



THE Hans India



Aishwarya Sakhuja takes to social media to create awareness about diabetes
The television star asks people around a diabetic to be conscious of hypoglycemia and not confuse it with drunkenness.

India needs a political culture where facts should matter not propaganda
With Assembly elections due in UP 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.

CM reviews Rath Yatra readiness
Majhi emphasised timely conduct of rituals, security of the chariots and devotees, crowd management and fire safety. He said efficient and experienced officers would play a key role in ensuring the orderly management of the Rath Yatra.

Atchanna assures ample fertiliser supply for kharif
Agriculture minister K Atchanna on Friday said the government has ensured abundant fertiliser supplies for the ongoing kharif season, with buffer stocks in place to prevent any shortages for farmers.

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WINDOWS



Litigant forcibly removed from SC after abusing judges

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 Lucknow," the litigant, who was wearing a black coat without a lawyer's band, said while addressing the bench.

HC bars EC from notifying bypolls in five seats in TN

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Friday restrained the EC till July 31 from notifying bye-polls to the five constituencies in Tamil Nadu where the winning candidates resigned soon after getting elected in the assembly polls held on April 23 this year. The five segments includes Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's Tiruchirappalli (East) assembly constituency. The First Bench comprising Chief Justice S A Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arulmurugan passed the interim order and posted to July 31, further hearing of a Public Interest Litigation filed by advocate K Venkatachalaipathy. The bench directed Vijay and others to file their comprehensive counter-affidavits with all factual and legal assertions within three weeks.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our numbers match. Let's sign the treaty

Cabinet clears gold mine, mega industrial projects



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu holding a Cabinet meeting in Amaravati on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI
THE Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved a series of investments in key sectors, infrastructure and governance proposals, apart from clearing major industrial projects, Amaravati reforms, and public sector funding measures aimed at accelerating economic growth and infrastructure development across the state.

- ▶▶ 998.10 acres allotted to gold mine project
- ▶▶ Investments across key sectors
- ▶▶ Nod for Amaravati reforms
- ▶▶ Rs 1,800 cr MARKFED funding okayed

GeoMysore India Pvt. Ltd. for the Jonnagiri Gold Mine Project in Kurnool district, besides leasing 40.12 acres of endowments land, paving the way for one of Andhra Pradesh's most significant mining projects. The Cabinet also cleared land allotments for several major industrial investments approved by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB).

Among the major decisions, the Cabinet approved allotment of 998.10 acres to

Continued on Page 7

AP Cabinet orders tough crackdown on social media abuse

- ▶▶ Dedicated social media response cell
- ▶▶ Study for enacting a special law

Cabinet Sub-Committee to examine legal options
AMARAVATI: The State Cabinet, in one of its strong policy responses to alleged misuse of social media, has decided to intensify legal action against objectionable online content while initiating formation of a special taskforce as well as a study on enacting a special law to deal with organised social media abuse, online defamation, and misinformation.

Continued on Page 7

One Nation, One Election rollout likely by '29: Panel

A parliamentary committee is actively working to establish a mechanism for implementing the 'ONOE' reform

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.



The reform seeks to prevent an estimated Rs 7 lakh crore economic loss caused by frequent, separate elections across the country

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the panel's two-day meeting in Goa, JPC chairperson PP Chaudhary claimed that nearly 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. 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 maintaining a fine balance acceptable to all," Chaudhary said. Continued on Page 7



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in New Zealand on Friday

Modi lands in New Zealand on final leg of three-nation tour

First visit by an Indian PM in 40 years

Modi was received by Luxon at the airport, where the two leaders exchanged a warm hug



AUCKLAND

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday arrived in New Zealand on the final leg of his three-nation visit, during which he will hold talks with his counterpart Christopher Luxon and address the Indian diaspora. This is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister in 40 years. Modi was received by Luxon at the airport, where the two leaders exchanged a warm hug. "Reached Auckland a short while ago. Thankful to Prime Minister Luxon for the welcome at the airport," Modi said in a post on X. "This visit is historic, being the first Prime Ministerial visit to New Zealand in four decades. I look forward to holding talks with Prime Minister Luxon and discussing the complete range of the India-NZ friendship."

Deeply moved by warm welcome from Indian community: PM Narendra Modi

The iconic Sky Tower in Auckland was illuminated in the Indian tricolour
AUCKLAND: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he was deeply moved by the warm welcome accorded to him by the Indian community in New Zealand. He said that the enthusiasm on display reflected the Indian diaspora's enduring connection with India. Sharing glimpses of the welcome accorded to him, PM Modi posted on X:

Continued on Page 7

Rajpal Yadav to go to jail as court upholds conviction



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday upheld the conviction of Bollywood actor Rajpal Yadav in multiple cheque bounce cases, affirming the trial court's judgment and refusing to extend the benefit of probation in view of his conduct during the proceedings. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma dismissed Yadav's revision petitions and upheld the sentence awarded by the trial court under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The High Court directed that the amount of Rs 2.25 crore already deposited before the Court and released to the complainant shall be adjusted while computing the liability payable by Yadav. Continued on Page 7

Mystery strikes hit Iran after US ends attacks

Questions raised over who launched them

DUBAI

A series of mysterious, 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. Gulf Arab states, which



repeatedly have been targeted by Iran since the war began February 28, did not immediately respond to requests for comment Friday over the strikes. Continued on Page 7



Iran hatched fresh plot to kill Trump, Israel alerts US

TEL AVIV: Israel has shared fresh intelligence with the United States alleging that Iran recently developed a new plan to assassinate President Donald Trump, according to multiple media reports. The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel passed the intelligence to US officials this week. Continued on Page 7



SC to hear pleas for probe into Ram temple donation row on Monday

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court would 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, the Ayodhya court granted one-day police remand for three of the eight accused -- Anukul Mishra, Lavkush Mishra and Karunesh Pandey -- arrested in connection with the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple. On June 29, a local court had sent all the eight accused to 14-day judicial custody. According to the Supreme Court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymyalya Bagchi and V Mohana will hear as many as three petitions filed on the issue when the apex court reopens on Monday.

May be put behind bars or bumped off, says Hasina

Former Bangla PM Sheikh Hasina plans to end Indian exile and return to Dhaka in Dec

NEW DELHI: 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 a



news agency, 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. Continued on Page 7

E20 petrol may cut mileage by 5%: Govt

But it offers cleaner combustion, energy security benefits: OilMin

NEW DELHI

PETROL blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 3-5 per cent in some vehicles, the Oil Ministry said on Friday, but argued the impact is outweighed by benefits, including a higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pickup, smoother acceleration, cleaner engine operation, and lower lifecycle carbon emissions. In a detailed question-and-answer document issued to counter criticism of the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said E20 was a "cleaner, higher-quality and more efficient fuel" than E10 or pure petrol and had been rolled out only after years of scientific testing, consultations with automobile manufacturers and the expansion of



domestic ethanol production. The ministry rejected concerns that the programme had been implemented too quickly, saying India's ethanol blending initiative dates back to pilot projects launched in 2001, with 5 per cent blending introduced in parts of the country by 2006. While ethanol blending remained around 1.5 per cent until 2014, the government accelerated production after introducing the National Policy on Biofuels in 2018 and expanding feedstocks beyond sugarcane. Continued on Page 7

Lokesh pitches for Korean investments in shipbuilding

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI

AFTER successfully attracting Kia Motors and LG Electronics, Andhra Pradesh has launched an aggressive campaign to secure the next wave of Korean investments, targeting high-value sectors including shipbuilding, semiconductors, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, batteries and advanced electronics.

- ▶▶ After Kia, LG, AP seeks to build integrated Korean industrial ecosystems
- ▶▶ HD Hyundai, EV makers, Samsung invited to anchor major projects
- ▶▶ Dedicated Korea Desk, industrial parks to deepen long-term partnership



IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh held a series of meetings with Korean government officials in Seoul on Friday

of meetings with Korean government officials, global corporations and industry leaders, positioning Andhra

Pradesh as Korea's preferred manufacturing and logistics gateway into India. Addressing the CII Partnership Summit roadshow in Seoul on Friday, Lokesh said the state's focus had shifted from attracting individual factories to building complete industrial ecosystems. He said the success of Kia's Anantapur plant,

which led to the emergence of one of India's largest Korean automobile clusters, demonstrated Andhra Pradesh's ability to deliver large manufacturing projects quickly. More than 35 Korean companies are now operating in the state. The investment pitch centred on sector-specific proposals to some of South Korea's biggest companies. Samsung Electronics was invited to establish AI-ready data centres, AI server manufacturing, semiconductor packaging, display fabrication,

battery manufacturing and research facilities at Amaravati's proposed Quantum Valley. The government also proposed developing a dedicated "Samsung City" in Andhra Pradesh. Kia Motors was asked to expand beyond passenger vehicles by establishing integrated manufacturing for electric and hybrid vehicles, EV components, battery systems and charging electronics, besides creating a CKD assembly and export hub near Visakhapatnam Port. Continued on Page 7

Global experts launch 2,000 sq m farming model in Guntur

- German expert Jordan Jasper urges students to learn natural farming as foundation for food, nutrition and health; shrinking cultivable land makes sustainable agriculture vital
- Global Farming School's 2,000 sq m model farm introduced at Kornepadu High School to demonstrate family-level food security; delegates from Kenya join launch

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

EVERY student should learn natural farming as food, nutrition and health are the foundation of a sustainable future, said Jordan Jasper of the Foundation on Future Farming, Germany, while interacting with students at Kornepadu High School in Guntur district on Friday. He stressed that shrinking cultivable land across the world makes it essential for the younger generation to acquire practical knowledge of sustainable agriculture.

