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Monsoon in no mood to stop in August

Country's rain deficit shrinks to 14%

NEW DELHI: India's south-west monsoon is showing no signs of weakening and is instead expected to gain further momentum during the first half of August, raising hopes of a strong recovery after weeks of uneven rainfall across the country. The India Meteorological Department's latest rainfall data shows the all-India monsoon rainfall deficit has narrowed to 14%, a significant improvement from much steeper short-falls recorded earlier this season. Meteorologists say the revival is being driven by the strongest weather system of the monsoon so far, a deep depression moving across Maharashtra.

PM discusses West Asia crisis in key Cabinet meet

CCS discusses global security situation, supply chain constraints

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and held detailed discussions with senior ministers on the prevailing global security situation, with a focus on maintaining uninterrupted supply chains amid ongoing conflicts affecting key maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Black Sea, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The meeting reviewed measures taken by various ministries and departments to safeguard India's energy



security, fertiliser supplies, shipping operations and the interests of Indian citizens and the Indian community living abroad.

The two-hour meeting at the Parliament House com-

plex was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with ministers handling

petroleum, commerce, shipping and fertilisers.

Officials said this was the fourth special CCS meeting convened on the West Asia situation.

The Cabinet Secretary briefed the CCS on the current geopolitical developments and steps taken to ensure adequate availability of petroleum products, including LNG and LPG. He informed the committee that LPG procurement sources have been diversified and that overall stocks of major petroleum products remain adequate.

Continued on Page 7

AP preferred destination for global investors: Lokesh

Lays foundation for Tata, Suzlon renewable energy projects in Kurnool

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PATTIKONDA (KURNOOL)

DECLARING that Andhra Pradesh has regained the confidence of global investors, Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh said on Thursday that the state has emerged as a preferred investment destination in view of the present government's focus on policy stability, speed, and investor-friendly governance.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited's (TPREL) 800 MW hybrid renewable energy project near Hosur in Pattikonda constituency on Thursday. He said the Rs.5,350-crore



Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh at the foundation-laying ceremony of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited's 800 MW hybrid renewable energy project near Hosur in Pattikonda constituency on Thursday

project, spread across Kurnool and Anantapur districts, reflects renewed investor confidence in Andhra Pradesh. Lokesh observed that the state's renewable

energy capacity has increased by nearly 400 per cent over the past year, attributing the growth to restored credibility and consistent policy implementation. Continued on Page 7

Centre defends ethanol blends

Says no verified engine failures in over 20 cr vehicles
Claims E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 2-6%



NEW DELHI: Amid the debate over ethanol-blended fuel, the government on Thursday said E20 offers a "higher-octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, cleaner combustion and smoother engine performance." More than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on ethanol-blended fuel without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha in a written reply. Gadkari said E20 improves acceleration and ride quality while reducing carbon emissions. "Laboratory studies, field validation and real-world operating experience have not established any adverse impact on vehicle performance due to E20 fuel. This is evident from the fact that E15 blended petrol has been in widespread use for over three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years," he said.

Continued on Page 7

Puri holds talks with Team Bharat Group activist Tehseen Poonawalla arrested



Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with Team Bharat activist Tehseen Poonawalla

NEW DELHI: Post the Jantar Mantar protests and clashes, the Narendra Modi government appears determined not to repeat the missteps that turned the recent student protests into a movement powerful enough to force Dharmendra Pradhan to step down as the Union education minister. With the Ethanol-Blended Petrol programme now drawing similar backlash, New Delhi is moving early.

Continued on Page 7

Security beefed up at Bhogapuram for PM's visit

Modi to inaugurate new airport on Aug 1 ■ 5,000 police personnel being deployed for security

VASU POTNURU/ VISAKHAPATNAM

AHEAD of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, security has been heavily beefed up at Bhogapuram. Close to 5,000 police personnel are expected to be deployed to ensure a safe, secure and smooth inauguration of the airport followed by the public meeting which is expected to draw 2 lakh people. During his visit to Bhogapuram, Narendra Modi will spend two hours and twenty-five minutes participating in various events. A no-fly zone has been declared for 72 hours. Restrictions are in place within a 5-km radius of the new airport, public meeting venue, helipad and surrounding routes from 8 pm on July 29 to 8 pm on August 1. Continued on P7



Bhogapuram Airport set to propel north Andhra growth

P5



vijayawada
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

మలేరియా అంతం.. మనతోనే సాధ్యం...

దోమకాటును - నిర్మూలం చేస్తే

అనారోగ్యం మరియు ప్రాణహాని



చిన్న చిన్న జాగ్రత్తలతో మలేరియా, డెంగ్యూ, చికున్ గున్యా వ్యాధులను వ్యాప్తిచేయు దోమలను మనం పూర్తిగా నిరోధించవచ్చు

దోమల వృద్ధి చెందే ప్రదేశాలు



మొక్కల త్రేలు **మనీ ప్లాంట్ / ప్లాంట్ వాడీ** **ఖాళీ టైర్లు** **ఖాళీ కొబ్బరిదోండాలు**

చెయ్యకూడనవి

- మీ ఇంటి పరిసర ప్రాంతాలలో నీరు నిల్వ ఉంచకూడదు.
- వ్యాధి లక్షణాలు కనిపించిన వెంటనే అస్తర్ల చేయకుండా డాక్టర్ ను సంప్రదించవలెను.
- దోమలు నియంత్రించు పద్ధతులు పట్ల ఆలసత్వం వహించకూడదు.
- మీ ఇంట్లో పనికిరాని మరియు పగిలిపోయిన వస్తువులు ఉంచకూడదు.

దోమలు కుట్టకుండా తీసుకోవాల్సిన జాగ్రత్తలు



దోమ తెరలు ఉపయోగించుట **దోమలు కుట్టకుండా వస్తువులు ధరించుట** **దోమలు కుట్టకుండా రోషన్లు రాసుకొనుట**

దోమలు నివారణకు చెయ్యవలసినవి

- ఫ్లవర్ పాట్స్, డ్రమ్ములు, కూలర్స్, టైర్లు లలో ఉన్న నీటిని వారానికి ఒకసారి తీసివేసి శుభ్రంచేసి మళ్ళీ నీరు నింపవలెను.
- ప్రతి ఒక్కరు కీటక నాశిని మండు పూసిన దోమ తెరలు క్రింద నిద్రించి దోమ కాటునుండి రక్షణ పొందవలెను.
- దోమలు కుట్టకుండా ఫుల్ హ్యాండ్స్, లాంగ్ స్లీవ్స్ వాడి దోమకాటునుండి రక్షణ పొందవలెను.
- మీ చుట్టుప్రక్కల పరిసరాలను పరిశుభ్రంగా ఉంచవలెను మరియు ఇంట్లో పనికిరాని వస్తువులను పగిలిపోయిన ప్లాస్టిక్ బళ్ళెట్లు, కుండలు ఇతర సామగ్రిలేకుండా చూసి దోమలు వృద్ధి చెందకుండా చెయ్యవలెను.
- మలేరియా లక్షణాలు కనిపించిన వెంటనే (జ్వరం, వణుకు, తలపోటు) డాక్టర్ సలహా ప్రకారం పరీక్షలు చేయించుకుని చికిత్స చేయించుకోవలెను.



ప్రతి శుక్రవారం "డై డే" పాటద్దాం!
మలేరియా, డెంగ్యూ వ్యాధులను నివారిద్దాం !!

కమ్యూనిటీ, నగరపాలక సంస్థ విజయవాడ



Color calibration bars and registration marks.

Farmers urged to opt for alternative crops

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (GVMC)
TN No.: 01/2026-27/EE(PD-II)/DB/GVMC/Dt: 27-07-2027
01. No. of Works : 04 (Four). 02. Value of Works (ECV) : Rs. 62.89 Lakhs, 03. Downloading Starting Date: 27.07.2026 8.00 PM. 04. Downloading End Date: 11.08.2026 @ 3.00 PM. 05. Last Date for Submission of bid : 11.08.2026 @ 4.00 PM. Further details at <http://www.apecprocurement.gov.in> O/o the Executive Engineer (Project Division) Contract 8187899151
Sd/- FOR COMMISSIONER,

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

EXPRESSING concern over the prevailing drought conditions, NTR district collector and Irrigation Advisory Board (IAB) Chairman Dr G Laksh- misha urged farmers to avoid paddy cultivation and opt for alternative crops to minimise

- Irrigation Advisory Board (IAB) Chairman Dr G Laksh- misha chairs the 5th IAB meeting
- Directs Agriculture Department officials to ensure that every crop is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

the risk of heavy losses dur- ing the Kharif-2026 season.

He chaired the 5th IAB meeting at the Collectorate here on Thursday. The col- lector reviewed water avail- ability, distribution and crop planning for the Krishna Eastern Delta with Water Resources Department of- ficials and representatives of Water Users' Associations in view of the Super El Niño conditions.

On the occasion, Dr Laksh- misha unveiled the Agriculture Department's awareness poster, 'Insure every crop you sow', to en- courage farmers to enrol under PMFBY. Speaking

on the occasion, Dr Laksh- misha said the government has accorded top priority to safeguarding drinking water. He cautioned that if farm- ers begin paddy cultivation without adequate reservoir storage and rainfall remains deficient, they could suffer substantial financial losses. He advised farmers, par- ticularly in suitable areas, to cultivate alternative and dry crops and cooperate with the government's water manage- ment strategy.

He said deficient rainfall due to the Super El Niño has significantly reduced water levels in the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs,



Collector and Irrigation Advisory Board Chairman Dr G Laksh- misha chairs the 5th IAB meeting in Vijayawada on Thursday

will be prioritised to meet the drinking water needs of over 60 lakh people in Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur and Bapatla districts. He directed Agriculture Department of- ficials to ensure that every crop is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and asked them to create awareness among farmers on the ben- efits of crop insurance.

Water Resources De- partment Superintending En- gineer G Gunakara Rao, Krishna Eastern Division Executive Engineer (EE) B Anjaneya Prasad, Krishna Central Division EE R Ravi Kiran, Special Division EE K Babu, AEEs G Raju, K Sriniva- sa Rao, B Harish Naidu, Water Users' Associations members MS Prasad, ARB Venkateswara Rao, K Suneetha, K Srinivasa Rao, and others attended the meeting.

while upstream projects, in- cluding Almati, Narayanpur and Jurala, have also received poor inflows. Of the 29 TMC available in Pulichintala Res- ervoir, only about 25 TMC is utilisable and must be conserved to meet drinking water needs until June 2027

if drought conditions persist.

The collector said wa- ter is being supplied to the Krishna Delta through the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, but reduced Goda- vari inflows have restricted operations to 20 of the 24 pumps. The available water

SHIFT TOWARDS NATURE FARMING: COLLECTOR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

DISTRICT collector CM Sai Kanth Varma urged the farmers to turn El Nino cri- sis and challenges into op- portunities. He along with Irrigation Superintendent Engineer Venkataratnam ad- dressed the media at the Col- lectorate on Thursday. He advised the farmers to shift towards nature farming and cultivate alternative crops in- stead of paddy and enrol in the crop insurance scheme. He said that anticipated re- duction in rainfall due to El Nino calls for change in ag-



Collector CM Sai Kanth Varma addressing the media in Guntur on Thursday

ricultural practices. He fur- ther said that nature farming helps to conserve soil fer- tility and reduces cultivation costs and enables the farmers

Passage of National Honour Bill in LS hailed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

LANKA Dinakar, chair- man of the Twenty Points Programme (Viksit Bharat- Swarna Andhra Pradesh) Implementation, welcomed the passage of the National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, calling them significant reforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the National Honour Bill, which seeks to promote the complete rendition of 'Vande Mataram'

and extend it legal protection similar to the National Anthem, is a fitting tribute to its author, Bankim Chandra Chat- topadhyay. He also praised the examination reform legislation for introducing stricter mea- sures to curb malpractice and safeguard students' interests.

