



THE Hans India



Mbappe rewrites World Cup history
France talisman Kylian Mbappe has carved his name deeper into football history, becoming the youngest player to feature in 20 FIFA World Cup matches and the fastest to reach the milestone of 20 World Cup goals

India needs a political culture where facts should matter not propaganda
India's political system is both unique and complicated. Until the early 1990s, Parliament and state legislatures were known for serious debates, policy alternatives and constructive criticism. Over the years, however, political discourse has increasingly shifted from governance

Tech stocks lead charge as Sensex, Nifty extend winning run
Benchmark equity indices extended gains for a second straight session on Friday, with the Sensex rising 827 points and the Nifty climbing over 1 per cent, driven by strong buying in IT, banking and heavyweight stocks amid easing crude oil prices

'Lenin' review: A gripping rural drama
Lenin marks an important milestone in the career of Akhil Akkineni as it reunites the young hero with director Murali Kishor Abburu and comes backed by Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments.

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WINDOWS

16 IVP councillors join BJP in CM Rekha's presence

NEW DELHI: Sixteen councillors of the Indraprastha Vikas Party, a breakaway faction of the AAP, merged with the BJP on Friday in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra. Welcoming the Indraprastha Vikas Party (IVP) councillors into the BJP, Gupta said they took a big decision keeping in mind Delhi's development. "It's a good signal that will speed up development in their wards," Gupta told a press conference. "Development of the city is the top priority of the BJP government. The joining of the IVP councillors will further strengthen the BJP in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and boost civic work in their municipal wards," she said.

Sexual assault bid: Teacher suspended

BALLIA : A teacher at a government primary school here has been suspended for allegedly attempting to commit unnatural sexual assault on a 14-year-old boy, an official of the Basic Education Department said on Friday. District Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Manish Singh said that Ghulam Mustafa alias Pappu (50), a teacher at the government primary school in Sisotar village was suspended on Thursday. He said orders have been issued for a disciplinary inquiry into the matter. Strict action will be taken against the accused teacher after the inquiry report is received, he added. According to police, Mustafa called the boy to his house on July 5 on the pretext of some work. After luring the boy to his house, Mustafa locked the door and attempted to commit unnatural sexual assault on him.

68-year-old man killed by bear in Jammu

RAJOURI : An elderly man succumbed to injuries suffered in a bear attack in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said. The incident took place at Dhok Jangwala, a high-altitude grazing area of remote Darhal area, where the man was staying with his family, they said. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Amin (68), a resident of Thandkote village in Darhal tehsil. According to family members, the bear was hiding in the bushes and suddenly attacked Amin, leaving him critically injured.

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One Nation One Election rollout possible by 2029: Panel chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE joint committee of Parliament examining the bills on simultaneous elections is working to create a mechanism that could make the 'One Nation, One Election' reform fully operational by the 2029 General Elections, its chairperson said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the panel's two-day meeting in Goa, PP Chaudhary claimed that nearly 99 per cent of civil society stakeholders consulted so far have backed the proposal, which aims to

99 per cent of civil society stakeholders consulted so far have backed the proposal, which aims to curb an estimated Rs 7 lakh crore economic loss caused by frequent polls

curb an estimated Rs 7 lakh crore economic loss caused by frequent polls. The committee began its deliberations in Goa on the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, with an interaction with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and members of his cabinet, seeking their views on the challenges involved in

implementing simultaneous elections and ways to address them. "We had an informal interaction with the chief minister and cabinet ministers, who represent the people of Goa. We discussed how 'One Nation, One Election' can be implemented, what challenges exist and how they can be mitigated while main-

taining a fine balance acceptable to all," Chaudhary said.

He said that the committee has visited several states, including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, where it interacted with constitutional experts, civil society organisations, educationists and other stakeholders.

An overwhelming majority of those consulted have supported the idea of simultaneous elections, said the BJP MP from Pali in Rajasthan.

"We have found that almost 99 per cent of stakeholders, particularly from civil society



and various organisations, favour simultaneous elections.

The effort now is to evolve a mechanism that is accept-

able to all political parties," he said.

Oz visit strengthens bilateral ties, opens new avenues: PM

PM and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese launched the India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap during a visit to the iconic MCG, marking a significant step towards expanding bilateral cooperation in sports, sports science, and infrastructure

MELBOURNE

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday expressed confidence that the outcomes of his visit to Australia have further strengthened bilateral ties and opened new avenues for cooperation across diverse sectors.

PM Modi on Friday emplaned for New Zealand after concluding his three-day visit to Australia. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Australia's High Commissioner to India Philip Green and other

officials saw off PM Modi at the airport. "As my Australia visit concludes, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Australia as well as to PM Albanese for their warmth. The outcomes of this visit have further strengthened our partnership and opened new avenues for cooperation across diverse sectors. The momentum in the times to come will benefit our nation and the entire planet," PM Modi posted on X.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese at the MCG

Randhir Jaiswal stated that PM Modi's visit to Australia opened new avenues for collaboration and reinforced the deep bonds between the people of two nations.

"Stronger Partnership. Greater Ambition. Shared Future. PM Narendra Modi departed Melbourne after a successful visit further strengthening the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. PM was seen off by Foreign Minister

Penny Wong at the airport," Jaiswal posted on X.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese launched the India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap during a visit to the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), marking a significant step towards expanding bilateral cooperation in sports, sports science, and sporting infrastructure.

Ram temple donations row
SC to hear pleas seeking investigation on Monday



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court will hear a batch of pleas seeking a fair and time-bound probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on July 13. On July 7, an Ayodhya court granted one-day police remand for three of the eight accused arrested in connection with the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple.

The court authorised the remand for Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra and

Karunesh Pandey. On June 29, a local court had sent all the eight accused to 14-day judicial custody.

Narendra Kumar Goswami, one of the three petitioners, has moved the top court seeking a CBI probe into the incident. He also sought a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the finances of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Theerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the affairs of the Ram temple. The second petition has been filed by Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav seeking similar measures.

Abusive outburst: Litigant forcibly removed from SC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

IN a dramatic turn of events, a litigant appearing in person was forcibly removed from the Supreme Court on Friday after he allegedly hurled abuses and threw his legal papers during the hearing of his petition challenging an Allahabad High Court order. The incident occurred before a partial working day bench comprising justices K V Viswanathan and Alok Aradhe. At the outset, the litigant adopted an unusually confrontational tone.

"Mr judicial servant. I order you to order the registration of an FIR against the ACP Lunknow," the litigant, who was wearing a black coat without a lawyer's band, said while addressing the bench.

"You are ordering me? You are ordering us?" asked a visibly surprised Justice Viswanathan.

"That is all from my side. Everything is on record," the litigant said and hurled an unparliamentary abuse before allegedly throwing his case papers into the air.

Delhi Govt, WB launch orientation for Rs 8,300 crore clean air project

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday launched an orientation workshop for the proposed Rs 8,300-crore 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' programme, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta saying the initiative reflects the government's long-term, science-based strategy to tackle air pollution.

The seven-year programme, to be implemented between September 2026 and August 2033, will be financed through a 65 per cent loan from the World Bank, while the remaining 35 per cent will be borne by the Delhi govern-



ment.

At the workshop, the World Bank formally handed over the confirmation of the Project Preparation Grant Facility to the Delhi government. Addressing officials from various departments, Gupta said improving air quality is a collective responsibility and required coordinated efforts

across agencies. 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' is not just a pollution-control programme but an investment in better health and a sustainable future, Gupta asserted. She said the government's strategy focuses on addressing pollution at its source, strengthening data-driven monitoring, ensuring effective enforcement through technology and promoting public participation.

World Bank experts made presentations on financial management, procurement procedures, environmental and social safeguards, and institutional preparedness under the Programme for Results framework.

BJP's Bankipur assembly bypoll nominee withdraws candidature

PATNA: Bharatiya Janata Party's Bankipur assembly bypoll nominee Abhishek Kumar Sinha on Friday withdrew his candidature citing family reasons, a day after filing nomination. The saffron party had on Tuesday named the youth wing leader as its candidate for the bypoll in the assembly constituency in Bihar, which fell vacant following the resignation of BJP national president Nitin Nabin. The bypoll will be held on July 30, while counting of votes is scheduled for August 3.

The last date for filing of nominations is July 13.

May get killed: Hasina to return to B'desh in Dec

DHAKA

BANGLADESH'S former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced that she, alongside other exiled leaders of the Awami League, intends to return to Bangladesh voluntarily around December, despite facing the stark prospect of arrest or death upon her arrival.

In an interview with Reuters, the 78-year-old leader, who moved to India following a student-led uprising that unseated her administration in August 2024, stated that she plans to surrender before the judicial courts



upon her return.

She further clarified that there has been no communication with the current authorities in Dhaka concerning the scheduled

homecoming. "They may arrest me on my return, they may even kill me," Sheikh Hasina told the news agency. "Still, I have to go." Expressing deep concern over the ongoing situation of her political supporters back home, the former Prime Minister emphasised her resolve to face the consequences on her home soil.

"My party leaders and workers are being subjected to tremendous repression. If death comes, I want it to come on my own soil, where my parents are buried and where their blood was shed," she added.

Is there an Iranian plot to assassinate Donald Trump? Unclaimed airstrikes target Iran after US attacks, raising questions of who launched them



DUBAI

Israel has shared fresh intelligence with the United States alleging that Iran recently developed a new plan to assassinate US President Donald Trump, according to multiple media reports.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel passed the intelligence to US officials this week. Concurrently, CNN, citing two sources familiar with the matter, reported that the warning was delivered this week and referred to a specific alleged

plot.

While the exact details of the purported plan remain unclear, CNN reported that US agencies had not independently verified the intelligence or been tracking the alleged plot before Israel's warning.

According to CNN, some US officials believe the Israeli intelligence may also be part of a broader effort by Israel to influence Trump's decision on whether to intensify American military action against Iran. One source told the broad-

caster that US intelligence has been monitoring a steady flow of threats against Trump in recent weeks, but described the Israeli warning as new because it referred to a specific alleged plan.

The White House declined to comment directly on the reported intelligence, referring both The Wall Street Journal and CNN to remarks Trump made while speaking to reporters in Ankara, Turkey.

A series of unclaimed airstrikes that hit Iran after the US said it finished its attacks

have again raised questions of who else may be targeting the Islamic Republic. The strikes Thursday, just as Iran prepared to bury the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, hit areas across southern Iran. The country's theocracy hasn't directly blamed anyone for the strikes, though one lawmaker issued a warning to the United Arab Emirates over allegedly providing support to the United States in its campaign against Iran.

HIRIYUR BYPOLL PREPARATION

JD(S) seeks BJP support as NDA begins seat-sharing talks

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

EVEN before the Election Commission announces the schedule for the Hiriyrur Assembly by-election, political activity has intensified in Karnataka, with the ruling Congress, BJP and JD(S) quietly preparing for the high-stakes contest. The bypoll was necessitated following the demise of Karnataka Planning and Statistics Minister and Congress MLA D Sudhakar, who represented the Hiriyrur constituency in Chitradurga district.

The JD(S), an ally of the BJP in the NDA, has emerged as the most proactive player, staking claim to contest the seat as part of the alliance's seat-sharing arrangement. Union Minister and JD(S) state president H D Kumaraswamy has reportedly initiated discussions with the BJP leadership, requesting that the Hiriyrur constituency be allotted to his party for the bypoll. According to party sources, Kumaraswamy has already held multiple

rounds of meetings with JD(S) leaders from Chitradurga district and Hiriyrur to assess the party's organisational strength and electoral prospects. He is learnt to have assured local leaders that he would secure the party ticket through negotiations with the BJP leadership, while asking them to focus on strengthening the organisation and preparing for the election campaign.

The JD(S) believes the constituency presents a realistic opportunity for the NDA. In the 2023 Assembly election, the BJP secured around 60,000 votes, while the JD(S) polled nearly 38,000 votes. Party strategists believe that if the alliance votes are consolidated, the NDA could mount a formidable challenge against the Congress candidate in the bypoll.

Community equations are also expected to play a crucial role in candidate selection. JD(S) leaders are said to be considering a candidate from influential Vokkaliga or Yadava communities, which have a significant presence in



the constituency. Beyond winning the by-election, the regional party also sees the contest as an opportunity to strengthen its claim over Hiriyrur ahead of the next Assembly election, ensuring the seat remains with JD(S) within the alliance framework.

The BJP, meanwhile, has also begun organisational preparations. State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra has reportedly held discussions with local leaders regarding booth-level mobilisation, alliance coordination and possible candidates.

However, senior BJP leaders have indicated that the final decision will be

taken jointly with JD(S) after consultations within the NDA. State BJP in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agrawal recently confirmed that discussions with JD(S) leaders on seat-sharing were underway and that a joint meeting of alliance leaders would decide which party would contest the bypoll.

The impending by-election has also fuelled speculation over Kumaraswamy's increasing involvement in Karnataka politics despite serving as a Union Minister. Over the past few weeks, he has intensified his criticism of the state government and actively participated

in political programmes across Karnataka. Responding to questions about his political future, Kumaraswamy clarified that while he would continue as a Union Minister and Member of Parliament, he would remain actively involved in Karnataka politics whenever necessary. With the Congress looking to retain a prestigious seat held by late minister D. Sudhakar and the NDA eager to test its electoral strength after the BJP-JD(S) alliance, the Hiriyrur bypoll is shaping up to be one of Karnataka's most closely watched political contests in the coming months.



Footpath clearance drive to continue across B'uru: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

KARNATAKA Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the ongoing footpath encroachment clearance drive will continue across all five civic zones of Bengaluru, adding that nearly 435 km of footpaths have been reclaimed since the campaign began on July 1.

After inspecting the encroachment removal drive at various locations in the city along with Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, the Chief Minister addressed the media near Ashoka Pillar in Jayanagar.

Shivakumar said authorities have removed 9,878 encroachments so far. The operation included the clearance of 1,340 shops, around 1,800 pushcarts, 2,267 metal sheet extensions, 2,300 steps and ramps, 2,662 pillars and signboards, and 2,247 sheds that had occupied pedestrian pathways. He added that debris has been cleared and repair works on damaged footpaths are also being taken up simultaneously.

The Chief Minister assured street vendors that the

government was not against them and would provide designated spaces for their livelihood.

"The poor are our own people. We want street vendors to earn a living, but businesses cannot operate anywhere on public or private property. We will identify suitable locations where they can carry out their trade without causing inconvenience to pedestrians or traffic," he said.

He further stated that the government would restart the process of issuing identity cards to street vendors after an earlier initiative was stalled due to a court order.

Shivakumar alleged that a "large mafia" was behind many of the encroachments and claimed that organised groups had been collecting money from vendors illegally. "We have information that rowdy elements are extorting money from street vendors."

The police and Greater Bengaluru Authority officials have been given full freedom to act. Our objective is a clean Bengaluru, and the entire country is watching the city's transfor-

mation," he said. The Chief Minister said the drive was aimed at improving pedestrian safety, noting that more than 900 pedestrians have lost their lives in Bengaluru over the past three years. "This is not being done for anyone's personal benefit. When there are no usable footpaths, people are forced to walk on roads, creating safety risks and traffic congestion. Our priority is the safety and convenience of citizens," he said. "Vendors will be provided appropriate locations where they can conduct business without inconveniencing the public. They can operate during the day and vacate the space in the evening," he said.

On the long-pending redevelopment of the Jayanagar Market, the Chief Minister said the government would take a decision soon. "Half of the market building has already been constructed, and the remaining work will be completed shortly under an appropriate scheme. We are committed to protecting public assets while ensuring better civic infrastructure for citizens," he added.

LTS concludes Global Engineering Intelligence open hack

BENGALURU : L&T Technology Services (LTS), a global leader in Engineering Intelligence Solutions and Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) consulting, has successfully concluded Engineering Intelligence (EI) OpenHack 2026, a first-of-its-kind global innovation challenge that brought together nearly 4,000 engineers across India, the United States and Europe to develop AI-driven engineering solutions for real-world industrial challenges.

The hackathon was conducted simultaneously across nine locations—Bengaluru, Mysuru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Vadodara, Mumbai, Dallas and Munich—with more than 770

teams participating. India's First Healthcare AI Conclave Opens

Bengaluru : India's first national conclave dedicated exclusively to Healthcare and Artificial Intelligence (AI) commenced in Bengaluru on Friday, bringing together leading clinicians, AI researchers, hospital administrators, policy-makers, technology companies and healthcare innovators to explore the transformative role of artificial intelligence in modern medicine. Hosted by Global Healthcare Academy, the two-day HAI Conclave 2026 is centred on the theme "Building Future-Ready Health Ecosystems."

Absconding robbery accused held after 41 court warrants

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

A Kerala resident accused in a 2017 armed robbery in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district has been arrested after remaining absconding for nearly five years and ignoring repeated summons from the trial court, police said on Friday.

The accused, Nelson C.V. (38), a resident of Thrissur district, was arrested by Puttur Town police from Mijoor in Kerala on July 8. He was later produced before the jurisdictional court.

The case dates back to December 22, 2017, when three armed men allegedly entered a house in Puttur town, threatened the occupants with a pistol and a knife, and robbed them of gold jewellery valued at around Rs

2.88 lakh and Rs 6 lakh in cash before fleeing.

Investigators said Nelson was later arrested in the case and had obtained conditional bail. However, he allegedly stopped appearing before the trial court from August 27, 2021.

His continued absence prompted the court to issue 41 arrest warrants over the years.

Acting on fresh leads, a police team tracked him down in Thrissur district and took him into custody before producing him before the court.

Police said a separate case has also been registered against him under Section 269 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, for repeatedly violating bail conditions and failing to comply with court directions.

Officials said further legal proceedings are under way.

Police detain 8 Bangladeshi workers from construction site



HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

EIGHT Bangladeshi nationals allegedly staying in India illegally were detained from a construction site in Mangaluru after police uncovered what they suspect was an organised network facilitating illegal migration and employment.

The operation was conducted by Surathkal police on July 9 following specific

intelligence inputs regarding the presence of foreign nationals at an under-construction building.

