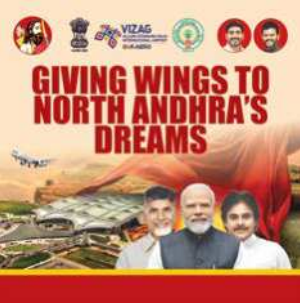
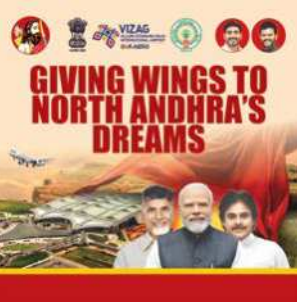
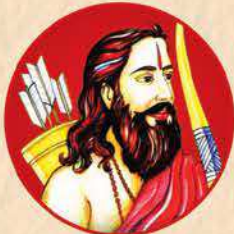




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GIVING WINGS TO NORTH ANDHRA'S DREAMS

THE ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

will be inaugurated by

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

In the presence of

Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Shri Konidela Pawan Kalyan

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Shri Nara Lokesh

Hon'ble Minister for Education & IT, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu

Hon'ble Union Minister for Civil Aviation

Location
Bhogapuram

Date: 01-08-2026
Time: 10:00 AM



₹5,641 Crore
State-of-the-Art Greenfield Airport



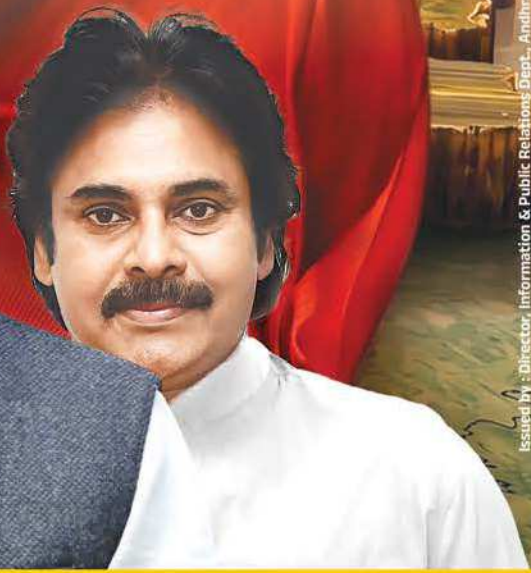
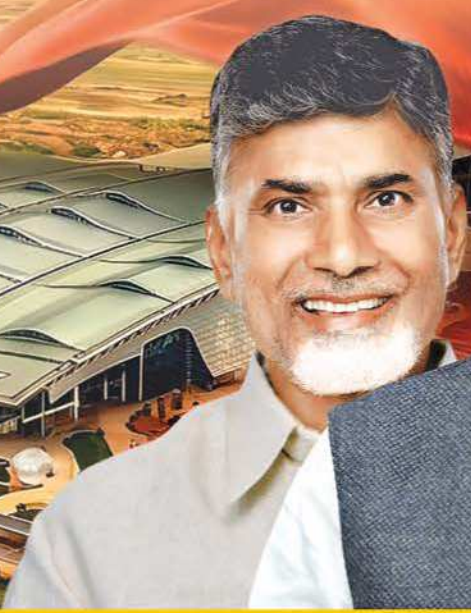
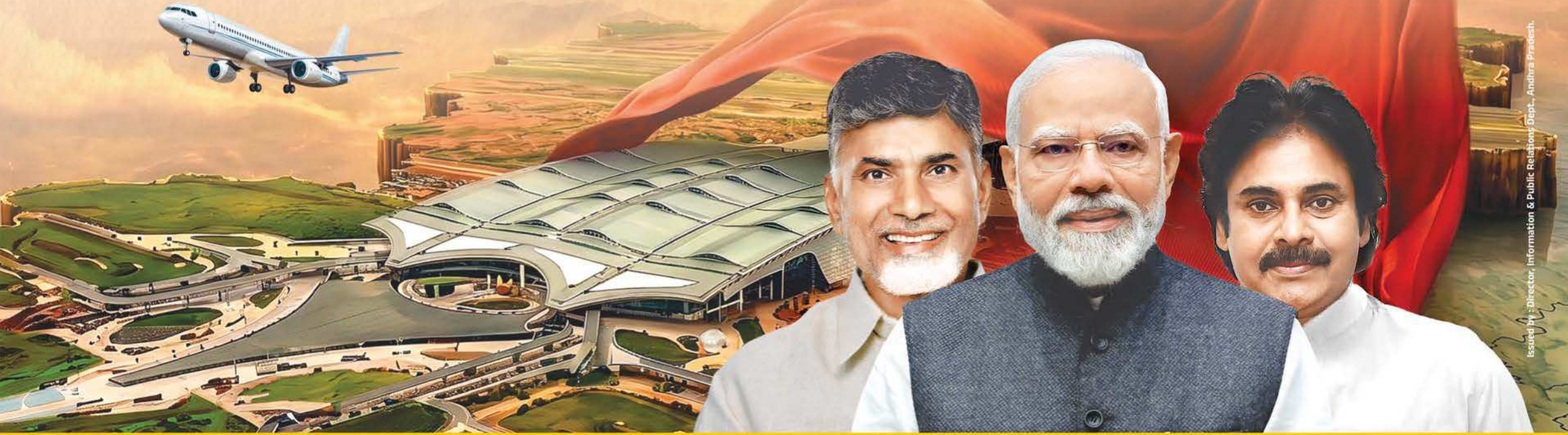
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5.57 Lakh
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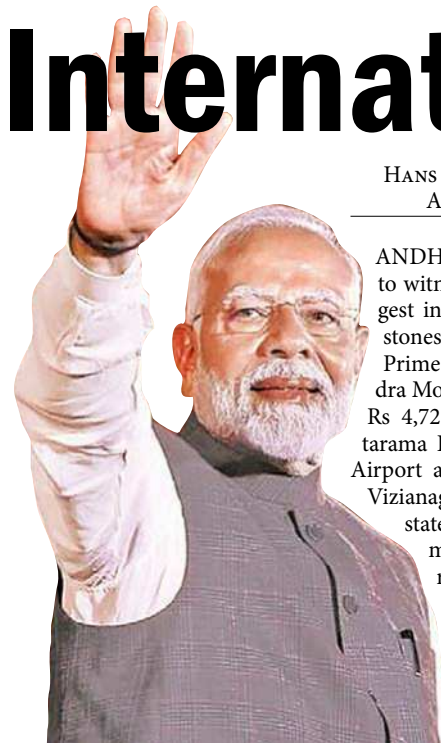
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AP POISED FOR BIG ECONOMIC PUSH

Modi to inaugurate Alluri International Airport today



HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh is set to witness one of its biggest infrastructure milestones on Saturday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Rs 4,727-crore Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district. The state government has made elaborate arrangements for the event, describing the airport as a transformational project for Andhra's economic growth,

- ▶ State gears up for grand inauguration of Rs 4,727-crore Bhogapuram airport
- ▶ PM Modi to also unveil Rs 18,000-cr developmental projects
- ▶ Tribal 'Dhimsa', Kuchipudi performances and cultural displays to mark the occasion



connectivity, and industrial expansion. The Prime Minister will also lay foundation stones for, or dedicate, developmental projects worth near-

ly Rs 18,000 crore, including the ASIP semiconductor project at Bhogapuram, the transmission system for Phase-I of the Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone, and major National Highway projects.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who shared the Prime Minister's announcement on social media, said Andhra Pradesh is ready to welcome him.

Continued on Page 7

VISAKHAPATNAM GETS INTO A CELEBRATION MODE! P2

BHOGAPURAM OPENS GATEWAY TO NORTH ANDHRA'S ECONOMIC REVOLUTION P2



Ten killed in building collapse in Bhiwandi

THANE: At least 10 people were killed and three others injured after a four-storey residential building, tagged as 'dangerous' in 2020 by the local civic body and currently undergoing repairs illegally, collapsed in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district, officials said on Friday. Hectic efforts were on to rescue three other residents believed to be still trapped under the rubble, several hours after the collapse, they said.

Continued on Page 7

AVERAGE RAINFALL DURING 2ND HALF OF MONSOON TO BE BELOW-NORMAL:IMD P7

Cabinet green-lights PM-KISAN scheme extension till 2030-31

This will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture

NEW DELHI

THE government on Friday extended the PM-KISAN scheme for the next five years till 2030-31 with a total outlay of over Rs 3.15 lakh crore, a decision aimed at providing financial support to farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, launched in February 2019, eligible landholding farmer families get financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year. The amount is transferred directly into their bank accounts in three equal instalments. Nearly Rs 4.5 lakh crore have been disbursed so far under this scheme. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, approved continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here. A total financial outlay of Rs 3,15,614 crore has been approved for the Scheme during this period, he added. "The approval reiterates the government's commitment that the prosperity of farmers forms the foundation of the nation's prosperity," the government said in a statement.

Continued on Page 7

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Whether a word is parliamentary or unparliamentary depends on who says it

Trump mulls \$100,000 fee on work visas

The proposed fee would significantly impact foreign graduates seeking to work in the US after completing their studies

WASHINGTON

THE United States is planning to impose a \$1,00,000 fee on visas issued to international students for working in the US after graduation from an American university, The Wall Street Journal reported. The Trump administration

move comes after a US court struck down a proposal to levy a \$1,00,000 fee on H1-B visas.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the Department of Homeland Security is mulling the high fee on Optional Practical Training (OPT) visas which are an



extension of F-1 visas issued to students.

The OPT programme allows foreign graduates to work for one to three years on their student visas in areas di-

rectly related to their studies.

Roughly 4,19,000 foreigners were working on OPT in 2024, the latest year for which data are available.

Tech companies, which conduct most of the recruitments from US universities, opposed the \$1,00,000 fee on H1-B visas.

A DHS spokeswoman said in a statement: 'No policies should be considered final until formally announced.'

Continued on Page 7

SIR: 3.71 crore voters file enumeration forms in AP

Draft electoral rolls for 175 Assembly seats released

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vivek Yadav announced on Friday that 3.71 crore voters have submitted their enumeration forms as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Releasing the draft electoral rolls for all 175 Assembly

- ▶ Claims/objections accepted from July 31 to Aug 30
- ▶ Final rolls will be out on Oct 3

constituencies in Amaravati, he said 89.22 per cent of the state's 4.16 crore electors had completed the enumeration process.

