

He stressed importance of giving priority to education, healthcare and agriculture. Referring to the region's prominence in cotton cultivation, he suggested encouraging farmers to adopt high-value crops and value-added agricultural practices to improve their income.

Highlighting importance of transparency in governance, he said a transparent administrative system benefits the public, farmers, and the government alike. Referring to rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI), he said AI is bringing revolutionary changes across various sectors. While acknowledging future challenges, he noted that AI should not be feared, as it is a tool created by humans and can be effectively utilised to improve governance and service delivery.

He said balanced attention to every sector and coordinated functioning among all departments would ensure comprehensive development. Shukla appreciated the district administration for effectively implementing the Central and State schemes in the two districts.

Social Welfare Minister A Laxman Kumar appreciated the coordinated efforts of officials in implementing development and welfare programmes. He urged them to translate the Governor's suggestions into action and deliver better services.

Kumar directed officials to resolve public grievances at the grassroots level and strengthen public confidence in the government. He stressed the need to focus on education, healthcare, agriculture, welfare hostels, and infrastructure development. He instructed officials to ensure student safety, sanitation, drinking water and healthcare during the monsoon without any negligence.

Additional collectors Ravi and Sandhya Rani, Warangal DCP Dhara Kavitha and officials from various departments attended the meeting.



MLA distributes free computers to govt schools

HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

PALAKURTHI MLA Yashaswini Reddy said on Thursday that initiatives, such as the distribution of free computers, play a vital role in providing quality digital education to students in government schools. She appreciated efforts of service organisations and corporate institutions in supporting the education sector; called for greater collaboration to strengthen digital learning.

Reddy attended a programme organised by the Lions Club, with the support of Infosys, at Nithin Bhavan in Thorur,

where free computers were distributed to government schools. She handed over computers to representatives of the schools. She said computer literacy has become essential in today's technology-driven world; students in government schools should also have access to digital education on a par with those in private institutions.

She stressed the need to provide infrastructure to equip students with modern tech skills. Describing education as the strongest foundation for social development, she said contribution of service organisations and

corporate institutions under their social responsibility initiatives would significantly improve infrastructure in government schools. Such initiatives would help students develop digital skills and prepare them to meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive world.

She lauded the Lions Club and Infosys for providing computers and urged more service/corporate institutions to support educational development and strengthen government schools. Representatives of the club, officials from the Education department, teachers, students attended.

Godavari water to reach Velair mandal: Kadiyam

HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

STATION Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Thursday assured that the Godavari water will soon be brought to Velair mandal through the Gandhi Ramaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, enabling farmers to cultivate two crops a year. He said rural development, farmers' welfare and creation of basic infrastructure remain the government's top priorities.

Srihari inaugurated several development works in Shalpalali, Lakshmi thanda, Banglapalli and Gollakishampalli villages of the mandal. The works include Indiramma houses, CC roads, a gram mahila samakha building, and a gram panchayat building.

Later, at the Velair Rythu Vedika, he distributed cheques worth Rs 11.01 lakh to 11 beneficiaries under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and assistance worth Rs 5.87 lakh



to 20 beneficiaries under the CM's Relief Fund.

He said Shalpalali had been selected as a pilot village for focused development. Development works worth over Rs 4 crore had been taken up in the village since his election as MLA. He urged people to compare those who neglected the constituency's development with those who are working sincerely for its progress.

He said substantial funds had been sanctioned for road development in the mandal; works would commence shortly. The Gandhi Ramaram Lift-I works were progressing rapidly; the Godavari water would be brought to the

mandal immediately after their completion, ensuring irrigation for two crops.

Srihari said development works worth Rs 5.25 crore were being taken up for the Kasturba School at Gollakishampalli. Bus services, CC roads, Indiramma houses and GP building had been provided after he became MLA.

He promised to sanction a women's community hall, a compound wall for the GP office, and additional CC roads within a month. He announced tahsildar and MPD offices had been sanctioned for the newly formed Velair mandal; foundations for the buildings would be laid soon.

Kadiyam must apologise to Minister Surekha, demands Meesala Prakash

Says Konda couple never pursued politics for positions and had even sacrificed ministerial posts for the sake of the people

HANS NEWS SERVICE WARANGAL

WARANGAL District Library Organisation Chairman Meesala Prakash has demanded that MLA Kadiyam Srihari should tender an apology to Endowments Minister Konda Surekha for conducting a review meeting with officials at the Endowments Department office without informing her.