Launching the internation-

ally acclaimed 2,000 Square Metre Model at the school, Jasper explained that a scientifically planned 2,000 sq. m. farm can ensure food and nutrition security for an entire family. He encouraged students to nurture their talents while considering agriculture as a meaningful and rewarding career.

An international delegation comprising Wanjama Njoroge Daniel, coordinator of Seed Saver Network-Kenya, farmers Oddah Friday Ochomo and Zipporah Nyambura Kuria, John Kariuki Mwangi, head of Slow Food Kenya, and Jordan Jasper participated in



Jordan Jasper of the Foundation on Future Farming, Germany, addressing the students at Kornipadu high school in Guntur district on Friday

the launch of the pilot demonstration. The programme began with the planting of saplings by the delegates, students and teachers.

Through the Global Farming School initiative, the experts highlighted the importance of natural farming, healthy food systems, biodiversity conservation and seed preservation. They expressed confidence that students

would emerge as ambassadors of sustainable agriculture and inspire future generations.

Y Sudhakar, Senior Thematic Lead (Academy), Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, said successful implementation of the 2,000 sq. m. model could bring international recognition to both the school and its students.

The programme was attended by Edlapalli Ven-

kateswara Rao of the Rythu Nestham Foundation, T. Rajakumari, District Project Manager, Guntur, the headmaster, teachers, farmers, natural farming personnel and other dignitaries. The event concluded with a call for collective efforts to promote food security, environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture through active student participation.

GOVT OPENS TALKS WITH EMPLOYEE UNIONS

- Ministers hold first round of discussions with AP JAC Amaravati leaders
- DA, pending dues, PRC and other employee demands come up for discussion
- Detailed meeting scheduled as government signals positive approach

AMARAVATI

THE state government has initiated formal discussions with employee unions to address long-pending service and financial issues, signalling a renewed effort to resolve grievances relating to pending dues, Dearness Allowance (DA), the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and other employee demands.

As part of the initiative,

finance minister Payyavula Keshav and revenue minister Anagani Satya Prasad held preliminary talks with leaders of the AP JAC Amaravati employee union at the State Secretariat on Friday.

The meeting was attended by AP JAC Amaravati chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and other union representatives, who presented various financial and non-financial issues affecting government employees.

During the discussions, the ministers assured the employee leaders that the government was committed to resolving their concerns in a phased and systematic manner.

They said the government intends to engage with all recognised employee unions to understand their issues before arriving at appropriate

decisions.

According to the ministers, the preliminary meeting focused on identifying key issues requiring immediate attention, including pending financial benefits, DA arrears, implementation of PRC-related matters and other service-related concerns.

Following the initial discussions, the government decided to convene a comprehensive meeting with AP JAC Amaravati leaders at the Secretariat on Saturday to hold detailed deliberations on the pending demands.

The government indicated that it is adopting a positive approach towards resolving employee issues through dialogue and consultation, with similar interactions expected to be held with other employee organisations in the coming days.

NMC clears 100 addl MBBS seats for govt medical colleges

- Kadapa college gets 75 seats, Nellore's ACSR College receives 25
- MBBS intake rises to 250 in Kadapa and 200 in Nellore from 2026-27

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state has secured 100 additional MBBS seats for the 2026-27 academic year after the National Medical Commission (NMC) granted approval to expand undergraduate admissions in two government medical colleges, providing a major boost to medical education capacity in the state.

Announcing the development, medical and health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said the NMC had issued the Letter of Permission (LoP) sanctioning 75 additional MBBS seats for Government Medical College, Kadapa, and 25 additional seats for ACSR Government

Medical College, Nellore.

With the latest approval, the MBBS intake at Kadapa Government Medical College has increased from 175 to 250 seats, while ACSR Government Medical College, Nellore, has expanded its intake from 175 to 200 seats from the 2026-27 academic session.

The minister said the increase would significantly expand opportunities for students aspiring to pursue medical education in Andhra Pradesh while strengthening the state's healthcare education infrastructure.

Director of medical education Dr Vishnuvardhan said the approvals were secured following substantial improvements in infrastructure, recruitment of faculty and compliance with the standards prescribed by the National Medical Commission.

He congratulated the principals, faculty members and staff of the Kadapa and Nellore government medical colleges for achieving the milestone.

'Public grievances will be resolved promptly'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

TDP State official spokesperson Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy said the Nellore Rural MLA's office is accessible to the public every day from 7 am to 8 pm to receive petitions and address public grievances.

He participated in the weekly Praja Darbar programme at Nellore Rural MLAs office on Friday and interacted with people, who came to submit grievances. He said that special efforts would be taken

to resolve public grievances from the constituency, ensuring that their issues are addressed promptly and transparent manner. He noted that works in Nellore rural constituency are being undertaken based on the suggestions and feedback received from public.

Cluster in-charges Jaladanki Sudhakar and Pathan Sabir Khan, TDP leader Pindi Suresh, Nellore Rural MLA office in-charge Datla Chakravardhan Reddy, Grievance Cell in-charge Mangalapudi Bhaskar Reddy and others were present.



EV drive ups commercial vehicle registrations by 33%

- CM seeks details from transport minister in Cabinet meet

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

A sharp rise in commercial vehicle registrations, driven largely by growing adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), came up for discussion during the Cabinet meeting on Friday, with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu enquiring about the significant increase with transport minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy.

Responding to the Chief Minister's query, the minister said registrations of new commercial vehicles increased from 33,234 to 44,212 during the April-June quarter, reflecting a growth of nearly 33 per cent over the corresponding period.

The minister attributed the surge to the state's EV-friendly policies. He said government incentives, increasing public awareness about environmentally sustainable transport and fluctuations in diesel and petrol prices have accelerated the shift towards electric commercial vehicles.

He informed the Cabinet that Andhra Pradesh's transport sector is witnessing positive changes as a result of the government's development-oriented and investor-friendly policies, with the EV segment emerging as a major growth driver in commercial vehicle registrations.

He said the government would continue promoting electric mobility through supportive policies and incentives, with the objective of accelerating the transition towards sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation across the state.

No illegal procedures adopted in SIR: Deputy Mayor

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

DEPUTY Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav has refuted the YSRCP's allegations that the district administration has adopted illegal procedures during Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, adding that YSRCP is making such allegations only to create confusion among people.

Addressing the media here on Friday, Roop Kumar advised YSRCP MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekar Reddy and party district president Kakani Govardhan Reddy to verify facts before making public statements.

He clarified that SIR process, being conducted from June 15 to July 14, is intended only for collection and digitisation of voter details and does not involve either deletion or addition of votes at this stage.

He said that more than 72 per cent of digitisation process was already completed in Nellore city Assembly constituency and remaining is under progress.

He challenged YSRCP leaders to prove whether even a single worker of their party was denied enumeration form during the exercise and claimed that in 47th Division, YSRCP leaders themselves assisting Booth Level Officers in filling out enumeration forms.

Responding to allegations of illegal sand mining involving Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana, Deputy Mayor Roopkumar dismissed the charges as completely false. He said it was the Minister, who made sand affordable for the poor by reducing the cost of a tractor-load of sand from Rs 4,000 to Rs 1,200.



Civic chief inspects SIR process

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

IN the wake of allegations by YSRCP that the official machinery acts at the behest of the ruling party in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) electoral process, the district administration intensified checkups over the SIR process. With four days left for the conclusion of the electoral process, to be concluded on July 14, Municipal Commissioner YO Nandan conducted surprise inspection of SIR process at Old Municipal Office, Kukkala Gunta,

Mahalakshamma Temple, Pinakini Park, Municipal Shopping Complex, and Archana Cinema Hall center in the city on Friday. He examined records and instructed supervisors and BLOs to work with commitment to ensure 100 per cent completion of the process within the prescribed deadline transparently.

The NMC Commissioner stressed that the digitisation exercise should ensure that every eligible voter is included in electoral rolls and guided field staff on various aspects of implementing SIR programme effectively at grassroots level.