Continued on Page 7

2020 DELHI RIOTS

Ex-AAP leader gets lifer for killing IB officer Ankit Sharma

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four co-convicts to life imprisonment for the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Delhi riots, saying the case did not fall within the "rarest of rare" category warranting the death penalty. Continued on Page 7

WINGS TO THE DREAMS OF NORTH ANDHRA

GRAND INAUGURATION OF

VIZAG
ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GAR AERO

by

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Saturday, August 1, 2026

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Draft voter list released for Anantapur district

Collector Anand says that claims and objections can be filed till August 30

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

DISTRICT Collector and District Election Officer O Anand has released draft voter list for Anantapur district on Friday at the Collectorate and handed over copies to Electoral Registration Officers.

The Collector said that the draft voter list was published as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme, in accordance with the directives of Election Commission of India. He informed that the list shows 1,790,436 voters, including 8,83,174 men (49.33%), 9,07,053 women (50.66%), and 209 transgenders (0.01%). A total of 2,48,087 voters (12.17%)



District Collector O Anand and others releasing draft voter list at Anantapur Collectorate on Friday

were deleted under ASDD category—46,276 untraceable/absent, 79,582 permanently shifted, 75,378

deceased, 46,452 duplicates, and 399 others. The Collector said that claims and objections can

be filed from July 31 to August 30. Voters may verify the roll online or at the Collector's office, ERO/

AERO offices, or through their BLO between 10:30 am and 5 pm.

He explained the constituency totals as - Rayadurgam 2,36,579; Uravakonda 2,03,306; Guntakal 2,44,853; Tadipatri 2,19,095; Singanamala 2,22,458; Anantapur Urban 2,28,673; Kalyandurg 2,10,918; Raptadu 2,24,554.

There are also 2,021 service voters.

DRO A Malola, Election Wing Deputy Tahsildar Kanakaraj, Senior Assistant Samuel, Election Deputy Tahsildars Sujatha, Hariprasad, Keshavareddy, Nagendraprasad, Habibkhanum, Nagamani, and Suvarna and Senior Assistant Srinivas were present at the meeting.

MLA assures justice to all during PGRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

PUTTAPARTHI MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy stated that the alliance government aims to swiftly resolve public grievances and ensure justice for people. Along with former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy and RDO Suvarna, she received representations from people at a public grievance redressal system (PGRS) programme at the MLA camp office here on Friday. TDP activist Shyamala from Puttaparthi told the MLA that the then TDP government in 2014 had granted her a title deed for 2 cent house plot in Beedupalli village in 2014, sanctioned a permanent house for her and construction bill had been issued in her name. Stating that during previous YSRCP government's tenure, some individuals encroached her land, and she pleaded for justice, she sought justice. Responding immediately, MLA Sindhura assured her



MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy receiving representations from people during a public grievance programme at Puttaparthi on Friday

that an inquiry would be conducted with district officials concerned and that justice would be ensured.

Several Muslim leaders from Kothacheruvu submitted a representation to MLA Sindhura and Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy, urging a comprehensive inquiry into the irregularities and corruption that plagued Syed Mastan Vali Dargah over the past 30 years and also sought appropriate action to be taken against those re-

sponsible. The MLA assured them that she would facilitate a thorough investigation by the district Collector or higher officials into the corruption at the Dargah and ensure that the government takes appropriate legal action against the guilty. MLA Sindhura Reddy instructed officials to examine every petition received during public grievance programme with priority and to take measures ensuring justice for all eligible individuals.

Prof Durga Prasad assumes charge as JNTUA in-charge Registrar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

SENIOR Professor B Durga Prasad assumed charge as the in-charge Registrar of JNTU-A on Friday. He expressed gratitude to university Vice-Chancellor Prof H Sudarsana Rao for placing trust in him and entrusting him with this responsibility. He assured that he would discharge his duties diligently and pledged to contribute his best towards the university's development under the Vice-Chancellor's leadership. University directors, teaching and non-teaching staff and outsourcing personnel congratulated Durga Prasad.



APTIDCO housing refund beneficiaries to get money soon



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

A mega cheque model for refunds under APTIDCO-PMAY (U) NTR Nagar Housing Scheme was distributed at a programme at Anantapur Municipal Corporation premises on Friday.

A cheque model worth Rs 3,25,42,445 was handed over to 1,174 beneficiar-

ies under the Corporation's jurisdiction. Of the 5,707 eligible APTIDCO beneficiaries identified, the State government has released Rs. 8,91,40,000. So far, 1,964 have submitted the required details. The current distribution covers those, whose particulars were verified in Phase-I and Phase-II.

Commissioner Jaswanth Rao said the beneficiaries' details would be forwarded

to the banks, and the refund amounts would be credited directly to their accounts within one or two days after formalities. Another 707 cases are under re-verification, which is being expedited.

Eligible persons who paid under the scheme but have not yet received refunds or houses were urged to submit their documents at the Corporation office.

Applications invited for Tenzing Norgay Adventure award

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has invited online applications from eligible candidates for Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award-2025. SETKUR CEO Dr K Venugopal on Friday said that individuals, who had shown outstanding performance in adventure sports and activities on land, sea and air during 2023, 2024 and 2025 could apply for the prestigious award.

He said the Government of India will present the award annually to recognise individuals, who had made significant contributions to development of adven-

ture sports and demonstrated exceptional skill and achievement. The award is presented along with Arjuna Awards.

Each awardee would receive a bronze statuette of Tenzing Norgay, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.

Eligible candidates can submit their applications online through awards.gov.in by August 20, 2026. Applications with required details can also be submitted at SETKUR office in Kurnool.

Dr Venugopal urged eligible youth with notable achievements in adventure sports to utilise the opportunity and apply within the deadline.

AFTER SIR-2026, TIRUPATI DISTRICT RECORDS 14.81 LAKH VOTERS

- Total voters reduce by nearly 2.88 lakh when compared to the earlier 17.69 lakh electors
- Collector Venkateswar says, mapping is pending for 1.62 lakh voters though their names are retained in the draft roll
- After receiving claims, objections, corrections etc., final electoral roll will be published on October 3

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE total number of voters in Tirupati district has come down to 14,81,603 in the draft electoral roll prepared under Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026, compared to 17,69,429 voters before the revision exercise. The draft electoral roll was released by Tirupati district Collector and District



District Collector Dr S Venkateswar addressing the media in Tirupati on Friday. JC R Govinda Rao and DRO G Narasimulu are also seen.

Election Officer Dr S Venkateswar on Friday.

Addressing the media at the Collectorate, the Collector said the revision was carried out as per the directions of Election Commission of India through a door-to-door verification drive. During the exercise, officials identified 2,87,826

cases involving absent voters, shifted voters, deceased voters and duplicate entries.

He said enumeration forms were submitted by 14,81,603 voters. Although mapping process is still pending for 1,62,230 voters, their names have been included in the draft electoral roll. Notices will be is-

sued to these voters between August 1 and August 30, giving them time to submit documents prescribed by Election Commission. Eligible voters, who produce required documents will continue in final electoral roll.

The Collector said the highest number of pending mapping cases were in Tirupati Assembly constituency with 96,280 cases, followed by Chandragiri with more than 50,000 cases. Sharing details of the identified cases, he said Tirupati Assembly constituency recorded 90,882 absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate cases, followed by Chandragiri with 50,273, Venkatagiri with 36,497, Srikalahasti with 32,836, Sullurpeta with 27,946, Railway Koduru with 26,047 and Satyavedu with 23,345. These lists have been made available with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for public verification.

The Collector said claims, objections, corrections, fresh voter registrations and deletion requests can be submitted until August 30. The final electoral roll will be published on October 3. According to draft electoral roll as on July 31, 2026, the district has 7,20,329 male voters, 7,61,188 female voters and 86 transgender voters and 2,221 polling stations. The draft electoral rolls are available with Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, all polling stations and on Election Department website for public verification. Voters have been asked to verify their details and submit applications within the stipulated period if any corrections are required.

Joint Collector R Govindarao, DRO G Narasimulu and Election Department officials were present at the meeting.

Breastfeeding builds strong foundations for child health: Dr Bharath Reddy

NARENDRA KUMAR VARIKUNTLA
KURNOOL

BREASTFEEDING provides essential nutrition, infection protection and supports healthy growth, said paediatrician and neonatologist Dr G Bharath Reddy. Speaking ahead of World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-7), he stressed the need for greater awareness and support from families and society.

Dr Bharath said ideally, breastfeeding should begin within one hour of birth—whether normal or caesarean—unless medically contraindicated. Early skin-to-skin contact helps regulate baby's temperature and promotes successful feeding.

The World Health Organisation recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, with no water or other foods unless advised. He said that lactating mothers need proper



Dr Bharath Reddy

nutrition and fluids; unnecessary dietary restrictions are not required. Counseling should start in pregnancy and continue after birth, with trained lactation counsellors assisting when needed.

Workplaces should offer clean, private spaces for

breastfeeding or expressing milk. "Breastfeeding is not the mother's responsibility alone," Dr Reddy said. Family, healthcare professionals, employers and society must all create a supportive, breastfeeding-friendly environment so every child gets the best start in life.

Cash incentives of Rs 10 lakh to outstanding sportspersons: MLA Kotamreddy

NANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

NELLORE Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy has inaugurated AP 1st Ranking Carrom Tournament 2026 (Men & Women) at Nellore Club here on Friday. As many as 200 men and women players from various districts across the State participated in the event, jointly organised by Nellore District Carrom Association and Andhra State Carrom Association.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Kotamreddy claimed that the State government is giving high priority to develop sports and providing cash incentives of up to Rs 10 lakh to outstanding sportspersons. He encouraged the players to make the best use of these opportunities and bring laurels to both State and nation.

ASCA general secretary Sheikh Abdul Jaleel informed that top six players in both men and women categories will be selected to represent

Andhra Pradesh State team in forthcoming national-level competitions. Free accommodation, food and all necessary arrangements were provided to the participants.

Nellore District Carrom Association president Mannarayana, Chairman and former Ranji Cricketer Malireddy Kotareddy, AP-TRANSCO Director J Venkateswara Rao, APSPDCL SEs BV Sessa Reddy and K Raghavendra and others participated in the event.