Dinakar criticised the Con- gress, alleging it failed to en- gage constructively during the debate on the legislation. Referring to recent protests, he said those responsible for violence or unlawful acts should face legal action, emphasising that the Con- stitution guarantees equality before the law.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
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Sr. No.	[A] Loan Account No. / Names Of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Gaurantor(s)	[B] O/S. Dues to be recovered (Secured Debts)	[C] Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset	[D] Type of Possession	[E & F] Reserve Price (In Rs.) Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	[G] Date of Auction & Time
1.	Loan A/C. No(S): : HL04RAH000041132 1. Mr. / Ms. Karuturi Kesava Lakshmi 2. Mr. / Ms. Durga Karuturi (Ailur) Durga Satyanarayana Karuturi Add : D. No. 7-224, Bangaramma Colony, Vemulapalli, Settyayapalem E G Dt. AP, Near Water tank, Mandapeta, Andhra Pradesh - 533341; Also at : R. S. No. 201/2, D. No. 5-264, 5 th Block Vemulapalli Gramam, Dwarapudi Grama Panchayati, Mandapeta Mandal, Anaparthi Sub-Reg. E. G. Dt. Main Road, Mandapeta-533 341.	Rs. 25,26,501/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred One Only) as on 09.01.2026	East Godavari District, Anaparthi Sub Registry, Mandapeta Mandalam, Dwarapudi Grama Panchayati, Vemulavilli village Taulak, nearest old Door No. 5-264, now in the 15 th block as per revised panchayati plan and Zeroit Dry land Revision R. S. No. 201/2 a full extent of AC 4.45 cents in which on North-West corner ac 1.00 cent, excluding the same, remaining extent is AC 3.45 cents, in which on northern side AC 2.43 1/2 cents or 11745.4 Sq. Yards in which on western western side in middle 188.83 Sq. yards or 157.88 Sq. Mtrs. of vacant site in which RCC Building constructed bearing Door No. 15-283, with Assessment No. 2960 bounded and measured by East : 20.0 Ft. width Road 51.6 Ft. West : Site belongs to Santhi Textiles 51.6 Ft. North : 20.0 Ft. Width Road 33.0 Ft. South : Site belongs to Kuchi Sirrama Murthy 33.0 Ft. • Within the above boundaries of 188.83 Sq. Yards, of site and RCC Building thereon along with toilets all usual and easementary rights.	CONSTRUCTIVE POSSESSION	Rs. 25,22,000/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Only) Rs. 2,52,200/- (Rs. Two Lakh Fifty Two Hundred Two Hundred Only)	07.09.2026 from 02.00 p. m. to 04.00 p. m. (with automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document)
2.	Loan A/C. No(S): : LAP1JRG000153916 1. Mr. / Ms. Sanamandra Kantharao 2. Mr. / Ms. Sanamandra Bhulakshmi Add : Lsrayelu, 11-1-86, Munasabu Gari, Veedhi, Amma Nilayam, Jangareddygudem, Behind Sowbhagya Theater, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh-534 447; Also at : Door No. 11-1-86 Deed and On Site, Munasabu Gari, Ward No. 15., Jangareddygudem Municipality, Near Sowbhaga Street, R. S. No. 478, As Per Deed and As Per 2 nd Bhuvan 460, Jangareddygudem Mandal, Eluru District, A. P.-534 447.	Rs. 25,47,949/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Nine Only) as on 17.12.2025	ITEM : - Eluru District, Tjngareddygudem SRO Limits, Jangareddygudem Mandalam, Jangareddygudem Village, R. S. No. 478 and Assessment No. 1142003603 and Current Service No. 1552770401021330 an extent of 137 Sq. Yards of Nearest Door No. 11-1-86 was bounded by - East : Site of Ranga Nagaswarao; West : Site of Sanamandra Kanta Rao; North : Site of Ranga Nagaswarao; South : Municipality drain eg. • Within the above boundaries an extent of 162.84 Sq. yards with all easementary rights. There on, Registered Settlement deed dated : 13.12.2022, Document No. 10582/2022. ITEM : - 2 - Eluru District, Jangareddygudem SRO Limits, Chintalapudi SRO, Jangareddygudem Mandalam , Jangareddygudem village, RS. No. 478 and Assessment No. 1142003603 and Current Service No. 1552770401021330 an extent of 70 Sq. yards of nearest Door No. 11-1-86 was bounded by - East : House of Sanamandra Kanta Rao; West : Panchayati CC Road; North : House of Ranga Nagaswarao; South : Municipality Drain.	CONSTRUCTIVE POSSESSION	Rs. 55,76,000/- (Rs. Fifty Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Only) Rs. 5,57,600/- (Rs. Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Only)	
3.	Loan A/C. No(S): : HL05VJI000069024 & HL31VJI000143944 1. Mr. / Ms. Sayyad Bajji 2. Mr. / Ms. Sayyad Haleema 3. Mr. / Ms. Syed Maha Boob Ali Add : D. No. 7-45, 6 th Ward, Aktur Village, Peda Avutupalli, Krishna Dist., Police Station Road, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh-521 286; Also at : Door No. 7-45, Post Office Road, NA, Athkuru, Unguturu Mandal, Krishna DT., A. P., 521 286.	Rs. 25,64,467/- (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Seven Only) as on 16.03.2026	Krishna District, Gannavaram SRO, Athkuru Village Panchayat Area, Athkuru Village R. S. No. 653/1 Door No. 6-28, As Per House Tax Door No. 7-45, As Per House Tax Assessment No. 951, With In This An Extent of 484 Sq. Yards of Property With R. C. C. Roofed Building with All Easement Rights Being Bounded By - East : Site of Muthyala Kalyani; South : Site of Aluri Venkateswara Rao; West : Panchayati Road; North : 10 Fts. Width Joint Way, Meera Khan Compound Wall.	CONSTRUCTIVE POSSESSION	Rs. 40,07,340/- (Rs. Forty Lakh Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty Only) Rs. 4,00,734/- (Rs. Four Lakh Seven Hundred Thirty Four Only)	07.09.2026 from 02.00 p. m. to 04.00 p. m. (with automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document)
4.	Loan A/C. No(S): : HL25JAE000076631 1. Mr. / Ms. Manjula Yakubu 2. Mr. / Ms. Sailaja Manjula Add : Door No. 3-77/1, Balusupadu, Krishna Near Community Hall, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh-521 175; Also at : Near Door No. 2-4, RS No. 27/1, Near Door No. 2-4, Near Government School, Balusupadu (V), Jaggaiahpet (MD), NTR (Dt), A. P Balusupadu jaggaiahpet, NTR, Andhra Pradesh-521 175.	Rs. 20,81,813/- (Rs. Twenty Lakh Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Only) as on 11.02.2026	Property on land admeasuring AC, 0.07 cents or 338.8 Sq. Yards site with House in Survey No. 277/1A, Door No. 3-77/1, in which 3042 Sq. Fts. Plinth Area R. C. C. building situated at Balusupadu Village & Panchayath, Jaggayapet Mandal, Jaggayapeta Sub Registry, NTR District being Bounded by : East - Crop Canal; South : Property of Pakalapati Ananthamma; West : House of Pakalapati Radhakrishna; North : Site of Manjula Yakubu.	CONSTRUCTIVE POSSESSION	Rs. 30,24,420/- (Rs. Thirty Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Only) Rs. 3,02,442/- (Rs. Three Lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two Only)	07.09.2026 from 02.00 p. m. to 04.00 p. m. (with automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document)
5.	Loan A/C. No(S): : LAP1NZV000101280 1. Mr. / Ms. Kancheti Koteswararao 2. Mr. / Ms. Kancheti Triveni 3. Mr. / Ms. Kancheti Ramaiah 4. Mr. / Ms. Kancheti Andhravani Add : Clo. Ramaiah, D. No-126, Konjerla Village, Gampalagudem Mandal, New Sachivalayam, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh-521 401; Also at : Door No. 5-72 As Per Tax Receipt Door No. 5-126 situated At Main Wyra Road Konjerla Village Gampalagudem Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521 401.	Rs. 21,75,802/- (Rs. Twenty One Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Two Only) as on 10.03.2026	ITEM NO. 1 :- NTR District, Tiruvuru Sub District, Gampalagudem Mandal, Konjerla Gram Panchayat Area, Konjerla Revenue Village, R. S. No. 113/1 B out of Ac. 0.09 cents, an extent of AC. 0.02 cents or 96.8 Sq. Yds, or 82.429 Sq. Mts. of vacant house site bounded by - East: Gram Panchayat Road; South : House, site of Devabakthuni Rama Rao; West : Property of Kancheti Koteswara Rao (Item No. 2); North : Property of Kancheti Koteswara Rao (Item No. 2). ITEM NO. 2 :- NTR District, Tiruvuru Sub District, Gampalagudem Mandal, Konjerla Gram Panchayat Area, Konjerla Revenue Village, R. S. No. 113 / 1B out of Ac. 0.09 cents, an extent of AC. 0.07 cents or 338.8 Sq. Yds, or 283.236 Sq. Mts. of House site along with RCC roof building with 1166 Sq. Fts. RCC and 300 Sq. Fts. ACC constructed therein bearing Door No. 5-126 (Old Door No. 5-116/m) is Bounded by - East : Property of Kancheti Ramaiah to some extent and Gram Panchayat Road to some extent; South : House, site of Saminetti Satyanarayana; West : Road; North : House, site of Pattipati Nageswar Rao.	CONSTRUCTIVE POSSESSION	Rs. 35,14,117/- (Rs. Thirty Five Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Only) Rs. 3,51,411.70 (Rs. Three Lakh Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred Eleven and Seventy Paise Only)	07.09.2026 from 02.00 p. m. to 04.00 p. m. (with automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document)

INSPECTION DATE & TIME : 03.09.2026 BETWEEN 11.00 a. m. to 4.00 p. m.
MINIMUM BID INCREMENT AMOUNT : Rs. 10,000/-
Last date of submission of Bid / EMD / Request letter for participation is 04.09.2026 till 5.00 p. m.

* Together with further interest as applicable in terms of loan agreement with, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. Incurred up to the date of payment and / or realisation there of. For any assistance related to inspection of the property, or for obtaining the Bid document and for any other queries, please get in touch with Mr. Baria Soma Sekhar, Contact Number 9985475386 and Email : bariasomasekhar@chola.murugappa.com, Mr. Beeram Gangadharam, Contact No. +91 8885615656 official of CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT & FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED to the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer of CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT & FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED there are no encumbrances in respect of the above immovable properties / secured Assets.

Sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER,
For CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED



Vijaya College of Physical Education Chairman N Satyanarayana Reddy and Principal Dr B Uday Kumar congratulating Lecturer Dr Doppalapudi Ratna Babu on being awarded a PhD in Physical Education by Annamalai University

Ratna Babu gets PhD in Physical Education

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DOPPALAPUDI Ratna Babu, a lecturer in Physical Education at Vijaya College of Physical Education (BPEd College), Nunna, near Vijayawada, has been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physical Education by Annamalai University, Chidambaram, for his research in sports science. The degree was conferred at Annamalai University in Chidambaram on July 27. His doctoral thesis, titled "Influence of Treadmill Running on Different Levels of Inclination on Selected Cardiopulmonary Fitness and Psychomotor Variables among Sprinters and Middle Distance Runners", examined the impact of treadmill running at varying inclinations on the cardiopulmonary fitness and psychomotor performance of sprinters and middle-distance runners. The research was conducted under the guidance of Dr B Parthiban, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education, Annamalai University. The thesis was evaluated by Dr V Mahadevan, Director, University of Madras, who served as the External Examiner. Congratulating Ratna Babu, N Satyanarayana Reddy, Chairman of Vijaya College of Physical Education, and Principal Dr B Uday Kumar said his achievement would inspire aspiring researchers in physical education and sports science.

Arrangements reviewed for CM programme

GUNTUR: Inauguration programmes of Steel Bridge and Seed Access Road will be held on August 13, according to Guntur district collector CM Sai Kanth Varma. He conducted a video conference with the officials from the Collectorate here on Thursday and reviewed arrangements for the inauguration in view of participation of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in the programme. He directed the officials to make elaborate arrangements for the programme and instructed the officials to prepare an action plan. He instructed the officials to make arrangements for state level Independence Day celebrations. Joint collector Ashutosh Srivastava, district revenue officer NSK Khaja Vali were among those who participated.

केनरा बैंक

Canara Bank

Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

PUBLIC NOTICE
National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities – 2026

Extension of Last Date for Submission of Applications/Nominations

Applications/Nominations for the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2026 were invited by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) through a Public Notice issued on 15th May, 2026. The last date for submission of applications/nominations is 31st July, 2026.

2. It is hereby informed for the benefit of all stakeholders and the general public that the last date for submission of online applications/nominations through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal has been extended up to 15th August, 2026.

3. Applicants/Nominators are requested to note that applications/nominations will be accepted only through the online mode on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal <https://awards.gov.in>. Applications received through any other mode, including hard copy, post, courier or e-mail, shall not be entertained.

4. The detailed Guidelines, eligibility criteria and other information relating to the Awards are available on the following websites:

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities:
<https://depwd.gov.in>

Rashtriya Puraskar Portal:
<https://awards.gov.in>

cbc 38117/11/0006/2627

More tech-enabled startups tap equity market as concerns ease

INDIAN startup ecosystem is maturing at a rapid pace. This is reflected as increasing number of startups are tapping the public market for raising funds through IPOs (Initial Public Offering). Last year was an exceptionally good year in the startup listing space. A total 18 startups raised a total of Rs 41,248 crore in 2025 from public markets.

Notable listings last year included Groww, PhysicsWallah, Meesho, Lenskart, Ather Energy, Urban Company, and Pine Labs among others. After such successful listings last year, it can be safely assumed that Indian investors' reluctance to invest in startups has been subsided to a great extent. After a strong listing momentum by Indian startups last year, 2026 so far has seen tepid listing.

So far, seven new-age tech companies have already made their market debut. But, barring a few, most of these listings remained lacklustre. Only SEDEMAC and Kissht have been listed with market gains. While listing momentum remained tepid but the pipeline remains strong. Notably, 28 startups have already filed their draft red herring prospectus (DRHPs) with the market regulator, SEBI. Out of these 28, more than 24 are in various stages of finalising their IPO plans.

Established startups in the unicorn league such as Zepto, OYO, InMobi, PhonePe and Zetwerk have already filed their prospectus with SEBI. If they go ahead with their listing plans and market response remains sound, this has the potential of becoming one of the

biggest years of fund raising for Indian startup ecosystem. It has to be seen how many of these startups hit the market given the volatile environment.

Whether they go for an IPO this year or not; one thing is becoming clear that Indian startups are increasingly feeling confident to opt for public listing as they reach profitability threshold or are in the vicinity of it. Moreover, many of these startups are now in operations for more than a decade and have successfully scaled their operations with proven revenue model. Therefore, investors see them as companies that will grow rapidly in coming years after their public listing.

Secondly, the nervousness among investors, especially retail investors, is slowly going away

as they have already seen several listed startups growing rapidly in recent years. This gives the confidence that startup promoters are not dumping their companies on public through listing. Rather, they see public funding as a way of accelerating growth. Another notable feature of these startup listing is that most of these new age companies can be categorised as tech startups.

This is a resounding change in the listing landscape. One decade back, majority of companies coming for public listing were operating in traditional domains. Now, a significant chunk of new listing is happening in the tech startup space. Definitely, this is good news for the India Inc. Because as global economy becomes more technology-enabled with AI rul-

ing the roost, it is important that Indian market should have public listing of companies that are tech startups.

This way, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) will be keen to invest in Indian market because any company that leverages technology, has the potential of scaling up very fast and in many cases, has the ability to reach a global audience. In this respect, increasing number of startups coming up for listing is a sign of Indian economy that is leveraging technology pretty fast.

While startup listing is definitely a good news, startup founders and investment bankers have to take care of the fact that their price band is reasonable and they are able to deliver of their promises in a time-bound manner.