Young scientists must contribute to Viksit Bharat 2047: Dr Satheesh Reddy

Addresses the seventh convocation of IISER Tirupati

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

CALLING on young scientists to contribute to India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, renowned defence and aerospace scientist Dr G Satheesh Reddy urged graduates of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati, to pursue meaningful research and develop technologies that address national and societal needs.

Delivering convocation address at the institute's Seventh Annual Convocation held on Friday, Dr Reddy said India has transformed from a technology-importing nation into a technology-exporting nation over the last two decades. He highlighted the country's progress in technology and skill development

and stressed that research institutions such as IISERs play a key role in strengthening India's scientific and technological capabilities. Graduates were encouraged to take up challenging scientific problems and contribute to innovation through sustained research.

A total of 214 students received degrees during the convocation. The graduating batch included 131 BS-MS Dual Degree students, 12 BS graduates, 10 BSc graduates, 27 Professional Master's graduates, 13 Integrated PhD graduates and 21 PhD scholars.

IISER Tirupati Director Prof Santanu Bhattacharya in his report said IISER Tirupati researchers published around 260 papers in reputed international peer-reviewed journals during 2025-26. By

the end of 2025, the institute's cumulative research output had reached nearly 1,500 publications with more than 25,000 citations and an h-index of around 70.

He said IISER Tirupati secured 20th position among India's academic and research institutions in Nature Index 2026, improving from 33rd place in 2025. The institute continues to be the highest-ranked research institution in Andhra Pradesh in the Nature Index.

The Director also said extramural research funding from agencies including the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research and Anusandhan National Research Foundation increased to about Rs 41 crore during 2025-26. The institute also



IISER Tirupati Director Prof Santanu Bhattacharya presenting the certificate to a candidate at its convocation on Friday. Dr G Satheesh Reddy and Inderpreet Singh Kohli are also seen.

filed 14 new patent applications, reflecting its growing focus on innovation and intellectual property.

Among the award winners, Sayed Sahil C received Institute Gold Medal for BS-MS Programme. Rayis TR and Siddhant Ray received Institute Silver Medals for Biotechnology and Earth and Climate

Science respectively, while Nandana Manoj received the Best Student Campus Activities Award. Five BS-MS students and one BS student graduated with distinction. Hari S Bhartia, Chairperson of Board of Governors, presided over the ceremony in which Registrar Inderpreet Singh Kohli also took part.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

Zonal office address : 29-37-141, II Floor, Near Ramamandiram, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002, Branch office : Vijayawada III.

POSSESSION NOTICE

We, M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (formerly known as "Shriram City Union Finance Limited" amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Limited and converted as Shriram Transport Finance Limited as per the orders of NCLT Bench-II Chennai dated 09.11.2022) and thereafter obtained the approval to rename as Shriram Finance Ltd (Ministry of Corporate Finance letter dated 30.11.2022), is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI to do Non-Banking Finance business having its registered office at Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032 and office address of Authorized Officer, Shriram Finance Ltd, D.NO:- 29-37-141, II Floor, Near Ramamandiram, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002 and branch office at VIJAYAWADA III (hereinafter referred as Company/ Lender).

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 07th day JULY, 2026.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :

- Dantala Chakradara Rao, S/o Venkata Narayana, R/o D.No.58-5-29/1, 2nd Floor Danayya Gari Street, Patamata, Vijayawada-520010.
- Dantala Madhavi, W/o Chakradara Rao, R/o D.No.58-5-29/1, 2nd Floor, Danayya Gari Street, Patamata, Vijayawada-520010.
- D. Hema Priyadarshini, W/o K.Veeranjaneyulu, R/o D.No.58-5-29/1, 2nd Floor, Danayya Gari Street, Patamata, Vijayawada-520010.
- Garapati Darma Raju, S/o Lakshmana Rao, R/o D.No.1-17, Cheemala Palli, Visakhapatnam, AP-530047.

Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay an amount of Rs. 26,92,266/- (Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Six Rupees Only), under reference of Loan A/c No: VIJA3TF1612300002.

Demand Notice Dated: 20.01.2026.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Schedule Of The Property Belongs To Mr.Chakradhara Rao Dantala, Krishna District, Kankipadu Sub District, Kankipadu Mandal, Velupuru Gram Panchayat Area, Velupuru Village, Near Door No.1-47, R.S.Nos.71/3C & 71/38, Plot No.183 as per the layout approved by VGTU UDA in L.P.No.10/2009/VJA, an extent of 261.33 Sq. yards out of which on the northern side, an extent of 130.67 Sq. yards or 109.25 Sq. mts of vacant house site bounded by: East : Other's Property, South : Site in Plot No.183 (Part) of Putha Lakshmi Narayana, West : 40 ft. Wide Road, North : Site in Plot No.184. Within the above an extent of 130.67 Sq. yards or 109.25 Sq. mts of vacant house site bearing Plot No.183 (Northern Part) only. (This Property corresponds to Doc.No.4171/2010 of S.R.O. Kankipadu).

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

Date : 07.07.2026
Place : Vijayawada.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Finance Limited

Vizag Airport set to emerge as major aviation hub even after new airport becomes operational

- Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat has been instrumental in restoring international flight operations to Abu Dhabi
- Airport Advisory Committee member O Naresh Kumar expressed gratitude to the MPs who had contributed significantly to the airport's growth chapter
- The state government owns 366 acres of prime land at the existing Visakhapatnam Airport premises

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM is poised to enter a new era in the aviation sector, with the existing city airport set to be transformed into a regional aviation, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), cargo and business aviation hub.

This would become a reality soon after commercial operations commence at the upcoming Alluri Sitarama Raju Greenfield International Airport in Bhogapuram. As commercial flight services are expected to gradually shift to Bhogapuram, the state government is preparing an ambitious roadmap to ensure the Visakhapatnam Airport continues to play a strategic role in the region's economic growth.

The state government owns 366 acres of prime land at the existing Vi-

sakhapatnam Airport premises. Officials said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has a comprehensive plan for its future utilisation. The land is expected to be developed into a specialised aviation ecosystem that will strengthen Visakhapatnam's position as a key aviation and logistics destination on the east coast.

Sharing his views at the Airport Advisory Committee meeting, Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat mentioned that the government would focus on the long-term development of the existing airport once the Bhogapuram International Airport becomes operational and passenger traffic increases. He emphasised that the city airport would continue to serve the region through specialised aviation services, cargo handling and maintenance operations.



A view of Visakhapatnam Airport

Airport Advisory Committee member O Naresh Kumar expressed gratitude to the Members of Parliament who had contributed significantly to the existing airport, transforming it into one of the most important aviation centres along the east coast.

Recalling the airport's growth journey, Naresh Kumar said former Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament Daggubati Purandeswari played a pivotal role in securing international status for the airport. She was instrumental in establishing international connectivity to Singapore, making the airport operational round the clock by taking up the recruitment ban issue with

the Union Finance Minister, and obtaining full Airports Authority of India and CISF sanctions for the airport. During the tenure of former Visakhapatnam MP K Haribabu, domestic flight operations increased significantly from around 50-60 flights a day to nearly 80-90 flights.

Former Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M V V Satyanarayana contributed to expanding the airport's international footprint by facilitating new flight services to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, besides improving domestic connectivity to major destinations such as Delhi and Hyderabad through additional flight frequencies.

Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat has been instrumental in restoring international flight operations to Abu Dhabi and launching domestic cargo services from Visakhapatnam. He also led the rehabilitation efforts for airport employees affected by the transition to Bhogapuram Airport. For employees who could not relocate, Sriharat coordinated with hotel associations, farmers' associations and the IT industry to help secure alternative employment opportunities within Visakhapatnam.

Outlining the region's future prospects, Naresh Kumar said the commissioning of Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport, coupled with the proposed CII Partnership Summit scheduled for November-December 2026, is expected to unlock enormous employment and investment opportunities across North Andhra. He said sectors such as data centres, artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, steel, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors are likely to witness significant growth in the coming years.

EV charging station inaugurated at SBI AO



State Bank of India officials inaugurating the EV station at the bank's administrative office in Visakhapatnam.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

AS part of its commitment to promoting sustainable development and encouraging the adoption of green energy, the State Bank of India (SBI) inaugurated an electric vehicle (EV) charging station at its administrative office in Visakhapatnam. The EV charging station was inaugurated jointly by Prafulla

Kumar Jena, general manager (Network-I), SBI and Rahul Sankritya, deputy general manager. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries emphasised SBI's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and the promotion of clean energy initiatives. They stated that installing the EV charging station highlights the bank's dedication to reducing carbon emissions, supporting

eco-friendly transportation and contributing to a greener future. The newly established charging facility is expected to benefit SBI employees, customers and visitors using electric vehicles, highlighting the bank's commitment to sustainable infrastructure and responsible banking practices. Senior officials and staff members of the SBI administrative office were present on the occasion.