He said that holding such a meeting in the absence of the concerned Minister amounted to disrespecting her position. Prakash said that a senior leader like Kadiyam Srihari, with vast political experience, should not have conducted a review without the minister's presence. He added that Srihari's subsequent attempt to justify his actions was left to his own discretion.



Highlighting the political experience of the Konda couple, Prakash said they have over three decades of public life since the undivided State.

He stated that after the Congress came to power in Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Konda Surekha

have taken up development works worth Rs 250 crore for the Medaram Jatara, the largest tribal festival in Asia.

He further said that funds have been allocated for the development of several prominent temples, including Rs 100 crore for Vemulawada Rajarajeshwara

Swamy temple, Rs 200 crore each for Basara, Kaleshwaram, and Bhadrachalam temples, along with special funds for the Bhadrakali temple in Warangal. He alleged that some individuals were making deliberate criticisms as they were unable to tolerate these developments. Prakash stated

that the Konda couple never pursued politics for positions and had even sacrificed ministerial posts for the sake of the people. He recalled that former MLC Konda Muralidhar Rao had resigned from his post after being elected unanimously in order to join the Congress party. He emphasised that serving the poor has always been their primary objective.

He reiterated his demand that Kadiyam Srihari should issue a public apology to Minister Konda Surekha for his actions.

Former corporator Vaskula Babu, Jarati Ramesh, Somishetty Praveen Kumar, Bogi Suvarna, Suresh, Sandela Lazar, Saddam, Guda Sharada, Guda Mahender, Kyatham Ravinder, Ramakrishna, and Ramya Jaswanth Singh were among those present.



Ila Tripathi inspects SIR process in Nizamabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE NIZAMABAD

COLLECTOR Ila Tripathi has directed that the Special Intensive Revision process undertaken by the Election Commission of India for the preparation of a transparent voter list should be carried out properly and completed within the specified time.

The Collector visited several places on Thursday and inspected the ongoing processes of receiving enumeration forms and digitizing details as part of SIR.

The details of receiving enumeration forms and registration were closely examined in Gandhinagar Thanda and Goopanpalli villages in Nizamabad Rural and Shankar

Bhavan School in Nizamabad city. He inquired about the percentage of completion of the SIR process so far, whether the distribution of enumeration forms to all voters has been completed, etc. Information should also be provided to voters who are not available and they should be ensured to return their enumeration forms within the deadline. The Collector advised the BLOs to carefully examine the enumeration forms of those who have gone abroad for livelihood and after checking the details, they can be taken with the signature of their family members. He said that the receipt of enumeration forms and digitalization of details should be carried out simultaneously.

Govt schools offer corporate-level facilities: Collector

HANS NEWS SERVICE JANGAON

DISTRICT Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha on Thursday said government schools in the district are providing modern infrastructure, quality education and nutritious meals comparable to corporate institutions. He urged teachers to treat every student as their own child and ensure that no child is deprived of quality education.

Chairing a review meeting with Mandal Education Officers at the Integrated Collectorate, the Collector reviewed



PM Poshan, student enrolment and various academic programmes. He directed officials to intensify the 'Badi Bata' enrolment drive, create awareness among parents about the facilities available in government schools and achieve the target of enrolling 9,000 students during the current academic year.

KIMS Degree & PG College conducts orientation programme



HANS NEWS SERVICE KARIMNAGAR

KIMS Degree & PG College conducted a grand orientation programme on Thursday. KIMS Group of Institutions Vice Chairman Saketh Rama Rao, the chief guest, said the programme marked the beginning of a new chap-

ter in the students' lives. He noted that while students had joined the institution with dreams and aspirations, the college's mission goes beyond imparting academic knowledge. "We are committed to nurturing your talents, enhancing your skills, and shaping you into responsible citizens," he said.

Rotary Club installs new team, donates Rs 3.15 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

THE Rotary Club of Hanumakonda appointed its new office bearers and Board of Directors for the 2026-27 Rotary year on Thursday.