Two Odisha migrant workers killed in accident

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TWO migrant labourers from Odisha died after they were allegedly struck by a speeding car near Konduru village in Tada mandal of Tirupati district on Friday morning. The deceased have been identified as Arjun Bhatar (50) and Chaitu Gound (34).

Police said the two men had stepped out and were walking along the roadside when an unidentified vehicle rammed into them, leaving them critically injured.

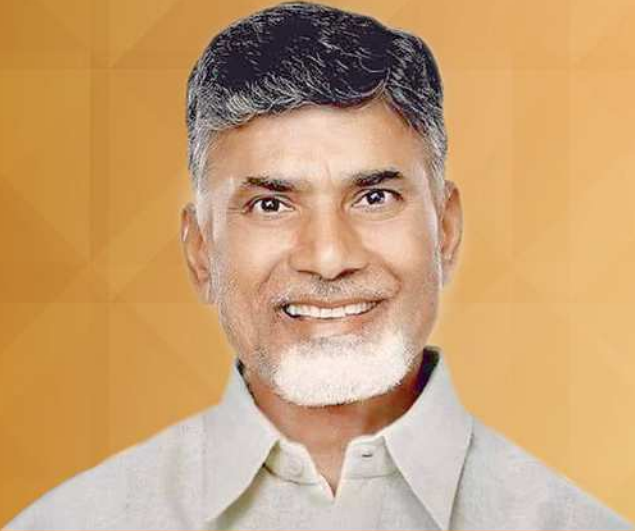
Locals rushed to their aid and immediately alerted police. The injured workers

were shifted to Government Hospital in Sullurpeta in 108 ambulance for emergency treatment. However, doctors declared them dead despite efforts to save them.

Preliminary investigation suggests the accident occurred when the victims had gone out to attend nature's call. The vehicle involved in the incident left the scene soon after the collision.

A case has been registered, and police have launched an investigation into the incident. Officials are examining available evidence to identify the offending vehicle and trace the driver responsible for the fatal hit-and-run.

Hans India Classifieds	
CHANGE OF SURNAME I, SYED SHABANA (Old Name) W/o SYED ISMAIL, residing at 1-3-708A, Ramalayam Street, Anantapur Dist (AP) 515001, Hereby declare that I have changed my surname as KOLIMI SHABANA (new name)	NAME CHANGE I, GADIDE LALITHA, Aged 29 years, D/O G. Adivappa, H.No. 77/1361-A-2-1, Farooq Nagar, Near muzaffar Nagar, Kallur, kurnool-518003. A.P. I have been married with Banda Kumar Swami@Kumar Swami at Solapur, Maharashtra. After Marriage my name has been changed as GADIDE LALITHA (Old Name) To VASUNDHARA KUMARSWAMI (New Name) for all future purpose
PASSPORT MISSING I, RACHAMADUGU SURESH S/o RACHAMADUGU CHALAMAJIAH, S/o H.No.2-317B, Peta, Kurnool District-518001, AP, have lost my Indian Original Passport bearing No.H0200609, issued at Hyderabad on 05-08-2008, while I was Shifting from above Address to other Address on 10-07-2026. If anyone found please inform to the above address Contact No.9440092424	CHANGE OF SURNAME I, SAMUDRALA NAGARAJU (Old Name) S/o Samudrala Venkata Subbaiah, R/o H.No.25-209, Sanjeeva Nagar, Nandyal dist, AP, have Changed my name as SAMUDRALA NAGARAJAIAH (New Name) S/o Samudrala Venkata Subbaiah, hereafter my name is known as SAMUDRALA NAGARAJAIAH (New Name) S/o Samudrala Venkata Subbaiah for all future purposes
RAJASEKHAR-KNL	RAJASEKHAR-KNL





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Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Saturday, 01st August, 2026 from 10:00 am onwards | Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh



Inauguration of



Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport



Transmission Scheme for Solar Energy Zone in Ananthapuram (Ananthpur) (2500 MW) and Kurnool (1000 MW)



Khammam-Devarapalle Package V

Four lane Access Controlled Green field highway from Gurvaygudem to Devarapalle section of NH-365BG



Transmission System for Kurnool Wind Energy Zone / Solar Energy Zone (AP) - Part-A & Part-B



Khammam-Devarapalle Package IV

Four lane Access Controlled Green field highway from Recherla to Gurvaygudem section of NH-365BG



Four-Lane Tadipatri Bypass

Four lane Tadipatri Bypass on NH-67

Foundation Stone Laying for



Transmission System for Integration of Kurnool-IV REZ - Phase-I (for 4.5 GW)



High-Level Bridge on NH-565

High-level Bridge at Lingasamudram on Penchalakona - Yerpedu section of NH-565



Semiconductor packaging and testing facility Projects in Tarluvada, Vishakhapatnam phase I

Benefits

- Boost economic growth, investment, industrialization and employment in Andhra Pradesh
- Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport will enhance air connectivity for North Andhra, South Odisha and Chhattisgarh, supporting tourism, trade and logistics
- Power Transmission projects will facilitate integration of renewable energy from Kurnool and Ananthapuram RE zone into National Grid and improve power availability across Southern India
- Support India's energy transition and sustainable development goals
- High-level Bridge at Lingasamudram on Penchalakona-Yerpedu link will enhance connectivity to key religious destinations - Penchalakona, Tirupati (Lord Balaji) and Sri Kalahasti Temples
- Improve regional connectivity, road safety and travel efficiency between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana through the four-lane Khammam-Devarapalle highway
- Reduce congestion and enhances road safety through the Tadipatri Bypass
- Semiconductor Project in Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam will create job opportunities and reduces import dependence, strengthening India's semiconductor value chain

in the august presence of

Shri S. Abdul Nazeer
Governor, Andhra Pradesh

Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Nitin Gadkari
Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

Shri Manohar Lal
Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs; and Power

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu
Union Minister of Civil Aviation

Shri Ashwini Vaishnav
Union Minister of Railway; Information and Broadcasting; and Electronics and Information Technology

Shri Shripad Naik
Union Minister of State of Power and New & Renewable Energy

Shri Jitin Prasada
Union Minister of State of Commerce and Industry and Electronics and Information Technology

Shri Ajay Tamta
Union Minister of State of Road Transport & Highways

Shri Harsh Malhotra
Union Minister of State of Road Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs

Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani
Union MoS of Rural Development; and Communications

Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa
Union Minister of State of Heavy Industries; and Steel

Shri Murlidhar Mohol
Union MoS of Cooperation; and Civil Aviation

Shri K. Pawan Kalyan
Deputy Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Nara Lokesh
Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Shri B.C. Janardhan Reddy
Minister for Road & Buildings, Infrastructure and Investments, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Gottipati Ravi Kumar
Minister of Energy, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Appalanaidu Kaliseti
Member of Parliament

Shri Bastipati Nagaraju Panchalingala
Member of Parliament

Smt. Dr. Byreddy Shabari
Member of Parliament

Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
Member of Parliament

Shri Ambica G. Lakshminarayana Valmiki
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Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari
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Shri Putta Mahesh Kumar
Member of Parliament

DD News Watch the Event live on DD News

Govt, CJP must have meaningful engagement

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Delhi state government's announcement against pursuing any further adverse legal action against the NEET (UG) examination irregularities' protestors is some progress, and it can possibly cool tempers on both sides. Still, it is not a very reasonable decision. It doesn't provide immunity to those with criminal antecedents. It may be recalled that the Delhi police filed cases against those who were allegedly involved in the violence that broke out during Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP's) July 20 'Chalo Sansad' march from Jantar Mantar to the Parliament. Police personnel also reportedly identified 2,873 people through CCTV footage who allegedly attacked them and van-

dalised vehicles during the march. Almost a 1000 among them are said to have criminal records. The reasonableness of this decision is questionable. Who decides whether the behaviour of a protestor is lawless? The police and other official agencies have proved to be partisan; they have done everything to kill or curtail the stir; they shut down 16 Metro stations in central Delhi and blocked the internet in the area. Worse, there are reports that the protestors, even minors, are being detained or arrested in different parts of the country.

The Supreme Court had to step in; on Tuesday, it ordered the release of all under-18 protestors, who were arrested during the agitation. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, whose

cockroach remark led to the launch of CJP, directed the authorities to preserve the digital and personal data of the agitators. This is not to say that no agitator did anything wrong; a small section of them attacked cops, injuring many. The guilty should face the consequences, but the government's attitude has stiffened since the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the union education minister. This reflects the repressive measures adopted by the Narendra Modi government in the aftermath of the end of the stir. In such a situation, it is difficult to determine the truth about the violence that was unleashed. What both sides, the government and the CJP, need to do is lower the temperature so that meaning-

ful dialogue can be furthered in the interests of students. Prolonged confrontation, mutual distrust, and increasingly hostile rhetoric are unlikely to produce durable solutions. Instead, they risk deepening political polarisation while diverting attention from the substantive issues that originally brought thousands of students onto the streets. A democratic society must be able to distinguish between legitimate dissent and criminal conduct.

Peaceful protest is an essential constitutional right, and its exercise should not automatically invite punitive action. At the same time, acts of violence, vandalism, or assault cannot be justified under the guise of public protest and should be addressed through fair, trans-

parent, and evidence-based legal processes. For the government, rebuilding public confidence requires more than announcing limited legal relief. It demands credible assurances that investigations into alleged offences will be impartial, that no innocent protester will be harassed, and that due process will be followed without political bias. Equally, organisations leading the agitation have a responsibility to ensure that demonstrations remain peaceful and disciplined, preventing fringe elements from hijacking a movement centred on students' concerns. Responsible leadership on both sides is essential to prevent further escalation. Only by replacing confrontation with communication can both sides contribute to an outcome that protects democratic values while addressing the genuine anxieties of the country's youth.

LETTERS

Rise in tech startups augurs well

PROPOS "More tech-enabled startups tap equity market as concerns ease" (July 31). More Indian startups are choosing to list on the stock market—18 did so last year, raising over Rs 41,000 crore, while another 28 are waiting. This shows growing confidence given the profitability rate they have achieved. Investors, especially ordinary retail shareholders, are slowly losing their fear of such companies. This shift from traditional businesses to tech startups is good for India, as it attracts foreign investment and aligns with a global AI-driven economy. But founders must price their shares fairly and deliver on their promises. Public listing is not an exit strategy; it is a tool for faster growth.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

A major boost to entrepreneurial culture

PROPOS "More tech-enabled startups tap equity market as concerns ease" (THI, July 31). India's start-up success should not remain concentrated in a few metropolitan centres. Smaller cities and towns possess talented entrepreneurs who often lack access to funding, mentoring and incubation support. Expanding digital infrastructure, improving access to venture capital and strengthening local innovation hubs can help bridge this gap. Public listing by successful startups should inspire a wider entrepreneurial culture across the country. Inclusive growth will ensure that the benefits of innovation reach every region, creating employment, encouraging local enterprise and contributing to balanced national development.