Venkaiah Naidu invited for 'World Telugu Literary' conference



HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

FORMER Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu was invited to attend the 10th World Telugu Literary conference as chief guest.

Founder of Lok Nayak Foundation Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad extended an invitation to the former Vice President during his visit to Visakhapatnam. The invitation was extended to the former Vice President in the presence of Shanghai Telugu

Association president K. Madhava Reddy. The conference is scheduled to be organised in Shanghai on October 24 and 25 in collaboration with Vanguri Foundation of America, Shanghai Telugu Association and Lok Nayak Foundation. The conference organisers shared details of the international Telugu literary festival with Venkaiah Naidu. Responding positively, the former Vice President appreciated the organisers for their efforts in promoting Teluguliterature on a global platform.

Conference on 'emerging areas of chemical research' poster launched

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

DR Lankapalli Bullayya College is set to host a national conference on emerging areas of chemical research. Secretary and Correspondent of Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College G. Madhu Kumar launched the brochure for the national conference on 'emerging areas of chemical research' at the campus on Friday.

Organised in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry - India Deccan Local Section (RSC-IDLS) on December 11th and 12th at the college campus, the two-day conference will feature keynote lectures and technical sessions by eminent academicians and researchers from reputed institutions across India. The major themes of the conference include



Secretary and Correspondent of Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College G. Madhu Kumar, among others, at the poster launch event organised at the campus on Friday

green and sustainable chemistry, materials chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and pharmaceutical chemistry, and energy and environmental chemistry. Speaking on the occasion, G Madhu Kumar stated that the conference aims to highlight emerging areas

of chemical research that address the evolving needs of society, technological advancements and sustainable development. The conference brochure was unveiled in the presence of Principals of UG and PG Colleges, the Principal

of Engineering, the dean of campus coordination, Vice-Principals, heads of departments, and faculty members. Registration details and the conference brochure can be accessed by logging on to the college website: <https://lbc.ebu.in/pghome>.

NCB and EAGLE teams destroy seized ganja



NCB and EAGLE officials with the seized ganja in Anakapalli district on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANAKAPALLI

WITH an aim to make Andhra Pradesh drug-free, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and EAGLE wing have jointly undertaken a massive ganja destruction programme here on Friday.

NCB officials seized about 767.5 kg of ganja and 4.036 litres of hashish oil in six separate cases from different parts of the state. The seized drugs and hashish oil were destroyed by a machine without open

burning, following pollution control standards, at the state-of-the-art incineration plant of Ramki Pharma in Tanam village of Parawada mandal. The process was completed under the supervision of EAGLE Superintendent of Police G. Swaroopa Rani and NCB Zonal Director Pankaj Kumar Dwivedi. NCB superintendent Rajan Kumar, Intelligence Officer K. Kiran Babu, EAGLE Division Inspectors G Demullu, Kalyani and members of the Anakapalli EAGLE cell were present.

'India rising to international standards in medical education'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

CHAIRMAN of the Academic Committee, Medical Council of India Vedprakash Mishra stated that medical education in India is expanding rapidly in alignment with international standards.

Addressing a conference at the GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSAR) here on Friday, Vedprakash Mishra noted that the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) granted recognition to India's National Medical Commission (NMC) on September 20, 2023. He proudly announced that, as a result, 719 medical colleges in India gained global recognition, and India now boasts



Chairman of the Academic Committee, Medical Council of India Vedprakash Mishra, institution president M. Sriharat among others, during the programme

more medical colleges than developed English-speaking nations.

He underlined the critical need to enhance the quality of medical education, not just its quantity.

He said that providing specialised training to around 80,000 medical teachers since 2009

was a record-breaking achievement.

The event was attended by GITAM president and Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat, Vice-Chancellor Errol D'Souza, Pro-Vice-Chancellor B. Geetanjali, professors, and representatives from various medical colleges.

Narsapur-B'luru Express flagged off

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHIMAVARAM

UNION Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma flagged off the regular weekly Narsapur-Bengaluru (SMVB) Express service at Palakollu Railway Station on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the train will depart from Narsapur every Friday at 3.50 pm and reach Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru, at 9.45 am on Saturday. On the return journey, it will leave Bengaluru every Saturday at 11 am and arrive in Narsapur at 5.50 am on Sunday. Varma said the train would halt at Palakollu, Veeravaram, Bhimavaram, Akividu, Kaikaluru, Gudivada, Vijayawada, Tenali, Bapatla, Chirala, Ongole, Kavali, Nellore, Guduru and Renigunta, improving rail connectivity for West Godavari district and other regions along the route. He said conversion into a regular express service would reduce ticket fares by nearly 30 per cent while ensuring better punctuality and operational efficiency. He also said railway goods sheds were under construction at Palakollu, Bhimavaram and Akividu stations at a cost of Rs 20 crore. An escalator would also be installed at Palakollu Railway Station, he added.

Gold loan fraud in Bank of Baroda unearthed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ELURU

THE Eluru district police successfully detected a major gold loan fraud involving large-scale financial irregularities and criminal breach of trust at the Bank of Baroda, Jangareddygudem Branch on Friday. Approximately Rs 10 crore was misappropriated. Chalapak Raju (40) of Velampeta in Jangareddygudem, gold appraiser at Jangareddygudem Branch, was the main accused.

The police arrested him and recovered 4.120 kgs of gold worth Rs 5,71,65,000 and Rs 10,00,000 in cash. Under the supervision of the Eluru district Superintendent of Police K Pratap Shiva Kishore, Assistant Superintendent of Police & SDPO, Jangareddygudem, R Sushmitha arrested the accused. Based on a complaint lodged by the Senior Branch Manager of the Bank of Baroda, Jangareddygudem Branch, a case was registered at Jangareddygudem Police Station and investigation was taken up. During the course of the investigation, it was found that serious irregularities had been committed in 176 gold loan accounts. The investigation revealed that the accused, while working as the gold appraiser, dishonestly misappropriated the gold or-

- Senior Branch Manager of the Bank of Baroda, Jangareddygudem Branch registered a case
- Gold appraiser Chalapak Raju misappropriated gold ornaments worth Rs 10 crore pledged by customers
- It is established that approximately 6.4495 grams of gold had been misappropriated



SP K Pratap Shiva Kishore along with other police officials displaying the recovered gold ornaments

SIX HELD, GANJA SEIZED

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

TADEPALLI police arrested six accused in connection with ganja selling and seized 70 grams of ganja from their possession on Friday. Circle Inspector Nar-

endra informed that they have already booked the case against the accused and took permission from the higher officials to take further action. He warned that they will take stern action against those who transport and sell ganja.

special operations, the police recovered a total of 4.120 kgs of gold along with cash of Rs 10,00,000 from the possession of the accused as well as from various jewellery establishments where the stolen gold had been sold or pledged. The total value of the recovered gold is estimated at Rs 5, 71, 65, 000. Efforts are underway to recover the remaining gold. The accused will be taken into police custody for further interroga-

tion. If the involvement of any other individuals is established during the investigation, stringent legal action will be initiated against them in accordance with law, the police said. The SP appreciated the exemplary work of Sushmitha, ASP & SDPO, Jangareddygudem, the investigating officers, Jangareddygudem Circle police personnel in successfully detecting this major financial fraud.

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, Tantalapalle 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

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

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.

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

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



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.

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.

CM reviews Rath Yatra readiness

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday reviewed the preparations for the annual Ratha Yatra during a high-level meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan here and stressed better co-ordination, communication and safety measures to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival. The review came days after the Chief Minister held a similar high-level meeting in Puri on July 6. During the review meeting on Friday, the Chief Minister assessed the overall arrangements and directed officials to maintain close coordination and constant communication at every level to avoid any communication gaps during the festival.

Majhi emphasised timely conduct of rituals, security of the chariots and devotees, crowd management and fire safety. He said efficient and experienced officers would play a key role in ensuring the orderly management of the Rath Yatra. Reiterating the importance of coordination, the Chief Minister said, "There should be a system for continuous sharing of information among officers and employees at every level to ensure the implementation of pre-determined decisions and to take necessary measures as required. Senior officers must ensure that there is no communication gap under any circumstances."



The Chief Minister also reviewed arrangements related to cordon management, women's safety, surveillance of suspicious persons and substance abusers, traffic regulation, quality checks of food and drinking water, emergency evacuation plans and weather-related preparedness. He asked officials to make all arrangements foolproof.

According to the official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, around 12,000 police personnel, along with adequate number of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), will be deployed for security arrangements during

the festival. The Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy will also remain on alert to check any illegal activities through the coastal route. Meanwhile, as many as 19 senior IPS officers have been assigned the duty to supervise the overall security arrangements.