Police verified the identity documents of 54 labourers working at the site and identified eight men as Bangladeshi citizens. Investigators said the workers had entered India about three months ago by crossing the international border through Murshidabad district in West Bengal without valid

passports or visas. According to police, the men later obtained colour photocopies of Aadhaar cards bearing West Bengal addresses, with their photographs affixed, and used them while seeking employment. They had reportedly been working at the construction site in Mukka for nearly two months.

Detailed verification of their Bangladeshi National Identity Cards, birth certificates and family documents

confirmed that they were citizens of Bangladesh, police said.

The matter has been reported to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Bengaluru, which will initiate legal proceedings, including detention and deportation if required.

Police are now probing the network that facilitated the workers' illegal entry into India and their subsequent employment in Karnataka.

House of Berunda launches premium coffee brand

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE House of Berunda has officially unveiled Berunda Coffee, a premium Karnataka estate coffee brand inspired by the state's royal heritage and world-renowned coffee-growing legacy. The launch, held at an exclusive soiree in Bengaluru, showcased three signature coffee blends named after the iconic elephants of the Mysore royal household, reflecting a unique blend of history, craftsmanship and sustainability. The launch ceremony began



with a traditional Ganesh Aarti, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Maharajkumari Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar

of Mysore and Coffee Board Chairman M.J. Dinesh. The evening also featured a Bharatanatyam performance by the

Tharang Academy of Art and was attended by dignitaries including Maharajkumar Aatmanya Dev of the Wadwan royal family, Peru's Consul General Vikram Iyer, coffee experts, hospitality professionals and celebrated barista champions.

Guests sampled the brand's debut collection comprising Drona, Arjuna and Gajendra. Drona is a medium-dark Arabica-Robusta blend developed for traditional South Indian filter coffee, while Arjuna is a medium-light washed Arabica sourced from the B R Hills.

Sakleshpur fair: 72-kg giant jackfruit steals the show, may enter Guinness records

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HASSAN

A massive 72-kg jackfruit became the biggest attraction at the Jackfruit and Mango Fair held in Sakleshpur, with visitors thronging the venue to catch a glimpse of what could potentially be one of the world's heaviest jackfruits. The unusually large fruit, displayed by farmer H B Pratap Kumar from Hebbanahalli village, drew widespread attention from horticulture experts, farmers and fruit lovers alike.

Pratap Kumar showcased three giant jackfruits harvested from a single tree

at the exhibition organised at Srinivasa Convention Hall. The fruits were so heavy that two people were required to lift one onto the weighing scale, leaving visitors amazed by their extraordinary size and weight. According to horticulture officials, information available in public records indicates that the current recognised heavy-weight jackfruit weighed 54.43 kg and was reported from Florida, USA, in 2024. If the weight of the Sakleshpur fruit is officially verified, it could surpass the existing record by a significant margin and become a contender for

inclusion in the Guinness World Records.

Senior Assistant Director of the Department of Horticulture B E Bhanu Prakash said the department is verifying the details of the fruit. He noted that commercially cultivated jackfruits generally weigh between 20 and 25 kg, while fruits weighing 60 to 80 kg are extremely rare. He added that the department would examine the fruit's characteristics before initiating the process for a possible world record claim. Speaking on the occasion, Pratap Kumar said the unique jackfruit variety was planted by his father,

Basavalingappa, about 23 years ago after sourcing the sapling from the Halebeedu region. For nearly a decade, the tree has consistently produced exceptionally large fruits weighing between 60 and 80 kg, with around 15 fruits harvested from a single tree every season.

He revealed that the family had harvested an 80-kg jackfruit last year, while the fruits displayed at this year's fair weighed 72 kg. The tree is cultivated entirely through natural farming methods without the use of chemical fertilisers. Locally known as 'Makke Halasu' in the Mal-

nad region, the variety is known for its sweet, thick bulbs measuring nearly 12 centimetres in length.

Pratap Kumar said he has never commercially sold the fruits, preferring instead to share them with friends and visitors. His long-term goal is to conserve and popularise this rare jackfruit variety so that it can benefit more farmers in the region.

The giant fruit has become the highlight of the Sakleshpur fair, underscoring the rich horticultural diversity of Karnataka and the remarkable potential of naturally cultivated indigenous fruit varieties.



Challenges facing industry

K'taka Sugar Mills Federation submits memorandum to CM



HANS NEWS SERVICE BELAGAVI

A delegation of office-bearers of the Karnataka State Sugar Mills Federation and presidents of various cooperative sugar factories met Chief Minister D K Shivakumar at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Friday and submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues and demands concerning the sugar industry. The meeting was organised by MLC Channaraj Hattiholi, who is also associated with the sugar industry. During the interaction, he apprised the Chief Minister of the financial and administrative chal-

lenges currently facing cooperative sugar factories across the state.

The delegation discussed several issues related to strengthening cooperative sugar mills, ensuring the sustainable growth of the sugar industry, and safeguarding the interests of sugarcane farmers.

Chief Minister Shivakumar patiently heard the concerns raised by the representatives of the federation and the cooperative sugar factory presidents. He assured the delegation that the State Government remains committed to protecting the financial stability of sugar factories and the welfare of sugarcane

growers. The Chief Minister also assured the delegation that every point raised in the memorandum would be examined in detail and that the government would take appropriate action at the earliest. Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara, Minister Satish Jarkiholi, former Minister for Women and Child Development Lakshmi Hebbalkar, MLAs Laxman Savadi and Babasaheb Patil, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, along with office-bearers of the Karnataka State Sugar Mills Federation and presidents of several cooperative sugar factories, were present during the meeting.

Rainfall Report July 1-7

Uneven rainfall marks Karnataka monsoon

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE latest weekly rainfall bulletin released by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Corporation (KSNDMC) for the period July 1-7 presents a sharply uneven picture of the southwest monsoon across the state. While Coastal Karnataka has received abundant rains, large parts of North Interior Karnataka are facing significant deficits, underlining the challenges of spatial variability even as the season is still in its early phase.

Regional Performance Coastal Karnataka has emerged as the strongest performer, with several taluks in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Kannada districts recording actual rainfall between 150 and 250 mm for the week, many falling in the normal to excess category. In contrast, South Interior Karnataka shows a mixed trend, with districts such as Kodagu, Hassan, and



Chamarajanagara receiving 80-150 mm in several taluks while areas around Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, and Ramanagara lag with 30-50 mm below normal. North Interior Karnataka remains the most concerning zone, where districts including Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, and Vijayapura have many taluks receiving only 20-40

mm against normals of 60-100 mm, resulting in departures often ranging from -50% to -70%.

Key Statistics The KSNDMC data reveals that cumulative rainfall for the first week of July is significantly below the long-period average in multiple northern taluks, with several stations flagged in the large deficit category.

Coastal areas have contributed healthy inflows to Western Ghats-fed rivers, whereas interior districts show widespread large deficits, with some taluks recording less than 25% of normal rainfall. Overall, the state presents a tale of two Karnatakas — surplus along the coast and deficit in the rain-shadow northern regions. Implications

and Outlook These early figures carry important implications for agriculture, as the sharp deficits in North Interior Karnataka could delay or disrupt kharif sowing of major crops such as jowar, groundnut, and cotton. Water storage in interior reservoirs may also fill more slowly, though coastal performance offers some buffer for the state's overall water security.

This is only the first full week of July, and the India Meteorological Department's forecast of a normal monsoon season provides room for recovery through expected weather systems in the coming weeks.

The state government would do well to use this granular taluk-level data for targeted interventions such as drought contingency planning in the north and water conservation drives.

Karnataka's agrarian economy will closely depend on a more uniform rainfall distribution in the weeks ahead.

From arecanut to chocolate: CAMPCO celebrates 53 yrs of success

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

THE Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (CAMPCO), one of India's largest farmer-owned cooperatives, will celebrate its 53rd Foundation Day on Saturday, marking more than five decades of supporting growers in Karnataka and Kerala while unveiling a mobile application for its members, according to a press release from the president of the CAMPCO SR Sathishchandra on Friday.

Established on July 11, 1973, CAMPCO was founded to protect arecanut farmers from market instability and exploitation by traders and middlemen. The cooperative was the brainchild of noted cooperative leader Varanashi Subraya Bhat, whose birth centenary is being observed this year with a series of commemorative programmes.

The organisation said it had already launched year-long centenary celebrations in June to honour its founder's contribution to the cooperative movement and farmer welfare.

CAMPCO's evolution mirrors the changing fortunes of plantation farmers in the region. Beginning as a marketing cooperative for arecanut growers, it later expanded into cocoa procurement after farmers cultivating cocoa as an intercrop struggled to market their produce.

This led to the establishment of the CAMPCO Chocolate Factory at Puttur in 1986, inaugurated by the then President of India, Giani Zail Singh.

Today, the cooperative procures arecanut, co-



coa, rubber, black pepper and coconuts through an extensive network spread across Karnataka and Kerala. It also operates processing units and marketing depots across the country and has diversified into branded chocolates, edible coconut oil, organic fertilisers and other value-added products. According to the cooperative, nearly 1.5 lakh members are associated with CAMPCO, while its operations provide direct and indirect employment to thousands of people. As part of

the Foundation Day celebrations, CAMPCO launched a dedicated mobile application that will allow members to access transaction details, cooperative services and other information digitally.

The cooperative said it remains committed to strengthening value addition, transparent governance and sustainable incomes for plantation farmers while carrying forward the vision of its founder.

Project AASTHA crosses 10 lakh beneficiaries

BENGALURU

PFIZER India's flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Project AASTHA, has crossed a major milestone by supporting more than 10 lakh patients and caregivers across the country since its launch in 2022. Implemented in partnership with Doctors for You (DFY), the programme aims to improve access to healthcare for people living with cancer and rare diseases by providing treatment guidance, counselling, patient navigation and assistance in accessing government welfare schemes.

The milestone was commemorated during the AASTHA CareConnect 2026 forum held in Bengaluru, which brought together senior government officials, healthcare experts, policymakers, clinicians, patient advocates and development partners to discuss ways to strengthen patient navigation and improve equitable access to healthcare.



Project AASTHA was launched to bridge the gap between patients and healthcare services, recognising that those battling cancer and rare diseases often struggle with navigating hospitals, understanding treatment options, securing financial assistance and accessing welfare benefits. The initiative provides dedicated helpdesks and helpline services to support patients throughout diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

Heavy rains revive Tungabhadra dam, bring relief to farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE BALLARI

After weeks of anxiety over dwindling water levels, the Tungabhadra Dam has finally begun receiving substantial inflows, bringing much-needed relief to thousands of farmers across north Karnataka. Continuous heavy rainfall in the Malnad catchment has significantly improved the reservoir's inflow, raising hopes for irrigation and drinking water security in the region. The Tungabhadra reservoir is regarded as the lifeline for the drought-prone districts of Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal and Raichur, supporting agriculture across vast stretches of land.

Officials said the reservoir received nearly 4.110 TMC of water during the last 24 hours, marking the first major surge of the monsoon season. The dam, which has a gross storage capacity of 105.788 TMC, currently holds 17.511 TMC of water. Inflow has risen to 49,728 cusecs, while only 180 cusecs is being released through canals to meet drinking water and other essential requirements. The sharp increase in inflow comes after an unusually dry start to the southwest monsoon



that had left the reservoir almost depleted and raised concerns over irrigation for the upcoming kharif season. Heavy rains across the Western Ghats and Malnad region over the past week have dramatically changed the situation, with streams and rivers feeding the reservoir at a rapid pace.

Despite the encouraging inflows, water storage remains significantly lower

than last year. On the corresponding date in 2025, the reservoir contained 77.343 TMC of water, compared with the present storage of 17.511 TMC. The prolonged rainfall deficit during June had severely affected reservoir levels across Karnataka before the recent spell of widespread monsoon showers. Irrigation officials are optimistic that if the

current inflow continues for the next several days, the reservoir level will rise steadily, ensuring adequate water for irrigation, drinking purposes and industrial needs. Farmers in Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal and Raichur districts, who depend heavily on Tungabhadra waters for cultivation, have welcomed the development after weeks of uncertainty.

Authorities will continue to monitor inflows closely as the southwest monsoon gathers momentum across the catchment. With forecasts indicating further rainfall in the upper reaches, the reservoir is expected to witness additional gains in storage, offering renewed hope for agriculture and easing concerns over water availability in the coming months.

Cancer, rare disease care boost

K'taka seeks more time from SC to hold GBA polls



HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka Government has approached the Supreme Court seeking an extension of time to conduct elections to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), citing the ongoing revision of electoral rolls and administrative challenges.

The State has requested the apex court to modify its May 20, 2026 order, which directed the government to complete the elections by August 31, 2026. Instead, the government has sought permission to hold the elections by

December 31, 2026, stating that completing the electoral process within the stipulated deadline would not be feasible.

In its application, the government submitted that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list is currently in progress and that the exercise, along with other administrative and logistical constraints, has affected election preparedness.

It argued that additional time is required to complete the statutory procedures before conducting the GBA elections.

The move has drawn criticism from the Opposi-

tion, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (Secular) accusing the Congress government of deliberately postponing the polls.

Opposition leaders alleged that the government is delaying the elections out of concern over its electoral prospects in the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority. The State's request is now pending before the Supreme Court, and the court's decision on the plea will determine whether the deadline for conducting the GBA elections is extended beyond August 31, 2026.



Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju chaired a review meeting with senior officials of the Industries and Commerce Department at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Friday

Govt fast-tracks mega industrial projects to attract global investments

CS Sanjay Jaju reviews Bharat Future City, Zaheerabad Industrial City and Kakatiya Mega Textile Park development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Government has decided to develop investor friendly infrastructure at Bharat Future City, Zaheerabad Industrial City, the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park aiming to invite global investments and accelerate industrial growth.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday instructed the TGICC to expedite the process to develop industrial infrastructure. He convened a review meeting with senior officials of the Industries and Commerce Department to assess the progress of key industrial infrastructure projects being developed across the state.

The Chief Secretary focused on accelerating industrial growth, attracting investments and creating large-scale employment opportunities in the state.

He took stock of the progress of major projects being implemented by the Telangana Industrial Infrastruc-

ture Corporation (TGIIC), including the Bharat Future City, Zaheerabad Industrial City, Kakatiya Mega Textile Park and other strategic industrial infrastructure initiatives.

MD TGIIC Shashanka briefed him on the present status of these projects, the infrastructure being created, investment prospects and the timelines for their completion.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the primary objective of the department should be to position Telangana as a preferred investment destination by facilitating industries with world-class infrastructure and a business-friendly ecosystem.

He said that attracting both domestic and global investments is essential for sustaining the state's economic growth and generating large-scale employment opportunities for the youth.

Sanjay Jaju directed the officials to work with a clear focus on achieving the goals

envisioned by the government. He emphasised that all departments and implementing agencies should function in close coordination to ensure the timely execution of industrial projects without delays.

He also instructed the officials to regularly monitor the progress of ongoing projects, identify bottlenecks at an early stage and resolve them through effective inter-departmental coordination.

The Chief Secretary noted that flagship projects such as Bharat Future City, Zaheerabad Industrial City and the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park have the potential to transform Telangana's industrial landscape by attracting significant investments and promoting balanced regional development. He asked the officials to adopt a proactive approach in providing necessary infrastructure and investor facilitation services to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.

Govt launches 'Bill One' for easier municipal transactions

Citizens in ULBs can now pay property tax, water charges and trade licence fees in a single transaction

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE citizens in the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) other than the CURE areas (GHMC, MMC and CMC) can now pay all their bills, including property tax, water charges, trade licence fees, together in one transaction 'Bill One' eliminating the need for separate payments.

MAUD secretary TK Sreedevi launched the 'Bill One' service for unified municipal payments with a more convenient and citizen-friendly mechanism. The Bill One service enables citizens to pay multiple municipal dues through a single platform.

Under this initiative, citizens can pay property



CDMA Commissioner TK Sreedevi launches the 'Bill One' service in Hyderabad on Friday

tax, water charges, and trade licence fees together in one transaction, eliminating the need for separate payments.

A key feature of the service it generates consolidated demand notice for all the municipal services assigned

to the PTIN no. i.e., property tax, water charges and trade licence.

Even if a person has multiple properties same are shown in a single demand notice instead of raising multiple demand notices. It also reduces the burden on the municipality to generate multiple demand notices for various services viz., water charges and trade licence.

The multiple visits to collect different taxes and fees will also be reduced with this initiative. It allows the tax payers to pay in part land also in instalments based on their convenience, thereby providing greater financial flexibility while ensuring timely payment of municipal dues.

The service is available through Handheld Devices

(HHDs) used by municipal ward officers/bill collectors and is also accessible through the official online municipal portal <https://emunicipal.telangana.gov.in/>, enabling citizens to make payments anytime and from anywhere.

The CDMA officials said that the launch of the Bill One service reflects the Government of Telangana's commitment to leverage technology for improved public service delivery, enhancing ease of payment, and promoting greater transparency and convenience in municipal governance.

Citizens are encouraged to make use of this new facility for seamless, secure, and hassle-free payment of their municipal dues.

Govt to digitise medical equipment procurement system for Govt Hospitals

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HEALTH Minister C Ddamodar Raja Narasimha on Friday directed TGMSIDC officials to further strengthen the procurement system to ensure the speedy and transparent supply of quality medical equipment to government hospitals.

During a review meeting held on Friday at the TGMSIDC office in Koti, the Minister reviewed various aspects, including medical equipment procurement, the tender process, the operational status of equipment, and maintenance.

The Minister emphasised that every part of medical equipment installed in government hospitals must be of high quality and made available within the stipulated timeframe.

He instructed officials to prepare proposals for a new system that prioritises transparency and digitalisation. He also suggested taking measures to ensure that all future procurements are conducted according to standardised procedures.

The Minister ordered the complete digitalisation of the procurement process. He directed the implementation of an end-to-end digital tool for procurement



and the creation of a system capable of tracking every stage online from the initial indent to final installation at the hospital. He noted that this would enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the procurement process.