K Sakunthala, Coimbatore-641671

Take up financial literacy campaigns

THIS is with reference to "More tech-enabled startups tap equity market as concerns ease." The renewed interest in startup IPOs is encouraging, but retail investors should approach these offerings with careful evaluation rather than market enthusiasm. Many technology companies have promising ideas but limited profitability, making valuations difficult to assess. Investors must study financial statements, cash flows and business sustainability before subscribing. Companies, in turn, should provide clear disclosures without overstating future growth prospects. Financial literacy campaigns can also help first-time investors make informed decisions. Healthy capital markets depend on responsible companies as well as informed investors.

S M Jeeva, Chennai-32

Listing brings greater responsibility

PROPOS "More tech-enabled startups tap equity market as concerns ease". Listing on the stock market brings greater responsibility. Investors expect listed startups to maintain high standards of corporate governance, transparent accounting and ethical leadership. Strong internal controls, independent boards and timely disclosures are essential for preserving public confidence. Rapid expansion should never compromise financial discipline or compliance. Sustainable success ultimately rests on credibility.

Pon Arun Kumar, Tiruchengode (TN)-637211

A beacon of hope for H-1B visa holders

I refer to the report on Senator Alex Padilla's bill proposing a Green Card path for long-term US residents, including Indian H-1B visa holders. For decades, skilled immigrants have driven innovation and economic growth, yet laws that have not been changed since 1986 leave thousands in legal limbo. Modernizing the registry rule to grant permanent residency to those living in the US for seven-plus years is a compassionate, practical step. The lawmakers should support this vital bill to ensure stability for hardworking families.

Aahana Misra, Hyderabad

Anti-Paper Leak Bill is a welcome move

STRONG laws are necessary to prevent examination malpractices and protect students, who have worked diligently. The proposed penalties and faster investigations under the Anti-Paper Leak Bill can help restore confidence in the examination system. However, authorities should also strengthen security, improve digital monitoring, and ensure the law is implemented fairly and effectively. This reform can create a transparent and trustworthy environment for students across the country.

Himasri Nanmapaneni, Hyderabad

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

Cop's son among 9 held in hydro ganja racket

TUMAKURU: In a startling case, the son of a police officer, whose father had been involved in creating awareness against drug abuse, has been arrested for allegedly running a hydro ganja trafficking network in Tumakuru. The racket was unearthed after police received a confidential tip-off through a QR code-based public information system introduced to combat narcotics.

The breakthrough came after a tip was received on July 10 through the QR code initiative launched by Tumakuru Sub-Division Deputy Superintendent of Police Chandrashekar. The system allows members of the public to anonymously share information on drug-related activities while ensuring their identity remains confidential.

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

Want to feel depressed? Watch Parliament sessions



DO you want to slip into a state of depression? The easiest way is to switch on your television and watch how increasingly unaccountable and irresponsible many of our public representatives have become. Follow it up by watching prime-time television debates and the descent into despair will be even faster.

It is indeed a sad story. They do not allow Parliament to function, and the party spokespersons repeat the same, often illogical, arguments on television night after night. Ironically, leaders who constantly demand accountability from the government seem to forget that accountability is expected of everyone. No opposition or ruling party can dictate how Parliament should function or how television anchors should conduct debates. Politics cannot become a daily exercise in shifting the goalposts.

Barring the discussion on reforms to plug examination paper leaks, particularly NEET—which itself was hardly productive—and the bill on Vande Mataram, there has been virtually no meaningful legislative business during the monsoon session so far.

Having covered Parliament for long, I have never witnessed any Opposition behaving in this manner. There were always sharp confrontations, heated exchanges, protests and even walk-

PARLIAMENT NEEDS ACCOUNTABILITY FROM BOTH SIDES

outs. Proceedings were occasionally stalled for a day or two. But there was also a willingness on both sides to negotiate. After consultations with the Speaker, a workable understanding would emerge, and Parliament would get back to business.

Today, however, disruption has become the objective rather than the means.

The Opposition insists that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister must be physically present before any discussion can begin. That would have been understandable had they used this demand to compel the government to agree to discussion on law and order and the alleged police excesses during the student protests. Instead of cornering the government through a structured debate backed by facts, pointed questions and supplementary interventions, they prefer to stall proceedings altogether. Parliament cannot be treated this way.

Question Hour is among the most effective parliamentary instruments available to Members of Parliament. It enables them to raise issues about the state and their constituency, seek answers from ministers and hold the government accountable. This is followed by Special Mentions, through which MPs draw attention to pressing public concerns. Both have been sacrificed at the altar of political confrontation.

The decorum of Parliament is steadily eroding because of the "my way or the highway" approach. Whenever the Opposition is questioned about repeated disruptions, the standard response is that running



Parliament is the government's responsibility. Does that absolve the Opposition of all responsibility? Is it not equally their duty to question, challenge and expose the government through informed debate? Why prefer posting comments on X rather than confronting ministers inside Parliament?

Unfortunately, this has become a familiar pattern not just in Parliament but also in several State Assemblies. Between 2014 and 2019, Andhra Pradesh witnessed repeated disruptions by the YSRCP, accompanied by daily theatrics outside the Assembly. In Telangana, during the BRS regime, the Assembly adopted the practice of suspending members even for minor disruptions, and now they themselves protested on several occasions. Contrast that with what is happening in Parliament today, where disruptions continue for days with virtually no consequences. Perhaps Parliament should seriously consider a "no work, no pay" policy and recover the day's expenditure from all parties, including the ruling party, whenever applicable.

For the past two weeks, taxpayers' money has been wasted while Parliament has remained largely dysfunctional. Ironically, the biggest loser is the Opposition itself. Instead of cornering the government over its omissions and commissions, it is allowing the government to escape scrutiny because debates are simply not taking place.

Even when discussions are held, they rarely remain focused. The debate on NEET reforms was a classic example. Much of the Opposition's intervention revolved around rhetoric rather than presenting a credible roadmap for reforming the examination system. This only makes the government's job easier.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra resorted to an unnecessary personal remark when she referred to IIT Madras Director Dr V Kamakoti as a "gaumutra expert." Rahul Gandhi, while strongly criticising the government, neither endorsed nor specifically challenged the provisions of the proposed reforms, nor did he place a concrete alternative before the House. Instead, the debate descended into

exchanges involving words such as "idiots." Such language may generate headlines, but it contributes little to parliamentary discourse.

It was equally unfortunate to hear the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, invoke Manusmriti in a debate where it had little relevance and remark that the Home Minister would be "dragged out" of his room. Although he later clarified that he was referring to public anger, such language was unbecoming of a leader of his stature. The Rajya Sabha is often described as the House of Elders. Its members should set standards of parliamentary conduct, not lower them. Equally disturbing were the comments made by Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) spokesperson Saurav Das, who argued that there was nothing wrong with the filthy remarks made against the Prime Minister by one of the protesting girls. According to him, anyone aggrieved could seek legal recourse by filing a defamation case. Such responses only encourage the normalisation of abusive political discourse. God save the country if such Gen Z comes to power in future.

What was even more disappointing was the complete absence of empathy for the policemen injured during the June 20 protests. Nearly 250 policemen were reportedly injured. When questioned by the media, Rahul Gandhi responded by asking whether the journalist was from the BJP while one of his party spokespersons remarked that policemen were merely doing the job they were paid for. Does it mean they don't deserve sym-

pathy? What kind of attitude is this?

The Opposition also appears obsessed with pellet guns while ignoring the larger challenge of maintaining law and order. Even the Supreme Court has observed that there cannot be a blanket ban on their use. Did Congress governments never authorise their use in Jammu and Kashmir? Were crowd-control measures not employed during protests at JNU and elsewhere?

Parliament cannot be reduced to a stage for political theatre. The Congress, in particular, appears to have drifted away from parliamentary traditions established by leaders such as Indira Gandhi and several other stalwarts who combined sharp criticism with substantive debate. They fought governments fiercely, but they also recognised the sanctity of Parliament.

The ordinary citizen is left wondering whether the nation's representatives are interested in solving problems or merely producing political spectacle. In the process, the genuine concerns of students are getting buried beneath a battle for political credit.

If the Opposition believes that disruption alone will propel it to power, it is making a serious miscalculation. Public confidence is earned not through slogans, social media posts or daily headlines, but through constructive engagement, informed debate, credible alternatives and a clear long-term vision for the country. Parliament was created to hold governments accountable, not to make accountability itself a casualty.

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

Fraud on court: Judges, advocates and the fiduciary crisis

CHOLLETI

INDIA'S courts are experiencing a crisis of institutional confidence — not from judicial malfeasance, but from structural vulnerabilities that permit conduct appearing to compromise impartiality. A lawyer defends one side, then appears against it. A judge's child receives hundreds of government cases through prosecutors appearing before the same judge. No rules forbid it. No mechanism stops it. This is not merely a governance failure but a betrayal of the foundational compact between courts and citizens — one playing out in quiet procedural rooms, far removed from grand courtroom drama.

The Kakinada Episode-Fraud named:

Advocate S Pranathi represents landowners from Kakinada in a property dispute. Months later, as the State's Special Government Pleader, she switches sides and opposes them. Her husband, Meka Rahul Chowdary, steps in to argue her abandoned brief. The Kakinada Municipal Corporation simultaneously reverses its own legal position without explanation. The Andhra Pradesh High Court on July 28 — in Review Petition No. 2 of 2026 in WP Nos. 11254 of 2013 and 13428 of 2015 — examined the docket orders, vakalatnamas, and the conduct of the counsels involved, and found evidence of collusion, professional misconduct, conflict of interest, and "a deliberate attempt to commit fraud on this court."