The CMO further added that the State government has installed 473 CCTV cameras to keep watch on the movement of devotees and 65 large LED screens to disseminate important information to devotees in Odia, Hindi and English. Similarly, 16 permanent mobile towers and several temporary towers have also

been set up to strengthen communication services. Bulk messaging facilities will also be used to disseminate information.

The government also informed that help desks will be established at Gundicha Temple to assist elderly and differently-abled devotees to have hassle-free darshan of the deities. Multiple evacuation corridors have been created for crowd management, while an Integrated Command and Control Centre will monitor all security operations. Officials have also made arrangements for parking facilities, high-mast lighting along the Grand Road, 1,700 bio-toilets and

eight temporary hospitals to provide healthcare services during the festival.

Volunteers will be deployed to ensure regular cleaning of the bio-toilets. The meeting was also informed that more than 300 special trains will operate to Puri during the Rath Yatra. The Chief Minister directed officials to coordinate crowd management and passenger movement according to train schedules. Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration Aravind Padhee and Additional Director General of Police Soumendra Priyadarshi presented detailed reports on the preparations.

Over one crore women get Rs 20.6K cr Subhadra money

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Odisha government has transferred over Rs 20,648 crore to more than one crore women beneficiaries of Subhadra Yojana in four instalments, while the fifth tranche will be released on the upcoming 'Rakhi Purnima' (Raksha Bandhan) in August, officials said on Friday.

Ahead of disbursement of the fifth instalment of money (Rs 5,000 per beneficiary), Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida on Friday reviewed the preparedness and directed officers concerned to complete field verification of pending applicants by July 25. She also directed that the progress of these cases be reviewed daily to ensure timely completion of the fifth instalment.

Speaking to mediapersons, Parida, who is in charge of the Women and Child Development department, said applications of about 3.53 lakh women are pending field verification. The block level committees under the Subhadra scheme will approve the findings of field level officials and forward them to the district and then to the State government. Accordingly, those found eligible would receive the fifth instalment, she said, adding that the exercise will be completed by July 25.

Several applications are also pending at various stages, including e-KYC, bank account verification, and biometrics. Applicants concerned should complete these as soon as possible to reap the scheme's benefit, Parida said.

According to officials, a total of 1.15 crore applications have been registered



under the Subhadra Yojana so far. Of these, 3.17 lakh new applications were received during the financial year 2026-27.

Following scrutiny and eligibility assessment, 1.02 crore women were initially identified as potential beneficiaries for the fifth instalment, they said.

After verification by district administrations confirmed the deaths of 5,277 beneficiaries, the final list of 1.01 crore eligible beneficiaries has been prepared for the fifth instalment as of now. During the meeting, Parida reviewed the progress of key preparatory activities, including Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) activation, biometric e-KYC, field enquiries, NPCI mapping, payment file preparation and coordination with banks.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised the need for expeditious disposal of pending cases and called for close coordination among all stakeholders to complete the necessary processes within the stipulated timeline.

Emphasising timely, transparent and error-free implementation of the

scheme, Parida directed officials to ensure complete preparedness at all levels for seamless disbursement of the fifth instalment to every eligible beneficiary.

She stressed close coordination among field-level functionaries, the departments concerned, technical agencies and banking institutions to complete all necessary processes within the stipulated timeline. Subhadra Yojana, a women-centric ambitious scheme of the BJP government, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday in Bhubaneswar on September 17, 2024.

Women between the age group of 21 to 60 years are eligible as beneficiaries of the Subhadra Yojana, which envisages providing financial assistance of Rs 50,000 over five years (2024-25 to 2028-29) to make them financially independent and self-reliant.

Each beneficiary is receiving Rs 10,000 per year in two instalments of Rs 5,000 each — one on International Women's Day (March 8) and the other on Raksha Bandhan.

ASHA WORKER ALLEGES SOCIAL BOYCOTT

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK
BRAHMAMUR

AN Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker from Gajapati district has alleged that she was socially ostracised, fined Rs 5,000 and threatened by members of her own community for providing healthcare services to a family belonging to another community while performing her official duties.

The incident has been reported from Jirang village under Rayagada block, where Sunandini Mishal has been serving as an ASHA worker. In a complaint submitted to the district police, she alleged that she has been facing harassment for providing medicines, injections and other basic healthcare services to



a neighbouring family of a different community.

According to her, some villagers questioned her for visiting the family's house, speaking to them and remaining in contact over the phone.

She alleged that a group of local residents, led by four persons, imposed a social boycott on her and fined her Rs 5,000.

Though the penalty was reportedly paid by her husband, the family continues to face social exclusion and has allegedly been barred from participating in religious and community activities.

Sunandini further alleged that she has also been threatened with losing her job. Claiming that no action was taken despite lodging a complaint with Rayagada police, she approached Gajapati SP Prahlad Sahai Meena seeking intervention. The SP has directed the SDPO to inquire into the allegations. Police said the matter is under investigation.

Mason held for raping woman

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK
RAHMAMUR

DIGAPAHANDI police arrested a 31-year-old mason on charges of allegedly raping a 26-year-old woman and blackmailing her with intimate photographs and videos. The accused was produced before a local court and remanded to judicial custody after his bail plea was rejected.

The accused, Shankar Naik alias Saheb of Chintakhali village under Sanakhemundi block, allegedly exploited the woman, who had earlier worked with him as a daily wage labourer at construction sites. Police said he repeatedly threatened her and used secretly recorded intimate images and videos to coerce her into a physical relationship.

According to the complaint, the woman had recently ended all contacts with the accused. On Tuesday afternoon, he allegedly confronted

her near an Aahaar Centre at the Digapahandi bus stand, verbally abused her, threatened to upload her private images on social media, and forcibly took her to an under-construction house, where he allegedly raped her.

The woman's cries for help alerted local residents, who rescued her and shifted her to the Digapahandi Community Health Centre for treatment. Based on her complaint, Digapahandi police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The survivor's statement was recorded, and both the survivor and the accused underwent medical examination at MKCG Medical College and Hospital. Following the investigation, police arrested the accused and forwarded him to court. The court rejected his bail application and remanded him to judicial custody. Further investigation is in progress.

Murder fugitive caught after 28 years

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

NEARLY three decades after he escaped from police custody in handcuffs, a murder accused was arrested by Odisha Police, officials said on Friday. The accused, identified as Nilamani Mahanand, was wanted in connection with a murder case registered under various sections of the IPC, including Section 302 (murder), the State police headquarters said. Police said Mahanand allegedly assumed a false identity after escaping, changed his name to Raju Gonda and settled in Raigarh district of

neighbouring Chhattisgarh. He had also obtained Aadhaar and PAN cards under the assumed name to evade arrest.

In October 1998, Mahanand and others allegedly killed Durayodhan Deep in Bhundupali village of Jharsuguda district over a previous enmity. "While in transit in 1998, Mahanand managed to escape from a police station while still in handcuffs. He remained untraceable since his escape," a police official said.

Acting on intelligence inputs, sustained surveillance and verification, Jharsuguda Police traced and arrested the accused after 28 years, the



statement said. Mahanand was produced before a competent court for further legal proceedings, police said, adding that the arrest brought an end to a long-running manhunt.

Science-led growth needed to tackle global challenges, says V-P

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

VICE-President C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday called upon young scientists to harness science and technology to address global challenges, saying scientific capability is fundamental to achieving India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

Addressing the graduating students at the convocation of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) here, Radhakrishnan said that the world today faces unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges, including climate change, emerging diseases and rapid advances in artificial intelligence, quantum computing and advanced materials.

In such a scenario, the Vice-President said, science must not only generate knowledge but also guide policy and ensure sustainability. He stressed that for a country like India, with its demographic strength and developmental aspirations, scientific capability is not optional but foundational



to achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

Emphasising the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, Radhakrishnan said that contemporary challenges cannot be addressed within the boundaries of a single discipline. He urged the graduating students to nurture curiosity, uphold integrity, embrace challenges and use their knowledge for the larger good of society.

"Science is not only about finding answers but also about asking the right questions," the Vice-President remarked. Highlighting India's growing stature in science and innovation, Radhakrishnan said that the country's achievements in space missions, vaccine development, digital public infrastructure and renewable energy have earned it global recognition.

He urged the graduates to balance ambition with responsibility and progress with compassion, adding that their research, ideas and integrity would shape the future of society. Paying tribute to the legacy of Dr Homi Bhabha, Radhakrishnan said that institutions such as NISER are carrying forward India's rich scientific tradition by producing talented scien-

tists who are contributing to fundamental sciences, atomic energy, healthcare physics and other emerging interdisciplinary fields.

He appreciated the institution's alumni for enhancing India's scientific footprint through research and academic excellence in India and abroad. Recalling the day his father told him about the demise of Dr. Homi Bhabha, the Vice-President said that it was a major setback for the country's atomic research.