The Minister also directed the establishment of a robust monitoring system to ensure the continuous functionality of medical equipment installed in hospitals. It was proposed to set up a centralised dashboard to monitor the performance of equipment in all government hospitals across the state. Instructions were issued to review this dashboard at the senior management level every fortnight and take immediate, necessary action.

The Minister suggested reviewing the existing Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) agreements and amending the rules to impose strict penalties on vendors who fail to adhere to Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

He emphasised the need to ensure there was absolute no room for negligence in equipment maintenance.

He ordered the appointment of eight biomedical engineers to monitor the performance of medical equipment at the field level across the state. He directed that four engineers be assigned to the Hyderabad region and one each to the East, West, South, and North zones to further strengthen equipment monitoring.

BRS urges ECI for 'One Person, One Vote' system

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS leaders on Friday urged the Election Commission of India to implement the 'one person one vote' across the country and linking Aadhaar with voter ID. A delegation of BRS leaders led by Parliamentary Party Vaddiraju Ravichandra met Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi on Friday. Bringing to the notice of the CEC about suspected duplicate and multiple voter registrations identified during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026, the BRS leaders wanted together with certain other connected issues requiring immediate consideration.

The BRS leaders requested the Election Commission to utilise all available scientific and technological tools, including Aadhaar-enabled verification wherever legally permissible, de-duplication software, Artificial Intelligence-assisted matching, facial recognition-assisted verification, GIS-based verification and other advanced technological solutions together with field verification through the statutory machinery, for effective identification and elimination of duplicate and multiple voter registrations.

Such an integrated approach would substantially strengthen the accuracy, purity, transparency and credi-

bility of the electoral rolls and reinforce public confidence in the electoral process.

The BRS leaders said that the Commission should verify and delete duplicate and multiple voter registrations strictly in accordance with law after conducting due verification.

Utilise all available scientific and technological tools, including Aadhaar-enabled verification wherever legally permissible, de-duplication software, Artificial Intelligence-assisted matching, facial recognition-assisted verification, GIS-based verification and other advanced technological solutions together with field verification through the statutory machinery, for effective identification and elimination of duplicate and multiple voter registrations.

Ensure that no genuine elector is deprived of his or her valuable constitutional and statutory right to vote on account of any procedural deficiency, inadvertent error, incomplete verification or mistaken identity.

The party leaders further urged the ECI to continue to conduct the SIR in a transparent, fair, participative, scientific and legally sustainable manner so as to ensure preparation of a pure, accurate, error-free and credible electoral roll.

CMC clears 488 footpath encroachments in 'Walk Free' drive

HYDERABAD: The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) on Friday conducted a large-scale 'Walk Free - Footpath Encroachment Removal Drive' across its three zones, clearing 488 encroachments from 22.28 km of footpaths to improve pedestrian safety and restore public walkways.

The drive was carried out simultaneously in the Serilingampally, Kukatpally and Quthbullapur zones under the directions of the Commissioner.

Zonal Commissioners, along with officials from the Town Planning, Engineering and Enforcement wings, participated in the special operation to remove encroachments obstructing pedestrian movement. In the Serilingampally zone, officials covered five road stretches spanning 9.86 km and removed 193 encroachments.

The Kukatpally zone covered three road stretches over 3.50 km, where 89 encroachments were cleared. In the Quthbullapur zone,

seven road stretches measuring 8.92 km were taken up, resulting in the removal of 206 encroachments.

Overall, the corporation covered 15 road stretches and reclaimed 22.28 km of footpaths during the drive. The Commissioner said that footpaths are meant exclusively for pedestrians and reiterated the corporation's commitment to keeping public walkways free from encroachments.

The Commissioner added that similar enforcement drives would be conducted regularly to ensure safe, accessible and pedestrian-friendly public spaces across Cyberabad.

Expired food, dirty kitchens: Food safety raids expose major violations

Seven establishments face action over unsafe ingredients, poor hygiene and improper storage practices

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A series of raids by the Food Safety Department in Hyderabad uncovered multiple food safety violations at seven food establishments, from the use of expired food ingredients and unhygienic kitchen conditions to improper storage practices. Authorities disposed of unsafe food items, temporary suspension of operations and action to suspend an FSSAI licence to the hotel in Gachibowli.

On Friday, at Rebel Foods Private Limited (Cloud Kitchen) in Kondapur, which operates brands, including Oven Story, Behrouz, Faasos, Sweet Truth, Wendy's and LunchBox, inspectors found expired curd packets and expired Indian gravy stored on the premises.

Officials also found mint chaas prepared using expired curd, while the wash area was unhygienic. Medical fitness certificates of food handlers were suspected to have been altered and did not reflect actual medical test results.



Unhygienic kitchen conditions observed during Food Safety Department inspections at food establishments

During the inspection of Burger King at Puppulaguda, officials observed oil leakage from kitchen equipment, poorly cleaned storage crates and the absence of food testing reports and packaging records.

At KFC in Alkapur Township, Manikonda, inspectors reported water stagnation

and foul odour in the wash area. Four packs of cut lettuce that were found to be not fresh were discarded immediately. The outlet has been served with directions to rectify the deficiencies through an improvement notice.

The inspection at Fire Water Neo Bar & Kitchen



Food Safety Department officials found cut vegetables that were not fresh during inspections at a Hyderabad food outlet as part of a citywide safety drive.

in Nanakramguda revealed several serious violations, including unlabelled raw food items, an expired pack of mushrooms, unsupported shelf-life declarations for prepared food, absence of water testing for cooking and beverage ice. Unlabelled food items were discarded on the spot, and an improve-

ment notice will be issued.

Earlier on Thursday, at Alsaba Restaurant in Gachibowli, inspectors found meat stored under improper freezer conditions, water stagnation in the wash area, unhygienic worker washrooms, lack of hot-water sanitisation of utensils, rumali roti being prepared adjacent to unclean washrooms with fly infestation and an unhygienic slaughtering area.

Authorities initiated action to suspend the restaurant's FSSAI licence and directed the establishment to remain closed until all violations are rectified and compliance is verified.

The inspection of Zepto at Narsingi found poor overall hygiene, with dirt accumulation on racks, crates, flooring, walls and ceilings. Officials also noted improper positioning of the Pest-o-Flash unit in the fruits and vegetables section, food bags stored without pallets, food waste scattered on racks and floors, improper segregation of food and non-food items, non-display of the FSSAI licence and unclean air curtains.

Water war escalates: Harish Rao questions govt's Godavari strategy

Former irrigation minister alleges Kaleshwaram project is being targeted to hide government failures

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS Deputy Leader T Harish Rao launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing the Congress government of deliberately allowing Telangana's Godavari waters to flow into Andhra Pradesh while farmers across the state suffer due to water scarcity.

Harish Rao said that while the Chief Minister may be accustomed to breaking promises and changing political positions, his own 25-year political career stands as proof of consistency and commitment.

"Breaking promises and switching parties may be your political culture, Revanth Reddy. It is certainly not mine. Your 20-year political career and my 25-year political journey speak for themselves. Unlike you, I do not make one promise under oath and another without it," he said.

Questioning the CM over the farm loan waiver promise made in the name of Lord Sri Rama at Bhadrachalam, Harish Rao asked whether even



farmers in Khammam district where Revanth Reddy addressed a public meeting had received complete loan waiver benefits.

He also questioned why the Chief Minister continued to display anger and political aggression in every public meeting despite repeatedly claiming that politics could wait until the final year of the government's term. Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government was attempting to cover up its failure to lift irrigation water from Kannapalli through misinformation and false propaganda against the Kaleshwaram project.

He pointed out that the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages withstood floods of nearly 28 lakh

cusecs in the past, and questioned why the government was now attempting to create fear when the present flood flow was only about one lakh cusecs.

He demanded that the government immediately utilise the existing Kannepalli Pump House to lift water through Annaram and Sundilla into Yellampalli Reservoir instead of allowing valuable Godavari water to flow downstream.

Drawing a comparison with Andhra Pradesh, Harish Rao said the neighbouring state had already utilised more than 60 TMC of Godavari water through Pattiseema, Tadipudi, Purushothapatnam and Pushkara Lift Irrigation Schemes by operating its pumping systems continuously.

While Andhra Pradesh has been operating all 24 Pattiseema pumps round-the-clock, Telangana has kept its high-capacity Bahubali pumps idle despite having sufficient water availability, he alleged. He questioned whether there existed any "hidden understanding" behind the government's refusal to operate the Kannapalli pumps.

Atchanna assures ample fertiliser supply for kharif

- Says 3.70 lakh MT urea and 0.90 lakh MT of DAP available; buffer stocks maintained across districts
- Dismisses shortage rumours, says daily monitoring will ensure uninterrupted supply to farmers



place to prevent any shortages for farmers.

By July 10, the state had 3.70 lakh metric tonnes of urea and 0.90 lakh metric tonnes of DAP available. The minister said in a statement district-wise buffer stocks have been stored in Markfed warehouses, with officials monitoring supplies daily and moving additional

fertiliser wherever needed. Currently, 3,69,646 metric tonnes of urea are in stock, covering nearly 85% of seasonal demand, while 85,683 metric tonnes of DAP meet about 64% of requirements. Fresh consignments continue to arrive, ensuring uninterrupted distribution.

Atchanna also addressed a recent incident at Sankili Rythu Seva Kendra in Vizianagaram district. He explained that while initial demand was for 811 bags of urea, extra demand arose when farmers gathered in large numbers.

The government immediately arranged 444 additional bags from a nearby centre the same day. Distribution was streamlined with

token and queue systems, he added.

The minister said Vizianagaram district currently holds 9,987 metric tonnes of urea, including 4,850 tonnes as buffer stock.

He dismissed rumours of shortages as false propaganda driven by vested interests, urging farmers not to believe such claims.

"The government is fully alert. Farmers will not face any difficulties. Supplies are being monitored daily, and stocks are moved instantly wherever needed," Atchanna assured.

He reiterated that the administration is committed to farmer welfare and will continue transparent, timely fertiliser distribution across the state.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchanna on Friday said the government has ensured abundant fertiliser supplies for the ongoing kharif season, with buffer stocks in

YSRCP seeks one-month extension of SIR

- Party MLC Appi Reddy demands extension of the Special Intensive Revision, citing delays and procedural glitches
- Alleges that TDP leaders are pressuring officials and BLOs to upload voter data to the MyTDP app before submitting it to the EC
- Says his party has complained to the EC, plans legal action and seeks a probe into alleged irregularities and bogus voters



YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy told media persons at the party central office in Tadepalli on Friday that the leaders of TDP are forcing the officials to first upload the data in the MyTDP app before sending it to the Election Commission office, and every effort is being put to heckle democracy, making the Election Commission redundant in the state.

He claimed that elected representatives, ministers and even personal assistants of the ruling party leaders are threatening Booth Level Officials (BLOs) to first upload the data in their party app before sending it to the Election Office, and when a BLO went to lodge a complaint at a police station, it was not accepted, and there was pressure not to go ahead with the complaint.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP demanded that Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state be extended by one month.

The main opposition party cited glitches in the SIR to demand its extension by one month.

It also alleged that the coalition government is mounting pressure on officials and collecting data in advance.

"We have complained to the Election Commission on the irregularities and will again give a representation besides exploring legal options as well," he said.

The YSRCP leader said that the enumeration process has many irregularities which came to light at Atmakur, Tambalappalle and other places, and the official statement boasting of figures stands no ground.

"As our leader Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had pointed out, every eligible voter should be given the opportunity to exercise the franchise, and as the process has been going on at a slow pace and the work at the ground level is not complete, we demand that the process be extended by one more month," said Appi Reddy.

The YSRCP MLC also demanded that the Election Commission use its discretionary powers and check the irregularities. TDP and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu have been trying to use every opportunity for political gain even at the cost of democratic values, he alleged.

There are many duplicate votes to be weeded out, and the information is that in Kuppam (Chandrababu Naidu's constituency) itself there are 30,000 bogus votes, he added.

CII urges industry to tap FTA boom for global growth

- Says FTAs now drive trade, investment, digital commerce and global supply chains beyond traditional market access
- Experts urge Indian businesses, especially MSMEs, to leverage FTAs with the UAE, UK, EU, Australia and other key markets to boost exports



from India's expanding network of FTAs.

Sumanta Chaudhary said that with the multilateral trading system facing increasing challenges, FTAs have become the primary drivers of market access and international business expansion. He stressed that Indian businesses should understand the provisions and benefits of these agreements to enhance exports, improve competitiveness and integrate into global value chains.

The seminar focused on creating awareness among industry stakeholders on effectively utilising India's FTAs to tap international markets.

Experts noted that India's trade strategy has evolved from regional trade arrangements to comprehensive economic partnerships with countries across Europe, the Middle East and Oceania, covering not only trade in goods but also services, investments, digital commerce and sustainable supply chains.

In his opening remarks, Abhinav Kotagiri, chairman, CII Vijayawada Zone, said India is steadily expanding its trade partnerships with major global

economies.

He noted that the country's recent and ongoing FTAs with the UAE, Australia, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the UK, the European Union and other key markets reflect India's growing confidence and ambition in international trade.

Dr Murali Kallummal of the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, highlighted that India's trade agreements with the UK, the European Union, UAE, Oman, Australia and New Zealand offer unprecedented opportunities for Indian businesses to diversify exports and access new markets.

Dr Anand Gopal, deputy director, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), spoke of Andhra Pradesh's vast export potential, particularly in marine products. He said the state's long coastline, world-class ports and robust seafood processing ecosystem have positioned Andhra Pradesh as one of India's leading export hubs.

CII Vijayawada chapter chairman Abhinav Kotagiri addressing a seminar on FTAs in Vijayawada on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

FREE Trade Agreements (FTAs) have evolved beyond conventional trade arrangements into strategic economic partnerships that encompass goods, services, investments, digital trade, sustainability, technology and resilient supply chains, and Indian industry must fully leverage them to expand its global footprint, said Sumanta Chaudhary, principal advisor, International Trade Policy, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

He was addressing a seminar on 'Growing Opportunities from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)' organised by CII Vijayawada Zone on Friday.

The event brought together exporters, representatives of export promotion organisations, industry leaders, MSMEs, logistics service providers, trade professionals and policymakers to deliberate on the opportunities emerging

RAMAYAPATNAM PORT GETS SECOND EXTENSION

- Project completion deadline pushed to Dec 30 this year
- No penalty imposed on contractor despite second extension
- Land delays, cyclones and infrastructure hurdles cited for setback

levying liquidated damages on the contractor.

The project, entrusted to the joint venture of Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd (NECL) and Aurobindo Realty Ltd (ARIPL), was originally scheduled for completion by June 23, 2025.

A first extension had already been allowed until April 27, 2026. The latest decision followed a proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB) chief executive, based on requests from the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor.

Special chief secretary (infrastructure & investment) M T Krishna Babu issued the government order (GO) on Friday, clarifying that no additional financial

burden would be entertained for granting the extension. The GO noted that revised administrative sanction for the port was accorded in February 2024, while technical sanction dates back to November 2020.

The contractor cited several reasons for delay, including non-handover of 38 acres of land critical for stackyard, internal roads, railway connectivity and utilities.

Other factors included delays in external infrastructure works such as power transmission and railway links, unforeseen dredging conditions, change in dredge disposal location, and local hindrances in Karlapalem and Salipeta villages. Force majeure condi-



tions (clause in contract that absolves both parties from liability in case of an extraordinary event like war or natural disaster) were also pointed to, including severe cyclones during the construction period and disruptions in fuel supply chains due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

The Tender Evaluation and EPC Committee

reviewed the submission and recommended the second extension, acknowledging delays in land acquisition and force majeure events.

The government accepted the recommendation, allowing the contractor time until December 2026 to complete the greenfield port project in Prakasam district, a key maritime gateway for Andhra Pradesh.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government granted a second extension of time (EoT) for the completion of the Rs 4,923-crore Ramayapatnam port project, pushing the deadline to December 30, 2026, without

RTI lapses won't be tolerated, warns AP CIC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

STATE chief information commissioner Sajja Srinivasa Rao made it clear that the provisions of Section 4(1)(b) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act must be implemented in every government office without exception, warning that any negligence in enforcing the law will not be tolerated.

He conducted surprise inspections at several government offices in Gollapudi in Vijayawada Rural on Friday to review the implementation of the RTI Act. He visited the office of the commissioner of the endowments department, Gollapudi gram panchayat office, Directorate of Prosecutions and the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) office on Bandar Road.

During the inspections, he reviewed the implementation of RTI provisions, examined RTI registers, records, and the information systems maintained for citizens, and issued necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief information commissioner said the inspections were aimed at assessing how effectively the RTI Act is being implemented in government offices.



State chief information commissioner Sajja Srinivasa Rao at the endowments commissioner office in Vijayawada on Friday

He noted that the commission has been receiving a large number of complaints in recent months alleging poor implementation of RTI rules in various government departments across the state. Among the common deficiencies identified were the absence of display boards carrying the details of Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities, and the failure to display job charts and citizen charters.

To address these shortcomings, the State Information Commission has launched a special monitoring drive. As part of the initiative, each

Information Commissioner has been assigned responsibility for two districts and directed to conduct surprise inspections of government offices.

Srinivasa Rao said the primary objective of these inspections is to improve awareness of the RTI Act and ensure its transparent and effective implementation. He warned that strict action would be taken under the law against officials if inspections reveal negligence, dereliction of duty, or violations of RTI provisions.

Endowments commissioner K Ramachandra Mohan briefed the chief information commissioner on the implementation of the RTI Act in the endowments department.

After examining the records and information presented by officials of the Gollapudi gram panchayat, Directorate of Prosecutions and APPSC, the chief information commissioner expressed satisfaction with the overall implementation.

APPSC chairman Prof C Shashidhar, secretary Pattamsetti Ravi Subhash, Gollapudi panchayat secretary Chintalamma, public information officer V V S K Prasad of the endowments department, joint commissioner Ratna Raju and officials from the concerned departments were present during the inspections.