Rotary district 3150 Governor Rtn Uday Pilani inducted the new team led by Rtn. Vanga Raji Reddy as President,



Rtn. Pasham Sanjeeva Reddy as Secretary and Rtn. Bairagani Kumaraswamy as Treasurer. Speaking on the occasion,

the Governor called upon the club to strengthen humanitarian activities through sustainable community service projects. The club also presented a cheque for Rs.3.15 lakh to the Rotary Foundation for a bicycle distribution project for girl students, aimed at promoting education and empowering young women. Guest of Honour Dr. C. Sharath Babu, Assistant Governor Rtn. Sharu Prabhakar Reddy, Rotary leaders, members and guests attended the programme.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME
I ADLA PRANAY KUMAR S/O ADLA RAJESHAM R/O 6-4-54/2, KHARKHANAGADDA, KARIMNAGAR. HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME FROM ADLA NEEHANCY TO "ADLA AARYAHI" (Th. KM GOUD)

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GUNDA VEDASRI, R/o 16-6-198/6, Perukawada, Warangal, Telangana. Have changed my name as ANANTHULA VEDASRI (Th. 04833)

CHANGE OF NAME
By this deed I, the undersigned CHINNI LEENA DEVI (OLD NAME) W/O CHINNI THIRUPATHI REDDY R/O H No 8-1-83/14, Vinayak Nagar, Nirmal Dist. Nirmal (T.S) I have changed my name CHINNI LEENA DEVI to CHINNI VIJAYA LAKSHMI (New Name) for all future purposes (Th-ODELU)

LOST
I, HANEefa BANU, W/o.MD TAJUDDIN, R/o. 2-7-716, Mukarampura, Karimnagar, TG, I have lost my passport No: V5848355, Issued at HYD, while travelling by bike at Mukarampura area in Karimnagar location, if anybody found pl cont- 9963177034 (Th. 34249)

LOST
I, Gallipelli Rahul, S/o Srinivas, TRK Nagar, Chintakunta, Karimnagar, hereby state that my original Passport, bearing Passport No. P5327516, issued on 09-11-2016, has been lost. If anyone finds the above passport, kindly contact: 6302544475 (Th. KM GOUD)

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

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

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

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

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

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

He demanded eligible poor

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

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

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



Old Mumbai highway, DLF street



Nallagandla circle

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

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

GOUDA SWIYACHANDRA
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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



Gachibowli, DLF

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

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

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

layed due to traffic congestion and damaged roads.

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

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

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



Janardhan Reddy flyover

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

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

BJP appoints Erukala Ganapathi as State Executive member

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUPALAPALLY

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

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



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

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



New Jagtial-Hyderabad TSRTC bus service launched

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAGTIAL

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

According to Transport officials, the decision to introduce

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

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

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

On the other hand, the first

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

Beware! SIR scammers on the prowl with OTP frauds

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uttam Kumar Reddy also

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

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

Farmers can now book subsidised urea through Mee Seva Kendras

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

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

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

able through all MeeSeva Kendras across the state.

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

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

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

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

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

Nadda touts AIIMS Bibinagar as a beacon of healthcare in South India

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Health and Family Welfare Minister Jaya Prakash Nadda on Thursday said that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, has made remarkable progress within a short span of four years and is set to emerge as a beacon of healthcare excellence in South India.

Reviewing the progress of AIIMS Bibinagar and the pending works since its inception in June 2022, Nadda said the institute has achieved operational status in a record period, reflecting the Centre's commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare facilities across the country.

Addressing the media after the review meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the expansion of AIIMS institutions under the BJP-led Central government. He said that while the country had only one AIIMS in Delhi during the 20th century, another AIIMS was added at Rae Bareilly between 2004 and 2014. However, after 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 19 new AIIMS institutions were established, taking the total number to 23, of which 18 have already been completed.

Nadda said that Rs 1,110 crore has been sanctioned for the development of AIIMS Bibinagar. The institute currently has 132 faculty members across nine specialities and is witnessing a daily OPD footfall of around 1,800 patients, indicat-



ing the growing trust among people in the region.

He said AIIMS Bibinagar has already started providing comprehensive healthcare services, including in-patient care, emergency services, CT scans, MRI facilities and other advanced diagnostic services. The institute has also introduced e-consultation and telemedicine services, benefiting around 1.56 lakh patients in a short period.