DIGITAL REVOLUTION

New generational job opportunities for Gen Z



DR KARNATI KIRAN KUMAR

INDIA is heading towards "Viksit Bharat@2047," but achieving this ambitious goal in a short timeframe depends on persistent reforms, the correction of macro-economic imbalances, and the management of geopolitical challenges. The implementation of digital reforms in 2015 resulted in significant changes to the Indian economy, as India's work culture underwent structural restructuring, producing new types of jobs across many sectors.

Moreover, youth thought process is changing in line with structural transformation from waiting for government notifications to technical driven startups establishment, from playing video games to sharing knowledge, skills and talent through reels and shorts, promoting a product local to national and international recognized and there are many other. Especially, Gen Z now finding opportunities in emerging fields, partly driven by the digital revolution and contributing significantly to the nation's economy.

Digital Revolution

India's current growth story began with the 2015 Digital India scheme, which paved the way for new-generation earnings and a significant contribution to the economy. Until

2014, the telecom sector was in turmoil, and the price of 1 GB of data was between Rs. 250 and 300, with an unreliable network. **Accessibility:** the breakthrough India achieved in upgrading internet speeds from 2G/3G to 4G and 5 G. Since 2016, 4G network service has reached every corner of the country. Since 2022, 5G networks covered 99.6 per cent of the districts by establishing 4.74 lakh towers.

Affordability: Along with the high-speed network, the Government of India has made network services available at an affordable price for all sections of society. According to information from bestbroadbandsdeals.co.uk, in 2023, India was among the top 10 countries out of 237 offering the cheapest 1 GB of mobile data at \$0.16 (Rs. 13.32). As we compare the average price of 1 GB data with the world's top 10 largest economies (Based on nominal GDP).

Among these, except Italy (0.09%), all other countries have an average price of 1 GB more than India, for example, in France (0.20\$), in Russia (0.25\$), in China (0.38 \$), in Brazil (0.40\$), in the UK (0.62\$), Germany (2.14\$), Japan (3.48\$), and the USA (6 \$). The average price of 1 GB further declined in India as of 2026 July.

Simply, anyone who has a smartphone can observe that while recharging their mobile phone with Paytm/G Pay and other recharge apps, various recharge data plans will appear. As per that information, at the (Dollar to rupee exchange rate, such as 1\$ = 95.68), Airtel is providing 1 GB per day at 0.06\$ (Rs. 6.31), BSNL at 0.03\$ (Rs. 3.8) and Jio at 0.06\$



(Rs. 6.28). Further, Broadband Fibernet services are available at the lowest price (between Rs. 1 and 3) for 1 GB.

Utilisation: The people of the country are efficiently utilizing the low-price network facility for their daily activities. According to the PIB 2025 data, internet connections in the country rose from 25.15 crore in March 2014 to 96.96 crore in June 2024. At the same time, indispensable high-speed network connections are being penetrated in the 2.18 lakh gram panchayat through Bharat Net.

According to the NSS 80th round (CMS 2025) data, smartphone usage in the country has increased significantly. In the 15-29 age group across India, 93.8 per cent of persons own a smartphone. In rural areas, 93.0 per cent, and in urban areas, 95.3 per cent of people own smartphones. The digital economy's contribution to the national GDP has risen from 5.8% in 2014 to 8.58% in 2019 and 11.74% in 2022-23, with projections to reach 20% by 2030.

Spillover effects

The digital revolution in India paved the way for lakhs of jobs and business opportunities for the country's youth. Especially during the lockdown, people

continued their services online without losing income due to uninterrupted internet access. It has opened the door to new kinds of jobs in the private sector for the younger generation living in rural and urban areas, such as gig economy work, freelance jobs, and intraday trading, making the shorts, reels, and travelers within and outside the country. The digital revolution amplified gig-platform-based work, including delivery services, logistics, ridesharing, and professional work.

As of 2025 August, 3.37 lakh platform gig workers are registered in the e-Shram portal, and NITI Aayog projected that the sector will provide employment opportunities from 1 crore to 2.35 crore between 2024-25 and 2029-30. Furthermore, youth are actively involved directly in stock market investment and intraday trading as a profession. As of January 2026, data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE) show there were 12.7 crore unique registered investors. The SEBI investor survey 2025 indicates that 9.5% of Indian families invest in the stock market.

Social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram have enabled youth and women from various fields to showcase talents and gain steady incomes, notably

through reels and shorts. Creating digital content is now a widespread profession. Many have turned travel into work, earning money by sharing their videos of various places on social media platforms. Social media further globalizes local products (handicrafts, handlooms, ayurvedic medicine, fisheries, and organic goods) and supports exports.

Moreover, Sunil Patil (Dolly Tea Stall) from Nagpur gained major attention including a visit from Bill Gates and other celebrities to his tea shop. Now Dolly Tea stalls have become a brand, on that name many tea shops are opening across the country. Overall, these shifts in employment trends and economic sectors reflect how India is leveraging new opportunities to achieve the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision.

Reduction of unemployment

The data on unemployment provided by the World Bank's development indicators, estimated using the ILO model, show that over the past few years, India has reduced its unemployment at a reasonable rate. The unemployment trends from 2014 to 2025 among the countries are as follows: the reduction in unemployment is paramount in India, from 7.65% to 4.22%, and was lower than in China, the United Kingdom (UK), and Brazil.

Financial inclusion and seamless transactions

The uninterrupted internet connectivity and network speed led to the financial inclusion of all sections of society. People with smartphones are conducting UPI-based financial transactions regardless of their education level. Digital literacy

enhanced seamless transactions and saved people valuable time. Until 2015, every bank was crowded and had long queues; people used to wait hours for a small deposit or a withdrawal.

However, now people can send and receive a maximum of 1 lakh per day without any strain or bank officials' involvement via UPI platforms such as PhonePe, GPay, Paytm, and BHIM, and others via banks' offered apps such as ICICI iMobile Pay, Canara a.i, SBI YONO, HDFC Bank app, Axis Mobile, etc. In 2025, approximately 65 million merchants and 460 million people used UPI for transactions.

According to the Minister of Finance, over the ten years of the UPI digital revolution, the annual transaction volume increased from just 2 crores in FY 2016-17 to over 24,162 crores in FY 2025-26. Between FY 2016-17 and FY 2025-26, the transaction value increased significantly from ₹0.07 lakh crore to around ₹314 lakh crore.

There are some negative repercussions of digitalization that need to be addressed and raise awareness, in addition to the beneficial spillover benefits. People are now using digital payments for all transactions, which is causing problems like financial loss and psychological stress due to cybercrime and digital arrests by fraudulences.

Some social media influencers promote contentious information, fake news, etc. to boost views on their channels and earn money. Additionally, young people who lack financial literacy are engaging in online trading, which is causing them to lose money and mental equilibrium.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad)

LETTERS

Using students as part of toolkit

THIS is further to Dr Hyma Moorthy's article "Protest Is A Right ,Violence Is Not ". It is a timely reflection of the recent student protests at Jantar Mantar .The right to protest peacefully to get your voices heard is a democratic right but what Jantar Mantar witnessed ,as protests was unconstitutional . It was sheer hooliganism and carried out by mobs .As rightly pointed out by Dr Moorthy ,the protesters who used filthy and abusive language and involved in mob violence never looked like they were students .The protests came at a time when the NEET re exam was conducted successfully and results were announced just a few days earlier. So ,the students who cleared the re exam were never a part of the protests . One can say ,without a doubt that the mobocracy that we witnessed at Jantar Mantar was not student protests but a politically-motivated agenda by some anti nationalists and anti social elements, who used students as tools and pawns to try and create an atmosphere of tension and instability .

Parimala G Tadas, Hyderabad

Govt holiday to watch 'Jana Nayagan'?

THE recent release of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's final film, Jana Nayagan saw numerous TVK ministers and MLAs leave the Secretariat and head to theaters for the first-day screenings, leaving government offices largely deserted and sparking intense political backlash. Is it proper for responsible ministers and elected representatives spending hours in cinema halls during a working day, abandoning core administrative tasks at the secretariat? Elected officials should prioritize public service and State issues over celebrating a political leader's cinematic swan song. For TVK ministers, work at the office is infinitely more important since real governance requires administrative files, not cinematic applause. Treating public office like a box-office collection will only reduce the state to a tragic script.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai

A case of 'economic bunker-buster'

THE proposed US legislation threatening upto 100% tariffs on India and China is officially framed by Washington as a measure to cut revenue to Russia from oil sales to India and China for funding war on Ukraine. But then it is also a likely strategy to defend the Petro-Dollar dominance in oil trade. However, this measure could also be viewed as a powerful tool of economic leverage that intersects with broader monetary and global dominance concerns. The proposed rules include exemptions or lighter scrutiny for certain European nations still buying pipeline gas or alternative Russian energy, fuelling accusations of double standards. But a good number of leading US senators call out Asian importers as the main targets, implying India and China, which are the fastest growing economies in the world today threatening the Petro-Dollar dominance in world trade. The proposal of 100% tariff against India in particular is an aggressive "economic bunker-buster", for this developing country (India) to alter vital energy procurement strategies under threat of losing access to Western consumer markets. As such, safeguarding dominance of US Dollar in commodity trading remains a foundational pillar of American financial hegemony.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

thehansreader@gmail.com

RAISE YOUR VOICE

Do you have any civic issues? Are any roads in your locality damaged? Do you have any complaints against govt departments? Are any private companies taking you for a ride regarding sales and service? *The Hans India* will publish your complaints, concerns and grievances in these columns on every Wednesday. Mail the details along with relevant photographs if any, to hanspeoplesvoice@gmail.com -Editor

BENGALURU ONLINE

HIV cases rise in capital; Health Department steps up awareness campaigns

BENGALURU: A rise in HIV infections in Bengaluru, particularly among young adults, has prompted the Health Department to strengthen awareness campaigns in colleges, universities and workplaces. Health officials say changing social behaviour and increased use of online dating platforms have contributed to the growing number of infections in certain high-risk groups.

According to official data, 4,795 people tested HIV-positive in the last five months across the state. Health authorities said a significant proportion of the newly detected infections were reported among men who have sex with men (MSM), a recognised high-risk group for HIV transmission.

Officials also noted that a sizeable number of new cases involve unmarried individuals, accounting for nearly 20-25 per cent of infections. The Health Department has expressed concern over the increasing number of infections among students residing in college hostels and paying guest (PG) accommodations in Bengaluru. As a preventive measure, awareness programmes are being planned in educational institutions to educate young people about safe sexual practices, HIV prevention and the importance of early testing. Responding to the trend, Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society Project Director Padma Basavanthappa said awareness remains the most effective tool in preventing the spread of HIV.

She said outreach programmes are being intensified among college students, IT employees, migrant workers, drivers and truckers, who are considered vulnerable groups because of mobility and behavioural risk factors. She also pointed out that men who have sex with men and commercial sex workers continue to be among the identified high-risk categories, making focused intervention programmes essential.

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

Congress stands by the aspirations of India's youth



RACHAMALLA SIDDESHWAR

THE twelve years of BJP rule at the Centre have pushed India's education system into deep crisis. Students patiently waited for years in the hope that the government would introduce meaningful reforms, but the NEET examination paper leak proved to be a devastating blow to those expectations. Instead of acting firmly against those responsible for the leak, the Union Government allegedly attempted to suppress student protests through police action, including baton charges and the use of tear gas

When we speak of a nation's future and development, the first thing that should come to mind is its youth. The greatest asset of any country is its young population. Providing quality education, equal opportunities, and secure employment to young people is the foremost responsibility of any government. However, the growing controversies

surrounding India's education system, repeated examination paper leaks, delays in recruitment, and rising unemployment have severely shaken the confidence and aspirations of the country's youth.

As the protests intensified across the country, the Narendra Modi government eventually bowed to mounting public pressure, leading to the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. With the Centre accepting the key demands of protesting students, the Congress describes the outcome as a moral victory for India's youth. It also credits Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi for playing a significant role in supporting the student movement.

Under the authoritarian rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's education sector has been pushed into an unprecedented crisis. The BJP government's policies have encouraged excessive corporate influence in education, transforming learning into a commercial enterprise. The increasing corporatization of education, coupled with repeated leaks of entrance and recruitment examination papers, has seriously eroded students' faith in the system. As education becomes increasingly expensive, quality learning is no

longer seen as a fundamental right but as a commodity that only those with financial resources can afford.

The 2026 NEET controversy has become the defining symbol of this crisis. Following the alleged paper leak, more than two million students were thrown into uncertainty. The decision to reconduct the examination imposed enormous emotional, financial, and psychological burdens on thousands of families. Students, the Congress, and several opposition parties demanded that the Union Government accept moral responsibility and sought the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Instead of addressing these concerns constructively, the government, prioritized suppressing the protests.

The NEET paper leak triggered widespread anxiety among students, with reports suggesting that some candidates took the extreme step of ending their lives. As nationwide protests gathered momentum, Delhi's Jantar Mantar emerged as the focal point of the student movement. Protesters demanded transparency in examinations, stringent action against paper leak networks, and fairness in recruitment processes.

Rather than engaging in dialogue, the Centre allegedly

responded with police action, including baton charges and tear gas, provoking further public anger. Ultimately, however, the resilience and determination of the students compelled the government to respond to their demands.

Rahul Gandhi, as Leader of the Opposition, actively supported the student movement. Even before the NEET controversy reached its peak, he had launched the nationwide "Chhatron Ki Goon" campaign in June to amplify the voices of students and expose what he described as the failures of the Union Government. His effort sought to transform student grievances into a national conversation and push for structural reforms rather than political gains.

Educational standards have steadily deteriorated during the BJP's twelve years in power. It claims that more than 150 major examination papers have been leaked across the country during this period, affecting nearly 75 million students. Central Government of reducing allocations for school education and higher education while allowing corporate interests to dominate the education sector.

More than 100,000 government schools have shut down while over 43,000 private schools have been established.

The ideological considerations have influenced curriculum revisions and appointments in educational institutions. Rahul Gandhi's campaign for educational reforms has awakened young people across the country, causing discomfort within the government. Rahul Gandhi and several Congress Members of Parliament were detained while attempting to question the Prime Minister over these issues.