However, he added, the country emerged stronger from the tragedy and has since become one of the world's leading nations in atomic research. The Vice-President also expressed hope that many of the graduates from NISER would go on to become future Dr Homi Bhabhas, making significant contributions to India's scientific and technological advancement.

The ceremony was attended by Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati; Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi; Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other dignitaries.

BLOOD DONOR KILLS ELDERLY MAN

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BRAHMAMUR

A man was arrested in Ganjam district on Thursday for allegedly killing a 60-year-old man over the non-payment of dues for the blood he donated to the victim's daughter, police said. The incident took place in Gopalpur area on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as Sunil Kumar Majhi (35), a resident of Gadasanaput in Satyabadi police station area of Puri district.

He was, however, presently residing in Ganju area under the jurisdiction of Gopalpur police station in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as Saita Das. According to the police, the accused had donated blood to Das's daughter a month ago when she was ill. When Das was returning from his field on Wednesday evening, Majhi intercepted him near Ganju panchayat office and demanded payment.

When Das said he would pay the amount upon returning home, the accused became enraged and assaulted him with an iron spade. As a result, he fell unconscious on the spot, a police officer said. Locals informed Das's family about the incident and he was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment, he said. The accused was later arrested and further investigation was under progress.

3 stranded tourists rescued from hill

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANUGOLA

AFTER a gruelling 22-hour ordeal and getting stranded at the Malyagiri hill, three young tourists from Kendujhar were safely rescued by Fire department personnel. The rescued tourists are Ghanshyam Patra (19), Ananta Munda (20) and Bapun Mahanty (25).

Seven tourists from Kendujhar trekked a hill 25 km from Pallahara on Wednesday. While four returned safely, three went missing and spent the night on the hill, raising serious safety concerns.

According to reports, the seven tourists from Kendujhar had arrived by motorcycle to trek Malyagiri hill, beginning their ascent around noon. After trekking some distance, four members of the group abandoned the climb and returned to the base by Wednesday evening.

The remaining three trekkers continued up the hill, reaching the summit before evening. Unable to find a way down as night fell, they used their mobile phones to call 112. Emergency operators immediately dispatched



the Pallahara fire officials to the hilltop to rescue the stranded group.

Pallahara Fire officer Rabin Soren said his team received a distress call on Thursday morning regarding tourists stranded on a hilltop.

The officials requested the youth to share their coordinates, which enabled the rescue team to locate them after a challenging three-hour journey to the summit.

All the three stranded tourists were successfully rescued by Thursday noon and taken for medical checkups.

Following the incident, local authorities and police from Pallahara police station advised tourists and adventure enthusiasts to avoid venturing into forested hilly areas during the monsoon season, as heavy rains rapidly compromise visibility and track safety.

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 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.

TTD's Srivari Vaidya Seva gets good response from doctors

- The organisation has been implementing the scheme on a 3-month trial basis
- So far, 488 specialist doctors from India and abroad have registered to their participation
- Under Go Seva programme, Veterinary specialists have conducted health examinations on 450 cows



File photo of TTD executive officer M Ravichandra launching the dedicated IT application of Srivari Vaidya Seva in Tirupati

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has received an encouraging response from specialist doctors and other professionals across India and overseas for its newly launched Srivari Vaidya Seva programme, which aims to provide voluntary medical services to devotees.

The programme was introduced by TTD, inspired by the success of the Srivari Seva initiative and following the suggestions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu

Naidu to involve medical, veterinary and other professionals in voluntary service. TTD is currently implementing the programme on a three-month trial basis with a comprehensive action plan.

TTD joint executive officer Dr A Sarath said slot bookings opened on June 20 and 488 specialist doctors and experts from various fields have already registered. Specialist doctors are offered three-day service slots, while other doctors can serve for seven days. Those interested can also volunteer for one

month, six months or even a year. Service slots are being allotted by the respective department heads based on hospital requirements.

The Go Seva programme launched under Srivari Vaidya Seva has also received a positive response. Dr Sarath said all service slots for the first three batches have been filled, reflecting the confidence shown by volunteers. The veterinary specialists are providing advanced treatment for cows at the TTD Gosamrakshana Shala, including diagnosis, surgeries

and treatment of reproductive disorders.

So far, comprehensive health examinations have been conducted on 450 indigenous cows, and about 250 of them have been identified as having the potential for pregnancy. The experts have also guided goshala staff on proper feeding, nutrition, medical care, surgeries and daily management of the animals.

The veterinary team has treated several cows suffering from reproductive health problems. In one complex

case, surgeons successfully performed corrective surgery on a cow born with a combined birth and excretory passage, creating separate functional passages. Another cow, which was unable to walk due to a leg problem, underwent successful surgery. Dr Sarath said such complicated procedures were being carried out by experienced veterinary specialists.

Veterinary expert Dr G Padmanabhan said serving cows was equivalent to serving Lord Venkateswara. He described the week-long service as a unique spiritual experience and said the team had been carrying out treatments, surgeries and disease prevention measures effectively. JEO Sarath appealed to every doctor participating in Srivari Vaidya Seva to share their experience with colleagues and encourage more professionals to join the initiative. He said TTD would review suggestions received from volunteers during the three-month trial period and make necessary improvements before implementing the programme on a larger scale.

Teeparru charts AP's pushkaralu blueprint

- First village to launch zero-plastic, zero-flex and zero-pollution campaign ahead of Godavari Pushkaralu-2027
- Community-led initiative to be showcased to CM and Deputy CM for replication across Godavari basin
- River conservation, pilgrimage tourism and rural livelihoods woven into a single sustainable model

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ON the banks of the Vasista Godavari, where plastic waste and political flex banners once dominated the riverfront, Teeparru has scripted a new chapter in Andhra Pradesh's preparations for Godavari Pushkaralu-2027. The West Godavari village has become the state's first 'Maa Godavari Pushkaralu Model Village', transforming Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's 'Swachh Godavari-Pavitra Pushkaralu' vision from a government blueprint into a grassroots movement.

Unlike a conventional government programme, the initiative has been driven jointly by villagers, the Gram Panchayat, the State Tourism Department, the West Godavari district administration and Mahavatar Babaji TadEkaam Foundation. More than 400 villagers gathered to take a collective pledge to protect the river—not merely during Pushkaralu but every day. Tourism minister Kandula Durgesh, who launched the initiative, described Teeparru as a village that had shown the government the way. Calling it a model worthy of replication, he said community participation was the key to

preserving the Godavari for future generations. The initiative directly echoes Pawan Kalyan's action plan announced in Rajamahendravaram in May, which envisages more than 260 model panchayats, elimination of untreated sewage entering the Godavari, continuous pollution monitoring and strict vigilance over industrial discharge before the 2027 Pushkaralu.

At the heart of Teeparru's transformation is a four-point commitment: treating the river as 'Maa Godavari', eliminating plastic, removing political and commercial flex banners from the village and ghats, and ensuring zero pollution. The campaign also promotes the philosophy of 'Seva Hi Snan', emphasising that protecting the river is the highest form of devotion.

The model goes beyond conservation. Teeparru is also developing tourism infrastructure, including selfie points overlooking the Godavari, kayaking facilities and leisure boating with refreshments and music, creating new livelihood opportunities while enhancing the pilgrim experience. The tourism department and district administration will now present the Teeparru model to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan with a proposal to replicate it across the Godavari basin. TadEkaam Foundation has already announced plans to extend the initiative to Mukkamala, Kundaleswaram, Mukteswaram and Kovvur, working with local bodies and government departments.

Targeted for completion by Sankranti-2027, months before Godavari Pushkaralu (June 26–July 7, 2027), Teeparru is expected to serve as Andhra Pradesh's pilot model for integrating river conservation, spiritual tourism, adventure activities and rural development into a single community-driven programme.

Deeply moved by warm welcome from Indian community in New Zealand: PM

Continued from P1

"The love and affection of the New Zealand's Indian community touched me deeply. They have waited four decades for the visit of an Indian Prime Minister and their extraordinary enthusiasm and warmth were visible today. Their bond with India remains unwavering." PM Modi arrived in Auckland Friday evening, local time, for the

third and final leg of his three-nation visit. In a special gesture, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon received PM Modi at the airport. This marks the first official visit of an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40 years. The iconic Sky Tower in Auckland was illuminated in the Indian tricolour as a special gesture to mark Prime Minister Modi's visit to New Zealand.

One Nation, One Election rollout likely by '29: Panel

Continued from P1

He said that the committee has visited several states, including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhanda, 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 acceptable to all political parties," he said.

Asked about the timeline for implementation, he said the committee was examining various options, indicating that the reform could become operational by the

time the next general elections are due in 2029.

He said there is also a possibility of bringing some states into alignment before that if political parties and the chief ministers voluntarily agree to synchronise their electoral cycles.