Mahendragiri all set to be inducted into Indian Navy

- The stealth frigate features advanced features, enhanced survivability, a high degree of automation
- The warship showcases India's increasing expertise in indigenous warship design and construction
- Its commissioning marks another significant milestone in the eventful execution of the Project 17A programme



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh being received by District Collector M Abhishikh Kishore upon his arrival in Visakhapatnam on Friday

Bureau (WDB) and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), Mahendragiri features advanced stealth features, enhanced survivability, a high degree of automation and a reduced radar signature. This is the fourth ship of the class built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

Living up to her motto 'mighty-majestic-matchless', Living up to her motto 'mighty-majestic-matchless', INS Mahendragiri reflects the spirit of the Aatmanirb-

har Bharat initiative, boasting over 75 percent domestic content with substantial systems and equipment sourced from Indian industries.

Equipped to undertake anti-air-surface-submarine operations, the warship is also suited for maritime security, power projection and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, search and rescue and sustained presence missions.

Considered as a major leap in indigenous shipbuilding, the commission-



INS Mahendragiri to be commissioned into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam

ing of Mahendragiri marks another significant milestone in the eventful execution of the Project 17A programme.

Project 17A frigates are versatile multi-mission platforms made to address emerging challenges in the maritime domain.

Named after the imposing Mahendragiri Mountain in Eastern Ghats, the state-of-the-art frigate showcases a quantum leap in firepower, automation and survivability. The construction of seven

warships has been taken up by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers and MDSL.

Powered by a modern Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion system, the warship showcases India's increasing expertise in indigenous warship design and construction.

On Friday, the Defence Minister reached Visakhapatnam to attend the commissioning of the warship scheduled on Saturday at the Naval Dockyard.

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh will commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the Indian Navy's sixth Nilgiri class (Project 17A) stealth frigate, at the naval dockyard on July 11 (Saturday).

Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design

Gates Foundation to support Amaravati Cancer Hospital

- Archana Vyas reviews construction of Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital at Thullur

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

GATES Foundation India Country Director Archana Vyas visited the construction site of the upcoming Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital at Thullur in the Amaravati capital region on Friday to review the progress of the project. Archana Vyas was accompanied by Ravi Srinivasa Rao, chief operating officer of the Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACH&RI). During the visit, Srinivasa Rao and Balasubrahmanyam, chief general manager (projects), briefed her on the status of construction and the key features of the upcoming cancer care facility.



Gates Foundation India Country Director Archana Vyas at the construction site of the upcoming Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital at Thullur in Amaravati on Friday

Archana Vyas appreciated the exceptional services rendered by the Basavatarakam Institute through its Hyderabad facility, which has been providing quality treatment to thousands of cancer patients. She also congratulated the institution's chairman, Nandamuri Balakrishna, for his leadership and commitment to strengthening cancer care services. During the interaction, representatives of the hospital requested the Gates Foundation to support the Amaravati cancer hospital project. Responding positively,

Archana Vyas expressed her willingness to explore ways in which the Foundation could extend its support to the initiative.

The proposed Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Amaravati is expected to significantly enhance access to advanced oncology treatment and research facilities for patients across Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states. It is being developed as a state-of-the-art cancer care institution to complement the renowned services offered by the Hyderabad-based hospital.

The executive, not judiciary, must crackdown on illegal structures

THE Supreme Court has rightly pulled up civic authorities over illegal and unsafe buildings in Delhi-NCR. Slamming the attitude of local officials, a bench of Justices A Manu and Justice R Mahadevan pointed out on Thursday that "only face-saving exercises are being done" to check the menace. The apex court warned officials that it would "attach personal responsibility" on all officials who fail to act against illegal buildings and their owners despite repeated judicial directions. It ordered the personal appearance of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi commissioner and the vice-chairman of the Gurugram Metropolitan Develop-

ment Authority (GMDA) in court. These orders may drill some sense of propriety in the hearts and minds of bureaucrats. It also constituted a team comprising two senior IIT professors, two draftsmen, and MCD officials to assess unauthorised constructions in Delhi's Saket, Lajpat Nagar, and Malviya Nagar localities. The panel has also been directed to submit its report to the court. So far, so good, but there are limits that the judiciary can and should travel. The kind of localities where people live, what kind of land that should be, what rules and regulations should govern that land, and so on are matters that the executive should take a call. More importantly,

if there are any violations, the wrongdoers must be dealt with accordingly. It is not the job of the judiciary to crack down on the land sharks, and illegal colonisers, among others. Evidently, our governance system has completely broken down, at least in the matter of colonising and housing. Instead of stopping unauthorised constructions that are mushrooming by the day, local officials are sometimes found to be in glove with the violators. For instance, a newspaper report showed that around 93 per cent of establishments inspected in Gurugram's ongoing fire safety drive were found deficient in mandatory fire safety measures. While judicial intervention may yield good

dividends, it cannot offer a long-term solution to the widespread problem. The judiciary cannot substitute for the executive; courts can issue directions, fix accountability, and ensure that authorities perform their statutory duties, but they cannot and should not directly undertake urban planning, enforcement, and governance. Sustainable reform requires civic agencies, development authorities, and state governments to act with integrity, efficiency, and transparency. Building regulations must be enforced uniformly, without political interference or selective implementation. The need of the hour is a mechanism which ensures that the

officials, who deliberately ignore violations or collude with builders, are penalised, and even thrown behind bars. At the same time, approval processes should be made more transparent and technology-driven so that illegal constructions can be detected at an early stage through satellite mapping, digital records, and regular inspections. Public awareness is also important; people shouldn't knowingly purchase unauthorised buildings. Judicial monitoring may serve as a catalyst for reform, but lasting change will come only when governance institutions function honestly, efficiently, and in accordance with law, ensuring that public safety is never compromised.

India needs a political culture where facts should matter not propaganda



INDIA'S political system is both unique and complicated. Until the early 1990s, Parliament and state legislatures were known for serious debates, policy alternatives and constructive criticism. Over the years, however, political discourse has increasingly shifted from governance to controversy-driven campaigns. Instead of using issues to push for institutional reforms, political parties now use them primarily as electoral weapons.

With Assembly elections due in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab in 2027, this trend has become even more evident. Rather than pursuing facts to their logical conclusion, almost every party appears focused on scoring political points. They raise an issue, embarrass the opponent and move on without ensuring lasting accountability.

The controversy surrounding Satluj, originally titled Punjab 95, has acquired political significance because Punjab goes to polls next year. The film is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khrala, who documented the alleged illegal cremations and extrajudicial killings during Punjab's insurgency in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The censor board did not clear the film as its producers refused to implement 127 cuts the board had suggested and instead it was screened on OTT platforms using the legal loopholes. Now on the directions of the government, it has been taken off from OTT platforms.

Enraged over this, the Shiromani Akali Dal has announced statewide screenings,

arguing that younger generations should know Punjab's history. Critics, however, contend that the film presents only one side of a deeply traumatic period. While it highlights alleged human rights violations by the police, it gives relatively little attention to the brutal violence unleashed by Khalistani militants.

Thousands of civilians, police personnel, public servants and political leaders were killed during the insurgency. Equally significant was the role of Punjab police officers such as K P S Gill, whose counter-insurgency campaign is widely credited with restoring normalcy. A historical narrative that omits either state excesses or terrorist violence cannot claim to present the complete truth.

As expected, every political party has adopted a position shaped more by electoral calculations than historical balance.

The Akali Dal backs the film enthusiastically, seeing an opportunity to challenge the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government if it tries to stop the screening of the film. At the same time, it accuses the Centre of restricting its release. The AAP government has permitted private screenings but criticised attempts to remove the film from OTT platforms.

The Congress, uncomfortable because the events occurred largely during its tenure, has avoided endorsing statewide screenings and instead questioned the political use of the film. The BJP has opposed attempts to turn the film into an election campaign while accusing its rivals of presenting a selective interpretation of history.

Similarly, the alleged theft of donation money at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya offers another example of how India's political class has

ELECTION SEASON; OUTRAGE SEASON



As Uttar Pradesh and Punjab head towards Assembly elections, political parties are weaponising controversies instead of addressing governance. Whether it is "Chanda Chori" or the Satluj debate, accountability has become selective while controversies are amplified and pressing concerns of ordinary citizens are sidelined.

perfected the art of converting every public issue into an election narrative.

The Ram Janmabhoomi temple donation controversy, popularly dubbed "Chanda Chori", is a classic example.

The Samajwadi Party quickly transformed allegations of theft into a political attack on the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), the RSS, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It succeeded because the temple administration failed the first test of crisis management—speed and transparency.

Instead of responding decisively, the VHP initially stood firmly behind Ram Janmabhoomi Trust General Secretary Champat Rai and Trustee Anil Mishra despite mounting allegations. Although reports suggested that both had offered to resign, the organisation delayed accepting their

resignations, citing procedural formalities. The explanation convinced few.

In the digital era, emergency meetings can be convened within hours, if need be, virtually. A trust administering one of the country's most important religious institutions could easily have done the same. Every day's delay strengthened the opposition's allegation that damage control had taken precedence over accountability.

The investigation raised uncomfortable questions. The delay in registering an FIR, the absence of senior trust members among the accused despite prolonged questioning and the slow pace of visible action fuelled public suspicion. The FIR was reportedly filed only after the Special Investigation Team (SIT) submitted its preliminary findings.

The SIT has since arrested eight persons, recovered cash,

jewellery, gold and a vehicle, frozen multiple bank accounts and begun investigating whether stolen money was invested in the stock market. Investigators claim that nearly 70 instances of alleged theft took place within about 40 days. They also identified major violations of standard operating procedures, including inadequate frisking and poor CCTV surveillance.

Eventually, the trust accepted the resignations of Champat Rai and Anil Mishra and appointed a professional Chief Executive Officer. The VHP acknowledged serious lapses and promised institutional reforms. Yet the most important question remains unanswered: how much money has actually disappeared? Opposition estimates range from ₹200 crore to ₹2,000 crore, prompting demands for a CBI investigation under Supreme Court supervision. Politically, the controversy has undoubtedly dented the credibility of organisations associated with the Ram Temple movement. Whether it significantly affects the BJP's electoral prospects in Uttar Pradesh remains uncertain, but the opposition has already secured a powerful campaign issue.

If opposition parties genuinely believed financial irregularities had continued for years, why did they become vocal only as elections approached? Accountability loses much of its credibility when it follows the electoral calendar rather than public interest.

The same selective outrage is likely to surface in another controversy that the BJP is expected to use as a political counterattack.

The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, established after the Supreme Court's 2019 Ayodhya judgment to build the new Babri Masjid along with a hospital, library and com-

munity kitchen, has collected donations for several years. Allegations regarding financial irregularities have surfaced periodically, yet no official investigation or FIR has followed. The BJP is expected to highlight these allegations to blunt the impact of "Chanda Chori". The opposition, meanwhile, is unlikely to demand a court-monitored probe for fear of alienating sections of its political support base. This is not accountability; it is competitive hypocrisy.

One side demands transparency only from institutions associated with its opponents, while the other discovers concern for financial propriety only when politically convenient. Public trust becomes the biggest casualty.

The larger tragedy is that controversies over donations, films and historical narratives are likely to receive far greater attention during election campaigns than unemployment, education, healthcare, inflation, agriculture, investment or job creation. Electoral politics increasingly rewards emotional mobilisation rather than policy debate. India's democracy does not suffer from a shortage of controversies; it suffers from a shortage of consistency. Political parties demand transparency only from their opponents, defend institutions aligned with themselves and rediscover moral outrage whenever elections approach. Until this culture changes, controversies will continue to dominate campaigns while governance recedes into the background.

Ultimately, it is for the voter to judge governments and oppositions alike by the same standards rather than by the volume of their election-time rhetoric.

(The author is former Chief Editor of The Hans India)

LETTERS

Preparing careers for the AI era

THE article "Future of management careers in the era of AI" clearly brings out the objective of preparing students for lifelong learning, adaptability, resilience, and continuous learning in a rapidly changing technological environment. The experiences shared by graduates reveal that success depends not merely on academic qualifications but on the willingness to take on challenges, keep up with technological advancements, and be in pursuit of knowledge and professional excellence. The IT departments of organisations must step up by rolling out AI-driven training programmes, setting up innovation centres, carrying out ethical AI practices, and bringing in technologies that enhance productivity while protecting human dignity. IT firms should come up with flexible career pathways, back up employees through regular reskilling, mentorship, mental wellness initiatives, and transparent performance systems so that professionals can move ahead with confidence instead of fearing automation. Employees should reach out to mentors and industry experts to remain competitive in the evolving job market. Students must make the most of internships, research projects, hackathons, certifications, and networking opportunities, build up strong portfolios, and take part in collaborative learning to excel in the AI-driven IT sector. Both the government and IT firms should join hands to assure job security by expanding digital skill missions, strengthening industry-academia partnerships, providing AI transition support, and opening up new employment opportunities to bolster one's confidence levels.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Govt must support US-based desi techies

APROPOS "Tight job mkt, salary cuts put US-returned desi techies in a spot" (THI July 10). It's no more a Sunday afternoon walk in the park for US-based desi techies, who're forced to return home due to AI-driven job layoffs, unfriendly US visa requirements, and unappetizing emoluments offered even by US-affiliated Global Capability Centers. The onus is on the Indian government to cushion the struggle of these unfortunates, who are mostly youngsters, and have been contributing to the national economy through remittances in their better days. The US-returned techies are ideally appointed without much red-tape, and the deserving offered promotions and salary hikes. Governmental support for startup firms should also ease the pain considerably for US-returned techies, who can contribute through expertise and experience.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Make it easy for techies heading home

THIS is further to "Tight job mkt, salary cuts put US-returned desi techies in a spot". The unpredictability of US immigration policy is the real problem here, more than any single rule change. Professionals plan years around visa timelines, mortgages and children's schooling, only to see the ground shift with a policy update. India cannot control American immigration decisions, but it can reduce the impact by making it easier for skilled professionals to reintegrate quickly, through faster credential recognition and streamlined re-entry into provident fund and tax systems. Reducing friction on return would at least soften the disruption these sudden policy shifts keep causing.

K Palaniyappan Muthukumar, Chennai-53

Displaced techies must eye emerging roles

THIS has reference to "Tight job mkt, salary cuts put US-returned desi techies in a spot". It is worth noting that this churn isn't only about visas; AI-led efficiency drives are genuinely shrinking headcount at major tech firms. Oracle, Cisco and Google's layoffs point to a structural shift, not a temporary slowdown. Indian professionals in the US and back home need to treat AI fluency as a core skill now, not an optional add-on. Companies and industry bodies should expand practical reskilling programmes so displaced techies can move into emerging roles like AI implementation and data governance, rather than competing for a shrinking pool of traditional coding jobs.

M Barathi, Bengaluru-560076

Drug racket through post offices is worrisome

THE recent bust of an inter-state drug network operating through post offices is seriously worrisome. Criminals are misusing public services to transport illegal substances across states. Such activities endanger the youth and threaten public safety. The police deserve appreciation for uncovering the racket. Authorities should strengthen parcel screening and monitoring systems to prevent similar incidents. Public awareness and cooperation are also essential in combating drug trafficking. If drugs travel freely, the future of our youth is held hostage.

Pranathi Krishna, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

Preserving TG's tribal glory, the Adya Kala way

DR MUCHUKOTA SURESH BABU

TELANGANA is home to a rich and diverse tribal heritage that has been preserved for centuries through music, dance, storytelling, handicrafts, and oral traditions. Communities such as Gonds, Koyas, Chenchus, Lambadas, and Thotis have nurtured unique cultural practices that reflect their close relationship with nature and their collective wisdom. However, rapid urbanisation, changing lifestyles, and the influence of modern entertainment have placed many of these traditions at extinction risk.

To preserve this invaluable heritage, eminent folklorist and cultural researcher Prof Jayadhir Thirumala Rao established Adya Kala, a unique museum and cultural initiative dedicated to documenting and showcasing Telangana's tribal and folk traditions. Built on more than four decades of field research, Adya Kala serves as a living archive of indigenous culture and a reminder of the importance of safeguarding cultural diversity.

The museum houses a remarkable collection of tribal and folk artifacts, including rare musical instruments, leather puppets, ancient manuscripts, handicrafts, ritual objects, agricultural tools, and household items. These exhibits offer insights into the everyday lives,

beliefs, and artistic expressions of tribal communities across Telangana. More importantly, they preserve traditions that are gradually fading from public memory.

One of the most significant components of Adya Kala is Adi Dhvani, a special exhibition dedicated to tribal and folk musical instruments. Combining live performances with rare instrument displays, the exhibition celebrates the musical heritage of indigenous communities and highlights the craftsmanship involved in creating these instruments.

Among the rare instruments showcased is the Kinnera, a multi-stringed folk veena traditionally made from bamboo and dried gourds. For generations, it was used by wandering bards to narrate community histories and folklore. The exhibition also features Thudum, a percussion instrument central to the musical traditions of the Gond and Koya tribes, and the Runja, an indigenous instrument associated with storytelling performances. Another important exhibit is the Kikri, a violin-like string instrument played by the Thoti community during rituals and devotional events.

These instruments are more than musical tools; they represent centuries of indigenous knowledge, artistic skill, and cultural identity. Crafted from



The significance of Adya Kala has been recognized nationally. Artifacts from its collection have been displayed at prestigious venues, including the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad and Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. "Janjatiya Darpan", a gallery developed by IGNCA, celebrates the shared cultural traditions of India's tribal communities. The inclusion of artifacts from Adya Kala highlights the national importance of Telangana's indigenous heritage. Adya Kala is not merely a museum; it is a cultural movement dedicated to preserving the voices, memories, and artistic traditions of tribal communities.

natural materials such as bamboo, gourds, wood, and animal hide, they reflect the deep ecological understanding of tribal artisans.

Telangana's tribal heritage extends beyond music. Traditional performances such as the Gussadi dance of the Raj Gonds, the Jamba Puranam accompanied by Kinnera, and Dakkali Kathas preserve history, mythology, and social

memory through oral storytelling. These art forms have long served as vehicles for transmitting knowledge and strengthening community bonds.