The Union Minister said AIIMS Bibinagar has emerged not only as a healthcare centre but also as a hub for research and community service. The faculty members have published more than 1,156 research papers, while the institute has conducted 547 medical camps and provided treatment to over 66,000 patients in nearby villages.

He also appreciated AIIMS Bibinagar for establishing the country's first community radio station at a medical institute, which is helping spread health awareness among people at the grassroots level.

Nadda said that 87 per cent of the campus construction work has been completed and the institute is expected to

achieve full operational status by December 2026. He pointed out that converting an existing building constructed in 2008 into a modern AIIMS facility was a challenging task.

Comparing the growth of AIIMS institutions, Nadda said AIIMS Delhi took nearly 20 years to gain recognition, and institutions of such stature require time to mature. However, he expressed confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar would achieve greater heights within a shorter period due to its strong foundation, medical facilities, research activities and dedicated faculty.

He said the Centre has strengthened the healthcare system by linking primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. Under this approach, 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been connected with people across the country, while the number of medical colleges has increased from 370 to 820.

Nadda expressed confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar would soon become a leading institution in medical education, research and patient care, fulfilling the vision of establishing world-class healthcare facilities in the country.

Agriculture receiving top priority in Cong govt: Bhatti

SAYS OPPOSITION HAS NO MORAL AUTHORITY TO QUESTION THE CONGRESS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FARMERS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

DEPUTY Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said the Congress government is committed to transforming Telangana into a "farmers' state" by prioritising agriculture and ensuring timely financial assistance to cultivators.

Addressing a press conference after inspecting arrangements for the 'Rythu Ashirvada Sabha' at Jagannadhapuram-Mathkepalli Cross Road in Chinthakani mandal, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government's vision is to make agriculture "a festival" by extending comprehensive support to the farming community.

Bhatti Vikramarka announced that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Cabinet colleagues, would participate in the Rythu Ashirvada Sabha on Friday in Khammam district, where the final instalment of the Rythu Bharosa assistance for the current season would be credited directly to farmers' bank accounts.

He said the government had already released Rs 8,759 crore under the scheme in just nine days and that an-



other Rs 1,009 crore would be transferred on Friday, taking the total disbursement to nearly Rs 9,000 crore for the season.

The Deputy Chief Minister said agriculture and allied sectors have received top priority since the Congress assumed office, describing farmers' welfare as the government's foremost objective.

Drawing a comparison with the previous BRS administration, Bhatti Vikramarka claimed that while the former government had spent Rs 72,000 crore on Rythu Bandhu over a decade, the Congress government released Rs 35,839 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in

just two-and-a-half years.

Inaugurating the Mega Rythu Mela at Jagannadhapuram in Chinthakani mandal along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Bhatti said the Indiramma People's Government has been investing thousands of crores of rupees in irrigation, agriculture, paddy procurement, MARKFED operations, farm mechanisation and several other initiatives aimed at strengthening the farming sector. Referring to the recently concluded procurement season, he said the administration had also procured maize and sorghum despite various challenges.

Bhatti Vikramarka claimed the opposition had no moral authority to question the Congress government's commitment to farmers. He said the government was prepared to substantiate its performance with official figures and maintained that it believed in governance through implementation rather than speeches.

Highlighting irrigation initiatives, he said water was now flowing through the Nagarjuna Sagar, Sri Ram Sagar and Kadem irrigation projects, reflecting the government's emphasis on strengthening the agricultural sector.

The Deputy Chief Minister accused opposition parties of

indulging in misinformation and alleged that the previous BRS government had concentrated its resources on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, whose present condition, he claimed, was evident to the public. In contrast, he said, irrigation projects constructed during earlier Congress governments continued to provide water to farmers decades after their completion.

He said the event had been named 'Rythu Ashirvada Sabha' at the request of farmers themselves and appealed to cultivators from across the State to attend the programme in large numbers and make it a grand success.

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

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to flag off the country's first hydrogen train from the Jind railway station in Haryana on July 17. The train will cover 356 km daily by making two round trips of 89 km each between Jind and Sonapat. It has 682 seats and a total passenger capacity of 2,600. "As of now, we have received confirmation from the PMO that Prime Minister Modi will flag off the hydrogen train from Jind on July 17," a senior railway official said.

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

Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk launches Awiqli
NEW DELHI: One injection a week instead of one every day. Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has launched Awiqli, or insulin icodex, 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.