The court was unsparing: "The Counsel appearing for the State and its instrumentalities have failed in discharging their fiduciary duty." It ordered a criminal probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), calling for a report within twelve weeks. This case is a symptom — not an exception. It illuminates four interconnected failures: the collapse of professional ethics among advocates; unspoken nepotism in government counsel appointments; absence of meaningful recusal standards for judges, and inadequacy of the Bar Council disciplinary machinery.

The oath forgotten:

The Advocates Act, 1961, and Bar Council of India Rules prescribe unambiguous standards.

They demand respect for courts, impose fiduciary duty — loyalty, confidentiality, undivided allegiance. An advocate who switches sides, or whose spouse argues the opposite brief, violates this core compact. Under Section 35, State Bar Councils can punish misconduct with reprimand, suspension, or permanent removal from the roll.

Yet disciplinary action remains slow and inconsistent. In March last year, the Bar Council of India issued a directive against advocates advertising through social media influencers — a development that would have been inconceivable a generation ago, and one that speaks to how far institutional drift has gone. When the Bar Council is issuing social media advisories instead of conducting disciplinary proceedings against ethical violations, the profession's moral compass has drifted dangerously off course.

When family becomes the conflict:

Beyond individual misconduct lies a systemic question: whether children of sitting judges receiving government counsel appointments creates an appearance of institutional conflict that a democracy cannot afford to ignore. Last December, the Delhi High Court heard public interest litigations by the First Generation Lawyers' Association, challenging preferential allotment of lawyers' chambers to relatives of retiring advocates — a practice the court found prima facie violative of Article 14. In the same month, the government was asked to explain its empanelment of over 650 advocates as Central Government counsel in the Supreme Court, several reportedly enrolled only in 2024–2025, many yet to clear the All India Bar Examination.

In August 2025, the Allahabad High Court in Jubeda Begum v. UPSRTC decried an "entitlement culture" in state counsel appointments, recalling the Supreme Court's 1991 ruling in Kumari Shreilekha Vidyarthi v. State of U P that mandated transparent, merit-based procedures. Justice Ajay Bhanot observed that "modes of appointment which accord weight to accidents of inheritance and neglect achievements of merit cannot be countenanced." The human cost is felt by the first-generation lawyer — the son of a farmer, the daughter of a schoolteacher — who watches

In Rajasthan, the government amended its eligibility criteria to accommodate the son of a senior official as Additional Advocate General, notwithstanding the mandatory ten-year practice requirement. When the nepotism allegation surfaced publicly — ahead of PM Modi's visit to Jodhpur in August 2024 — the appointee resigned. Contrast this with Justice Sujoy Paul, who in early 2024 voluntarily sought transfer from the Madhya Pradesh High Court to the Telangana High Court because his son practised in the same court.

the doors of patronage remain closed while they swing open for the well-connected.

The recusal question-Justice must be seen:

No episode illustrates the tension between judicial privilege and public confidence more sharply than the Delhi High Court recusal controversy of 2026. Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, appearing in person in the CBI's revision petition against his discharge in the excise policy case, sought recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on the ground that both her children were empanelled as Central Government counsel — work allocated through the same senior law officers appearing against him in her court.

In April, Justice Sharma dismissed the recusal applications, holding that her children's professional engagements created no financial or personal stake in the outcome, and that accepting such grounds would require "a large part of the judiciary" to recuse in similar cases.

The observation, while judicially defensible, sits uneasily alongside principle. The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, adopted by all Supreme Court judges in 1997 under Chief Justice J S Verma, urges that where close relatives of a judge may gain undue advantage, the judge should — in the interests of the appearance of justice — opt for transfer. This is a voluntary ethical code with no

enforcement mechanism. The asymmetry is stark: Rule 6 of the Bar Council Rules prohibits advocates from practising before courts where a close relative serves as a judge — but that obligation binds the advocate, not the judge.

In Rajasthan, the government amended its eligibility criteria to accommodate the son of a senior official as Additional Advocate General, notwithstanding the mandatory ten-year practice requirement. When the nepotism allegation surfaced publicly — ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jodhpur in August 2024 — the appointee resigned. The system responded not to principle, but to political pressure.

Contrast this with Justice Sujoy Paul, who in early 2024 voluntarily sought transfer from the Madhya Pradesh High Court to the Telangana High Court because his son practised in the same court. That act of quiet integrity, barely reported, is precisely the standard the system needs — and rarely demands.

The way forward:

None of these amount to an indictment of the judiciary or the Bar. The overwhelming majority of advocates serve with dedication, and most judges discharge their duties with independence. The system is not broken — but its foundations are being tested in ways that demand structural response, not merely individual virtue.

India needs a binding, transparent, and institutionally reviewable judicial recusal framework. It needs merit-based, publicly disclosed criteria for government counsel empanelment. It needs the Bar Council's disciplinary machinery to function with the urgency this moment demands. And it needs ordinary litigants — carrying nothing but faith in the court's impartiality — to have that faith restored. The Andhra Pradesh High Court's order is, in one sense, proof that the system can work: a judge saw fraud, named it, and acted. That is reason enough for measured hope. The question now is whether the institutions around that judge will do the same.

(The writer is with the Cholleti BlackRose Chambers, Hyderabad, and writes on economy, politics and law)

South Coast Rly GM inspects Nandyal-Guntur section

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

SOUTH Coast Railway general manager Sandeep Mathur on Friday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Nandyal-Guntur section, including detailed en-route inspections, to review safety standards, infrastructure development, operational efficiency and

passenger amenities across the section.

The inspection commenced at Nandyal Railway Station, where he carried out a detailed review of the ongoing Amrit Bharat Station Scheme redevelopment works. He inspected various passenger amenities and assessed the progress of infrastructure development and directed officials

to maintain the quality and pace of execution while ensuring minimal inconvenience to passengers. He inspected the Crew Lobby and Running Room, where he reviewed the facilities provided to running staff. Stressing the importance of employee welfare, he emphasised that providing comfortable and modern amenities to frontline rail-

way personnel is essential for ensuring safe, efficient and customer-oriented railway operations.

He inspected Gajulapalli Railway Station, where he examined the Signalling & Telecommunication (S&T) Relay Room. Further, he continued the inspection of the under construction tunnel in the Chalema-Diguvametta section of Guntur

Division. He conducted a thorough review of the tunnel construction activities and its key safety protocols. He directed officials to ensure adherence to qualify standards, high safety protocols and timely completion.

At Markapuram Road Railway Station, he carried out an extensive review of railway safety systems and station infrastructure.

Release of water from Veligonda by Sept 1

MARKAPUR

DISTRICT collector M Vijaya Suneetha inspected the construction progress of the Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project on Friday and said that all efforts were being made to complete the works and release water by September 1, as directed by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

The collector entered the twin tunnels in special vehicles and inspected the Tunnel Boring Machine removal works in detail. Speaking on the occasion, Vijaya Suneetha informed that the lining work in Tunnel 2 had progressed quickly. About a month ago, more than 2000 metres of lining work were pending. That



Markapur district collector M Vijaya Suneetha inspecting works of Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project on Friday

has now come down to about 460 metres, she said. She directed officers to complete the remaining 460 metres of lining work before August 15. She assured that basic amenities and infrastructure works in the rehabilitation colonies

for 11 villages facing submergence would be completed very soon. She also said that all arrangements were being made to shift displaced persons who had already received compensation to their respective colonies.

176 petitions received at special PGRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DARSI

PRAKASAM district Collector P Raja Babu conducted a constituency-level public grievance redressal programme at the Mandal Parishad office in Mundlamuru of Darsi constituency on Friday.

Darsi TDP in-charge Gottipati Lakshmi also took part in the programme. Speaking to reporters after the programme, Raja Babu informed that about 176 petitions, including 127 from the revenue department, were received.

He said that 66 petitions



Collector P Raja Babu, Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, Darsi TDP in-charge Gottipati Lakshmi participating in the special grievance programme in Mundlamuru on Friday

had major issues, and steps would be taken to resolve all of them fully. Revenue

and non-financial matters would be resolved within a set time, he assured.

Officers would visit petitioners at their homes, understand their problems, and take steps to resolve them to the petitioners' satisfaction, he added. Raja Babu said that the state government was giving special attention to this programme.

Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari informed that most petitions were related to revenue, land resurvey, and delimitation.

Revenue Divisional Officer Vijaya Jyothi, ZP CEO Chiranjeevi, DPO Anupama, BC Welfare Officer Venkateswarlu, and other district officials attended the programme.

ATCs, Skills University to offer EV, drone tech courses: Revanth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that EV and drone technology courses would be offered in ATCs and Young India Skills University. A special wing would also be established in the university for offering foreign language courses. At a review of the 'Shakti' Department attended by Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and top officials, the Chief Minister said that the requirement of skilled personnel

to service electric vehicles being increasingly used has been felt. The significant increase in the use of drones in agriculture is also creating job opportunities. In this context, the Chief Minister instructed the officials concerned to introduce courses on EV servicing and drone technology in ATCs as well as the Skills University. The establishment of a dedicated department within the university to facilitate learning of foreign languages such as German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian was discussed in the meeting. Revanth

Reddy asked the authorities to establish a dedicated wing by hiring instructors from the respective countries, alongside local experts proficient in the respective foreign languages. The Chief Minister took a decision to strengthen the TOMCOM (Telangana Overseas Manpower Company) by entrusting it with the responsibility of the entire process - from providing training, organising job fairs to facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities for the aspiring youth in foreign countries.

Slow land acquisition triggers delay in bullet trains from Hyderabad

The project connects Hyd to Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CAN a project involving the launch of three bullet trains be grounded on schedule if the administration moves like the Nilgiri Mountain Railway passenger train, also known as the Ooty Toy Train?

That seems to be the crux of the issue relating to the proposed bullet train corridors connecting Hyderabad to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, positioning Hyderabad as a major national high-speed rail hub.

For context, the Telangana Cabinet has already approved the revised alignments and land allocations for the three proposed bullet train corridors. The Cabinet cleared the allocation of 400 acres of land near Shamshabad for a central station and depot. The three routes form a core part of the Union government's expanded high-speed rail framework, covering over 500 km across Telangana out of a total 2,028 km network length for these specific southern/western



The Union govt is expediting the completion of the DPRs and land acquisitions for bullet train terminals and alignments

paths.

The Union Government is expediting the completion of the DPRs and land acquisitions for bullet train terminals and alignments. The bullet train project connecting Hyderabad to Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai was announced recently.