Employment remains another area where, the Union Government has failed India's youth. The BJP's 2014 election promise of creating two crore jobs annually has, it argues, remained unfulfilled. Millions of educated young people continue to struggle with unemployment, while many others are forced to accept jobs unrelated to their qualifications because of the widening gap between education, skills, and employment opportunities.

Young people are central to India's nation-building process. Their confidence can only be restored through transparent examination systems, quality public education, timely recruitment, and equal opportunities for all. To ensure that students' dreams are not destroyed by paper leaks, unemployment, and corruption, comprehensive reforms in the education system have become imperative. The

Congress maintains that it will continue its struggle until fairness in examinations, credibility in recruitment, and accessible quality education become a reality for every student.

The Congress also believes that young people should not merely participate in politics but should have the opportunity to shape it. In this context, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has proposed that the minimum age for contesting elections to legislative bodies be reduced to 21 years and announced his intention to move a resolution in the Telangana Legislative Assembly to that effect. The proposal has generated considerable enthusiasm among young people.

Safeguarding the aspirations of India's youth is not the responsibility of any one political party alone; it is a national obligation essential to securing the country's future. Congress will continue to champion the cause of students and young people. The resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as a political victory for the Congress, but rather as a victory earned by the students themselves.

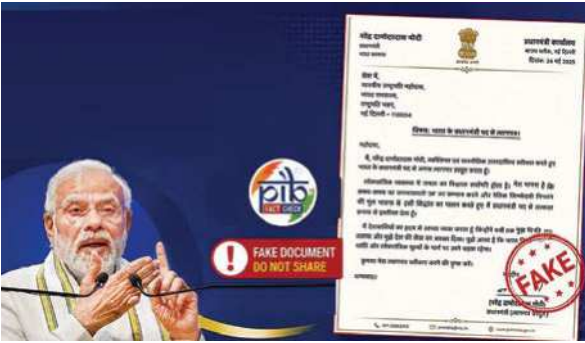
(The writer is Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan, Telangana)

‘PM Modi has not resigned’

NEW DELHI

THE Centre on Thursday rubbished social media reports claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resigned from his post. The viral posts on the internet had a copy of a letter, bearing the Ashok Chakra emblem and what appeared to be PM Modi's signature, stated that he was resigning as the prime minister citing "personal and political responsibility". Debunking the

PIB DEBUNKS SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS



claim, the Fact Check unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said “no such letter has been issued by the Prime Minister”. The fake resignation letter was shared by several users on social media sites, including Facebook, claiming that the prime minister has resigned. “A letter purportedly signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being circulated on social media. No

such letter has been issued by the Prime Minister, nor has it been signed by him,” the PIB said in a social media post. It also warned internet users to verify any claims through official sources before sharing. The fake letter comes days after the PIB debunked doctored videos circulating on social media that showed PM Modi making threatening remarks against the protesters at Jantar Mantar over the paper leaks.

Discoms get 1,380.70 cr for advance tariff subsidy

APSPDCL gets the highest allocation of Rs 603.13 cr; CPDCL Rs 445.17 cr and EPDCL Rs 332.39 cr

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government accorded administrative sanction for the release of Rs 1,380.70 crore as advance tariff subsidy to the state's three power distribution companies (discoms) for the financial year 2026-27. The sanction was issued through GO Rt No 53 by the energy department on Thursday. Energy special chief secretary K Vijayanand issued the order approving the subsidy under the provisions of Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003, aimed at providing timely financial support to the state-owned power utilities. As per the GO, the Andhra Pradesh Southern

Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) has been allocated Rs 603.13 crore, the highest among the three discoms. The Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) has been sanctioned Rs 445.17 crore, while the Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited has been allocated Rs 332.39 crore as advance tariff subsidy for the current financial year. The government stated that the subsidy has been released under the quarterly budget relaxation up to the third quarter of the 2026-27 financial year. The total budget available for the third quarter of the current financial year is Rs 2,744.40 crore. Of this, the

government has sanctioned Rs.1,380.70 crore towards the subsidy for the three discoms, leaving a remaining available budget of Rs 1,363.70 crore for the rest of the quarter. The assistant secretary to the government and drawing and disbursing officer (DDO), energy department, has been directed to remit the sanctioned amount to the respective bank accounts of the three discoms. The order further directed the chairman and managing directors of discoms, along with the member convener of the AP Power Coordination Committee (APGCC), to take necessary action for implementing the government's decision.

Parl nod for anti-paper leak Bill

NEW DELHI: The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, which proposes stricter punishment for exam-related malpractices, has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The Bill, which provides for a maximum punishment of up to 10 years in jail and a fine of Rs 50 lakh for those involved in unfair means during public examinations, was passed by the Lok Sabha earlier and later cleared by the Rajya Sabha. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of bringing the amendment to the anti-paper-leak law only to pacify the agitating youth, not to address the issue. Speaking on the anti-paper leak bill, Kharge said the government has not explained how it would conduct examinations that could prevent paper leaks.

US launches ‘heavy’ strikes on Iran

DUBAI: The US military says it has completed a "heavy wave" of strikes against Iran in retaliation for Tuesday's attempted ballistic missile attacks on American forces. Centcom said it hit "dozens" of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targets in response to Iran's firing on US bases in Jordan and at ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state media said the latest strikes had killed three people, including a two-year-old child, on Qeshm island, while other locations were also hit in the south and west of the country. The latest hostilities come on a week that has seen the conflict expand, with the first publicly announced joint US-Saudi strikes targeting Iranian proxies in Iraq. Iran and the US have engaged in escalating strikes and counter-strikes since a ceasefire in April,

aimed at pausing the months-long war, fell apart in June. The US has blockaded Iranian ports and bombed Iranian sites, while Iran has fired missiles and drones at US assets in countries across the Middle East and targeted shipping in the economically important Strait of Hormuz, connecting the Gulf and Arabian Sea. On Wednesday, news outlet Axios cited an unnamed US official as saying that Trump had met Saudi defence minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, who had conveyed that Saudi Arabia wants to de-escalate tensions. The BBC has contacted the White House for comment. Meanwhile, the Egyptian government said a fire at a port on Wednesday had been caused by a drone attack. Egypt, a US ally, has not previously been directly attacked during the war.

Parliament clears Vande Mataram Bill

Insulting national song is now a criminal offence

NEW DELHI

PARLIAMENT on Wednesday cleared a bill to make insult to the national song Vande Mataram a criminal offence, with the Lok Sabha passing the legislation amid din following a brief debate. The bill — The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — had already been passed by the Rajya Sabha a day earlier. With its passage in the Lower House, the proposed amendment now moves closer to becoming law. In the Lok Sabha, the bill was taken up and passed through a voice vote amid protests by Opposition members, who have been demanding a discussion on police action against students protesting the NEET paper leak. The noisy scenes continued even as the House proceeded with legislative business. The legislation seeks to amend the Preven-

tion of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, to include the national song Vande Mataram under its ambit. At present, the law provides penal provisions for disrespecting national symbols such as the Constitution, the national flag and the national anthem, with punishment of up to three years' imprisonment. Once it comes into force, insulting, obstructing or causing disturbances during the singing of Vande Mataram will attract the same punishment — up to three years in jail, a fine, or both. The bill is part of the Centre's push to mark the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and first published in his novel Anandmath in 1882. Over the past few months, the Union government has issued directions to states on the rendition of the national song at official functions.

MOCKERY NO SUBSTITUTE

Academicians slam Priyanka over Kamakoti remarks

NEW DELHI: Academicians, in an open letter, have criticised Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's reported remark about IIT Madras director V Kamakoti in the Lok Sabha. They said the comment undermined academic discourse and could deter scholars from participating in public debate. More than 215 vice chancellors, former vice chancellors and academicians have come out in support of IIT Madras Director Prof V Kamakoti after Congress



MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra allegedly referred to him as a "cow urine expert" during a Lok Sabha debate, saying

the remark undermines academic discourse and the dignity of India's scientific institutions.

Oppn protests in Parl over police action on students

NEW DELHI

RS erupts as Kharge demands Shah's resignation



TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee stages a protest as Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MP Pappu Yadav and others look on during the monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

Parliament complex, raising slogans of “Who gave the orders?” as they accused the government of unleashing “police brutality” on students who had assembled at Jantar Mantar to demand accountability over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. The demonstration was led by Congress general secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was joined by several MPs, including Congress Rajya Sabha MP Imran

Pratapgarhi and Congress Lok Sabha MP Sanjana Jata, along with lawmakers from other Opposition parties. The MPs carried large banners and placards demanding accountability for the police action and sought an official apology from union Home Minister Amit Shah. In the Rajya Sabha, Congress president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge demanded the resignation of Amit Shah over the alleged police crackdown.

He launched a sharp attack on the Centre during the debate on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, calling the proposed amendments “hogwash” for failing to address systemic issues behind examination malpractices. Holding Amit Shah directly responsible for the police action at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, Kharge condemned the use of tear gas, lathi-charge, and other coercive measures against students demanding justice.

Centre defends ethanol blends

Continued from page 1
Gadkari, however, said studies by government agencies and automobile manufacturers indicate that the reduction in fuel efficiency in certain E10-designed vehicles is limited to about 2-6%. “However, the same is influenced by several factors, including driving conditions, driving habits and vehicle maintenance,” he said, stating that E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The clarification comes amid growing debate about the government's Ethanol Blending Programme. The Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association has announced a protest march to Parliament on August 4. Amid concerns over possible vehicle damage and reduced mileage from ethanol-blended fuel, reports suggest sales of 100-octane premium petrol—the only grade exempt from ethanol blending—have more than doubled in recent months amid concerns over possible vehicle damage and reduced mileage from ethanol-blended fuel. Critics also argue that consumers will have to bear recurring annual costs due to lower fuel efficiency, a

burden that could rise if the ethanol content in petrol is increased further. The minister said the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas introduced the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme through a phased, scientifically validated and consultative process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, Oil Marketing Companies, the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and other technical institutions. “E20 offers a higher-octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, cleaner combustion and smoother engine performance. E20 improves acceleration and ride quality while reducing carbon emissions. These studies also established that legacy vehicles do not exhibit variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20,” he said. Officials ruled out any immediate move to increase ethanol blending in petrol beyond the current 20%, saying any decision on higher blends would be taken only after detailed scientific and technical studies and consultations with all relevant stakeholders.

AP preferred destination for global investors: Lokesh

Continued from page 1
The Minister said the previous government had severely damaged investor confidence by cancelling power purchase agreements and failing to attract major renewable energy investments. He stated that after the new government assumed office in June 2024, it introduced the Integrated Clean Energy Policy-2024 with an ambitious target of developing 160 GW of clean energy capacity. The policy, he said, aims to build a complete clean energy ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh covering solar modules, battery manufacturing, green hydrogen, green am-

monia, transmission infrastructure, storage systems, and world-class manufacturing facilities, positioning the state as a global producer and exporter of clean energy technologies. Highlighting the significance of the Tata Renewable Energy project, Lokesh said it comprises a 400 MW solar power plant at Patikonda in Kurnool district and a 400 MW wind power project at Kanekal in Anantapur district, creating an integrated 800 MW hybrid renewable energy facility. He said the project would generate around 4,000 jobs during construction and provide stable lease income to more

than 1,100 farming families for nearly three decades. He also recalled the longstanding association between the Tata Group and the Telugu States, adding that the government's commitment to "Simple, Speed and Stability" has helped attract leading global investors and industrial houses to Andhra Pradesh. Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh, with its long coastline, abundant renewable resources, and modern ports, is well positioned to become India's gateway for exports of green hydrogen, green ammonia, and other clean energy products. He invited Tata Power to collaborate

with the proposed Centre of Excellence being established jointly by the state government, IIT Tirupati, and the University of New South Wales, Australia, for advanced research and skill development in renewable energy technologies. He appreciated Suzlon for its contribution to the wind energy sector and for establishing manufacturing and skill development facilities in Anantapur to strengthen the State's industrial ecosystem. Recalling the support he had received during his Padayatra in the erstwhile Kurnool district, Lokesh said the government is committed to bringing more industries

to the region while preparing local youth with industry-relevant skills through closer collaboration between ITIs and industries. He said employment opportunities would increase only when skilled manpower is readily available and urged young people to combine hard work with talent to benefit from the state's industrial growth. Ministers T.G. Bharath, Tata Power CEO and MD Praveer Sinha, Tata Power Renewable Energy CEO and MD Sanjay Banga, Suzlon Vice-Chairman Girish Tanti, legislators, district officials, and company representatives attended the programme.

Puri holds talks with Team Bharat

Continued from page 1
On Wednesday, Union Petroleum Minister Harddeep Singh Puri reportedly met representatives of Team Bharat, the group led by activist Tehseen Poonawalla protesting the hurried E20 rollout, ahead of its planned protest on Friday. However, the protesting team's joy was short-lived as Poonawalla was detained by Delhi Police personnel the very next day (Thursday) and his Instagram account got suspended. The activist, who appreciated the minister earlier, was furious with the action and said he was not scared of any minister and would continue to expose the 'ethanol scam'.

Security beefed up at Bhogapuram for PM's visit

Continued from page 1
Drones, paragliders, micro-light aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles are prohibited from flying in the region. On August 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive at Bhogapuram on a special flight from Delhi. 200 classical dancers will welcome the Prime Minister by performing Kuchipudi soon after he reaches the terminal building. Subsequently, the Prime Minister will inspect the facility for about 15 minutes along with Chief

Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Governor S Abdul Nazeer and other dignitaries. The Prime Minister will then proceed to the public meeting venue in an open-top vehicle, where more than 13,000 tribal women and students will welcome him with Dhimsa dance. Rehearsals are in full swing in Bhogapuram for the mega event which is expected to gain a place in the Guinness World Records for the highest participation. The inauguration is slated for 11:30 am, followed by

the public meeting. Apart from inaugurating the new airport, the Prime Minister is scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various other development projects worth Rs.17,912 crore. Besides the Bhogapuram Airport, the Prime Minister will inaugurate an aviation hub, a skill development centre and an educity, among others. A fleet of buses will ferry people from various parts of North Andhra for the public meeting.