Despite their cultural significance, many of these traditions are in decline. Younger generations often seek alternative livelihoods because traditional arts no longer provide sustainable income. The availability of natural materials required for

instrument-making has also diminished due to environmental changes and urban expansion. In addition, television, cinema, and digital media have gradually replaced many traditional forms of entertainment, reducing opportunities for folk artists and storytellers.

Against this backdrop, Prof Thirumala Rao's work assumes immense significance. Over the past 45 years, he has travelled extensively through remote villages and tribal settlements, documenting oral traditions, collecting rare artifacts, and preserving endangered musical instruments. His efforts have ensured that invaluable aspects of Telangana's cultural heritage are not lost forever.

The significance of Adya Kala has been recognized nationally. Artifacts from its collection have been displayed at prestigious venues, including the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad and Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. A notable moment came when President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the "Janjatiya Darpan" Gallery at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Developed by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), the gallery celebrates the shared cultural traditions of India's tribal communities. The inclusion of artifacts from Adya Kala in this prestigious space highlights the national importance of Telangana's indigenous heritage.

Adya Kala is not merely a museum; it is a cultural movement dedicated to preserving the voices, memories, and artistic traditions of tribal communities. Through exhibitions, live performances, documentation, and public outreach, it creates awareness about the need to protect endangered cultural practices and inspires younger generations to appreciate their heritage.

Traditional musical instruments and folk-art forms are more than museum objects. They embody the history, spirituality, creativity, and collective memory of communities that have contributed significantly to India's cultural landscape. Every melody played on a Kinnera, and every rhythm produced by a Thudum carries stories that connect the present with the past.

As Telangana continues to modernize, initiatives such as Adya Kala and Adi Dhvani remind us that development and cultural preservation must go hand in hand. Protecting tribal heritage is not only about conserving artifacts; it is about safeguarding identities, knowledge systems, languages, and artistic traditions that form an integral part of India's cultural legacy. Through the vision and dedication of Prof Jayadhir Thirumala Rao, these priceless traditions continue to inspire and educate future generations.

Collector calls for expansion of micro food processing units to boost rural economy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

CALLING for greater participation in rural entrepreneurship, district Collector G Raja Kumari said Nandyal district possesses enormous potential for the growth of micro food processing industries and MSMEs. Inaugurating SS Dairy Milk and Curd Processing Unit at Vishwa Nagar under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme on Friday, she encouraged unemployed youth and women to establish value-added food processing units by making effective use of government assistance and locally avail-



Collector G Raja Kumari inaugurating SS Dairy Milk and Curd Processing Unit in Nandyal on Friday

able resources.

The Collector said PMFME scheme offers financial support through government subsidies and credit-linked bank loans,

making it easier for entrepreneurs to establish small-scale food processing industries. The newly inaugurated dairy unit was set up with an investment

of Rs 18.14 lakh, including a government subsidy of Rs 6.35 lakh, bank financing and promoter's own contribution. Highlighting the economic benefits of such ventures, Raja Kumari said micro food processing units can create employment for five to ten people while generating sustainable income for rural families. Efficiently managed enterprises could earn monthly revenues of Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, contributing significantly to local economic development. She said that against the district's target of establishing 56 PMFME units, loans had already been sanctioned for 26 units, and directed officials and bankers to expedite the remaining projects

within the next few months.

Emphasising the district administration's vision of 'One Family - One Entrepreneur', the Collector urged officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments to identify eligible beneficiaries and promote more micro enterprises based on local resources. She also called upon banks to ensure timely loan approvals, adding that the district plans to encourage entrepreneurship in millet processing, honey processing, floriculture-based value-added products, and dry and fresh fruit processing to accelerate rural industrialisation and enhance economic growth.

RTI COMMISSIONER ISSUES SHOW-CAUSE NOTICES TO 16 OFFICIALS



State Information Commissioner G Adenna inspecting records at Two Town police station in Anantapur on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

STATE Information Commissioner G Adenna conducted surprise inspections across government offices in Anantapur district on Friday and issued show-cause notices to 16 Public Information Officers (PIOs) and other officials for alleged lapses in implementing Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

The inspections covered Jesus Nagar Secretariat, Anantapur Municipal Corporation, District Court, Two Town Police Station, a government school on Court Road, and government offices in Bukkarayasamudram, Narpala, Atmakur and Kalyandurg. During the visits, the Commissioner reviewed receipt and disposal of RTI applications and examined pending cases.

Addressing officials,

Adenna stressed that the effective implementation of RTI Act is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in public administration. He directed Public Information Officers, First Appellate Authorities and Assistant Public Information Officers to strictly comply with the provisions of the Act and ensure timely disposal of applications.

The Commissioner said several deficiencies were identified, including the absence of mandatory Citizen Charters and display boards carrying the names and contact details of Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities.

Officials found to have failed in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities were issued show-cause notices under Section 19(8)(a) of the Act.

The officials have been directed to submit their explanations within 15 days.

Adenna warned that failure to provide satisfactory explanations within the stipulated period could result in further action based on available records, without issuing additional notices.

Surprise inspections were also conducted at Tahsildar and Panchayat offices in Bukkarayasamudram, Tahsildar and Mandal Educational Officer offices in Narpala, Tahsildar and MPDO offices in Atmakur, and Revenue Divisional Officer's office in Kalyandurg.

During his visit to the government school on Court Road, the Commissioner inspected implementation of mid-day meal scheme and interacted with students. He also reviewed availability of drinking water and directed municipal authorities to complete pending pipeline repair works immediately to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the school.

PVKK IT Diploma College welcomes new batch with 'Orientation-2026'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

PVKK IT Diploma College, Rudrampeta, successfully conducted its 'Orientation-2026' programme for newly admitted diploma students and parents. The event witnessed an overwhelming response with around 800 participants.

Dr Palle Venkata Krishna Kishore, Chairman of Balaji Educational Institutions, urged students to combine technical skills with discipline, communication, and personality development to secure top positions in government, private, and IT sectors.

He praised the college for providing quality techni-



cal education and building strong foundations for students' futures.

Principal Dr GNS Vaibhav highlighted diploma courses, higher education options, campus place-

ments, industry training, and advanced laboratories. The complete filling of all 420 seats this year reflects the strong trust placed by students and parents in the institution, he stated.

BEST Innovation University hosts CFTeAI 2026

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

BEST Innovation University successfully organised 'Co-Creating the Future of Tech with Academia and Industry (CFTeAI) 2026' conference at JW Marriott, Bengaluru. The event brought together policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, venture capitalists and representatives from 24 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) to explore the future of technology, innovation, and talent development.

Chancellor Dr Rupa Vasudevan outlined University's vision through its Centre for Future Technologies (CFT) and School of Global Leadership (SOG), focusing on

building globally competitive talent. Dr Ekta Kapoor highlighted the progress of NM-ICPS mission, while Dr Ashutosh Sharma and Dr Akhilesh Gupta emphasised multidisciplinary research, collaboration and DST initiatives for technology commercialization. Industry leader Subhrajit Dey stressed practical academia-industry partnerships. Engaging panel discussions and networking with 12 venture capitalists fostered meaningful exchanges. In closing, Chairman Bharat Lal Meena and Vice-Chancellor Dr K Nagajyothi reaffirmed the need for sustained collaboration to drive India's innovation ecosystem and prepare future technology leaders.



Market Yard Chairperson Balla Pallavi visiting a stall at AP State Kala Mahotsavam-2026 exhibition in Anantapur on Friday

Lepakshi handicrafts expo begins in Anantapur

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

ANANTAPUR Market Yard Chairperson Balla Pallavi on Friday called upon the public to support handloom weavers and handicraft artisans, after inaugurating Andhra Pradesh State Kala Mahotsavam-2026 exhibition organised by AP Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (Lepakshi) at GR Garden here.

She said the exhibition showcases State's rich cultural heritage and traditional craftsmanship through a wide range of handcrafted products and provides artisans with a valuable platform to display and market their creations directly to the public.

Pallavi said the government has been taking measures to promote handloom and handicrafts sectors, including providing 200 units of free electricity to handloom weavers and 500 units to powerloom families.

The exhibition features a variety of traditional handicrafts, including Kondapalli toys, leather puppets, Lepakshi handicrafts and other artisan-made products from different parts of the state. Pallavi visited all 17 stalls set up by artisans and interacted with exhibitors, appreciating their craftsmanship.

Lepakshi Deputy Manager Thimmaiah, along with Suresh, Amarnath, Nagarjuna, Suhasini, Purnima and several handicraft artisans, participated in the inaugural programme.

MLA inaugurates food court in Puttaparthi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

PUTTAPARTHI MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, along with District Collector Shyam Prasad, SP Sathish Kumar, Joint Collector Mantri Mourya Bharadwaj, and former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy, inaugurated a new Rs 20 lakh CSR-funded Food Court on Chitravathi Road here on Friday. Built with support from Sai Pradeep Builders, the facility aims to provide quality dining and recreation for devotees, tourists, and locals.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that the food court was established to provide better dining facilities for devotees,



MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy along with Collector Shyam Prasad, SP Sathish Kumar and former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy inaugurating Food Court in Puttaparthi on Friday

tourists, and local residents visiting Puttaparthi. She noted that the venue offers a pleasant atmosphere for devotees from across the country and abroad

to enjoy quality food and tea, alongside recreational opportunities. She emphasised the coalition government's focus on developing essential public infrastruc-

ture. The Collector and SP appreciated the beautification efforts, which also include a children's park.

Former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy thanked those involved in the beautification of Chitravathi area, which included construction of a check dam, children's park and the food court and urged public to utilise them.

Later, the dignitaries performed bhoomi puja for a new Rythu Bazar, which will enable farmers to sell produce directly to consumers at fair prices.

The MLA also conducted a surprise inspection of Anna Canteen, directing staff to maintain high standards of hygiene and food quality.

PhD for research on Hindi writings



Pamishetti Rajeshwari Devi

SRI Venkateswara University, Tirupati, has been awarded Ph D in Hindi to Pamishetti Rajeshwari Devi, who works as a Hindi junior lecturer at Government Junior College (Old Town) in Anantapur. She received the doctorate for her research on 'Familial Dysfunctions in Stories Written by Female Hindi Authors in the 21st Century'. She expressed special gratitude to her research supervisor Prof Narayana, Head of the Department of Hindi and a member of Board of Studies, and to Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

JSP accuses YSRCP of inciting religious tensions



AHUDA Chairman TC Varun

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

TC Varun, AHUDA Chairman and Jana Sena Party president for combined Anantapur district, alleged that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and YSRCP are conspiring to incite religious clashes in the State to regain political relevance amid the alliance government's good governance.

Criticising 'Dalit Christian Shankharavam' meeting in Eluru, Varun claimed the event ignored welfare issues

of Dalits and Christians and focused solely on attacking Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan with objectionable language. He described it as a targeted campaign against the Jana Sena chief, who champions national unity and Sanatana Dharma. He warned YSRCP of serious consequences if they continued disrupting law and order or making baseless allegations. He also demanded transparency on alleged financial links involving Tadepalli Palace and certain individuals, including actor Prakash Raj.

'Youth population holds key to nation's progress'

Dr Chitti Narasamma calls for sustaining fertility rate



Participants at a debate competition organised at Kurnool Medical College on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE Department of Community Medicine at Kurnool Medical College on Friday conducted a debate competition on the theme 'Role of youth population and fertility rate in national development' as part of World Population Day celebrations. The event, held at New Lecture Gallery, engaged third-year Part-I MBBS students on the critical link between youth empowerment and sustainable national growth.

Addressing the gathering, Kurnool Medical College Principal Dr K Chitti Narasamma described India's youth as a valuable national asset. She emphasised that skilled, knowledgeable, and healthy young people can drive economic and social progress, while a balanced fertility rate is essential for sustainable development.

Students actively participated in the debate, discussing youth contributions to economic growth, healthcare, technology, skill development, health awareness, and the importance of

appropriate marriage age for population balance.

Vice-Principal and Head of Community Medicine Dr Sindhya Shubhprada highlighted the importance of such programmes in fostering social responsibility among youth. Programme Nodal Officer Dr Pushpalatha and senior resident Dr Bryan coordinated the event. Students also displayed informative posters and conducted an awareness rally promoting healthy families, youth empowerment, and balanced population growth.

SP extends financial assistance to kin of deceased police personnel

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADAPA

DISTRICT SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath on Friday handed over financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh each to the families of two police personnel, who recently passed away due to illness while serving the department.

The SP presented the cheques to Priscilla, wife of late ASI S Ratna Raju and Bala Ganganna, father of late Constable Bala Vasu. The financial assistance was provided from

Police Welfare Fund. The beneficiaries included family of late Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) S Ratna Raju, who was serving at Kadapa Police Control Room, and family of late Police Constable Bala Vasu, who was posted at Kalamalla police station.

Interacting with the bereaved families, Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath expressed his profound condolences and enquired about their welfare. He emphasised that the welfare of police personnel and their families remains

one of the department's high-priority tasks and assured the family members that police department would continue to stand beside them during difficult times and extend every possible support and assistance available under the welfare schemes.

Police Officers' Association district president Doolam Suresh, State Vice-President Uppu Shankar, DPO Superintendent P Suresh, Clerk D Ramesh and other police personnel were present.



MONSOON SKINCARE TIPS FOR BABIES



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

HAVE you noticed that your baby's skin folds are reddish? If you have, there is no need to panic. The monsoon season is an aggravating time for several reasons; the air is moist, and there is more humidity than usual. Your baby's skin is delicate and needs more care than an adult's. That is why rashes, prickly heat, redness in the skin folds, and dryness are common in the rainy season. Since their bodies are not fully grown, their immunity is low, which makes them more vulnerable to infections. The best way to care for your baby's skin is by using a good skincare regime and products that offer protection and nourishment. Let us look at how you can take care of your baby's skin during the

rainy season with the best baby cream and skincare products.

Tips to take care of your baby's skin during rainy season

How to bathe your new born

Bathing a new born can be challenging, especially in the initial days. However, it becomes easy with time. You must never over-bathe your baby. Bathing too often can deplete the natural oils from the skin, leaving it dry. A normal adult's skin is thick and can withstand frequent hot baths. However, the newborn's skin is thin and delicate and, therefore, needs extra care.

Bathing schedule:

- Newborn (up to 2 months): 2-3 times a week
- Older babies: Once a day (if sweaty)

Using a regular soap can also damage the natural oils in the skin. Therefore, it is best to use a mild and unscented body wash instead. Furthermore, you should not allow a bath to last longer than ten minutes. It is not necessary to give your baby a bath every day. In fact, a

night-time bath just before sleeping can be more helpful. You should also wait for an hour before giving a bath to a baby after feeding to avoid discomfort such as vomiting. Lukewarm water is best, and you should never use extremely hot or cold water for your baby. A non-slippery mat will also help avoid slips. A regular bath schedule can also promote better sleep in your baby.

What to wear for your baby

Your baby's clothes must be made of breathable cotton fabric. Avoid using tight clothes as much as possible. Furthermore, you must never dress your baby in too many clothes because that will make them more sweaty. Sweaty skin can become irritated and lead to rashes.

In addition:

- Change your baby's clothes if they get sweaty, especially during rainy days.
- Avoid using synthetic fiber as much as possible.
- Make sure the clothing is dry before putting it on your baby.
- Wash the clothes in sunlight as much as possible.

It is best to use cotton

clothes during the rainy season because it is softer and gentler on the skin. Always avoid keeping your baby in wet clothes or dirty diapers for a long time. Make sure you change the baby's diaper regularly to avoid rashes. Using more absorbent diapers can also help reduce irritation. It is best to carry an extra set of clothes when you are outside.

What to look for in baby creams and skincare products

Make sure to buy skincare products that are free from harmful chemicals, fragrance, and other harmful additives. Always check what goes into the product before buying it. Some of the best ingredients for baby skincare products include aloe vera, shea butter, coconut oil, almond oil, cocoa butter, and milk cream. These ingredients can help nourish the delicate skin of your baby. It is best to use doctor-recommended creams and lotions that are safe for the skin. Always make sure to purchase the best baby care products.

Organic or gentle baby



skincare products

A newborn's skin is still growing, and it is important to nourish and moisturize it until they reach the age of three. Most parents prefer organic or herbal products because they do not cause irritation to the delicate skin. When purchasing products for your baby, make sure to purchase items that are dermatologist-approved.

Look for baby skincare products that are dermatologist-tested and free from harmful chemicals and suitable for sensitive skin. It is important to choose the best

skincare products to avoid irritation and rashes on the baby's delicate skin.

Protection from sun rays

Even during the monsoon season, it is important to ensure that your baby is protected from the sun's harmful UV rays. It is best to keep your baby indoors between 10 am and 4 pm. This is the time when the sun's rays are the strongest.

If you have to take your baby out, it is best to do so in the early morning or late evening. When outside, make sure your baby is dressed in

light-colored clothes that cover most of their body. You can also use a wide-brimmed hat to protect their face, ears, and neck from the sun's radiation. Using a stroller with a canopy or even an umbrella can also help keep your baby protected.

Most sunscreens are not safe for use in children below six months. You can, however, use them for older children after talking to your pediatrician. It is best to avoid using insect repellent in children below two months.

Taking care of your baby's skin during the rainy season

is paramount. You should always use gentle and safe products and use proper skincare regimes to ensure their skin is well-maintained. Making sure their clothes are clean, dry, and made of cotton is also important. You should also try to avoid exposing your baby to the sun as much as possible. The tips discussed above will go a long way in helping you take care of your baby's skin during the rainy season.

(The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Adrija Roy speaks on acceptance of women-centric roles on small screen



Anupamaa actress Adrija Roy opens up on female characters are being given more dimension these days. Speaking on it, the actress said: "I think things have changed for the better. Women are getting more layered and meaningful roles now. There is still scope for improvement, but the audience is accepting women-centric shows, which is a good sign for the TV industry."