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.

Heavy monsoon rain wreaks havoc across India

NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Thursday, a day later than its normal date, after advancing into the remaining parts of the north Arabian Sea, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, IMD officials said.

Under the influence of the monsoon, torrential rains unleashed widespread destruction across several parts of the country, inundating roads, uprooting trees and disrupting normal life.

Roads and residential areas remained submerged in several cities, with commuters wading through knee-deep water and traffic crawling on major roads and highways. Trees uprooted by strong winds blocked roads at several places, while flooding disrupted vehicular movement and damaged houses.

Rescue operations also continued at the site of a building that collapsed a day earlier at a waste-to-energy plant in Maharashtra's Pimpri Chinchwad near Pune after

a massive mound of garbage gave way due to heavy rain. One body was recovered on Thursday, while around eight people are still feared trapped under the debris. Nine people have been rescued so far.

Delhi witnessed one of its heaviest spells of rain this season, with widespread waterlogging, uprooted trees and traffic snarls throwing life out of gear. The India Meteorological Department issued a 'red' alert for the day as the Safdarjung, the capital's base weather station, recorded 72.6 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours that ended at 8.30 am, and Tukhmirpur in northeast Delhi's Khajuri received the highest rainfall at 160 mm during this period. Hours of incessant rain spelled chaos on roads, uprooting trees and leaving several areas waterlogged. In Rajasthan, widespread rainfall soaked parts of the state, with the Met department forecasting extremely heavy rainfall in isolated areas of Kota and Bharatpur divisions on Thursday.



Curb sexual offence against children: SP Patil to officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARKURNOOL

DISTRICT Superintendent of Police Sangram Singh G Patil stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to curb sexual offences against children and create a secure environment for their growth and development.

The SP chaired a Bharosa convergence meeting with officials from various departments with a focus on pre-

venting child sexual abuse and ensuring a safe childhood.

Officials from the Education, SHE Teams, Bharosa Centre, Child Welfare, Labour and other departments participated in the meeting.

The SP reviewed the measures being taken for child protection and issued necessary guidelines to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, enhance awareness, and ensure timely intervention in cases involving chil-

dren. On the occasion, Mission Vatsalya - district child protection unit pamphlets were released by the SP. The pamphlets provide guidance on the steps children and families should take during emergencies or distress and contain important child protection helpline information. Nagarkurnool DSP Srinivas, CCS CI Shankar, DCRB SI Ramesh, Bharosa SI Rajitha, and officers from various departments attended the programme.

'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, digi-locker and the current ease of getting passports. In a strong pitch for "Make in India", he said Indian products were gaining recognition worldwide. Indian technology too, he said, is soaring. With the country becoming the world's largest 5G market, work is on to indigenously develop the 6G technology. He added.

Stricter H1B, Green Card rules coming in August, Indians could face more hurdles

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

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.

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 geopolitical 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).

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

MANJULtoons



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.

Musi rejuvenation project kick-off soon

Continued from P1

It does not include the land acquisition costs. The state government grant will come from Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) or the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC).

The Telangana government has proposed to revive the entire Musi River ecosystem through integrated riverfront facelift, urban infrastructure development, environmental improvement and sustainable mobility initiatives.

More investments must to boost growth: Revanth

Continued from P1

Speaking on the occasion, CM asserted that politics should be restricted to election seasons. "Despite facing numerous political allegations, we are working with the goal of developing Telangana to contribute a 10 per cent share to the national economy." Pointing to mounting challenges in the metropolitan cities across the country, the CM said that a slew of measures had been initiated to ensure pollution-free development in Hyderabad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS

Hyderabad cops deserve appreciation

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

Andrea Anthony, Hyderabad

Playing the war 'trump' card has failed US

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

G David Milton, Maruthancode

The tug-of-war continues between US, Iran

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

D V G Sankararao, Vizianagaram

Include non-teaching staff for mid-day meals

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

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

Ice Shivalingam melts, dampens devotees

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

Aditi Nawandar, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Blood protest intensifies against Bidadi Township