PM discusses West Asia crisis in key Cabinet meet

Continued from page 1
Adequate crude oil availability has enabled public sector refineries to operate at utilisation levels above 100 per cent, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other fuels. The government also reviewed efforts to expand Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections and strengthen gas infrastructure through the National Gas Grid, LNG import and regasification facilities, city gas distribution networks and time-bound pipeline connectivity approvals. A major focus of the

meeting was fertiliser availability for the forthcoming Rabi season. The CCS assessed domestic requirements and discussed alternative import sources. The Prime Minister directed that all necessary measures be taken to ensure uninterrupted fertiliser supplies. Officials indicated that sufficient stocks are available for the upcoming Rabi sowing season as well as for next year's Kharif crop. The safety of Indian seafarers serving on domestic and foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones was also discussed.

Prime Minister Modi asked officials to establish a mechanism for providing timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to seafarers and their families. He also stressed that all efforts must be made to protect Indian citizens and the Indian community from the impact of the ongoing conflict. The meeting took place against the backdrop of heightened tensions in West Asia following the recent US-Israel conflict involving Iran. Attacks on oil and cargo vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and threats issued by Yemen's

Houthi militia against shipping near the Bab al-Mandab have raised concerns over energy and trade flows. Ship traffic through the Bab al-Mandab has reportedly declined in recent days, while shipping activity in the Black Sea has also faced disruptions due to the intensifying Russia-Ukraine conflict. India remains heavily dependent on imports for its energy needs, with a significant share of supplies traditionally passing through these sensitive maritime corridors. The disruptions have therefore

prompted a whole-of-government response aimed at reducing vulnerabilities. PM Modi also emphasised the need to accelerate the use of renewable energy sources, including solar power and other non-fossil-fuel options, to strengthen India's long-term energy independence. He called for a unified and coordinated mechanism for regular monitoring of developments so that appropriate measures can be implemented quickly to protect citizens and national economic interests as the global situation evolves.



The fabric edit: Choosing comfort without compromising on style

ASKARI JAFFER

Indian wedding fashion has always been about grandeur—rich colours, intricate details, and statement silhouettes. But today's celebrations demand something more: outfits that look luxurious while allowing you to move, mingle, dance, and enjoy every moment. As wedding wardrobes evolve, the spotlight is shifting from just embellishments and silhouettes to something more fundamental—the fabric. The right fabric can transform an outfit, influencing everything from how it falls and moves to how comfortable it feels through long celebrations. From timeless classics to modern innovations, here are the fabrics defining wedding fashion this season.



3 SILK
Silk has long been associated with Indian celebrations, but modern wedding fashion is seeing a rise in silk blends that offer the richness of silk with improved wearability. These fabrics bring together festive appeal and practicality, making them suitable for everything from wedding ceremonies to evening receptions. A silk saree from Navyasa is a great option, offering a blend of timeless elegance, contemporary design, and all-day comfort for every wedding occasion.



2 MODAL
When it comes to wedding wear that combines elegance with comfort, Modal is emerging as a favourite among modern consumers. Known for its exceptional softness, fluidity, and beautiful drape, Modal brings a refined ease to festive and occasion wear. Perfect for contemporary sarees, flowy dresses, elegant kurtas, and fusion ensembles, Modal allows designers to create silhouettes that move gracefully while keeping the wearer comfortable through long celebrations. You can explore Modal from Liva, which represents the next generation of comfort-led fabrics. It combines ultimate softness and fluidity with enduring strength and superb performance. As a second-generation innovation of viscose, its production process has been perfected to enhance its brilliant lustre, soft feel, and excellent drape while improving its overall utility.



4 ORGANZA
Organza continues to dominate occasion wear with its lightweight structure and dreamy aesthetic. Popular for statement sleeves, overlays, dupattas, and contemporary sarees, this fabric adds volume and drama while maintaining an airy feel. For those looking to make a fashion statement without heavy layers, organza offers a modern interpretation of festive dressing.



6 VELVET
For cooler wedding months, velvet continues to make an impact with its rich texture and regal appeal. Modern interpretations are moving beyond traditional heavy designs, with velvet being used in contemporary blazers, jackets, saree accents, and statement pieces.



1 CHANDERI
The Timeless Festive Favourite continues to hold its place as a wedding wardrobe essential, thanks to its lightweight feel, subtle sheen, and elegant appearance. Its ability to add a touch of sophistication without feeling heavy makes it ideal for daytime ceremonies and intimate celebrations. Whether styled as sarees, dupattas, or contemporary ethnic ensembles, Chanderi remains a classic choice for those who appreciate understated luxury.



5 LINEN
The rise of understated luxury has brought linen blends into the spotlight. With their breathable nature and effortless appeal, they are becoming popular choices for daytime weddings, destination celebrations, and minimalist festive looks. Linen blends represent the shift towards fashion that feels relaxed yet refined.

The Future of Wedding Fashion: Looks That Feel as Good as They Look

Today's wedding wardrobe is no longer just about creating a visual impact—it is about creating an experience. Consumers are increasingly looking for fabrics that allow them to celebrate comfortably while expressing their personal style. The future of occasion wear lies in fabrics that offer the perfect combination of beauty, movement, versatility, and comfort. Because the best wedding outfits are not just the ones that photograph well—they are the ones you love wearing long after the celebrations end.

Sadia Khateeb embraces her Kashmiri roots, says returning home feels like reconnecting with herself

Actress Sadia Khateeb has opened up about her deep connection with her homeland, Kashmir. In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, she shared how returning to her roots brings her a sense of peace and belonging. The actress expressed that no matter where her professional journey takes her, Kashmir will always remain her perfect escape. Speaking about her bond with her homeland, Sadia said, "Being a Kashmiri girl, my roots are deeply connected to this land. Every time I come back, I feel grounded, and it reminds me of where I truly belong." Reflecting on her time in Bhadarwah, Khateeb added, "As a proud Kashmiri girl, coming back to Bhadarwah always feels like coming back to my soul. The mountains, the fresh air, and the peaceful silence remind me of who I am and where I belong. No matter where work takes me, home will always be my perfect escape, and I feel incredibly grateful to be surrounded by the unmatched beauty of Kashmir." She further shared how some of her happiest moments back home revolve around its rich culinary traditions. "One of the things I look forward to the most is enjoying authentic Kashmiri food with my family. Whether it's a comforting bowl of haakh, a traditional rajma chawal meal, the rich flavours of dum aloo, or ending the day with a warm cup of Kashmiri kahwa, every bite carries memories of home. The food here isn't just delicious—it's deeply emotional because it connects me to my childhood and my roots." Talking about reconnecting with old friends, Sadia mentioned, "Coming home also means catching up with friends I've known for years. Sitting together, sharing stories over endless cups of kahwa, laughing about old memories, and simply enjoying each other's company is something I truly cherish. Those moments remind me that happiness is often found in the simplest experiences with the people who know you best." Sadia Khateeb also gave a glimpse of her serene getaway as she shared pictures from Bhadarwah, her hometown in Jammu and Kashmir, on social media. Work-wise, Sadia is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film "Silaa" which also stars Harshvardhan Rane. Directed by Omung Kumar, the movie is scheduled to release in theatres on August 25, 2026.



Jaya Bhattacharya shares spiritual experience from Mahakal Temple: 'Faith can exist together'

Actress Jaya Bhattacharya recently shared a glimpse of her spiritual experience at the Mahakal Temple in Darjeeling. The 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' actress described the visit as a peaceful and deeply moving moment. Jaya reflected on the sense of calm she felt amid the temple bells, misty surroundings, fluttering prayer flags, and quiet footsteps of visitors. Sharing her thoughts on Instagram, Jaya highlighted the temple's unique atmosphere, where Hindu and Buddhist prayers have coexisted for generations. She said the sacred place stands as a reminder that faith and harmony can exist together. Here, Hindu and



Buddhist prayers have echoed side by side for generations, on the very hill that gave Darjeeling its name. "I kept wondering how many people must have climbed these ancient steps carrying hope, gratitude, heartbreak, or simply a quiet conversation with God. I left with a lighter heart." In the clip, Jaya could be heard saying, "Shooting is complete and we are off and we choose to go to the Mahakaal temple." The actress also shared glimpses of the temple, capturing its serene surroundings, spiritual atmosphere, and the peace-

ful moments from her visit. Work-wise, Jaya Bhattacharya began her acting journey with supporting roles in Bollywood films like "Devdas" and "Lajja." She gained wider recognition in 2000 after portraying the antagonist Payal Mehra in Ekta Kapoor's popular television show "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi," which became a major milestone in her career. He later appeared in shows like "Banoo Main Teri Dulhan" and also made a cameo appearance in the Hindi film "Fiza," starring Karisma Kapoor and Hrithik Roshan. She later became known for her role as Jigyasa in the television series "Kasamh Se" in 2007. Jaya was also seen portraying Sakku Bai in the historical drama series "Jhansi Ki Rani." In 2018, she joined the popular television show "Badho Bahu." Jaya also appeared in "Delhi Crime," where she played the character of Sub-Inspector Vimla Bharadwaj. The crime thriller also starred Shefali Shah and Rasika Dugal.

CROSSWORD

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DOWN

1 Lesser (5)

2 The first settlers (7)

4 Feline sound (4)

5 Closer (6)

6 Where Pago Pago is (5)

7 Storage site (5)

9 Old French coin (3)

12 No longer existing (7)

14 Gentle handling, initially (3)

16 Carplike fish (5)

17 The plural of that (5)

19 Corridor (7)

20 Exactly vertical (5)

21 Cricket commentator Navjot ____ (5)

23 Most well-ventilated (7)

24 In reality (6)

25 RK's Kal ____ Aur Kal (3)

27 City in Rajasthan (5)

28 Organ meat (5)

30 Spotless (5)

32 Stringed instrument (4)

33 Prepare for war (3)

ACROSS

3 Rotates (5)

8 ____ ruins: be overthrown or fallen ? (3,2)

10 Polished off (5)

11 Cpl. or sgt. (3)

12 Like a ____: easily or effortlessly ? (5)

13 Retort (7)

15 Android (5)

18 Mischievous gnome (3)

19 Fireside (6)

21 Not spiritual (7)

22 Animal shelter (4)

23 Exclamations of surprise (4)

24 Applaud or praise (7)

26 Elephant keeper (6)

29 State of conflict (3)

31 Headland (5)

32 Famous shrine in the sea in Mumbai (4,3)

34 Quick raid (5)

35 Poetic preposition (3)

36 Nippon (5)

37 ____ as a hatter ? (2,3)

38 Drug used to treat Parkinson's disease (1-4)

Solution to July 30

SUDOKU

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Solution to July 30



Scholarships



Scholarship Name 1: Description:	Nikon Scholarship Program 2026-27 Nikon India Private Limited has launched the Nikon Scholarship Program 2026-27, offering up to INR 1,00,000 to students pursuing professional photography courses of 3 months or more. The program aims to nurture young visual talent and remove financial barriers to creative education. • Must be an Indian citizen. • Must be currently pursuing a professional photography-related course with a minimum duration of three months. • Must have passed Class 12 (any stream). • Annual parental income from all sources must not exceed INR 6,00,000
Eligibility:	Scholarship up to Rs 1,00,000 based on the actual course fee. 24-08-2026 Online applications only www.b4s.in/hans/NIKON14 https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/nikon-scholarship-program-2026-271785206520.png
Scholarship Name 2: Description:	Panasonic Ratti Chhatr Scholarship 2026-27 The Panasonic Ratti Chhatr Scholarship 2026-27 an inititave by Panasonic Life Solutions India aims to supports first-year B.E./B. Tech students from low-income families admitted to any IIT by providing annual financial assistance of INR 70,250. • Open to students across India who have secured admission to B.E. or B.Tech. programs at any Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) for the academic year 2026-27. • Applicants must have completed their Class 12 examination with a minimum of 75% marks. • The annual family income should not exceed INR 8,00,000 from all sources. • Only candidates from the 2026-27 batch are eligible to apply.
Eligibility:	Scholarship of INR 70,250 per year. Note: Scholarship support will be provided until 2028, with the possibility of an extension. Online applications only www.b4s.in/hans/RCSP7 https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/panasonic-ratti-chhatr-scholarship-2026-271785206513.png
Scholarship Name 3: Description:	U-GO Scholarship Program 2026-27 The U-GO Scholarship Program 2026-27, an initiative by U-GO, aims to provide financial assistance to talented young women pursuing professional undergraduate courses across India. The program supports academically deserving students enrolled in fields such as teaching, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law, and other related disciplines. • Open to young women pursuing professional graduation courses in teaching, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law and related fields. • Must be studying in any year of their graduation program, except the final year. • Must have secured at least 70% marks in both the Class 10 and Class 12 examinations. • Annual family income from all sources must be less than INR 5 lakh. • Students from across India are eligible to apply.
Eligibility:	Selected students will get a chance to receive up to INR 60,000 per year. 20-08-2026 Online applications only www.b4s.in/hans/UGO6 https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/u-go-scholarship-program-2026-271785206505.png
Scholarship Name 4: Description:	IIRS External Student Internship Program 2026 The IIRS External Student Internship Program 2026 is being offered by the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), ISRO, Department of Space (DoS), GoI. It aims to provide valuable hands-on research and training experience to meritorious students pursuing their studies in science, technology, engineering, and related disciplines. Application is open to Indian nationals pursuing or having completed their UG, PG, or PhD programmes in Science or Technology from recognised institutions in India or abroad in the last six months. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 60% aggregate marks or a CGPA of 6.32/10. They must fulfil the prescribed academic requirements for the Student Project Trainee Scheme and complete their 6th semester for BE/BTech., 1st semester for ME/MTech. and MSc., final year for BSc./Diploma, and coursework for PhD programmes respectively. Training certification and research experience benefits. 30-10-2026 Online Application Only www.b4s.in/hans/IIRS2 https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/iirs-external-student-internship-program-20261785206459.png
Eligibility:	
Prizes & Rewards: Last Date to Apply: Application mode: Short Url: QR Code:	GEV Memorial Merit Scholarship for Law Students 2026-27 An initiative of the GEV Scholarship Fund Trust, established in memory of Late Dr. Goolam E. Vahanvati, the 13th Attorney General of India. The scholarship supports meritorious law students pursuing legal education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in India. • Indian citizens pursuing LL.B./LL.M. in India or appearing for CLAT, LSAT-India, AILET, or other law entrance exams. • Minimum 60% in Class X & XII, annual family income up to INR 10 lakh, and willingness to participate in mentorship programmes. • Scholarship support ranging from INR 50,000 to INR 2,00,000 per year. • Mentorship opportunities from legal professionals and alumni.
Eligibility:	15-08-2026 Online applications only www.b4s.in/hans/GMM5 https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/gev-memorial-merit-scholarship-for-law-students-2026-271782131425.png
Prizes & Rewards: Last Date to Apply: Application mode: Short Url: QR Code:	



How students can prepare for marketing careers

Why creativity, data, AI and communication are shaping the next generation of marketing professionals

YOGITA TULSIANI

For decades, marketing was often associated with catchy advertisements, memorable slogans, and creative campaigns. While creativity continues to be the heart of great marketing, the profession has transformed into one of the most dynamic, technology-driven, and data-centric career paths today.