However, the National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) is not happy with the slow pace of land acquisition in view of hurdles, including resistance from local people. The NHSRC, on its part, is moving fast. It has sought the state government's help for expeditious land acquisition. The corporation has been enquiring about

the hurdles faced by the state government in acquiring 400 acres of land near Shamshabad for the common high-speed rail station and rolling stock depot. Although the state administration has been directed to expedite land acquisition, officials concerned said that the government has been facing formidable challenges to complete the land acquisition due to local factors.

Court directions and resistance by local people against the land acquisition could stall the process if the state government does not address the issue expeditiously.

Now, the major challenge is to realign the bullet train track and station locations

if the land acquisition is not completed in a time-bound manner. Farmers have already raised objections over land acquisition at Bahadurguda, where the government proposed to acquire 500 acres of land for a bullet train hub. State officials have been told: "The Union government will not give a clearance to the realignment of the bullet train routes unless the land acquisition is completed. The state government has to resolve the land issue to ensure the approval of the bullet train projects by the Centre immediately".

It is learnt that environmental issues are also creating trouble for laying bullet train tracks alongside the Vikarabad forest area. The demand for realignment of the Hyderabad - Chennai bullet train has already been raised in the old Nalgonda district.

Ministers and opposition leaders from BRS and BJP are demanding bullet train route in their Assembly segments. All these issues should be resolved before finalising the alignment of the bullet train between Hyderabad and Chennai.

Ten killed in building collapse in Bhiwandi

Continued from front page

A portion of the Kohinoor Building in the Balaji Nagar area of the powerloom town, around 50km from Mumbai, came crashing down at 11.20 pm on Thursday. Rescue workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF), and the municipal fire brigade pulled out ten bodies as heavy machinery and sniffer dogs were deployed to look for survivors under the debris of the four-storey structure, said the officials of the district disaster management cell. The structure comprised 48 rooms, 12 on each floor. Around 9 pm on Thursday, residents heard "loud cracking sounds" emanating from the building, an official said. Fearing the worst,

locals immediately helped evacuate many families to other locations. However, while some occupants were still making their way out, the 'B' wing of the building caved in, he said. The officials said five of the deceased were identified as Shamim Shaikh (32), Ranjeet Singh (45), Miraj Rasul Shaikh (34), Santosh Kumar Pandey (42) and Shamim Ansari (30). The Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCMC) said it had identified the building as "dangerous" in September 2020, and finally issued eviction notices on June 5 this year, subsequently disconnecting electricity and water supply. But despite that, the property owners initiated structural repair works without obtaining any permission from the civic body.

Cabinet green-lights PM-KISAN scheme extension till 2030-31

Continued from front page

The extension of the scheme will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture, improve productivity, help reduce agricultural risks and strengthen the rural economy, it added. Through this scheme, timely and transparent income support is being provided to eligible farmer families through the Direct

Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Talking about the successful implementation of this programme, the government said it has so far disbursed more than Rs 4.47 lakh crore directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 instalments under the scheme.

Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs 18,984 crore

released. "Women farmers have received more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer," the statement said. The government highlighted that the assistance provided under PM-KISAN has enabled farmers to make timely investments in seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, agricultural machinery

and other agricultural requirements. "This has enhanced farmers' productive capacity, reduced their dependence on informal credit and strengthened the financial stability of rural households," it added. Further, the government said that the impact of the PM-KISAN Scheme has been assessed by various independent institutions. According to the evaluation

conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, more than 92 per cent of beneficiaries reported that the amount was used for agricultural activities and agricultural investment. Around 85 per cent of beneficiaries confirmed an improvement in agricultural income and a reduction in dependence on informal credit.

Average rainfall during 2nd half of monsoon to be below-normal:IMD

NEW DELHI: India as a whole is most likely to witness below-normal rainfall during the second half of the southwest monsoon from August to September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast issued on Friday. The rainfall is expected to be less than 94 per cent of the Long Period Average

(LPA). The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during the August to September period, based on historical data of 1971 to 2020, is 422.8 mm. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region in a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

TRUMP MULLS \$100,000 FEE ON WORK VISAS

Continued from front page

At DHS we are always having conversations about how to use all tools in our arsenal to protect the integrity of our legal immigration system.'

In addition to the H-1B and student visas, officials

at the State Department are also weighing attaching a \$1,00,000 bond on applicants for green cards outside the US, redeemable only after they move to the US and become citizens.

The OPT program is one of the primary attractions

for international students choosing to study in the US.

Without OPT, most international students would be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, taking the skills they gained at American universities to foreign markets.

SIR: 3.71 crore voters file enumeration forms in AP

Continued from front page

The CEO said the verification exercise identified 15.22 lakh deceased voters, 22.30 lakh voters who had either shifted their permanent residence or were found absent, and 7.37 lakh duplicate registrations, that is, electors whose names appeared in two or more locations.

Vivek Yadav said steps have been initiated to ensure that duplicate voters are retained at only one location in the electoral roll. He added that genuine electors whose names are omitted would be allowed to apply for inclusion through Form-6. He urged

voters to verify their details through the Election Commission of India mobile app or the CEO's official website and announced that claims and objections can be filed from July 31 to August 30.

The CEO said the final electoral rolls will be published on October 3, emphasising that no voter's name will be deleted without prior notice and due inquiry. He reiterated that the Election Commission is committed to ensuring a transparent revision process so that no eligible voter is excluded and no ineligible person is included in the electoral rolls.

Ex-AAP leader gets lifer for killing IB officer Ankit Sharma

Continued from front page

The judgement was pronounced by Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh in the presence of Hussain and others amid tight security. The judge awarded the sentence after hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence and denied the state contention to award death penalty to the convicts, saying the prosecution was not able to prove that they were beyond reformation.

The courtroom was packed with lawyers and senior Delhi Police officials includ-

ing Crime Branch's Joint Commissioner and DCP. The family of Hussain was so present in the court. In its order, the court said, "I find myself unable to agree based on the SPP that the convicts are beyond reformation or have such a fiendish character that their continued existence, even in prison, will be a menace to society.

For the other offences the convicts have been found guilty of, they must face the full force of the law." It said that the state has not bought anything on record to estab-

lish that any of the convicts has any violent disposition or propensity to crime. "The final test that law requires me to undertake before I conclude that this case invites capital punishment is whether the convicts are beyond redemption and there being no chance of reformation, it is now firmly established in our criminal jurisprudence that death penalty is of the last absorption," the judge said. On being asked about his sentence, Hussain said the high court will serve him justice.



Five lifestyle changes that support women's emotional wellbeing at every age

Stress hits differently depending on your age, but the habits that keep women grounded through it barely change over time. These five simple practices work just as well at 25 as they do at 65

DR ANJALI JAISINGHANI

A woman in her 25 and a woman in her 60 carries different pressures. The habits that steady them are almost the same. Emotional wellbeing responds to small, repeated choices far more than to big ones. Here are five that hold up across a lifetime.

1. Protect your sleep. Sleep is the first thing most women give up when life gets full. It is also the thing they can least afford to lose. A short night makes the next day heavier. Patience runs thin. Small problems start to feel large. You do not need a perfect routine to fix this. A steady bedtime and a darker, quieter room do most of the work. Begin there and the rest gets easier.



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Manushi Chhillar recalls emotional toll of retaking medical entrance exam after 2015 paper leak

Actress and former doctor Manushi Chhillar opened up about the emotional and mental challenges of retaking the medical entrance examination after the 2015 paper leak.

The actress in a heartfelt conversation with Soha Ali Khan during the latest episode of the latter's YouTube talk show, All About Her, opened up about the emotional turmoil she had to go through and also explained how tough the entrance exam is.

The episode, featuring Manushi alongside renowned psychiatrist Dr. Anjali Chhabria, explored the immense pressure surrounding India's competitive entrance examinations, academic burnout, anxiety, and emotional resilience.

During the conversation, Soha asked Manushi, "I want to take you back to 2015, if I may. You had prepared for months, secured a good rank, and done well in the exam. What was it like to be told that the exam had been cancelled and that you had to prepare all over again?"

Reflecting on the experience, Manushi said, "There are two aspects to this, one is my personal experience, and the other is understanding the reality that most students in the country face. I had parents who had gone through the same journey years



ago, so I was mentally prepared for the process. But it was still incredibly difficult because I had to sacrifice everything that brought me joy. I was a Kuchipudi dancer, I loved painting, and I had to put all of that aside for a year to focus entirely on my entrance exam." She added, "While it was one of the toughest phases of my life, I realised it wasn't the hardest compared to what many other students were going through. I met students whose parents had borrowed beyond their means to send them to coaching centres. Many had moved cities, lived in cramped PG accommodations, and spent every single day preparing for one exam."

Speaking about the aftermath of the paper leak, the actress shared,

"When you're told that after months of preparation you have to continue for another 45 days, you wonder how much more you have left to give. But I also recognise that I had immense privilege and support."

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For the uninitiated, Manushi Chhillar, who was crowned Miss World 2017, holds a medical MBBS degree. Though she pursued medicine after clearing the medical entrance examination, Manushi later ventured into films and made her Bollywood debut opposite Akshay Kumar in Samrat Prithviraj in 2022. She has been a part of movies like The Great Indian Family, Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, and Operation Valentine.

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"Spending time with these children was genuinely inspiring because they look at the world with such honesty and originality. As someone who is a mother myself, I found that especially meaningful, and I hope every child watching feels encouraged to keep creating, asking questions and believing in their ideas."

The four-episode grand finale, set to air over two weekends starting tomorrow on Nickelodeon and JioHotstar, will feature Karisma mentoring and celebrating some of the country's most talented young innovators across two age groups — 5 to 8 years

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Speaking about her role, Karisma Kapoor had shared that in her over three-decade-long career, she had played several strong female characters. However, she noted that what made Rita Brown unique was that her strength came not just from her courage, but also from her vulnerability and quiet resilience. The actress said in a statement, "Over the years, I've played many strong women, but Rita's strength lies in her fragility and silence as much as in her courage." "Living with this character stayed with me long after the camera stopped rolling, and I think that's what made the journey so personal and transformative for me."





Five lifestyle changes that support women's emotional wellbeing at every age

Stress hits differently depending on your age, but the habits that keep women grounded through it barely change over time. These five simple practices work just as well at 25 as they do at 65

DR ANJALI JAISINGHANI

A woman in her 25 and a woman in her 60 carries different pressures. The habits that steady them are almost the same. Emotional wellbeing responds to small, repeated choices far more than to big ones. Here are five that hold up across a lifetime.