Highlighting the economic rationale behind the proposal, Chaudhary cited findings placed before the high-level committee headed by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

E20 petrol may cut mileage by 5%: Govt

Continued from P1

India achieved 10 per cent ethanol blending in 2022, ahead of schedule, and reached 20 per cent blending during the 2025-26 ethanol supply year after investments in dedicated ethanol plants, storage and logistics, the ministry said. Addressing concerns over older vehicles, the ministry said E20 underwent extensive testing covering engine durability, fuel systems, material compatibility, corrosion resistance, drivability and emissions before its nationwide rollout. It cited feedback

from automobile manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki and Hero MotoCorp, saying they had not reported E20-related corrosion, abnormal wear or component-life damage in vehicles serviced under real-world conditions.

The ministry also dismissed demands for petrol pumps to offer multiple fuel grades such as pure petrol, E10 and E20, saying maintaining parallel nationwide supply chains would increase logistics costs and complicate fuel distribution across India's network of more than 100,000 retail outlets.

Cabinet clears gold mine, mega industrial projects

Continued from P1

These include 60.29 acres at a price of Rs 15 lakhs per acre for the Adani Foundation to establish a skill, education, healthcare and medical education ecosystem in Visakhapatnam; 91.38 acres for Ecohub Industrial Asset IV Pvt. Ltd. to develop a logistics and light industrial park; 93.43 acres for Berry Alloys Ltd. to establish a Rs 1,200 crore integrated steel raw material project in Vizianagaram, and 34.02 acres for Akshat Greentech Pvt. Ltd. to set up a 3.5-GW solar cell manufacturing unit in Anakapalle with an investment of Rs 1,600 crore generating 750 jobs.

Incentive packages for Mondelez India to expand its Sri City chocolate manufacturing plant with an investment of Rs 1,801 crore, Averon Panels' Rs 1,137.58 crore integrated wood panel project in Kuppam, and SAF One India's Rs 1,356.22 crore sustainable

aviation fuel plant were also approved.

A major logistics boost came with approval for an Integrated Logistics Park at Satyavedu in Tirupati district. Spread over 63.01 acres, the Rs 255 crore project will include warehousing, industrial units, container yards, truck terminals and cold storage facilities, creating around 1,000 jobs.

The Cabinet also approved incentives for tourism projects, including an ITC Welcomhotel four-star hotel in Nellore, a three-star hotel and an integrated amusement park in Kadapa, a Sarovar Portico mixed-use hospitality project in Vijayawada, besides amending the Tourism Policy to facilitate promotion of concerts.

For Amaravati, the Cabinet approved fresh CRDA land allotments, amendments to Land Pooling Scheme Rules, doubled the monthly rehabilitation assistance for 634 displaced

families from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, and cleared implementation of the agricultural loan waiver scheme for eligible farmers in seven Land Pooling Scheme villages.

In a major decision relating to public infrastructure, the Cabinet sanctioned 10 Multi-Village Drinking Water Schemes worth Rs 9,355 crore and 2,943 drinking water works costing Rs 1,811.81 crore to improve water supply in severely water-scarce habitations, subject to availability of Jal Jeevan Mission and other funds.

The Cabinet also approved Rs 1,800 crore working capital support for AP MARKFED, establishment of an exclusive NIA Special Court at Visakhapatnam with state-wide jurisdiction, three Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence for IIT-JEE and NEET coaching, increase in the government's equity in MARKFED, and several administrative and land-use approvals.

May be put behind bars or bumped off, says Hasina

Continued from P1

"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. The high-stakes announcement follows a ruling by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, which sentenced her to death after convicting her of crimes against humanity.

Rajpal Yadav to go to jail as court upholds conviction

Continued from P1

The Court further ordered that the actor shall undergo three months' imprisonment in each of the seven cheque bounce cases, with all the sentences running concurrently. It also directed him to pay the fine imposed by the trial court, observing that failure to pay the fine would entail six months' imprisonment. The Court granted Yadav two months' time to either comply with the judgment or avail of legal remedies before the appropriate forum.

Modi lands in New Zealand on final leg of three-nation tour

Continued from P1

I will also be addressing a community programme tomorrow in Auckland," he said. In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "This historic visit is set to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock new avenues of cooperation across several areas especially trade, defence, sports, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges." Calling it as a "special welcome in Auckland", the MEA in another post on X said the iconic Sky Tower was illuminated to mark Modi's visit to New Zealand, "symbolising the friendship between our two countries." In his departure statement in New Delhi, the prime minister had said that his visit would "meaningfully build" upon the strong momentum in India-New Zealand ties pursuing to Luxon's visit to India in March 2025. Modi said his visit to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand will further strengthen India's Act East Policy, MAHASAGAR Vision, as well as its outlook towards a free and open Indo-Pacific. During his two-day visit to New Zealand, he will hold talks with Luxon on ways to further enhance economic, trade and commercial engagements. He will also address the Indian diaspora at a community programme. Modi arrived in New Zealand after concluding a three-day visit to Australia, where he held summit talks with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and both leaders reinforced the vital role of the bilateral partnership in ensuring a peaceful Indo-Pacific. A major highlight of the summit talks between the two leaders was their focus on significantly ramping up defence ties, especially in the maritime domain.

An agreement on civil nuclear energy to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to fuel New Delhi's nuclear power projects was sealed after over two years of negotiations. Modi was in Indonesia before that, where 14 agreements were inked to boost cooperation in critical minerals, maritime security and other key sectors.

Iran hatched fresh plot to kill Trump, Israel alerts US

Continued from P1

Concurrently, CNN, citing two sources familiar with the matter, reported that the warning 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 inten-

sify American military action against Iran.

One source told the broadcaster 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 on Wednesday while speaking to reporters in Ankara, Turkey.

Mystery strikes hit Iran after US ends attacks

Continued from P1

The attacks come as they and the US insist the Strait of Hormuz must be open and free to ships to transit. Iran insists the strait, through which about a fifth of all oil and natural gas passes, must now be under its sole control and that vessels should begin to pay fees to Tehran - even though the world for decades has considered it an international waterway. Iran's grip on the strait during the conflict led to a global energy crisis, though oil prices have sharply dropped since wartime highs of USD 120 a barrel. Israel, which took part in the Iran war, also has not claimed any recent attacks on Iran.

AP Cabinet orders tough crackdown on social media abuse

Continued from P1

The issue dominated the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday, where director general of police and senior police officials gave a detailed presentation on social media-related offences, legal challenges in prosecution, and the handling of such cases in courts.

Following the presentation, the Cabinet directed the police not to ignore objectionable social media content and instructed them to invoke all available legal provisions against offenders while respecting the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.

The Chief Minister

ordered the establishment of a state-level Social Media Response Cell as well as a Task Force to monitor, investigate, and act against cases involving alleged online abuse, hate campaigns, misinformation, and character assassination. Police officers have been directed to immediately constitute the task force, with the option of inducting outside experts, if required.

Naidu also instructed officials to allocate funds for identifying anonymous social media handles involved in abusive and defamatory campaigns and ordered specialised training for station house officers (SHOs) to strengthen investigation of cyber-related offences.

To help strengthen the government's cases in courts, the Chief Minister directed the police department to identify and recommend public prosecutors with expertise in cyber investigations, saying legal strategy in tackling social media cases should be significantly strengthened.

A key decision of the Cabinet was to examine whether Andhra Pradesh requires a special law to deal with serious social media offences.

Naidu directed officials to study the legal frameworks adopted by other states and countries, assess existing best practices, and submit recommendations on whether an exclusive piece of legislation is required

and Public Relations

Minister K Parthasarathy said social media was increasingly being used not only to attack political opponents but also to spread falsehoods, damage reputations, and mislead the public. He alleged that certain individuals were receiving support from political parties to carry out such campaigns and said the government would utilise every legal provision available to take strict action against those responsible.

The Minister said the proposal for a separate law to deal with serious social media misuse would also be studied as part of the government's broader effort to strengthen legal and institutional safeguards against online abuse.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Information

Lokesh pitches for Korean investments in shipbuilding

Continued from P1

Seeking to diversify its industrial base, Andhra Pradesh also invited HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (HD KSOE), a part of HD Hyundai group, to explore investments in shipbuilding and offshore engineering, highlighting the state's 1,053-km coastline, six operational ports, upcoming deep-water ports and expanding logistics infrastructure.

Semiconductors and electronics emerged as another major focus. The government invited Korean companies to establish display equipment manufacturing, semiconductor packaging and PCB manufacturing

facilities, while highlighting the Rs 1,595-crore Shinhyup Electronics project at Naidupeta, which is expected to generate over 2,100 jobs.

The state also pitched opportunities in EV components, battery energy storage systems, home appliances and green energy manufacturing, showcasing Andhra Pradesh's plans to develop a 160-GW renewable energy ecosystem and dedicated EV manufacturing clusters.