For students aspiring to build a career in marketing, this evolution presents both an opportunity and a challenge. Employers are no longer hiring candidates based solely on academic qualifications or creative thinking. They are looking for professionals who can combine analytical skills, technological awareness, business understanding, and consumer empathy to drive measurable outcomes. As the industry continues to evolve, students must rethink how they prepare for their first marketing role.

Data literacy is becoming a core marketing skill

Marketing decisions today are driven by insights rather than assumptions. From website traffic and social media engagement to customer journeys, audience segmentation, and campaign performance, data influences almost every marketing decision.

Students entering the workforce should develop the ability to interpret dashboards, understand campaign analytics, identify customer trends, and derive actionable insights. They do not need to become data scientists, but they should be comfortable using data to support marketing decisions, measure outcomes, optimise campaigns, and identify opportunities for improvement.



AI is a tool every marketer must learn to use

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming part of the marketing workflow. It can assist with content ideation, customer segmentation, campaign optimisation, market research, predictive analytics, marketing automation, and personalised customer experiences. However, AI is not replacing marketers—it is changing how marketers work.

Students who understand how to collaborate with AI tools, write effective prompts, verify outputs, interpret AI-generated insights, and combine technology with human creativity will be better prepared for the workplace. The ability to use AI responsibly, ethically, and strategically is increasingly becoming an expected skill rather than a competitive advantage.

Communication and storytelling still matter

Technology can generate content, but it cannot replace authentic human storytelling. Brands continue to compete on trust, emotional connection, credibility, and relevance.

Students should focus on strengthening their writing, presentation, public speaking, and communication skills. Whether pitching an idea to a client, presenting campaign results, creating content for different audiences, or collaborating with internal teams, the ability to communicate clearly remains one of the most valuable assets in marketing.

Build a portfolio before you build a resume

One of the biggest mistakes students make is waiting until graduation to demonstrate their abilities. Employers increasingly value

practical experience alongside academic achievements.

Students can build portfolios by managing college events, running social media pages, creating content, participating in marketing competitions, volunteering with NGOs, freelancing, assisting startups, or developing campaigns for small businesses. Even self-initiated projects can showcase creativity, strategic thinking, leadership, digital skills, and problem-solving abilities. A strong portfolio often tells employers more about a candidate's potential than a list of classroom assignments because it demonstrates initiative and the ability to apply knowledge in practical settings.

Curiosity is the skill that never goes out of style

Marketing is constantly evolving because consumers are constantly evolving.

New technologies, changing platforms, shifting consumer expectations, cultural trends, regulatory changes, and emerging digital channels continue to reshape the profession. Students who actively follow industry developments, read case studies, explore successful campaigns, stay informed about changing consumer behaviour, and experiment with new tools will adapt more quickly to workplace demands. Employers increasingly value candidates who demonstrate a willingness to learn, experiment, ask questions, and continuously improve their skills.

Collaboration is essential

Modern marketing rarely operates in isolation. Campaigns require collaboration between creative teams, product managers, sales professionals, designers, analysts, technology teams, customer experience specialists, and business leaders. Students should develop teamwork, adaptability, leadership, and problem-solving skills through group projects, internships, extracurricular activities, and interdisciplinary collaborations. Learning to work across functions prepares future marketers for the collaborative nature of today's organisations.

Preparing for the future starts today

The marketing industry offers exciting opportunities for young professionals, but success requires more than creativity alone. Students who combine creative thinking with analytical ability, technological fluency, effective communication, business understanding, collaboration, and a growth mindset will be better equipped to thrive in an increasingly competitive landscape. The author is Director & Co-founder, iXceed Solutions, Global Tech-Recruiter Provider.

INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ADOPTION (DAP) PROFESSIONALS DAY

Empowering employees through better digital experiences



As organisations continue to adopt new technologies, ensuring that employees can use digital tools effectively has become just as important as implementing the technology itself. This is where Digital Adoption Platform (DAP) professionals play a vital role. They help bridge the gap between technology and people by making digital systems easier to understand, navigate and use.

Modern workplaces rely on a wide range of software applications for communication, collaboration, customer service, finance and operations. While these tools offer significant advantages, they can also be challenging for employees to learn. DAP professionals simplify this transition by creating guided experiences, in-app support, interactive walkthroughs and learning resources that help users perform tasks

with confidence.

Beyond training, these professionals work closely with technology teams, business leaders and end users to understand common challenges and improve the overall digital experience. Their efforts reduce confusion, minimise errors and encourage employees to adopt new systems more quickly, leading to smoother workplace transitions and higher productivity.

As organisations continue investing in digital transformation, the role of DAP professionals is becoming increasingly important. They ensure that technology delivers its intended value by focusing on the user experience rather than the software alone. Their work demonstrates that successful digital transformation depends not only on advanced technology but also on empowering people to use it effectively.

IIHM students showcase French culinary heritage through experiential learning

Second-year students at the International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM), Bangalore, organised a special event highlighting French culinary heritage and fine dining traditions, offering a practical learning experience in classical gastronomy and hospitality service.

Planned and executed entirely by the students, the event featured traditional French cuisine prepared using classical techniques alongside structured fine-dining service. The initiative provided students with hands-on exposure to professional kitchen operations, menu planning, guest relations, table service, and event management.

Distinguished guests from the Scientific and Academic Division of the Consulate General of France in Bengaluru attended the programme and appreciated the students' attention to detail, culinary skills, and professional execution. Faculty members and mentors also commended the participants for successfully managing every aspect of the event.

Sanchari Chowdhury, Director of IIHM Bangalore and Head – South Operations at IIHM, said French gastronomy has played a significant role in shaping global culinary arts and hospitality standards.

"French gastronomy forms the bedrock of classical culinary arts and modern fine-dining culture worldwide. Such initiatives allow students to engage directly with foundational culinary techniques, kitchen hierarchy, and refined service standards while gaining practical experience that complements classroom learning," she said.

French culinary tradi-

tions have had a lasting influence on hospitality education worldwide. Concepts such as structured multi-course dining, classical mother sauces, precise knife skills, and the brigade de cuisine continue to serve as the foundation of professional kitchens across the globe. For hospitality students, understanding these principles provides valuable preparation for careers in international hospitality and food service.

The event also reflected the growing emphasis on experiential learning within hospitality education. By independently managing menu planning, kitchen operations, décor, service, and guest engagement, students gained practical exposure to the collaborative and operational aspects of the hospitality industry while strengthening their technical and organisational skills.





“The start was a bit slow, but then I gradually picked up pace and it felt great to win. I am not thinking about doing a job now, my target is to win medals. I am sure I will do better at the upcoming Para Asian Games in September-October in Japan and then the Paralympics.”
- Dilip Mahadu Gavit, India’s para-athlete

Sports Nation

SREESHANKAR'S DOUBLE DELIGHT

MURALI Sreeshankar added another chapter to Indian athletics history on Wednesday, becoming the country's first long jump double medallist in Commonwealth Games with a silver here.

Having claimed silver in Birmingham in 2022, the 27-year-old added another medal to his collection after producing a best leap of 8.09 metres, capping an emotional comeback from the career-threatening knee injury that had nearly derailed his career.

Before Sreeshankar, the country's only medallists in the event were: Suresh Babu (men's bronze, 1978), Anju Bobby George (women's bronze, 2002) and M Prajusha (women's silver, 2010).

Former world champion Tajay Gayle of Jamaica clinched the gold with a best jump of 8.15m while local favourite Stephen Mackenzie grabbed the last spot on the podium with an 8.08m effort.

The medal was especially sweet considering where Sreeshankar stood just over a year ago. A ruptured patellar tendon in April 2024 forced him to undergo surgery, and miss what was expected to be his maiden Olympic appearance in Paris and raising doubts over whether he could ever return to his explosive best. But here, he gave another emphatic statement of his comeback.

Competing in only his second Commonwealth Games after missing the 2018 edition, Sreeshankar opened confidently with a leap of 8.03m before stretching it to 8.09m in his second attempt to move into the lead.

Commonwealth Games 2026



Sprinters Dilip Mahadu Gavit, Mohammed Basil sprint ahead in men's 100m T47

Historic 1-2 finish by Gavit-Basil

GLASGOW

INDIA'S para-athletes remained an inspiring and unstoppable force at the Commonwealth Games as sprinters Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Mohammed Basil scripted another story of grit with a

gold-silver finish in the men's 100m T47 final here.

Gavit clocked a Games record and his season's best time of 10.71 seconds to take the top spot, while Basil produced his season's best of 10.83 seconds to finish second in a closely-fought race

on Wednesday. England's Kevin Santos completed the podium taking 10.85 seconds to win bronze.

The men's 100m T47 is a para athletics sprint event covers arm impairment or absence, affecting strength, movement or coordination

on one side.

Gavit's gold was India's third at the Games, following Mirabai Chanu's victory in the women's 48kg weightlifting event and Sharmila Dhankar's triumph in the women's shot put F57 para athletics category.

Hyderabad Black Hawks to hold U-21, PVL Open Trials

VIJAYAWADA: Hyderabad Black Hawks will conduct U-21 Selection Trials and Open Trials for its Prime Volleyball League (PVL) main team on August 6 at the V R Siddhartha Engineering College Indoor Stadium in Vijayawada, aiming to identify emerging and experienced volleyball talent from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The U-21 Selection Trials, beginning at 8 am, are exclusively for registered players under 21 and are linked to the inaugural Guardians Trophy, an invitational tournament to be held in Goa from August 14 to 16. Registration has already closed following a strong response. Selected players will attend a training camp until August 12 before travelling to Goa and will also have the opportunity to register for the PVL Auction. The Open Trials for the Hyderabad Black Hawks' main PVL squad will commence at 5 pm and are open to experienced men from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Participation is subject to mandatory prior registration for the PVL Auction through the official league portal.



Osmania Professor represents India at Int'l sports conference

HYDERABAD: Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Senior Professor and Head of the Department of Physical Education at Osmania University, represented India at the Thailand National Sports University International Conference 2026, held in Bangkok from July 29 to 31.

He presented a research paper titled "The Role of Traditional Indian Practices for Promotion of Physical Literacy in India: A Review," highlighting the significance of India's traditional knowledge systems



in promoting physical literacy and holistic well-being. In recognition of his scholarly contribution, Prof. Kumar received a Certificate of Appreciation.

The conference also provided opportunities for international academic collaboration and enhanced Osmania University's global academic profile.

INDIA'S JAVELIN TRIO INTO FINAL

OLYMPIC hero Neeraj Chopra, along with two other Indians, advanced to the Commonwealth Games men's javelin throw final after finishing among the top 12 in the qualification round as strong, shifting winds foiled every athlete's attempt to achieve the automatic qualifying mark here on Thursday.

Chopra, who won the javelin throw title in 2018, was fifth with a best effort of 79.61m, while Rohit Yadav (78.37m) and Yashvir Singh (78.36m) ended the qualification in ninth and 10th positions respectively to ensure a full Indian contingent in the medal round.

The 28-year-old Chopra, who was the last thrower in each round, did not take



his third and final attempt as he had already made it to the final by that time.

With a steady headwind and a temperature of 18 degree Celsius making conditions difficult throughout the event, none of the competitors was able to breach the automatic qualification mark of 84m, leaving the top 12 athletes to progress to the final round to be held on Friday.

Rahane retires from int'l cricket

MUMBAI: Senior batter Ajinkya Rahane, who famously led an injury-ravaged Indian team to an improbable Test series win over Australia in 2021, announced his retirement from international cricket on Thursday, saying that the time is right for him to "move on".

The 38-year-old played 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India in a career which began in 2013. However, he has not turned up for India since the 2023 away Test series against the West Indies but maintained even until this year's IPL that he would not give up on



the dream of a comeback. "The reality of life is that everything has a beginning, and everything has an end. When that time comes, you simply have to respect it and move forward. I always relied on timing in my batting, and I've always understood its importance," Rahane said in a video message on his Instagram account.

"Today, I feel the timing is right for me to move on and announce my requirement from international cricket, and all formats," he added in the clip that was captioned "Cap number 278, signing off".

Pargat questions hockey jersey 'safronisation'

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Pargat Singh on Thursday questioned the decision to make saffron the Indian hockey team's primary jersey colour ahead of the upcoming World Cup, alleging that "everything in the country is being saffronised", while legendary forward Dhanraj Pillay said the blue jersey has been the sport's identity for decades.

The controversy erupted after Hockey India unveiled saffron as the primary jersey for the men's and women's teams for the World Cup, beginning August 15 in the Netherlands and Belgium.