While talking about being typecast as a certain character if one delivers a successful performance, she said: "If a character becomes successful, people start thinking that you are only suitable for that role because you have aced it. I can't fault them for that. As an actor, I would want to surprise people by taking up diverse roles. I wouldn't want to get stuck doing the same kind of roles because every character has something unique to offer. It should surprise you as well as the audience."

"When you have a choice, of course, every actor wants to pick and choose the role that they want to play in their career. But

sometimes, a good production house offers you a project that is not exactly what you were looking for. In such a situation, I feel it is important to take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

Assess the team and the project because there isn't a right or wrong answer when it comes to taking up a role or not. It all depends on the actor's decision and what he/she feels is right for them at that point of time."

Adrija Roy also said that she walked away from a few projects as well because she wasn't comfortable with the character she was being offered.

"I have turned down a few projects because I didn't connect with the characters they wanted me to play. If I don't connect with the character, it will be hard for me to deliver a good performance. It is important for me to do something I connect to on screen," she added.

At present, Anupamaa actress Adrija Roy is playing the role of Rahi Kapadia, a sister to lead actress Rupali Ganguly's character, in the daily soap.

Aishwarya Sakhuja takes to social media to create awareness about diabetes

Actress Aishwarya Sakhuja taken to social media to spread awareness about type 1 diabetes and to create understanding about the day to day life of people struggling with it. She shares a post on Instagram telling on what it's like to have it.

On the post, the actress speaks about the feeling one undergoes when they are facing hypoglycemia.

The television star asks people around a diabetic to be conscious of hypoglycemia and not confuse it with drunkenness.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has launched out a video addressing the wrong notions and myths of diabetes. The actress clarifies that in case of hypoglycemia she asks people around to not give insulin to her but to give her sugar, glucose tablets, candy, or eat carbs with her. The actress also dispels several myths about diabetes.

Aishwarya says that diabetes is an autoimmune disease, and it is not a lifestyle disease, as most people believe.

She explains that it is tough to have that disease as people living with the disease have to carry insulin, glucose, tablets, meters, sensors, and healthy snacks with them because everything in their lives revolves around diabetes.

Moreover, even their vacations, workouts, parties, and food are planned around the disease.

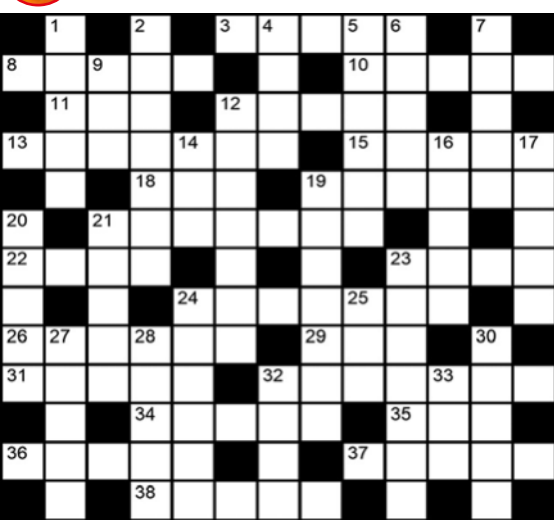
The actress also narrates that she was diagnosed with it in 2018 after undergoing harsh medication, which in turn got side-effects and affected her pancreas. At the time, she had no idea what the disease was or why she was getting it. She adds that it was hard to admit the fact that she would never be able to live a normal life like other people. However,

the actress says it took her a while before she adjusted to the 'new normal' brought about by the illness but emphasizes that being on medication changed her life for the better. In the video, Aishwarya adds that life with diabetes requires weighing every carb and working out to balance it. She encourages people living with the disease not to give up on their dreams just because they have the condition. According to Sakhuja, people living with Type 1 diabetes should be able to do whatever they want as long as they are willing to put in the effort required.

Aishwarya's recent note about Type 1 diabetes, which has been going viral on social media, has created a massive sensation.



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Tiffs (5)
- "Ivanhoe" author (5)
- Raise (5)
- ___ bad way: Ill (2,1)
- A poison (5)
- ___ from : nowhere close to in quality, etc. (1,3,3)
- Goes up (5)
- Three as a prefix (3)
- Accompany (6)
- A formation flight at low altitude over spectators ? (3,4)
- Scottish hillside (4)
- Wooden barrels (4)
- Larger or bigger (7)
- Stallone role Rocky ___ (6)
- Place (3)
- Sour - "brace" anagram ? (5)
- Myths and ___ : folklore ? (7)
- Does as told (5)
- Scrap of cloth (3)
- Electrical conductor (5)
- Recorded (5)
- Postpone (5)

DOWN

- Clarke or Asimov's literary genre? (5)
- Surprise (7)
- Stratagem (4)
- Yeaming - not necessarily for water ? (6)
- To do with sound (5)
- Theatre attendant (5)
- ___ roll: having a long spell of success (2,1)
- North Eastern state of India (7)
- Shed tears (3)
- Of the sun (5)
- Hide or store for safekeeping (5)
- Runs away (7)
- Ethiopian capital Addis ___ (5)
- Legend (5)
- Old hand (7)
- Eat very quickly (6)
- To pull hard (3)
- Land measures (5)
- Not narrow (5)
- Borders (5)
- An old harp-like instrument (4)
- A short sleep (3)



Solution to July 10

SUDOKU



Solution to July 10



Writing gave me a voice: Teen author on turning challenges into conquests

Author, youth advocate and India Book of Records achiever Debadrita Sarkar reflects on her journey from childhood struggles to becoming a published writer using literature to address issues that matter to young people.

Hans INTERVIEW

ARTI ADKE

At just 17, Debadrita Sarkar has emerged as a young author and social advocate, using the power of words to raise awareness about issues ranging from mental health and environmental conservation to disability inclusion, girl child rights and Indian heritage. An India Book of Records achiever, she has authored and co-authored nine ISBN-registered books and seen her work published in nearly 20 periodicals across six countries. Her journey, however, has not been without challenges. From facing bullying and self-doubt in childhood to finding confidence through writing, Debadrita has transformed personal struggles into a platform for advocacy and inspiration.

As she prepares her profile for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026, she speaks to The Hans India about overcoming setbacks, writing with purpose, the achievement she values most, and why she believes age should never be a barrier to creating meaningful change.

Q. Your journey began with bullying and self-doubt. What helped you transform those experiences into motivation to become an author and advocate?

As a child, I was often ridiculed and called "fool" or "stupid." My mother would encourage me by calling me "Fool Kalidasa," reminding me of the legendary scholar who overcame adversity through learning.



Debadrita Sarkar

That thought stayed with me.

I began writing in Bengali during the COVID-19 lockdown after being inspired by nature. Initially, very few people believed in my writing, but my grandfather encouraged me to continue.

Later, I started writing in English, even while dealing

with anxiety, academic pressure and self-doubt. Writing became my way of expressing emotions and finding peace.

When my article Marks Mania was published in The Hindu, followed by my story in The Statesman, I realised my voice could reach people and create an impact.

Q. Among all your achievements, which one means the most to you and why?

My India Book of Records recognition is the achievement I value the most. While writing books is itself challenging, this recognition was unique because it acknowledged

my publications in nearly 20 periodicals across six countries within a single year.

For me, it represents the acceptance of my work by editors around the world. It showed that meaningful writing can connect with readers beyond borders and encouraged me to continue writing with greater confidence.

Q. Many of your books focus on environmental conservation, mental health, disability inclusion and girl child rights. What inspired you to write about these issues?

Most of my books are inspired by real-life experiences and issues that matter to me.

My own struggles with mental health encouraged me to write poetry that helps young people understand and express their emotions.

My love for nature inspired books on environmental conservation, while the achievements of para-

archer Sheetal Devi motivated me to write about disability inclusion. As a girl, I also felt strongly about education and equal opportunities for girls. Through my stories, I want to highlight the challenges many girls continue to face and encourage society to support their dreams.

I have also written about Indian history and culture because I believe many inspiring stories deserve wider recognition among young readers.

Q. What impact do you hope your books, blogs, magazine and campaigns will create?

I hope they inspire young people to believe in themselves and contribute positively to society. Whether it is protecting the environment, supporting mental well-being, preserving our culture or standing up for equality, every young person can make a difference.

If my work motivates even a few students to pursue their passion or start an initiative for social

good, I will consider it a success.

Q. As a candidate for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026, what message would you like to share with students across India?

Things are never easy, and everyone faces setbacks. I have faced rejection, self-doubt and criticism, but I never stopped writing. You don't need the best resources to begin. I wrote my books without a computer or laptop, using only my phone. More important than resources are consistency, patience and the willingness to keep learning. Most importantly, don't compare yourself with others. Everyone grows at their own pace. Age should never stop you from chasing your dreams. You don't have to wait until adulthood to write a book, launch a project or create positive change. Believe in yourself, keep improving every day, and your efforts will eventually make a difference.

UoH faculty and research scholar awarded prestigious royal society international exchange fellowship

HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad (UoH), an Institution of Eminence (IoE), has strengthened its global research profile with Dr. Pratap Kollu, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Electronics Science and Technology (CASEST), School of Physics, receiving the prestigious Visiting Fellowship from the Royal Society, UK.

The fellowship recognises promising researchers and promotes international scientific collaboration by enabling scholars to work with leading global institutions. As part of the programme, Dr. Kollu, accompanied by his PhD research scholar Prajakta Dange, completed a 10-day academic exchange visit to the University of Glasgow, where he also served as an



(From L to right): Prof. Duncan H. Gregory, University of Glasgow with Prajakta Dange and Dr. Pratap Kollu, University of Hyderabad

Honorary Faculty Member.

During the visit, the University of Hyderabad team collaborated with Prof. Duncan H. Gregory, Chair in Inorganic Materials at the School of Chemistry, University of Glasgow. The researchers engaged in discussions and explored collaborative opportunities in several emerg-

ing areas of science and technology, including advanced functional materials, smart instrumentation systems, and next-generation energy storage technologies.

These research areas are considered critical for addressing future challenges in sustainable energy, advanced manufacturing and

high-performance materials. The exchange provided both institutions with an opportunity to share expertise, discuss ongoing research and identify areas for future collaboration.

The fellowship is supported by the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation, established by noted scientist and philanthropist Dr. Yusuf Hamied, Chairman of Cipla. The foundation supports international research partnerships aimed at advancing scientific solutions in areas such as clean energy, healthcare and advanced materials by fostering collaboration between researchers in India and the United Kingdom.

According to the university, the visit has laid the groundwork for long-term academic cooperation between UoH and the University of Glasgow. Both institutions are expected to explore

joint research proposals, collaborative publications, faculty interactions and bilateral exchange programmes for students and researchers.

University officials said such collaborations provide valuable exposure to cutting-edge scientific research and help strengthen interdisciplinary learning while creating opportunities for young researchers to engage with global experts.

The fellowship also reflects the increasing participation of Indian universities in international research initiatives. By building partnerships with globally recognised institutions, UoH continues to expand its research network and contribute to scientific advancements with potential applications in energy, materials science and other technology-driven sectors.

Students to showcase mental math skills at regional prodigy championship 2026



HYDERABAD

More than 3,200 students aged between 4 and 14 years from across Telangana will participate in the 22nd Telangana Regional Prodigy Championship 2026 on July 12 at Classic Convention Three, Shamshabad, highlighting the role of mental arithmetic and cognitive skills in children's learning.

Will be organising by SIP Abacus, the annual championship will feature competitions in mental arithmetic, memory, concentration, visualization, speed and accuracy. Participants will solve mathematical problems mentally without using calculators, paper or electronic devices.

One of the key attractions of the event will be the Concentration Round, where students will attempt mental arithmetic problems

while loud music plays in the background.

The activity is designed to assess children's ability to remain focused and accurate despite distractions, a skill considered increasingly important in today's technology-driven environment.

The competition will bring together children from different age groups, including participants as young as five years old, who will demonstrate mental calculation techniques developed through structured abacus and mental math training.

According to the organisers, the championship aims to encourage children to view mathematics as an engaging and enjoyable subject while helping them develop cognitive abilities such as attention, memory, logical thinking and problem-solving.

The event will be attended by GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, V.P. Gautham, Special Secretary to the Government of Telangana in the Housing Department, and Pannuru Prabhakar, Principal of ARCA Global International School.

The Regional Prodigy Championship is SIP Abacus' flagship annual event and is expected to attract students, parents, educators and child development experts from across the state.

With increasing emphasis on skills such as critical thinking, concentration and analytical ability in the age of artificial intelligence, the championship seeks to provide young learners with an opportunity to demonstrate how mental math training can contribute to overall cognitive development beyond classroom learning.

How small acts of kindness can renew hope

In today's fast-paced world, loneliness often goes unnoticed. While students are busy balancing academics, extracurricular activities and social media, many people around them—including classmates, neighbours, grandparents or relatives—may be silently struggling with isolation. Taking a few moments to reach out can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Cheering up someone who feels lonely does not require grand gestures. A simple phone call, a thoughtful text message, a short visit or even asking, "How are you doing?" can brighten another person's day. These small acts of kindness remind people that they



are valued, heard and remembered. For students, practising empathy is as important as academic success. Reaching out to someone who may

be feeling left out helps develop emotional intelligence, communication skills and compassion—qualities that contribute to personal growth

and stronger communities.

Students can write letters to senior citizens, spend time with elderly neighbours, check in on friends who seem

withdrawn or volunteer with local organisations supporting vulnerable groups.

Research has consistently shown that social connections improve emotional well-being and reduce feelings of stress and anxiety. Equally important, those who offer support often experience greater happiness and a stronger sense of purpose themselves. Kindness is contagious. One thoughtful action can inspire others to do the same, creating a ripple effect of positivity throughout schools and neighbourhoods. In an increasingly digital world, genuine human connection remains one of the most valuable gifts we can offer.

"Again, it was a disappointing one. Definitely, 158 wasn't the perfect total on the board. And eventually we saw how quickly they chased down (4th T20I against England). So I think we fell a bit short in terms of our execution. And, yeah, we saw that when we were changing the pace, when we were trying something else, they scored off those loose balls," - Shreyas Iyer



FIFA World Quarterfinals

French jinx haunts Morocco

Atlas Lions knocked out of WC for second time in row

FOXBOROUGH (US) FRANCE did it to Morocco again at the World Cup. For the second straight tournament, Morocco was ousted by the French 2-0 — this time in the quarterfinals at Gillette Stadium, four years after losing by the same score in the semifinals. With this win France marched into third successive Fifa World Cup last 4. With very few attacking chances on Thursday, Morocco landed only one shot on goal, and that came in the 82nd minute while already trailing by two goals. It was the same ending as in Qatar, when the Atlas Lions be-

came the first African team to reach the semifinals at a World Cup. "The future will be bright if we continue like this, but that doesn't mean we didn't want to win today. Of course, we wanted to win today," Morocco coach Mohamed Ouahbi said through a translator. "We did everything we could to win, but we faced a very difficult opponent. It's a disappointment, of course, but we'll keep working for the future." The Atlas Lions' best chance came when midfielder Azzedine Ounahi had a shot from the edge of the box but goalkeeper Mike Maignan made a diving stop, knocking the ball away and, essentially, ending the hopes of Morocco. "They had no real forwards using their

speed in the wide areas," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "We were possessing the ball, they had no way to be dangerous to us." It wasn't like Morocco didn't make a hard push at this year's World Cup. They recruited talented 18-year-old Ayyoub Bouaddi, who could have been playing with France's youth teams. He was born in Senlis, an hour north of Paris, and after representing France in every age group possible, he switched allegiance. "We know we represent more than just one country," Ouahbi said. "We represent the Moroccan people, and many countries across Asia and Africa. Many people see themselves in this team, and we'll keep working to win titles in the future." Morocco's best opportunity in the opening half came just before the halftime whistle when Achraf Hakimi sent a free kick from just outside the box past the right post. (AP)

- All-time WC top scorers**
- Lionel Messi (Argentina), 21
 - Kylian Mbappé (France), 20
 - Miroslav Klose (Germany), 16
 - Ronaldo (Brazil), 15
 - Harry Kane (England), 14
 - Gerd Müller (Germany), 14
 - Just Fontaine (France), 13
 - Pelé (Brazil), 12
 - Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), 11
 - Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany), 11



Morocco's Achraf Hakimi is being consoled by France's Desire Doue after the former lost their World Cup quarterfinal match.

Mbappe rewrites World Cup history

27-yr-old becomes youngest to 20 matches, fastest to 20 goals

FOXBOROUGH FRANCE talisman Kylian Mbappe has carved his name deeper into football history, becoming the youngest player to feature in 20 FIFA World Cup matches and the fastest to reach the milestone of 20 World Cup appearances with 30, Mbappe has become France's first-most capped player in the competition with 20 appearances. He is level with Hugo Lloris and ahead of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Raphael Varane.

With his eighth goal of the ongoing 2026 tournament, Mbappe has now taken his overall World Cup tally to 20 goals in just 20 appearances across three editions (2018, 2022, and 2026), just one goal shy of equalling Messi (21) for the most goals scored in the history of the competition. France's all-time leading goalscorer Kylian Mbappe has cemented his place among the greatest players in FIFA World Cup history across his appearances at three editions of the tournament. He features prominently in numerous all-time rankings and boasts an impressive collection of individual records. After France's 3-0 victory

over Sweden at World Cup 2026, the 27-year-old Frenchman became the French player with the most wins in the tournament's history (15). His 16th triumph, against Paraguay, saw him draw level with Brazil's Cafu on the all-time list. Against Morocco in the quarter-final, he levelled with Miroslav Klose with 17 wins. Only Lionel Messi (20 wins) remains ahead of him. With eight knockout-stage goals to his name before the 2026 tournament, Mbappe was level with Brazil's Leoniadas and Ronaldo. His brace against Sweden in France's 3-0 win in New Jersey took him clear at the top of the all-time ranking, before he extended the record to 11 goals with another against Paraguay and to 12 against Morocco.