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SOLUTION TO JULY 31

Motherhood Shaped my thinking: Karisma

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- Lovepreet Singh, Indian weightlifter

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026



Lovepreet lifts silver

Seema bags discus bronze; Neeraj, Rohit, Yashvir in javelin final

GLASGOW

WEIGHTLIFTER Lovepreet Singh's Commonwealth Games record-breaking silver medal headlined an eventful day for India, while discus thrower Seema Kaliramna bagged a bronze medal and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, along with two compatriots, advanced to the men's javelin throw final. Lovepreet produced the performance of his career, setting a Games record of 176kg in snatch before finishing with a total of 388kg (176kg+212kg), just one kilogram behind New Zealand's David Andrew Liti (389kg).

The Punjab lifter carried a commanding 10kg lead into the clean and jerk but Liti overturned the deficit with a Games record lift of 223kg in his final attempt after Lovepreet failed to complete a courageous 217kg lift that

would have secured gold.

"I thought I would win gold after snatch but it was up to God. A little disappointed that I couldn't lift in my final attempt in clean and jerk. I have lifted more in training," said Lovepreet.

The silver improved Lovepreet's bronze winning effort from the previous Games in Birmingham and completed India's weightlifting campaign with eight medals -- one gold, six silver and one bronze.

India added another athletics medal through Seema Kaliramna, who committed three successive fouls but clinched bronze in the women's discus throw with a

best effort of 58.65m.

The 27-year-old, who made a successful return to competition after motherhood last year and is also pursuing a PhD, produced her medal-winning throw in the third round before fouling her final three attempts.

Fellow Indian Nidhi Rani finished fourth with a best effort of 55.67m. Jamaica's Samantha Hall won gold with a Games-leading throw of 61.66m, while Canada's Julia Tunks claimed silver with 60.67m.

Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav and Yashvir Singh all progressed to men's javelin throw final despite difficult, gusty conditions that prevented any athlete from breaching the automatic qualifying mark of 84m. Chopra finished fifth with 79.61m, while Rohit (78.37m) and Yashvir (78.36m) placed ninth and 10th respectively as all three Indians advanced. "The conditions were not the best for javelin throwers. It was not only cold but also windy... nobody was able to decode the wind," Chopra said after qualification.



Lovepreet Singh

Indian boxers dominate

Jadumani, Arundhati, Jaismine, Preeti, Ankush storm into finals

Glasgow: Arundhati Choudhary stunned defending champion Rosie Eccles of Wales in a split decision in women's 70kg class, while world champion Jaismine Lamboria (women's 57kg), Preeti Pawar (women's 54kg), Ankush Panghal (men's 80kg) and Jadumani Singh (men's 55kg) also sailed into the Commonwealth Games final as Indian boxers produced a dominant display here on Friday.

Arundhati beat her Wales opponent 4-0 in a messy and ill-tempered women's 70kg category semifinal as the Indian held on to her good show in the first two rounds, forcing Rosie to receive a standing count during that time.

Jaismine was so dominant in her 57kg semifinal bout that she won in a Referee



Ankush Panghal and Preeti Pawar

Stops Contest (RSC) decision after the Lesotho boxer received her third standing count in the closing seconds of the second round.

Jadumani Singh also entered the men's 55kg final after beating P P M Haoseb of Namibia in a unanimous 5-0 decision in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Preeti out-punched Zambia's Catherine Mwape 5-0 while Ankush Brushed aside Joshua Ofori

by a similar margin.

The 22-year-old from Bhiwani, Preeti, who is an Asian Games bronze medalist, powered to a 5-0 win to set up a clash with Canada's Scarlett Delgado.

Ankush was equally dominant against Ofori, who resorted to repeated clinching after being comprehensively outboxed in the opening two rounds sealed a one-sided 5-0 verdict.

Triple jump: Chithravel, Prabhu pounce into final

GLASGOW

THERE was better news in the men's triple jump as national record holders Chithravel (16.41m) and Prabhu (16.26m) advanced to Saturday's final after finishing second and third in qualification. Tejaswin Shankar also remained in medal contention in the men's decathlon, ending the opening day in second place with 4,339 points after five events, just 14 points behind Canada's Damian Warner (4,353).

The Indian's standout per-



formance came in his pet high jump event, where he cleared 2.15m for 944 points, while his 7.82m effort in long jump earned him 1,015 points.

However, Animesh Kujur missed the men's 200m final after clocking 20.65 seconds to finish sixth in his semifinal, while Vishal TK also bowed out after placing sixth in his 400m semifinal with a time of 46.33 seconds.

Indian pair stays unbeaten in lawn bowls

The Indian men's pair of Navneet Singh and Dinesh Kumar registered their third successive win, edging Botswana in a tie-break after the teams split the opening two sets.

The Indians dominated the first set 9-2 before Botswana levelled the contest by winning the second set 4-3.

Navneet and Dinesh, however, held their nerve in the tie-break to preserve their unbeaten record and strengthen their hopes of reaching the knockout stage.

Unnati, Tanvi enter semis of Taipei Open

TAIPEI: India's Unnati Hooda and Tanvi Sharma won their respective women's singles matches to enter the semifinals of the Taipei Open badminton tournament here on Friday.

Kiran George, however, lost his men's singles quarterfinal match against Japan's fourth seeded Yudai Okimoto 21-12 21-10 in 33 minutes. Hooda clinched a straight-game 23-21 21-16 victory over compatriot Devika Sihag to reach the last four stage, while Tanvi got the better of Thailand's Supanida Katethong 21-15 18-21 21-14 in a gruelling 54-minute quarterfinal clash.

Earlier in

the day, the all-Indian quarterfinal contest between Hooda and Sihag started with a fiercely contested first game, where the former held her nerve to win it 23-21. Hooda was off to a great start, racing to an 11-3 lead before Sihag staged a spirited comeback to level the scores at 21-21. However, Hooda held her composure in the closing stages, winning the next two points to clinch the opening game. In the second game, the third seeded Hooda maintained her momentum and capitalised on her leads to wrap up the match 21-16 against eighth seed Sihag in 42 minutes.

The 18-year-old Hooda will next face the winner of the quarterfinal between Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-chian and Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh.

Bumrah to play in Lanka Test series

NEW DELHI: India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been cleared to play next month's two-Test series against Sri Lanka by the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Bumrah was picked subject to fitness as he had suffered an impact injury during the recent ODI series against England. He had to sit out of the third ODI at Lord's due to the injury.

"Jasprit Bumrah has recovered from his impact injury. He has cleared the fitness Tests mandated by the COE. Hopefully he will be available for both games as he is integral to the team's plans," a senior BCCI official told PTI on con-



ditions of anonymity.

The two-Test series against the islanders will get underway on August 15 in Galle, and the second match will be played in Colombo from August 23.

India need to win seven of their remaining nine Tests of this World Test Championship cycle in order to remain in contention for a summit clash berth.

'Delhi protesters identified via fingerprints on stones'

Will suggest CM Fadnavis to recommend Patil's name for the Nobel Prize in the field of scientific research: Raut; Uddhav speaks to Abhijeet Dipke, assures him of Opposition's backing

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA Bharatiya Janata Party minister Chandrakant Patil has claimed the Delhi Police have collected the fingerprints of protesters from even the smallest stones allegedly used during the CJP agitation in the national capital, which will be linked to the Aadhaar numbers for their identification.

The remark made by the Higher and Technical Education Minister at a Press conference in western Maharashtra's Kolhapur, drew



mocking comments from Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, who said he would suggest Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to recommend Patil's name for the Nobel Prize in the field of scientific research.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) led a month-long protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi over examination pa-

per leaks. The demonstration escalated into clashes, barricade breaches, and stone-pelting.

The most intense violence broke out on July 20, when thousands of protesters attempted a 'Sansad Chalo' march to Parliament, leading to clashes in which demonstrators as well as security personnel were injured.

Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday spoke with Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke over phone, and assured him of the Opposition's support.

Thackeray also asked Abhijeet's mother about his marriage plans. A video of the conversation was shared on social media.

Sena (UBT) leader Chandrakant Khaire visited Dipke's residence here, and facilitated a conversation between him and Thackeray, a former Maharashtra Chief Minister, over a video call.

"I was there for an hour at his place. Uddhav Thackeray assured that the entire Opposition stands unitedly with Abhijeet Dipke," Khaire told reporters.

The CJP leader told Thackeray that he will keep fighting for students till their demands are fulfilled.

Major dead, 2 Lieutenants injured as SUV hits camel

JAISALMER: An Army officer of Major rank was killed and two Lieutenant-rank officers were injured after their private SUV collided with a camel and overturned near the Jaisalmer Military Station late Thursday night.

The deceased has been identified as 30-year-old Major Hamza Arif, a resident of Indore, Madhya Pradesh. According to officials, the officer had been married only a month ago.

The accident occurred approximately 6 km from the district headquarters when a camel suddenly appeared in front of the officers' private SUV as they were returning to the military station from Jaisalmer city. The impact caused the vehicle to overturn five times and drag for nearly 100 meters before crashing near the military boundary wall. The camel also died on the spot.



Upon receiving news of the crash, Army personnel and officers rushed to the scene to rescue the three trapped officers from the mangled remains of the vehicle. They were rushed to the military station, where Major Hamza Arif succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The two other officers, identified as Lieutenant Abhinav Rathore and Lieutenant Ayushman Gusain, sustained injuries and are currently undergoing treatment at the Military Hospital.

According to ASI Jagdish Charan of the Sadar Police Station, the police received a late-night report that a vehicle had overturned after colliding with a camel on the road past the War Museum. Upon reaching the site, they found a dead camel by the roadside, which was subsequently moved. A private SUV was also found severely damaged near the military boundary wall.

Kerala govt to withdraw cases against NEET protestors

KOCHI: The Kerala government has decided to withdraw all cases registered in connection with protests held across the state in support of the NEET agitation in Delhi, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala said on Friday. Speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, Chennithala said the decision was taken following requests received from Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister V D Satheesan. He said several youth organisations and political parties had organised demonstrations across Kerala expressing solidarity with the protests over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. "Several cases were registered in connection with those protests. We received many requests seeking withdrawal of these cases. The chief minister forwarded all those representations to me, and I have directed the DGP not to proceed further with any of these cases," Chennithala said.