While former India captain Viren Rasquinha has also expressed reservations over the move, Hockey India has maintained that the decision was taken considering both the technical feedback received from the coaches and players and the symbolic value associated with the colour being part of the National Flag.

Dhanraj, who represented India in 339 international matches, including four Olympics, four World Cups and four Champions Trophy tournaments, said the blue jersey has remained synonymous with Indian hockey for generations. "The blue jersey has become the identity of Indian hockey. Being one of the colours of our national flag, saffron is important and auspicious but it has never been the traditional colour of Indian hockey. I don't understand why this has suddenly changed after so many years," Dhanraj told PTI.

Winged ants force closure of two OTs at Durg hospital

RAIPUR: Two operation theatres (OTs) at a government hospital in Chhattisgarh's Durg district have been shut for the last 10 days after swarms of winged ants entered the facilities following heavy rains, officials said on Thursday. The operation theatres in the mother-child unit of the district hospital were closed as a precautionary measure after a large number of flying ants were found inside the OTs, Civil Surgeon of the hospital Dr Ashish Minj said. "The winged ants entered the operation theatres due to the ongoing heavy rains. To ensure patient safety and maintain sterile conditions, both OTs were temporarily closed," he said.

Dr Minj said no surgeries have been affected by the closure as the hospital's emergency operation theatre is being used to carry out all required procedures. "No patient has been referred to another hospital because of the closure of these OTs. All surgeries are being managed through the emergency OT," he said. Repair and pest-control work is underway, and both OTs are expected to become operational again within the next two to three days, the official added.

Amit Shah should quit: Abhijeet Dipke

'Union Home Minister must have issued orders to use force on students on July 20 in Delhi'

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

COCKROACH Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday claimed orders to use force against students during the July 20 "Sansad Chalo" march must have come from Union Home Minister Amit Shah and sought his resignation over the police crackdown.

Talking to reporters at his residence in hometown Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in central Maharashtra, he said democracy was in "danger" in the country and questions were being raised even on judiciary, while central probe agencies were being used to break political parties.

"Saving democracy is not merely an Opposition issue now. The people of the country will have to come together (to save it)," Dipke insisted on his return home after more than a month-



long CJP-led protest in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar over the NEET exam paper leak, which culminated in the resignation of then-Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "There is a question mark even on judiciary. We all have seen how ED and CBI were used to break parties like the Shiv Sena and the NCP. The big institutions in the country had a duty to keep democracy alive and not create dictatorship of a single man. They let it happen. To stop this, not only

the Opposition, but even the people will have to come together," he asserted.

The 30-year-old activist criticised the appointment of Pralhad Joshi as new Education Minister and called him a "weird" man. "If the Education Minister of the country applauds rapists, this means another weird man has been brought in after removing Dharmendra Pradhan. What message is being given to the country? They cannot do anything else because their party is full of goons. People

like Ram Rahim (a rape convict) come out on parole during their tenure. This government supports goons and rapists," he alleged.

The CJP founder insisted his outfit's protest over the NEET paper leak was constitutional. "We have fought for our rights against the paper leak in a constitutional way. If agitating with photos of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar in a legal way is defaming culture, we have done it. Baba Ramdev should look into Patanjali about which the Supreme Court has made adverse comments in the past," he maintained.

"Gen Z can handle the country and its culture well. He (Ramdev) should concentrate on Patanjali else it may go out of business," Dipke remarked. He supported the demand for Shah's resignation made by Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. "Amit Shah should definitely resign.

SC permits Friday prayers on Dargah land

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted Muslims to offer Friday prayers at the premises of a dargah adjacent to the disputed Bhojshala complex at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. The top court directed the state government to ensure that Muslims are allowed to offer namaz at the site between 1 and 3 pm on Fridays.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, however, said that the instant direction does not preclude the state government and the Muslim side from exploring another site for Friday prayers with mutual consent. On July 14,



the bench had directed that a separate open space be provided adjacent to the disputed site in Dhar for namaz on Fridays between 1 and 3 pm till the case is decided.

Later, the Muslim side led by Haji Muneer Ahmad moved the top court alleging non-compliance with its directions to provide an alternative site, saying that the Dhar administration was

providing the place which was 1.3 km away from the disputed Bhojshala complex.

They said that the site should be close enough from where Muslims can sight the mosque while offering prayers. After hearing arguments from senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Muslim side, and Additional Solicitor General K M Natraj, on behalf of the state government, clarified its earlier order of July 14. "The earlier order is clarified to the extent that the Muslim community be permitted to offer namaz on Fridays between 1-3 pm at the land bearing Khassra No. 596 which is stated to be Dargah land.

Flood-hit Assam still in dark

DISPUR

NEARLY 13,000 households in flood-affected areas of Assam still do not have any electricity connection, almost 11 days after several districts were ravaged by an unprecedented mud-filled deluge.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the administration is continuously evaluating the flood situation in Upper Assam and accordingly taking decisions to restore power connections in the households.

"Consumers without electricity have declined by a further 30 per cent. As water levels recede, we are continuously assessing safety conditions and will restore more transformers to the grid wherever it is safe to do so," he said in a post on X.

The flood impact and power supply status report for Sivasagar electrical circle, prepared by Assam Power



Distribution Company Ltd (APDCL) and shared by Sarma, showed that a total of 12,756 consumers are still affected or without electricity.

The affected areas are Gaurisagar, Sivasagar, Nazira, Amguri and Demow, it added.

On July 24, Sarma had said that around 40,000 households did not have electricity supply although power had been restored to 75 per cent

connections. Heavy rains in Nagaland and Upper Assam districts wreaked havoc in three districts from wee hours on July 19.

The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Thursday even as water receded from most parts of the state, with the death toll rising to 78 and over three lakh people continuing to reel under the deluge. (PTI)

'Returning to Kolkata feels like coming home'

KOLKATA: Nearly two decades after she was forced to leave Kolkata following protests over her controversial book 'Dwikhandito', exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen on Thursday said returning to the city for her first public appearance felt like coming back to "my own country".

She expressed hope that the visit would reaffirm the importance of freedom of expression and protection of dissenting voices.

Nasreen is scheduled to take part in a programme here on August 1, which is also likely to be attended



by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and renowned author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay.

This will be Nasreen's first public appearance in Kolkata since 2007, when protests against her memoir

forced her to leave the city she had made her home after fleeing Bangladesh a decade earlier.

Nasreen's book 'Dwikhandito' (Split in two) was banned by the West Bengal government in 2003 for allegedly hurting the sentiments of the Muslim community.

Speaking to PTI, Nasreen said Kolkata was not merely a place where she lived but a city that gave her a sense of belonging, and that the years away had not weakened her connection with West Bengal.

"I feel as though I am returning to

my own country. Bengal has never been divided in my heart by a border or a barbed-wire fence. The door to the eastern part of Bengal remains closed to me, so for now, this part of Bengal is my home," she said. "I am returning with joy, but also with pain. Kolkata was not merely a city where I lived; it was where I had a home, friends, readers and a sense of belonging. Nearly nineteen years were taken from me, and no homecoming can return those lost years. I am not returning as a stranger or a guest.

The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientific-ly validated process in consultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, SIAM, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions. -Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas



BIZ BRIEFS

AU collaborates with Salesforce

Adamas University (AU) announced a strategic collaboration with Salesforce, an Agentic AI CRM, to establish West Bengal's first Salesforce Academia Centre of Excellence. The collaboration will equip students and faculty with hands-on access to Salesforce technologies including Agentforce, Agentforce 360 Platform, Tableau and Data 360. Prof. (Dr.) Samit Ray, Chancellor, Adamas University, said: "Our collaboration with Salesforce through this Centre of Excellence reflects our commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry."

Ujjivan SFB gets recognition

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB), a leading small finance bank, announced that it has secured the 8th position among Top 100 India's Best Companies to Work For 2026. Chandralekha Chaudhuri, Head - Human Resources, Ujjivan SFB, said: "This recognition among India's Best Companies to Work For holds special significance because it is earned through employee feedback and experiences. The ranking reflects the trust our people place in the organization and their honest assessment of our culture."

Story TV's biz expansion

Story TV, a micro-drama platform from Eloelo Group, announced a full-scale expansion into South India, with the launch of original vertical series in Telugu. GSN Aditya, COO, Story TV, said: "Entertainment has moved to the mobile screen and viewing habits have moved with it. Audiences today want stories they can binge instantly and see themselves in their language, their culture, their world. Micro-drama answers both."

Amazon sale from Aug 7

Amazon India announced that its annual Great Freedom Sale 2026 will go live from August 7, bringing together top deals across categories including smartphones, fashion, beauty, home, kitchen, large appliances, groceries, everyday essentials and more. During the sale, customers can look forward to exciting savings through curated offer windows, including, Top 100 Deals, Blockbuster Deals, Trending Deals, 8 PM Deals, etc. Additionally, customers can avail a discounts and EMI transactions.

Formal credit gains traction

India's formal credit penetration more than doubled over nine years, with 74 per cent of credit-eligible consumers having accessed formal credit by March 2026, up from 35 per cent in 2017, according to a TransUnion CIBIL report. Credit growth was driven by women, younger borrowers and non-metro regions, with Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar outpacing traditional western and southern markets. The report also highlighted significant scope to bring more new-to-credit consumers and MSMEs into the formal credit ecosystem.

Investors in two Telugu states eye equity boom

TELANGANA AND AP HAVE A SOLID INVESTOR BASE, BUT ANALYSTS SEE VAST POTENTIAL FOR GREATER STOCK MARKET PARTICIPATION

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TELANGANA and Andhra Pradesh are home to some of India's most enterprising communities, spanning agriculture, industry, IT and now AI — and a new five-year analysis of IPO applications suggests their next big growth story could be in the stock market itself.

Of the 1.83 crore unique IPO applicants recorded nationally across 33 states and 785 towns, Telangana contributed 3.99 lakh (2.17%) and Andhra Pradesh 4.41 lakh (2.40%) — a combined 8.4 lakh investors already active in India's primary markets. That's a meaningful base to build on, especially with Maharashtra and Gujarat's outsized historical share showing just how much room the rest of the country, including the Telugu states, still has to grow.

The per-capita numbers point to the same opportunity from a different angle. Telangana logged about 10,490 applicants per mil-



- **Telangana: 3.99 lakh IPO applicants (2.17% of India)**
- **Andhra Pradesh: 4.41 lakh IPO applicants (2.40%)**
- **Combined investor base: 8.4 lakh IPO applicants**
- **Trading accounts: 1.24 crore (AP), 61 lakh (Telangana)**
- **Analysts see significant scope for higher equity participation**

lion people, and Andhra Pradesh 8,316, against a national average of 12,841. Rather than a shortfall in ambition, analysts read this as evidence of strong, disciplined savers — Telugu households save as much as anyone — with substantial headroom to bring more of that saving into listed equity alongside their traditional preference for land and gold.

The state-level patterns hint at where that growth can come from. Hyderabad already drives close to 60% of Telangana's participation, with its tech and pharma workforce placing the city

13th nationally — a strong base to extend into Warangal, Nizamabad and other growing towns. Andhra Pradesh's participation is already well distributed, spanning Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tirupati, Nellore, Kurnool and Rajahmundry, giving it a broad foundation to build deeper investor engagement across multiple centres rather than one city alone.

Encouragingly, the infrastructure for that growth is already in place. NSE data as of July 4 shows 1.24 crore registered trading accounts from Andhra Pradesh and

61 lakh from Telangana, part of a national investor base that crossed 13 crore unique investors in April. With access no longer a barrier, market watchers say the next step — turning more savers into active equity participants — is well within reach.

Diversification is the route there. Gold and property offer stability, and bank deposits offer predictability, but equities give households a direct share in business growth over the long term—a valuable complement to, not a replacement for, traditional assets.

Olectra becomes first in India to deploy 4,000 electric buses

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

OLECTRA Greentech Limited has become the first company in the country to deploy 4,000 electric buses on Indian roads, marking a significant milestone in India's transition towards sustainable public transportation.

The company achieved the milestone with the symbolic handover of its 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the flagging off of 297 Olectra



Olectra team handing over company's 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the flagging off of 297 Olectra electric buses inducted into the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) fleet

Vivo Ignite garners over 38,000 registrations

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

Vivo India announced that vivo Ignite 2026, its flagship nationwide innovation initiative for school students, has received over 38,000 registrations. This year's edition witnessed registrations from more than 12,000 schools across 705 districts and over 4,500 cities. Students from Grades 8-12 submitted more than 6,100 ideas, applying technology to address challenges across themes aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Compared to the previous edition, vivo Ignite expanded its national footprint from over 9,000 schools across 668 districts and more than 3,000 cities to more than 12,000 schools across 705 districts and more than 4,500 cities.

Tata Steel Q1 profit up 19% at ₹2,385 cr; board approves ₹33,873 cr for NINL expansion

NEW DELHI: Tata Steel on Thursday reported a 19 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,385.24 crore in the June quarter on account of growth in revenues from India operations.

It had posted a net profit of Rs 2,007.36 crore in the first quarter of the preceding financial year, the company said in an exchange filing.

Total income rose to Rs 61,026.97 crore in Q1 FY27 from Rs 53,466.79 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

The company's board also approved the core project of steelmaking capacity expansion by 4.8 MTPA in NINL for an estimated capex of Rs 33,873 crore.

This will enable Tata Steel to further expand its long products portfolio, especially in the retail space where the company's branded products are in high demand.

NINL is currently going through the process of amalgamation into Tata Steel Ltd.

Sid's Farm raises ₹81-cr in Pre-Series B Funding round

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

SID'S Farm, a D2C brand in the dairy and foods segment, announced that it raised the capital of over Rs81 crore in its Pre-Series B funding round. The latest round saw participation from major investors including, Omnivore, NSFO, Dodla Dairy, Next Bharat Ventures, and LIO along with a consortium of other investors.