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

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

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

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

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

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

Future of management careers in the era of AI

DR MYLAVARAM
CHANDRA SHEKAR

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

Resilience in career journeys

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

Building portfolios beyond degrees

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

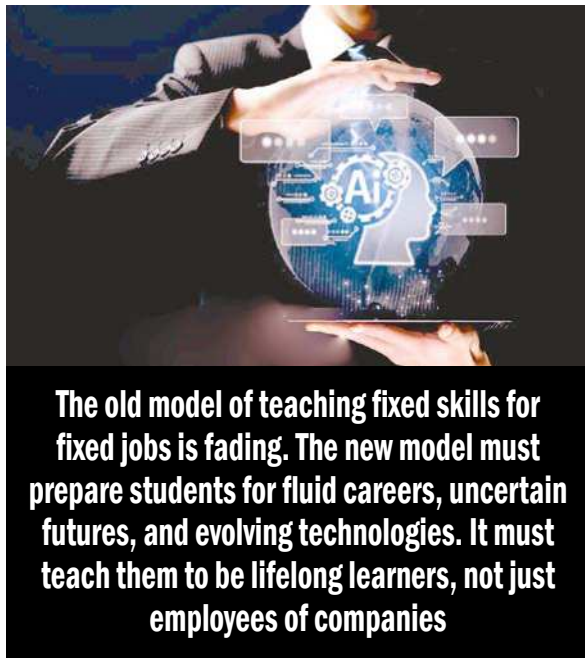
Both secured roles in a Big Four consulting firm, one later pursuing a fully funded PhD while the other continued in corporate life. Their story highlights the importance of building a portfolio of experiences. Employers today are not just looking for degrees; they want evidence of initiative, curiosity,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

Choosing passion over comfort

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

Success is not linear

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



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

times sheer persistence.

The power of networking

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

The future of work and AI

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

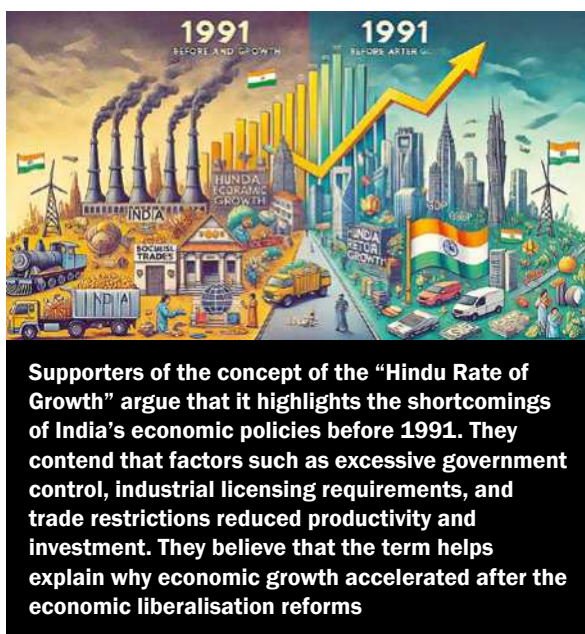
Recently, while speaking on the occasion of the NDA government completing 12 years in office and recalling his record as India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi criticized the historical term "Hindu Rate of Growth." He argued that the phrase unfairly linked India's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



Young Hans

Scholarships

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



Today is Chronic Disease Awareness Day

Why awareness and empathy matter

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

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

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

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

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

6 habits that turn ambition into leadership success

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

AMNEET KAUR SAHRA

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The academic session commenced with orientation programmes featuring

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

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

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





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)

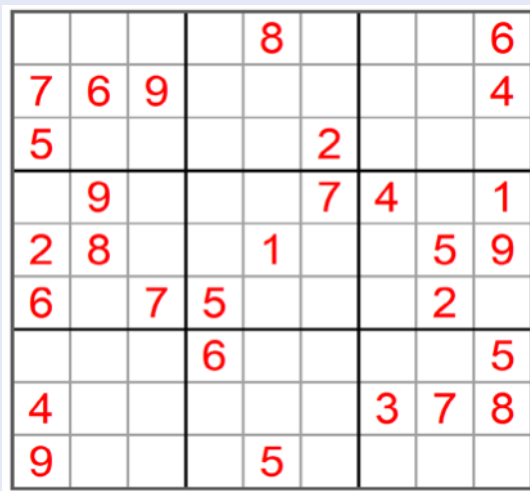
DOWN

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



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

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

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

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

Indian embassy pitches deeper economic engagement with Chinese businesses

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

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

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

Corporate revenues surge 11% in Q1 despite West Asia turmoil

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zerodha-Groww rivalry heats up over mutual fund model

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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



MUMBAI

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

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

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

Among Sensex shares, Sun Pharma emerged as the big-

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

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

TCS shares declined by 0.52 per cent. After mar-

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

TPTL joins Salesforce to boost manufacturing

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

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

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Growth will be supported

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

GST wins industry confidence, but compliance hurdles persist

Survey calls for simpler rules, quicker refunds and fewer disputes

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

and enhancing certainty in tax administration.