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Khammam end Hyderabad's run, storm into final

HYDERABAD ANVITA Khammam Aces booked their place in the final of the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 with a thrilling 10-run victory over Hyderabad E-Champions in Qualifier 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday. Powered by Mickil Jaiswal's unbeaten 76 and a disciplined bowling effort led by Sahendra Mallu (3/31) as well as Harshith Sai's disciplined final over, the Aces successfully defended 200 to hand Hyderabad E-Champions their first defeat of the tournament, ending

the league leaders' unbeaten run. While Anvita Khammam Aces advance directly to the final to be held on Sunday, Hyderabad E-Champions will have another opportunity to qualify when they face E IPL & evele Karimnagar Diamonds in Qualifier 2 on Friday, July 10, after the Diamonds defeated Ranga Reddy Risers by 75 runs in Thursday's Eliminator. The unbeaten Mickil Jaiswal finished on 76 off 34, anchoring the innings with seven sixes and four boundaries, as the late assault helped the Aces pile on 113 runs in the final 10

overs to finish with a formidable 200/6. For E-Champions Vaishnav fought till the very end, striking a six off Sahendra Mallu before adding a boundary in the final over off Harshith Sai. Akhil Rathod remained unbeaten on 8 off 4 and chipped in with a six in the closing stages. But E-Champions could only reach 190/8, falling 10 runs short despite Vaishnav's unbeaten effort. Brief scores: Anvita Khammam Aces 200/6 in 20 overs (Mickil Jaiswal 76*, G Sai Krishna Reddy 40, Paras Raj 32, Akhil Rathod 2/33, Pranav Varma 1/32) beat Hyderabad E-Champions 190/8 in 20 overs (Sai Vikas Reddy 69, Ganesh Gadugu 27, Pranav Varma 26, Ved Reddy 2/33, Sahendra Mallu 3/31) by 10 runs.



Hyderabad E-Champions 190/8 in 20 overs (Sai Vikas Reddy 69, Ganesh Gadugu 27, Pranav Varma 26, Ved Reddy 2/33, Sahendra Mallu 3/31) by 10 runs.

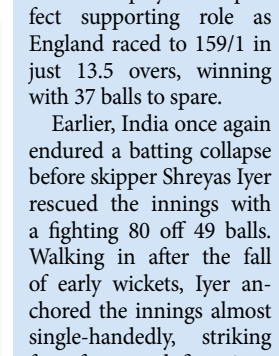
NMDC Hyd Marathon earns World Athletics' Silver Sustainability Award

HYDERABAD: The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2025, organised by the Hyderabad Runners Society, has become the first marathon in India to receive the prestigious World Athletics - Athletics for a Better World (ABW) Silver Standard. Valid for three years, this international recognition honours sporting events that create a meaningful positive impact on the environment, communities and society. In a significant global recognition, the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2025 has earned a place alongside some of the world's most prestigious athletics events for its sustainability initiatives. The marathon now stands in distinguished company with the Boston Marathon (USA), Generali Berliner Half Marathon (Germany), Golden Gala (Italy), Wanda Diamond League Xiamen (China), and BAUHAUS-Galan (Sweden)—events renowned not only for sporting excellence but also for their commitment to environmental responsibility. This achievement places Hyderabad on the global sustainability map of athletics and reinforces India's growing leadership in organising world-class sporting events that balance performance, community engagement and environmental stewardship. From Boston to Berlin, Rome to Hyderabad, the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon has demonstrated that Indian events can match global benchmarks in sustainability and responsible event management.



4th T20I: England bring India to knees, clinch series 3-0

BRISTOL: Captain Harry Brook produced a scintillating 79 not out off just 35 balls while Phil Salt remained unbeaten on 59 off 42 deliveries as England thrashed India by nine wickets with 37 balls to spare in the fourth T20I at the County Ground in Bristol, to clinch the five-match series 3-0 with one game to spare. Chasing a modest target of 159, England lost Jos Buttler early, but thereafter India had no answers as Brook and Salt stitched together an unbroken 151-run stand for the second wicket. Brook dominated the attack with a flurry of boundaries and sixes, while Salt played the perfect supporting role as England raced to 159/1 in just 13.5 overs, winning with 37 balls to spare. Earlier, India once again endured a batting collapse before skipper Shreyas Iyer rescued the innings with a fighting 80 off 49 balls. Walking in after the fall of early wickets, Iyer anchored the innings almost single-handedly, striking four fours and five sixes. Shivam Dube chipped in with 22, but no other Indian batter managed to make a significant contribution as the visitors finished on 158/7 in 20 overs. The victory gives England an unassailable lead in the five-match series, continuing India's disappointing tour in which their batting has repeatedly depended on skipper Iyer. At the same time, the bowling attack has struggled to contain England's aggressive batting lineup. After the first match was abandoned, England won the next three.



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BRIEF SCORES
India 158/7 in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 80*, Shivam Dube 22; Jofra Archer 2-20, Josh Tongue 2-36) lost to England 159/1 in 13.5 overs (Harry Brook 79*, Phil Salt 59*) by 9 wickets

Doctor assault case

Shiv Sena corporator sent to police custody

A political colour has been given to this matter: Ramesh Mhatre's lawyer

KALYAN A Kalyan court on Friday sent Shiv Sena Corporator Ramesh Mhatre to police custody till July 13 in connection with the case involving the assault on doctors and nurses at Dombivli's Shastri Nagar Hospital. He was produced before the Kalyan Sessions Court earlier on Friday after being discharged from Thane Civil Hospital, where doctors declared him medically stable and fit for discharge. Ramesh Mhatre's lawyer, MK Qazi, said, "A political



colour has been given to this matter. The police had sought five days' police custody, but we objected to it. The court has granted police custody till 13th July. We had filed an application stating that Ramesh Mhatre is a 73-year-old man surviving on one Kidney, so he needs to be given medical treatment every 6 hours. The court has considered this application and directed the police to make medical treatment available to him if he experiences illness."

Mhatre was arrested on Wednesday under Sections 132 and 121(1) in connection with a case registered at Vishnunagar Police Station in Dombivli. Police said four accused have been arrested in the case so far. On Thursday, a Kalyan court rejected Mhatre's plea seeking to be produced before the court through video conferencing. The court held that his appearance through video conferencing would not suffice, effectively requiring his physical production before the court for further proceedings.

When will ED freeze Ram temple funds: Derek O'Brien

AAP to launch signature campaign seeking strict punishment to culprits

NEW DELHI TRINAMOOL Congress Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien on Friday questioned the Enforcement Directorate freezing three bank accounts of the party, asking when it would freeze "temple funds", in an apparent reference to the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "ED freezes TMC's 3 bank accounts with HDFC. When will ED freeze temple funds," O'Brien, Trinamool's national joint secretary, said in a post on X. The remarks came amid the opposition's demand for a judicial probe into the alleged financial irregularities in the Ram temple's donation management system. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has frozen three bank accounts of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), with deposits worth Rs 440 crore, under the anti-money laundering law following searches in an alleged funds misappropriation case. The central agency said in a statement that the orders were issued under Section 17 (1A) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). AAP national convener



Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the party will launch a nation-wide signature campaign seeking strict punishment for the culprits in the Ram temple donations theft controversy, saying people have to come together and raise their voice in the matter. Kejriwal also accused the Centre of protecting those responsible for the alleged theft of donations at Ram temple in Ayodhya. "It is the duty of every Sanatan follower to ensure strict punishment for those responsible for donations theft at the Ram temple. We will launch a signature campaign in which every citizen will sign a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating their appeal," Kejriwal said.



Mumbai-Pune rail disruption: 30 trains cancelled till July 17

MUMBAI: Rail connectivity on the Mumbai-Pune corridor will remain crippled till July 17, as the Central Railway has cancelled 30 long-distance and intercity trains, following landslides on the Bhor Ghat section, officials said on Friday. Heavy, torrential downpours on July 6 triggered multiple landslides between Karjat and Lonavala stations, severely damaging all three railway lines. The landslides mainly occurred at the Thakurwadi and Monkey Hill cabins on the ghat section. While restoration work is underway on a war footing, difficult terrain and dangerous working conditions are delaying the full resumption of normal services, officials said. The Central Railway, in a release, said that it has cancelled 30 train services, including 14 daily trains, eight services on specified dates and eight special trains. It announced the temporary cancellation of daily trains, including the Deccan Queen, Deccan Express, Intercity Express services between Mumbai and Pune, the CSMT-Hyderabad Express, Chennai Egmore Superfast Mail and the Hubballi-Dadar Express, from July 10 to July 17.

HC orders Abhishek to give voice sample

KOLKATA THE Calcutta High Court on Friday directed Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee to give his voice sample to a judicial magistrate on July 15 in a case over alleged

intimidatory statements he made during the West Bengal assembly election campaign. Justice Saugata Bhattacharya expressed his displeasure over Banerjee's delay in providing his voice sample and warned of advancing the

hearing of his plea seeking quashing of proceedings in the matter and recalling an order granting the MP protection from coercive action. The court directed police authorities to ensure that Banerjee is not subjected to

egg-pelting or any other harassment when he appears before the jurisdictional court or the investigating agency. Justice Bhattacharya said Banerjee's revision petition against a Bidhanagar court directing him to give his

voice sample before a magistrate in connection with the probe into the speech case was "dismissed as prayed" in view of the prayer by the MP's counsel. The court directed the Lok Sabha MP to appear before

the judicial magistrate on July 15 at noon to record his voice sample. He was directed to cooperate with the probe and comply with notices by the investigating officer as mentioned in the high court's May 21 order



that granted him protection from coercive action.

Homeowners flag structural, safety lapses in Jain Constructions project in Hyderabad

HOMEOWNERS OF JAINS BALAJI NILAYAM CASA WATERSIDE ALLEGE CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS, MISSING FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES

MALOTH KARTHIK
HYDERABAD

MEMBERS of the JBN Casa Waterside Flat Owners Mutually Aided Cooperative Maintenance Society Limited, comprising 520 families at the Jains Balaji Nilayam Casa Waterside project in Safilguda, Malkajgiri, are up in arms against alleged defects in the Jain Constructions project (RERA Project Regn. No. P0220002329), citing "unresolved construction defects, critical fire, lift and electrical safety risks, and substantial unpaid financial dues."

Mathew Jacob, a member of the society, has raised serious concerns over multiple construction defects, critical fire, lift and electrical safety risks, and substantial financial dues allegedly pending from Jain Constructions. He alleged that the society and several individual purchasers have sent repeated letters and notices, but the builder has taken no action. Therefore, the residents have brought the matter to the public's attention.

The society has engaged engineers and chartered accountants specialising in certifying completed projects after the issue of the Occupation Certificate. They have reportedly corroborated the claims, citing alleged non-compliance with the terms of the Agreement of Sale, the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, and the National Building Code of India.



The most serious concerns, according to the society, relate to life-safety systems that remain incomplete nearly three years after the issue of the Occupation Certificate. The society alleges that 65 fire-rated doors were not installed at critical exit points between the corridors and stairwells. This missing work, valued at approximately Rs 50 lakh, could affect safe evacuation during a fire and may require inspection and recertification by the concerned authorities.

The society further alleges that surge protection devices (SPD kits) for all 22 lifts were removed from the Bill of Materials. It estimates the value of these devices at Rs 7 lakh and says their absence exposes lift systems, including ARD systems, to malfunction during power surges, increasing the risk of residents being trapped during emergencies.

The society also alleges that the corpus belonging to homeowners has been withheld by the builder without justification. According to the society's latest notice sent to the builder under RERA provisions, Jain Constructions is required to pay an accumulated total of Rs 2.92 crore, in addition to a chartered engineer's rectification assessment of Rs 1.35 crore, with interest continuing to accrue until final settlement.

It is further alleged that the builder retained the corpus of Rs 4.94 crore for more than two years and three months after the Occupation Certificate without depositing it in a separate escrow account, as required. Jacob said that although most of the principal amount was returned after repeated follow-up, the remaining amount, along with statutory interest under RERA, calculated at SBI MCLR plus 2 per cent,

remains unpaid.

The society claims that the builder collected 12 months of prepaid maintenance charges but provided maintenance services for only 11 months. The remaining unutilised amount for one month should be refunded to the flat owners. This claim is based on an audit of the builder's expenses during the 11-month period, which found certain expenses to be inadmissible and inconsistent with the Agreement of Sale.

The society also noted that the final waterproofing work on all block terraces was left incomplete, resulting in continuous water leakage and seepage into the corridors below during rains. It further alleges that the structural expansion joints were not completed according to industry standards, leading to water leakage in the basement. The auditors have as-

sessed and certified the cost of rectifying these and other civil and structural defects at Rs 1.35 crore.

Gowri, the signatory to a complaint letter addressed to the builder, said, "Ours is the top-most 13th floor, which has continuous leakage due to incomplete terrace work left by the builder. We are NRIs settled in the USA, and we periodically come to India and stay here, sometimes working from home during longer visits. We are highly disappointed as the builder doesn't respond to or attend to these structural defects despite repeated follow-up."

"The safety and security of our families cannot be compromised. For more than two years, we have been living with the constant threat of fire and lift safety risks because of the builder's negligence," said Jacob.

Jacob expressed hope that the builder would take these issues seriously and resolve them.

Otherwise, he said, the society would have no option but to initiate legal proceedings before the Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TG RERA), the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and other appropriate judicial forums to enforce its rights and ensure residents' safety. Repeated attempts by *The Hans India* to reach the management of Jain Constructions did not yield any response. The management did not respond to calls or text messages.

Luxury demand keeps housing sales afloat; affordable segment slips

NEW DELHI

HOUSING sales rose slightly by 0.7 per cent to 1.71 lakh units during January-June 2026 across eight major cities as demand stabilised after four years of strong growth post-COVID pandemic, according to Knight Frank.

Premium homes, costing more than Rs 1 crore each, dominated the overall sales with 54 per cent, while the share of mid-income and affordable housing shrank to 46 per cent.

At a virtual press conference on Thursday, real estate consultant Knight Frank India released the housing sales data for January-June 2026, which showed that sales grew slightly to 1,71,471 units from 1,70,201 units in the year-ago period. Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata are the eight primary residential markets tracked by the consultant.

Elaborating on the data, Knight Frank said that sales rose in all cities except Delhi-NCR, which saw a 7 per cent



decline annually.

Further, the consultant pointed out that the sales of affordable homes (below Rs 50 lakh) declined 15 per cent to 32,063 units during January-June from 37,796 units in the year-ago period. The affordable homes category accounted for 19 per cent of the overall sales. In the Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore price bracket, the sales dipped 5 per cent to 46,490 units. The mid-income segment contributed 27 per cent to the total sales. Fresh supply (launches) of housing units rose 4 per cent to 1,87,350 units in the first six months of this year. "Following four years of broad-based recovery from the pandemic-induced trough of 2020, the near-flat sales

trajectory indicates that the dominant dynamic is now stabilisation rather than growth," the consultant observed. New supply at lower price points has remained constrained, resulting in a fall in sales of affordable and mid-income homes, Knight Frank said. "While growth has reduced following a steep recovery from pandemic lows, the market's underlying fundamentals remain firmly intact. Premium homes now account for more than half of all residential sales, reflecting rising household incomes, evolving buyer aspirations and growing confidence in long-term homeownership," said Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, CMD, Knight Frank India.

Hyderabad's office market leasing volume rises 29% in H1-2026: Knight Frank India

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD'S office market has recorded the highest first-half leasing volumes of 7.5 mn sft during H1 2026, according to Knight Frank India's latest report, India RealEstate: Residential and Office (January-June 2026) H1 2026. The leasing volumes increased 29 per cent YoY from 5.9 mn sft in H1 2025. The city logged average transacted rent increased



by 7 per cent to Rs80/sft per month. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) remained the largest occupier group, with space absorption of 3.4 mn sft, accounting for 45 per cent of total office leasing, up from 40 per cent a year ago. Office completions recorded a strong

supply of 3.0 mn sft, despite the substantial supply infusion, vacancy levels continued to tighten, declining by 296 basis points YoY to 11.5 per cent, reflecting city's healthy demand-supply dynamics.

The residential market also maintained a stable performance, with housing sales standing at 19,249 units, registering a modest 1 per cent YoY growth, while launches declined marginally by 2 per cent YoY to 20,466 units.

BIZ BRIEFS

WHISKAS expands cat food portfolio

WHISKAS, a cat food brand, unveiled its all-new Indian Fish Range, inspired by Rohu and Catla. The brand has also launched a campaign featuring Bollywood actress Mrunal Thakur using her voice for introducing WHISKAS first-of-its-kind range. Ayesha Huda, CMO, Mars Pet Nutrition, said: "Indian pet parenting is evolving rapidly, but many feeding habits are still shaped by what families have traditionally believed cats enjoy."

Chuppspots with PGBA

Chuppspots footwear, a D2C Open footwear brand, announced a year-long partnership with the P. Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA), a badminton institution, as its official footwear recovery partner. Pallela Gopichand, said: "Recovery is an essential part of every athlete's journey, yet it often doesn't receive the attention it deserves. Comfortable, supportive footwear plays a meaningful role in helping athletes recover between training sessions."

Sparx launches Chunky sole sandals

Sparx, a footwear brand introduced the new Sparx Chunky Sole Sandals—a collection designed for young consumers. To introduce the collection, Sparx has partnered with actor Chunky Pandey in a campaign. The collection pairs sculpted soles with construction, durable materials and versatile colourways. It features adjustable straps for enhanced cushioning and lightweight engineering make the sandals comfortable.

IKS Health strengthens US play with TruBridge buyout

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

IKS Health, a care enablement solutions provider, announced the completion of its previously announced acquisition of TruBridge Inc., a provider of healthcare technology including an electronic health record (EHR) and revenue cycle management solutions for rural and community hospitals.

Sachin K Gupta, Founder, IKS Health, said: "Through this market expansion, we are uniting capabilities that move us further toward our goal of a combined system of record and system of action workflow that uses explainable AI-driven and human-in-the-loop solutions to reduce administrative friction, ease financial pressures, and close critical gaps in patient care."

Chris Fowler, CEO of TruBridge, said: "We are pleased to partner with IKS Health, as we share a deep, long-term commitment to helping healthcare organizations run efficiently, strengthen their financial health, and empower clinicians to practice at the top of their license."