Dr. Kishore Indukuri, Founder, Sid's Farm, said: "Modern Indian consumers are extremely quality conscious and demand transparency, quality and safety in the food they and their families consume. This investment is a vote of confidence by our partners in our long-term vision of establishing India's most trusted dairy brand

that embodies safety as an inseparable ingredient of our products at every step of the value chain — from the farm to the family's doorstep." The company will deploy the fresh capital for strengthening its supply chain along with expansion of its manufacturing and distribution capabilities. Sid's Farm will also be investing in product innovation, bolstering and reinforcing its partnership with the farmers along with accelerating its expansion into virgin territories.

According to the company: "Sid's Farm has differentiated itself by adopting a scientific approach to food safety, wherein each batch is subjected to testing across more than 45 quality and safety parameters, with more than 10,000 quality tests conducted on a daily basis."

Centre launches first sovereign-backed maritime P&I insurance

NEW DELHI

THE Department of Financial Services (DFS) on Thursday launched India's first sovereign-backed Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurance product under the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP), a move aimed at strengthening the country's maritime risk management framework, reducing dependence on foreign insurers and boosting self-reliance in specialised marine insurance.

As part of the launch, the DFS Secretary handed over the first PI insurance policy issued under BMIP by The New India Assurance Company to the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.

The policy provides financial protection against third-party liabilities, including crew and cargo claims, pollution liability and wreck removal, while also offering access to a 24x7 global port correspondent network.

The insurance cover provides an indemnity limit

Costlier gold dampens demand, consumption value soars

WGC says jewellery purchases weakened, but bar, coin and ETF investments remained strong

MUMBAI

INDIA'S gold demand fell 6 per cent year-on-year to 131.4 tonnes in the April-June quarter, weighed down by seasonally subdued sales, higher Customs duty and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to reduce purchases of the precious metal, the World Gold Council said in a report.

The total demand was at 139.7 tonnes during the corresponding period last year, according to WGC's 'Q2 2026 Gold Demand Trends' report.

"However, it's been a record in terms of the value of demand. So, consumption was Rs 1,98,100 crores, compared with Rs 1,32,500 crores in the same period in 2025, which is up by 50 per cent compared to the second quarter of 2025, highlighting that consumers continue to prioritise gold even in a high-price environment," WGC Regional CEO, India, Sachin Jain said. Going forward, for the year, WGC estimated the demand to stay between 650 and 750 tonnes.

"We still see demand in the range of 650 to 750 tonnes for this year. However, given the current geopolitical landscape, interest rates, and inflation, I think we should be



somewhere in the middle of this range. If there is more correction in gold prices and the customs duty is reduced, then we could get to the upper end of this range," Jain added.

Total Jewellery demand in India during the quarter under review decreased by 15 per cent to 75.1 tonnes as compared to 88.8 tonnes in the same period last year.

"Subdued season, the clarification call of the Prime Minister to buy less gold and hike in Customs Duty, among others, impacted the demand," he added.

Prime Minister Modi, in May this year, urged people to reduce non-essential gold purchases and explore other ways to save foreign exchange reserves amid mounting import bills of the country due to volatile crude oil prices.

Jain expressed concern

about a rise in grey marketing after the duty hike, noting reports of illicit gold already making its way into these markets.

"We think smuggling and illicit gold making way into the market is the biggest risk to the industry, and we are already getting reports on this. We will be tracking this in the coming quarters," he added.

Meanwhile, investment demand remained encouraging, with bar and coin demand growing 9 per cent year-on-year to 50.3 tonnes, while Indian Gold ETFs attracted 4.2 tonnes of net inflows despite global outflows.

"These trends reinforce gold's growing appeal not only as a traditional store of wealth but also as a strategic investment that provides stability and diversification in an increasingly uncertain economic environment.

Markets rally for 2nd day on blue-chip rally, FII inflows



MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Thursday, driven by a rally in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and foreign fund inflows.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 273.55 points, or 0.35 per cent, higher at 77,928.15, helped by bag-end buying. During the day, it hit a high of 78,007.09 and a low of 77,440.91, gyrating 566.18 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced by 66.95 points, or 0.28 per cent, to end at 24,317.15.

From the Sensex pack, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Power Grid were among the major winners. Adani Ports, Inter-Globe Aviation, Bajaj Finserv and Bharat Electronics were

among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,981.87 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

"The Fed's decision to maintain the status quo on rates was largely anticipated, but hawkishness remained due to continued emphasis on inflation control. A sharp uptick in US bond yields signalled growing pressure for a possible rate hike in the near future, keeping global investors on edge, while renewed crude oil volatility amid West Asian tensions added to ex-

ternal uncertainty," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

As a result, domestic equities stayed range-bound with sharp intraday swings, as investors weighed global headwinds against resilient domestic fundamentals, he said. "Nonetheless, strengthening FII inflows, a firmer rupee, and encouraging Q1FY27 supported sentiment, prompting investors to treat dips as selective buying opportunities," Nair added.

"Markets traded in a volatile yet narrow range and settled marginally higher amid mixed cues. Sentiment remained mixed as the US Fed kept rates unchanged but signaled a hawkish stance, boosting rate hike expectations later this year. Further, Brent crude nearing the \$90 mark with renewed geopolitical concerns kept markets

on edge," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. However, stability in the rupee and stock-specific buying across sectors due to the ongoing earnings season outcomes continue to support the recovery, he added.

The BSE SmallCap Select index dipped 0.66 per cent and the MidCap Select index edged lower by 0.36 per cent. Among sectors, Auto climbed 1.58 per cent, Energy 0.73 per cent, Consumer Discretionary 0.48 per cent, Oil & Gas 0.38 per cent, Top 10 Banks 0.20 per cent, Metal 0.17 per cent and Consumer Durables 0.13 per cent. Realty declined 2.10 per cent, Services 1.14 per cent, MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt 0.82 per cent, Insurance 0.69 per cent, Capital Goods 0.61 per cent, Industrials 0.42 per cent and Commodities 0.39 per cent.

iQoo Z11 Lite goes on sale

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

SMARTPHONE brand iQoo, has announced that its recently launched iQoo Z11 Lite is available for sale on Amazon.in and the iQOO e-store, select vivo exclusive stores and major retail stores from Thursday. The Z11 Lite is available in three storage variants, 4GB + 128GB, 6GB + 128GB, and 6GB + 256GB. It is available in two colour options, Midnight Blue and Solar Flame. The device is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300, it also features the segment's brightest 6.74-inch 120Hz display with up to 1200 nits brightness, for an immersive viewing and audio experience. It packs a 6500mAh BlueVolt Battery paired with 44W FlashCharge. It also comes with IP65 dust and water resistance, Swiss SGS Five-Star Drop Resistance, Military-Grade durability, and an AirSpring technology drop-resistant protective case for enhanced reliability.



Despite long gaps, Telugu stars bet on sequels

Tollywood's two-part film trend gaining momentum

SUHAS SISTU

Despite long gaps in between, the trend of two-part films is all set to gain even more ground in Telugu entertainment. It seems that filmmakers are now taking to two sequels in a row business very seriously, despite box office failures of some of the recent releases. From the Baahubali led boom, filmmakers have realized that big budget films call for a bigger narrative that needs more than one

movie to complete the story.

The trend started with Rajamouli's Baahubali, which broke the glass ceiling and set the ball rolling for the rest of the filmmakers who saw opportunity in capitalizing on the massive content, world building and the power of a larger than life narrative that can only be captured in two films.

Ever since its release, Baahubali has been inspiring many, as evident with the current slew of two-part films being made at the moment.

Jr NTR's Dragon, which is being made on an international scale by Prashanth Neel, is all set to be a two-part film, with the director saying he would need two films to do justice to the scale of his film. The same is being speculated for Allu Arjun's Raaka as well, which is being directed by Atlee. Though nothing has been confirmed yet, Ram Charan's RC17 along with Sukumar is also said to be going the two-part way.

In fact, the team is said to be

planning to release the two films like Dhurandhar, with barely a gap of four to five months in between. That way, there won't be an agonizing wait for the audiences, which would keep their interest alive for the second part while keeping the first part's magic alive.

With so many big budgeted films going the sequel route, it would be interesting to see if the trend continues in future, with either long awaited parts or entirely new projects.



Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana trailer: Ranbir Kapoor, Yash & Sai Pallavi deliver big



than life project that promises to be one of the best in India.

This four-minutes long trailer gives a glimpse into the movie directed by Nitesh Tiwari, which introduces its lead characters through various action-filled sequences on a royal, larger than life scale.

Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana managed to steal the show with their respective performances. Yash dominates the first half of the trailer with a compelling and powerful presence, while Ranbir seems to be a true embodiment of Lord Rama and Sai Pallavi complements him well.

As the trailer progresses and eventually reveals more of the story, it manages to keep its focus on the epic love story between the two legendary characters before showcasing a fierce battle between the two sides. It has to be said that the technical excellence of the movie is truly worth appreciating as grand depictions of Ayodhya and Lanka, battle scenes, special effects, and creative concept art, among others, are some of the most engaging things about it.

Not to forget that the background

score by Hans Zimmer and AR Rahman makes the action-packed and emotional scenes even better. Produced by Namit Malhotra and co-produced by Yash under Monster Mind Creations, Ramayana is set to release globally on Diwali 2026 in various languages. Based on the spectacular trailer, it haws a great possibility of being the talk of the town and a truly epic production that could become one of the biggest hits in recent years.

Varun Tej saves loyal fan battling tumor

Varun Tej has once again proved that his fan following is not just limited to his acting skills as he comes to the aid of one of his loyal fans who was diagnosed with a severe medical condition. The actor's good gesture has left fans and well-wishers really touched.

It was recently reported that Suresh Patil, the Anantapur district president of Chiranjeevi Yuvaratna and Gutti town president of Jana Sena Party, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The actor immediately sprung into action to help Suresh get the best treatment possible.

With the help of his mother, Padmaja, the actor has taken personal charge of making sure the medical costs are paid for and even



looked after the patient and his family at the hospital. From arranging for the doctors to get better treatment and looking after his needs till he recovers, the actor went out of his way to help the fan.

In addition to covering all the medical expenses, the ac-

tor has also been in constant touch with the doctors till the point Suresh was discharged from the hospital.

It has also been reported that this is not the first time the actor has gone out of his way to help a fan. Recently, he also helped the fans from the Anantapur region who

lost a close companion in an accident by giving generously to his family.

It appears that Varun Tej continues to follow in his family's footsteps by helping people around him. This recent gesture has only helped improve his already existing fan following.

VFA gets honoured at Kodi Ramakrishna Awards 2026



Reputed Vinod Film Academy (VFA) has received the "Best Acting School in Hyderabad" award at the recently held Kodi Ramakrishna Awards 2026 for nurturing young talents and promoting good acting skills in the Telugu film industry. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, senior actor Suman, producer Ambika Krishna and veteran producer Thummalaipalli Rama Satyanarayana presented the awards to the Vinod Film Academy.

The felicitation ceremony was held in the presence of a galaxy of film personalities who graced the event.

Vinod Film Academy founder and actor Vinod Nuvvula expressed his delight over receiving the esteemed Kodi Ramakrishna Award and said that it was an actor's dream come true. "This is one of the best days of my life, actually, and I felt very happy. This award is named after a great legendary filmmaker Kodi Ramakrishna, so this is one big blessing from our well-wishers, students who dedicate their lives to the film industry and the organisers, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them," he said.

Meanwhile, actor and Vinod Film Academy founder Vinod Nuvvula thanked the students for putting their trust and faith in the institution. "The confidence they have placed in this institution by giving us their opportunity is overwhelming. We will make them successful and famous so that they can promote the Telugu film industry," he added.

Is Chiranjeevi planning a birthday surprise for his fans?

Though Vishwambhara, the latest Telugu film of the Megastar Chiranjeevi was one of the most anticipated movies, there hasn't been an update about this flick in quite some time. However, it is now being reported that the makers have planned a birthday surprise as his birthday falls on the release window for the film.



Interestingly, Vishwambhara was set to release prior to Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, which not only released first but also turned out to be a phenomenal hit at the box office.

However, it seems that the wait for Vishwambhara might just end on August 22 which happens to be Chiranjeevi's birthday.

As per the latest rumors doing rounds, makers of the flick have reportedly locked the first week of October 2026 for the film's release as a birthday surprise for the fans.

Furthermore, the team has been working on the film's VFX so that movie lovers can experience best visual treat. Although the film's release date hasn't been officially confirmed by the producers yet, the film has been postponed multiple times.

The fantasy entertainer that stars Trisha and is directed by Mallidi Vasishtha. Aashika Ranganath, Ramya Pasupuleti, Esha Chawla, and Ashrita Vemuganti Nanduri are also a part of the star cast. The music of the film has been composed by MM Keeravani.

For now, the fans would have to wait till August 22, 2026 to know if Chiranjeevi's birthday will truly turn out to be a surprise for the viewers who have been waiting for Vishwambhara to hit the screens for a long time now.

Shraddha Kapoor stuns in minimalist look

Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor once again made her fans go crazy after sharing the latest clicks on her social media site. As per her usual attitude, the actress shared some of the best pictures of hers by keeping the looks simple but elegant. Shraddha Kapoor was seen wearing a beige knit sleeveless dress with minimal yet elegant gold adornments in the picture. She kept her hair in wavy style and her bold eye makeup caught everyone's attention.

A minimalistic yet elegant look along with minimal makeup and a dazzling smile in monochrome stole the hearts of her fans. Kapoor was looking gorgeous in her minimalistic outfit as she continues to flaunt her regular style statement.

Her fans were crazy about the latest click as they showered her with love and appreciation in the comment section.

They called her the most beautiful Bollywood actress and liked her minimalistic makeup and beautiful smile along with the minimalistic yet elegant look she was seen in the picture. They found Shraddha Kapoor looking gorgeous in the golden accessories and liked her minimalistic makeup that complemented her cuteness.

Shraddha Kapoor keeps her fans updated with all the latest happenings in her life through her frequent social media posts, where the actress keeps her near and dear ones posted about her lifestyle, work, and other relevant updates in her life. She was seen recently updating her fans with the pictures of her minimalistic looks and style statement.