To deepen long-term economic engagement, the government proposed establishing a dedicated Korea Desk within the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board, creating Korean industrial parks, expanding

skill development partnerships and opening the first Invest Korea/KOTRA office in South India outside the metropolitan cities.

With India and South Korea targeting bilateral trade of \$50 billion by 2030, Andhra Pradesh is positioning itself to capture a larger share of Korean investments by leveraging its ports, industrial corridors, skilled workforce and investor-friendly policies. The state is now aiming to build on the success of Kia and LG by making Korea a key partner in its next phase of industrialisation centred on semiconductors, EVs, shipbuilding and advanced manufacturing.



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



Anupama 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, Anupama 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.

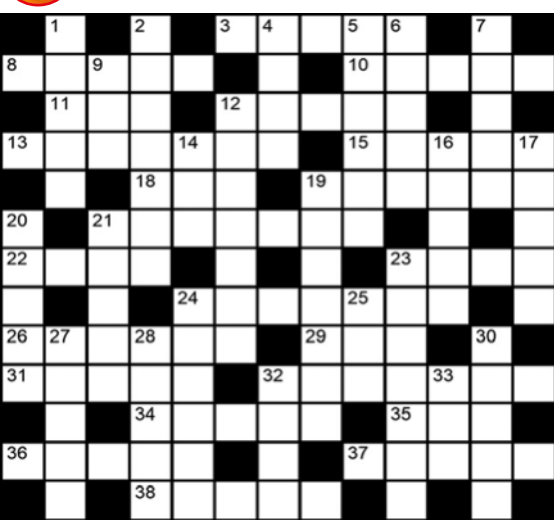
The actress also narrates that she was diagnosed with it in 2018 after undergoing harsh medication, which in turn got side-effects and affected her pancreas. At the time, she had no idea what the disease was or why she was getting it. She adds that it was hard to admit the fact that she would never be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

- 3 Tiffs (5)
- 8 "Ivanhoe" author (5)
- 10 Raise (5)
- 11 ___ bad way: Ill (2,1)
- 12 A poison (5)
- 13 ___ from : nowhere close to in quality, etc. (1,3,3)
- 15 Goes up (5)
- 18 Three as a prefix (3)
- 19 Accompany (6)
- 21 A formation flight at low altitude over spectators ? (3,4)
- 22 Scottish hillside (4)
- 23 Wooden barrels (4)
- 24 Larger or bigger (7)
- 26 Stallone role Rocky ___ (6)
- 29 Place (3)
- 31 Sour - "brace" anagram ? (5)
- 32 Myths and ___ : folklore ? (7)
- 34 Does as told (5)
- 35 Scrap of cloth (3)
- 36 Electrical conductor (5)
- 37 Recorded (5)
- 38 Postpone (5)

DOWN

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



Solution to July 10

SUDOKU



Solution to July 10



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."

Chuppspacts with PGBA

Chupps 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.

FM to meet PSU banks heads to over foreign currency deposits

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on Monday to review progress of foreign currency deposit mobilisation exercise being undertaken by them.

In a bid to attract foreign currency deposits by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), the Reserve Bank of India last month withdrew, till September 30, interest rate ceiling on fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits of 3-5 years' maturity. The move came at a time when FCNR(B) deposit inflows weakened sharply, with net inflows dropping to just \$946 million in FY26 from \$7.1 billion in FY25. The Finance Minister will chair a meeting of public sector banks and financial institutions, including IDBI Bank, on mobilisation of FCNR(B) deposits, Overseas Foreign Currency Bonds and External Commercial Borrowings on July 13, sources said.

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.



"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)

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.

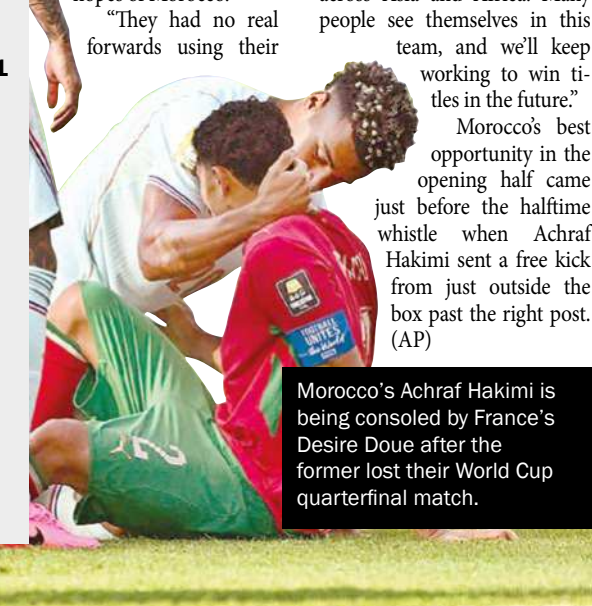
After France's 3-0 victory

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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.

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 EIPL &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 Hy-



Hyderabad E-Champions 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

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 Bidhananagar 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.



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.



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



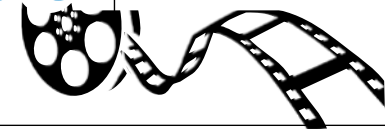
are valued, heard and remembered. For students, practising empathy is as important as academic success. Reaching out to someone who may

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.



'Lenin' review: A gripping rural drama

SUHAS SISTU

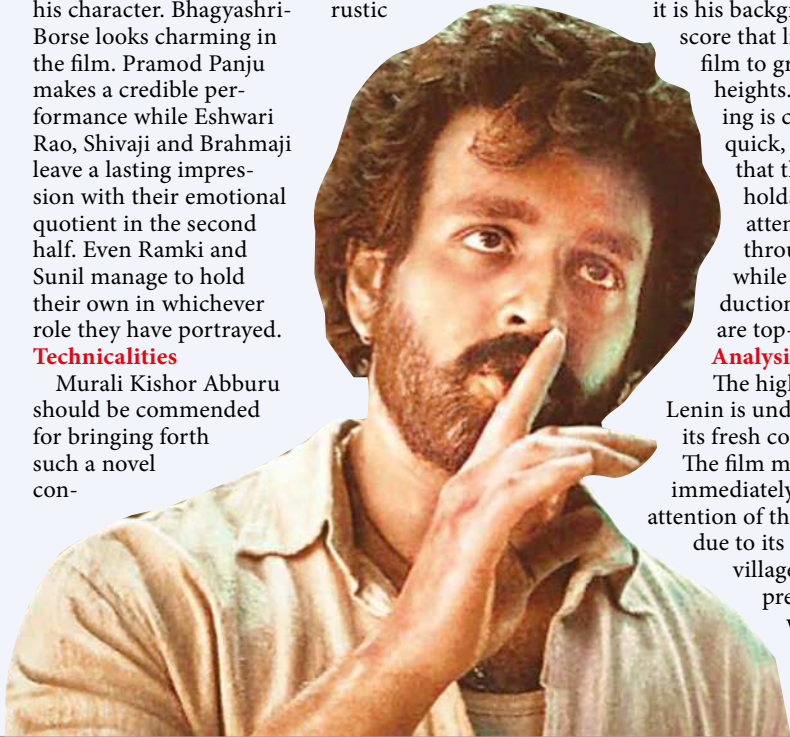
LENIN marks an important milestone in the career of Akhil Akkineni as it reunites the young hero with director Murali Kishor Abburu and comes backed by ManamEnterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments. Now let us see what Lenin delivers at box-office.

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.



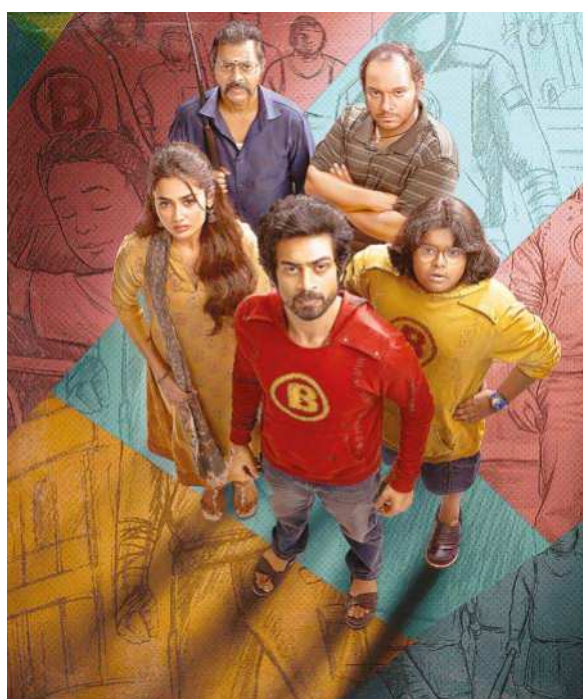
Super Hero Babu: Arjun Das' bilingual comes with fresh concept

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 angry 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 Bhav. Thanks to its timely theme and engaging narrative, the film has been gaining much attention prior to its release.

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