IT stocks shine as upbeat TCS outlook drives market higher

Improved demand outlook lift tech shares; Reliance and banks add momentum

MUMBAI

BENCHMARK equity indices extended gains for a second straight session on Friday, with the Sensex rising 827 points and the Nifty climbing over 1 per cent, driven by strong buying in IT, banking and heavy-weight stocks amid easing crude oil prices and positive global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 827.57 points, or 1.08 per cent, to close at 77,569.39, while the NSE Nifty gained 244.10 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 24,206.90.

Heavyweights Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bharat Electronics, Axis Bank and Tata Steel led the rally. Investor sentiment improved after TCS reported a 4.61 per cent rise in June-



quarter net profit to Rs 13,349 crore and indicated that demand, affected by the West Asia crisis, is expected to improve in the current quarter.

Market participants were also encouraged by easing crude oil prices, with Brent crude shipping to around \$76 per barrel, reducing concerns over inflation and import costs. All sectoral indices ended in positive territory. Realty gained 3.4 per cent, followed by PSU Banks (3.26 per cent), IT (2.01 per cent), Metals (1.55 per cent)

and Services (1.5 per cent). Broader markets also remained firm, with midcap and smallcap indices rising up to 1.7 per cent.

Analysts said steady earnings, lower crude prices and stability in the rupee supported buying, though investors remain watchful of geopolitical developments and global market trends.

Market breadth was positive, with 2,883 stocks advancing against 1,377 declines on the BSE. Despite the two-day rebound, bench-

TCS earnings cheer boosts Infosys, HCL Tech, Wipro and TechM

NEW DELHI: Shares of TCS ended 1 per cent higher on Friday after the country's largest IT services company reported a 4.61 per cent increase in its June-quarter net profit, and guided towards an improvement in demand impacted by the West Asia crisis, returning in the ongoing quarter. The bellwether IT stock ended at Rs 2,069.05, up 1.04 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 4.11 per cent to Rs 2,132. At the NSE, shares of the firm ended 0.95 per cent higher at Rs 2,069. Intraday, shares of the company climbed 4 per cent to Rs 2,133.30. The company's market valuation climbed Rs 7,706.53 crore to Rs 7,48,600.40 crore. TCS on Thursday reported a 4.61 per cent increase in its June-quarter net profit to Rs 13,349 crore. Other IT stocks -- Infosys, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Wipro -- also ended in positive territory, adding significantly to the market's rally. The BSE IT index jumped 2.01 per cent to end at 27,211.93.

mark indices ended the week marginally lower. The Sensex declined 194.52 points (0.25 per cent) during the week, while the Nifty slipped 63.95

points (0.26 per cent). Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers, offloading equities worth Rs 532.86 crore on Thursday.

Retail investors power MF growth as SIPs scale new peak

NEW DELHI

EQUITY-oriented mutual fund schemes attracted Rs 28,973 crore in June, a sharp surge of 26.5 per cent from the preceding month, driven by easing geopolitical tensions, expectations of supportive domestic macroeconomic conditions, and strong retail participation.

With this, net inflow into equity schemes reached to Rs 1.81 lakh crore in the first half of 2026, up 12 per cent from the Rs 1.61 lakh

crore garnered in the same period of 2025.

Moreover, monthly SIP contributions rose to Rs 31,781 crore during the month under review, up from Rs 30,954 crore in May, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Friday.

Overall, the mutual fund industry's net outflow narrowed to Rs 52,949 crore in June from an outflow of Rs 64,131 crore in the preceding month. Consequently,

the industry's asset base rose to Rs 82.22 lakh crore at the end of June from Rs 81.6 lakh crore a month earlier.

According to the data, net inflows into equity schemes stood at Rs 28,973 crore in June, compared with Rs 22,908 crore in May, which was the lowest level in a year. The rebound indicates that investor confidence remains resilient despite ongoing global uncertainties and periodic market volatility.

Kiwi Indians power \$37.3 bn boost to NZ economy

NEW DELHI: INDIANS living in New Zealand made an outsized contribution to the country's economy equivalent to 8.6 per cent of gross domestic product in the year to March 2025, a report has said.

Indians added an estimated \$37.3 billion to the New Zealand GDP during the period, the report from New Zealand-based RNZ said, citing figures revealed by the Waitakere Indian Association. The study, supported by the Ministry of Ethnic Communities and the Indian High Commission, found the community supported 2,20,910 full time equivalent jobs during the



period. Nearly three quarters of the community's measured economic contribution came through Indian owned businesses. The defining characteristics of the Indian community - relatively young with higher qualification levels and a growing number who are self-employed - suggested its

economic contribution to the country will continue to grow.

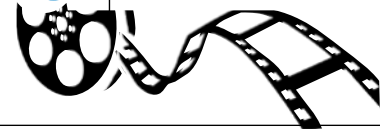
Census and administrative data showed that 2,92,092 people of Indian heritage in New Zealand in 2023, made Indians the country's third largest ethnic group, constituting almost 6 per cent of the population. The small population share suggested Kiwi Indians make an outsized economic contribution relative to their population share.

"Kiwi Indian households contribute a further quarter through their consumption, while Indian international students and Indian visitors together make up the remain-

ing 2 percent," the report said, adding that only 34,000 Kiwi Indian businesses were present in FY24.

The Indian community contributed an estimated \$10 billion to the country's economy in 2019, which was roughly 3.3 per cent of total GDP at the time.

Pratima Namasivayam, chief executive of the Ministry of Ethnic Communities, said the findings showed a growing, highly qualified Indian community which is becoming increasingly entrepreneurial and making a significant impact across New Zealand's economy.



'Lenin' review: A gripping rural drama

SUHAS SISTU

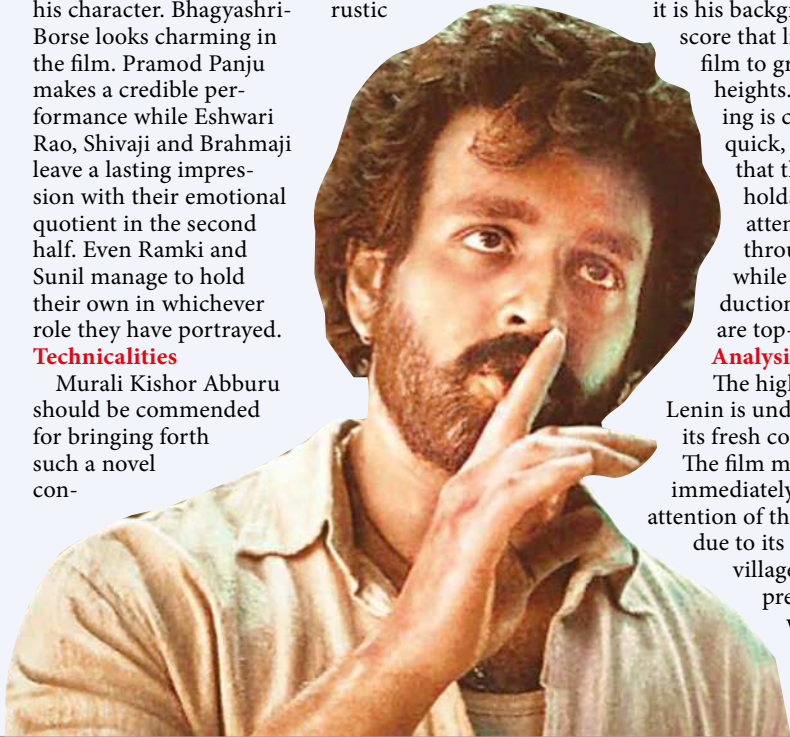
LENIN marks an important milestone in the career of Akhil Akkineni as it reunites the young hero with director Murali Kishor Abburu and comes backed by ManamEnterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments. Now let us see what Lenin delivers at box-office.

Story
Set in Bharathamma Mitta, a village in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district, which has a belief that when blood falls on this region's sacred soil, it brings terrible drought to the place. The story revolves around Lenin who navigates through the lives of love, friendship, relations, sacrifices, betrayal and more as several mysteries unravel giving him a chance to overcome all odds and reassert his values.

Performances
Akhil Akkineni turns

in a career best performance as the rustic youth of the story. He is simply on fire throughout as one sees his body language, speech mannerisms and expressions ooze out of his character. Bhagyashri-Borse looks charming in the film. Pramod Panju makes a credible performance while Eshwari Rao, Shivaji and Brahmaji leave a lasting impression with their emotional quotient in the second half. Even Ramki and Sunil manage to hold their own in whichever role they have portrayed.

Technicalities
Murali Kishor Abburu should be commended for bringing forth such a novel concept based on mythology and folklore as it certainly sets Lenin apart from the usual potboilers one tends to see in Tollywood. Leon Britto captures the rustic



RATING: 3/5

charm of the village in all its glory with his stupendous camerawork while Thaman S's music blends in quite nicely. However, it is his background score that lifts the film to greater heights. The editing is crisp and quick, ensuring that the film holds one's attention throughout while the production values are top-notch.

Analysis
The highlight of Lenin is undoubtedly its fresh concept. The film manages to immediately grab the attention of the viewer due to its unique village-centric premise which in itself ignites curios-

ity to delve deeper into the story being told.

The second half is without a doubt the best part of the film as it manages to keep the intrigue going with some interesting twists and turns while also showcasing a number of well-made emotional scenes and high-octane action sequences that keep the audience engrossed. The pre-climax and climax sequences are particularly noteworthy due to the sheer performances on screen as well as the effective make-up and Thaman S's rousing background score. Overall, Lenin is indeed a treat for the viewers as it manages to offer a befitting blend of performances, emotional quotient and mass appeal. Being a family entertainer, it is a must-watch for all audiences, especially those who enjoy watching commercial flicks in the Telugu language.

Dulquer Salmaan, Pooja Hegde's romantic entertainer locks 'Sri Sri' as title

THE makers of Dulquer Salmaan's highly anticipated romantic entertainer have revealed the film's title - Sri Sri along with an adorable first-look poster, which immediately fetched hearts of the movie buffs. Directed by a rookie filmmaker Ravi Nelakuditi, the romantic entertainer is produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under his SLV Cinemas banner as their 10th production (SLV10) with Ishan Saksena as the co-producer.

With the tagline "Love Will Spark Again", Sri Sri narrates a charming tale of love and laughter that revolves around Dulquer Salmaan and Pooja Hegde's characters, who share screen space for the first time.

Both the actors are seen sitting on the compound wall having laughs in uniform, radiating nostalgia as it reflects the innocence of friendship with a touch of romance. Their cute on-screen sizzling chemistry has already gone viral.

The film also lays claim to a brilliant technical team comprising Anay Om Goswamy, GV Prakash Kumar, and AvinashKolla, who bring their creative minds to the table as the cinematographer, music composer, and production designer. In the meanwhile, Sri Sri is all set to hit the Pan India screens as it is gearing up to release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam languages, promising to be one of the most awaited romantic entertainers this year.



Aadi Sai Kumar's 'Sairabanu' first schedule wrapped

ON the back of a blockbuster hit Shambala, actor Aadi Sai Kumar announces his next venture titled Sairabanu that promises to be a fun-filled romantic entertainer. Produced by RazesDanda and directed by Phani Krishna Siriki, film's first schedule wraps successfully.

Presented by KrishnakanthParuchuri as the movie's co-producer and under the banner of Hasya Movies, the film stars Bandhavi Sridhar as the lead heroine was tagged with the caption "A Fun Filled Journey of Love, Faith & Destiny"

The film narrates an out-of-box love story between a Hindu and a Muslim girl that witnesses its shooting schedule in the beautiful locales of Hyderabad and

Rajahmundry. The recently concluded 15-day schedule went on floors in Hyderabad and was mostly shot in a soft-ware office set featuring Aadi Sai Kumar, Bandhavi Sridhar, Vennela Kishore and the rest of the cast.

Further, the makers also released a behind-the-scenes video, a glimpse of which indicates the excitement of the cast and crew as they shot some of the lively scenes of the film. With an array of talented technical crewmembers including cinematographer Raam Reddy, music composer Shekar Chandra, editor Chota K. Prasad and production designer Brahma Kadali, the film Sairabanu is now set to roll into its next shooting schedule and mark yet another exciting venture in Aadi Sai Kumar's career.



Roshan Kanakala's sci-fi entertainer gets a grand launch

ASCI-fi fantasy entertainer starring Roshan Kanakala and Gahazy had its grand pooja ceremony at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kakatiya hills recently. The film directed by debutant Vijay K Kamisetty, story

by legendary filmmaker VI Anand, who is known to roll out unique fantasy and sci-fi flicks.

Presented by Balaji Gutta, Koushik Reddy of Gutta productions in association with Kamalakar Film corporation. Hero Nikhil sound-

ed the clapboard for the muhurtham shot, while ace cameraman KK Senthil Kumar mounted the camera. VI Anand presented the script.

Besides Roshan Kanakala and Gahazy, the film stars Satya, Sudarshan, Ravi TejaNannimala, in promi-

nent roles. The music is composed by Sekhar Chandra, cinematography by AnveshVarla, editing by Chota K Prasad and Brahma Kadali has designed the production.

As the pre-production activities are picking up momentum, the regular shootings are awaited to start soon. The film's title, first look, and other related updates will be out soon, which surely will open a new window for the Telugu cinema audience.

Jayadeep Reddy Neerubavi: Tirupati software engineer makes it to Hollywood cinematography ranks

AN intriguing journey from Tirupati to Hollywood is keeping cinematographer Jayadeep Reddy Neerubavi in the limelight. This young Indo-American had given up a promising career in the software industry during the COVID-19 pandemic with no assurance of any job in the film industry.

Little did he know that his zeal and devotion would earn him a place in the American Society of Cinematographers' (ASC) Awards in 2025 and 2026. Jayadeep enrolled at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Cinematography. He opted shifting his career to cinematography.

The young and energetic cinematographer has since been working as the Director of Photography (DOP) for narrative, documentary, commercial, and music video films in and around Los Angeles.

Jayadeep Reddy has added multiple projects to his portfolio. Among them are the festival favorite short film The Goodbye, the bilingual action-comedy Kuttay Ki Dum, the adventure drama The Slayers, and the upcoming documentary, Project Life, which is produced by Homeboy Industries and the California Innocence Project.

Further, Jayadeep Reddy had the tremendous opportunity to work alongside renowned cinematographers Autumn DurandArkapaw, Darius Khondji, and Jessica Lee Gagné, as well as receive mentorship from visual effects and cinematography professional Amy Vincent, ASC, and cinematographer Scott Cunningham, ASC.

From being a small-time software engineer in Tirupati to making a name for himself in Hollywood, Jayadeep Reddy's journey is quite inspiring.



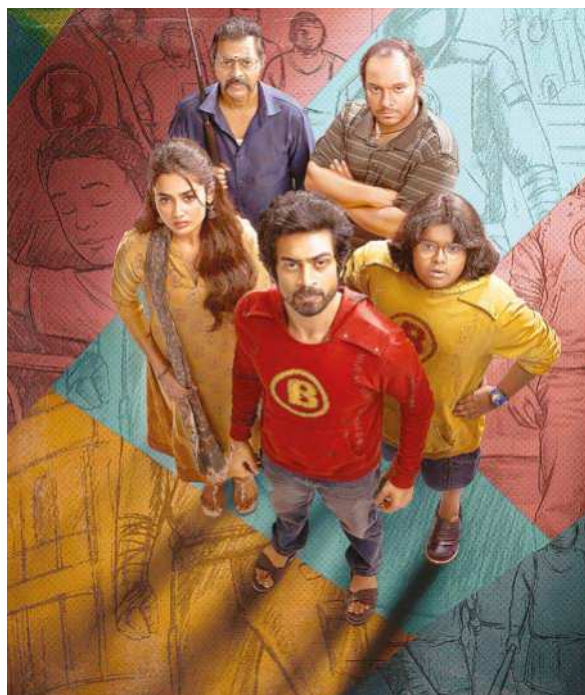
Super Hero Babu: Arjun Das' bilingual comes with fresh concept

SUPER Hero Babu, is one of the most awaited bilingual entertainers these days as the first-look character posters of the film went viral on social media. The first-look posters revealed a fresh concept and a new genre that would keep the audiences of all ages glued to their seats.

Arjun Das, who was seen in the rage of Telugu audiences with They Call Him OG makes his comeback as a hero after playing negative roles in multiple films. The film also stars Teju Ashwini as the lead heroine, while comedian Sandy Master plays the comic role

alongside him. Vignesh Venugopal, who makes his directorial debut with this film, mentored by a National Award-winning filmmaker and producer KS Sinish. The film is produced by Soldiers Film Factory, under the banner of Shanjan G of Redacted Studios, known for venturing into uncharted territory.

Furthermore, music composer Hesham Abdul Wahab has been hired to compose music for the film. The film is poised to deliver a treat to the viewers with its entertaining content, and offer a new perspective on the superhero genre.



'The India Story' team comes with powerful new poster

THE India Story team members gears up for the promo tour with the latest poster of the film that spotlights the socially relevant issue and a gripping courtroom drama. The movie, presented by Zee Studios in association with MIG Production & Studios, features Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade, and releases worldwide on July 24, 2026, in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil.

The new poster captures the lead pair in a chaotic vegetable market, as an an-

gry mob surrounds them pelting vegetables, as they unveil the truth onscreen. As they look visibly shaken by the situation, so does the angry mob. With the tagline "Slow Poison in Progress...", it underlines the film's central theme - the peril of pesticide farming and the danger it poses to the public at large. According to the director Chettan DK, who helmed The India Story, the poster represents the price the protagonist pays for unmasking the system of lies. "It is important to ques-

tion what we eat and what we believe in," he says on the film's social relevance.

Reportedly written and produced by Sagar B. Shinde, The India Story also boasts of an impressive technical team that includes cinematographer Nishant Bhagwat, music composer Mangesh Dhakde, editor Ashish Mhatre, lyricist Shakeel Azami and sound designer Anmol Bhawe. Thanks to its timely theme and engaging narrative, the film has been gaining much attention prior to its release.