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

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

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

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

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

ately effective.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

CARSON (US)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

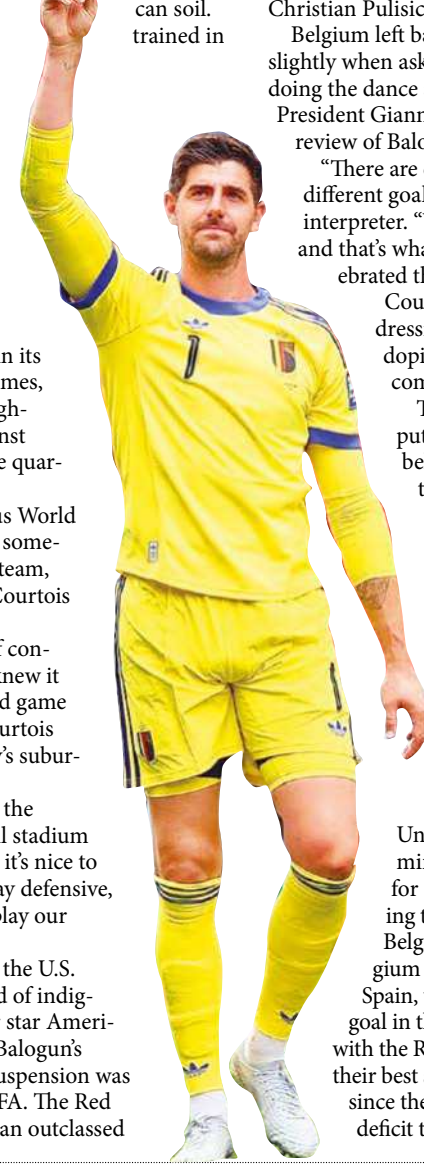
Belgium left back Diego Moreira smiled slightly when asked about the meaning of doing the dance after Trump called FIFA President Gianni Infantino to ask for a review of Balogun's red card.

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

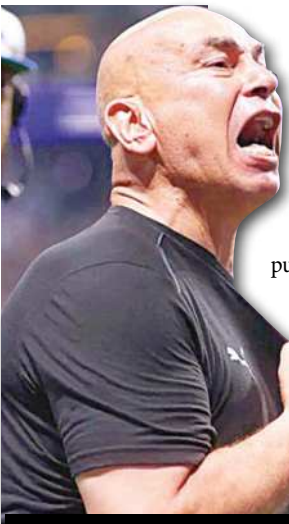
Courtois said he wasn't in the dressing room because he was at doping control, so he couldn't comment on the dance.

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

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



Egyptian FA "cannot remain silent" about unfair officiating



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



recognise student achievements and reaffirm its vi-

sion 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).



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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP sets new benchmark in paddy procurement

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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

Civil supplies special chief secretary K



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

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

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

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

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

Strengthen party at grassroots level, Madhav to BJP cadre

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Mentioning the flagship programmes of the Union

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

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

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

VIJAYAWADA AIRPORT New terminal to be completed by Dasara

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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



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

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

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

overall travel experience.

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

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

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

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

Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, he added.

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

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

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

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

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

AP ready to meet power demand despite less rains

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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



Special chief secretary K Vijayanand

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

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

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

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

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

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

AEE recruitment will be merit-based only: APTransco

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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



APTransco joint managing director G Surya Sai Praveen Chand

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

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



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

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

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



Rashmika performs India's first female underwater fight sequence

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

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

'Maremma' story moved me deeply: Lyricist Mittapalli Surender

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



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

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

Jagapathi Babu's 'Vadala' trailer creates buzz

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

Krithi Shetty stuns with new photoshoot

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

Dil Raju unveils 'Adhe Neevu Adhe Nenu' teaser

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

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

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