Suvendu alleges Rs 15K cr revenue leak under Mamata

BIRBHUM

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Friday alleged an around Rs 15,000 crore revenue leak in Birbhum district over the past 15 years, and said it would not have been possible without the support of the previous dispensation.

Multiple government departments were either complicit or remained silent under directions from the "highest level", he alleged during a press conference.

His allegations came against the backdrop of police recovering Rs 28.5 crore in cash and 15 kg of gold from absconding stone trad-



er Tullu Mondal's residence in West Bengal's Birbhum as part of a wider crackdown on alleged illegal mining and revenue leakages in the district.

Police suspect a substantial portion of the cash rep-

resented revenue allegedly siphoned off. The district has for long been under the scanner over allegations of illegal quarrying and organised crime linked to stone trade.

Targeting his predecessor Mamata Banerjee, Adhikari said, "An organised racket siphoning off revenue for years... cannot function without the concurrence of the head of the institution."

"Without the support of former chief minister Mamata Banerjee, it is impossible for such a large racket to have operated for so long. Institutional corruption happens only when the head of the institution encourages corruption."

Fadnavis calls for evacuation of dangerous buildings

NEW DELHI

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said authorities should evacuate "dangerous" buildings with greater persuasion and, if necessary, use force to save lives, following the collapse of a dilapidated structure in Bhiwandi that killed nine.

Speaking to reporters, Fadnavis said the Bhiwandi building had been classified as a C1 structure, which means it was unsafe for habitation.

"It is very unfortunate. It was a C1-category building. The local municipal commissioner informed me that around 25 people had already been evacuated. Despite this, the contractor continued the repair work, after



which the incident occurred," he said. Fadnavis expressed condolences

to the families of those who lost their lives and said the state government

would provide financial assistance to the next of kin of the deceased.

He said he had directed the municipal commissioner to initiate legal action against the contractor.

Explaining the classification, the chief minister said a C1-category building is considered dangerous and unfit for occupation.

"Life is important. Saving lives is equally important. People living in C1-category buildings should be evacuated with greater persuasion and insistence.

If required, some force can also be used to evacuate them from such dilapidated structures. However, there are some restrictions as per the court orders. Still, I feel saving life is also important," he said.

GCCs, tech power office leasing to record high in H1

Six major cities clock 41.6 mn sft absorption, up 7% year-on-year

National Insights

- **Bengaluru leads with 32%**
- **Pune captures 15.4%**
- **Delhi-NCR contributes 15%**
- **Hyd leads GCC leasing at 73%**
- **Technology sector drives 35% demand**

NEW DELHI

OFFICE space absorption across India's six major cities reached a record 41.6 million sq. ft in H1 2026, up 7 per cent YoY, a report said.

The report from international real estate advisory firm Savills India said that new supply remained stable at 23.7 million sq. ft. in the first half, easing 5 per cent YoY.

Consequently, India's total Grade A office stock now stands at 872.7 million sq. ft as of Q2 2026. However, the



overall vacancy rate at June-end declined to 13.2 per cent from 14.7 per cent the corresponding period last year.

"India's office absorption is projected to remain close to last year's record levels, supported by steady occupier activity," the report noted.

"The office market experienced a period of moderation in H1 2026 as occupiers adopted a more measured approach amid geopolitical uncertainties and evolving global economic conditions," said Naveen Nandwani, MD, Commercial Advisory and Transactions, Savills India.

"While this slowdown is real and reflects cautious decision-making, it should be viewed as a strategic pause rather than a structural shift. India's office market continues to be underpinned by strong GCC expansion, a deep talent pool and sustained corporate confidence," Nandwani said.

As businesses rethink their real estate strategies, the firm expects demand to become

more selective and quality-driven, paving the way for the next phase of growth, he added.

Bengaluru reinforced its position as India's leading office market, capturing 32 per cent of the total office space absorption in the first half of 2026. Pune followed with a 15.4 per cent share, while Delhi-NCR contributed 15 per cent to the total leasing.

Technology continued to dominate office leasing activity, accounting for 35 per cent of total absorption, while flexible workspaces and BFSI followed with 18 per cent and 15 per cent share, respectively. Large-sized office transactions accounted for 53 per cent of the total leasing volume. GCCs leased 20 million sq. ft., accounting for 48 per cent of India's total office absorption.

While Hyderabad city recorded the highest GCC share, accounting for 73 per cent of total leasing by GCC firms, Bengaluru stood at the second position with 65 per cent share.

Institutional bets on warehousing rise 53%

Investments touch \$49 mn as leasing activity remains resilient

NEW DELHI: INSTITUTIONAL Investments in warehousing and industrial segment of Indian real estate rose 53 per cent in January-June to \$49 million, according to Vestian.



US-based real estate consultant Vestian on Tuesday said in a statement that the leasing of warehousing and industrial space rose 16 per cent annually to 22 million sq ft in the first half of 2026 across seven major cities -- Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The consultant stated that the leasing activity remained resilient during the first half of 2026, indicating healthy occupier demand.

The demand was primarily driven by 3PL (third-party logistics), consumer goods & services; and engineering and manufacturing sectors, it added. Leasing activity increased on the back of sustained manufacturing expansion, robust domestic consumption and ongoing infrastructure upgrades.

Institutional investments in warehousing reached \$49 million during the first half of this year, up from \$32 million in the year-ago period. Despite the increase, Vestian pointed out that the sector continued to account for just 1 per cent of the total institutional investments during H1 2026. This reflects a cautious investment environment. Shrinivas Rao, CEO of Vestian, said, "India's warehousing sector is undergoing a structural transformation, evolving beyond

traditional priorities such as supply chain optimisation, operational efficiency, and proximity to demand centres." He noted that sustainability has emerged as a key differentiator, with occupiers increasingly seeking Grade-A green warehouses that align with their ESG commitments and long-term business objectives. "Backed by supportive government policies and sustained infrastructure development, this transition is expected to accelerate further, reinforcing the sector's appeal to both global occupiers and long-term institutional investors," Rao said.

Hyderabad's housing supply rises 2.9% in Q1

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD'S residential market recorded a mixed performance in the April-June 2026 quarter, with buyer demand declining 6 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) even as new housing supply expanded by 2.9 per cent and the rate index rose a further 2.4 per cent, among the strongest price

gains recorded across major Indian cities this quarter, according to the Magicbricks PropIndex AMJ 2026 report. Buyers remained strongly oriented toward larger housing configurations. 3 BHK homes accounted for 53 per cent of total buyer demand during the quarter, the highest share recorded among major cities in the report, and 57 per cent of available inventory, well above the national average,

where 3 BHK homes make up 46 per cent of active supply. Prasun Kumar, CMO, Magicbricks, said, "Hyderabad continues to distinguish itself as one of India's most mature and future-ready residential markets. While demand saw a temporary moderation this quarter, buyer preferences clearly point to a structural shift toward larger homes and premium living."

Mall space shortage deepens as fresh supply falls 57%

NEW DELHI

FRESH supply of retail spaces in shopping malls declined 57 per cent to 0.9 million sq ft during January-March across seven major cities due to delays in construction activities, according to Anarock. Real estate

consultant Anarock reported that gross leasing of retail spaces in malls stood at about 4.1 million sq ft in the first half of the year as against just 0.9 million sq ft of new completions of retail spaces. The seven major cities are -- Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad,

Chennai and Kolkata. Anuj Kejriwal, CEO - Retail & CEO - Europe, Middle East & Africa at Anarock Group, said, "The supply problem is cumulative and escalating - data of India's top seven cities over the past 16 years shows a persistent mismatch between Grade A retail supply and leasing demand."

While new mall completions fluctuated sharply on a year-on-year basis, he noted that the leasing demand has steadily absorbed available Grade A space, pushing vacancy rates lower.

"We now have a chronically supply-constrained

market where retailers' biggest challenge is not drawing shoppers but finding the right spaces to serve them in," Kejriwal said. In 2023, the top seven cities added 5.3 million sq ft of new Grade A retail supply against gross leasing of 6.5 million sq ft.

BIZ BRIEFS

SBI Card partners with Google Pay

SBI Card, a pure-play credit card issuer and Google, jointly announced the launch of 'Google Pay Flex SBI Card' as part of the Flex by Google Pay offering. Salil Pande, MD, SBI Card, said: "At SBI Card, our focus is on creating best-in-class products that make transactions simpler, seamless, and more relevant for our customers. Launch of the Google Pay Flex SBI Card is a significant step in that direction."

SSI Mantra logs milestone

SSI Innovations International has conducted a robotic telesurgery between Hospital Internacional de Colombia and Mohak Bariatrics and Robotics, Indore, spanning an approximate 22,000 km fibre network distance. The robotic sleeve gastrectomy was remotely performed from Colombia by Dr Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman and CEO of SSI Innovations International, along with Dr Victor Raúl Castillo Mantilla and Dr Jonathan Caceres Prada.

Dell expands its portfolio

Dell Technologies has expanded its premium consumer portfolio in India, with the launch of new models across XPS, Dell and Alienware, lineup. The new launches include, ultra-light XPS 13, AI-powered Dell 145 and 16S laptops, and upgraded Alienware 15 gaming laptop. The range targets students, professionals, creators, and gamers, combining AI capabilities, premium design, strong performance, sustainability, and expanded nationwide availability with attractive pricing and offers.

Modi, UK PM Burnham pledge to deepen strategic partnership

LEADERS AGREE TO EXPAND COOPERATION ACROSS TECHNOLOGY, DEFENCE AND CLEAN ENERGY WHILE LEVERAGING THE INDIA-UK TRADE PACT

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Andy Burnham on Friday vowed to take the India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership to "new heights" and fully harness the trade and investment opportunities presented by the recently-operationalised bilateral trade deal. Modi and Burnham discussed key aspects of the two-way ties during a phone conversation. In a social media post, Modi said he congratulated Burnham on assuming the charge of the top office and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure. "We



agreed to work together across sectors such as technology, innovation, defence, security, clean energy, education and people-to-people ties and take the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to new heights," he said. "We will also collaborate closely to fully harness

the trade and investment opportunities presented by the recently operationalized India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, for the shared prosperity and well-being of both our people," Modi said. A British readout said Burnham began the conversation

by reflecting on the strength of the UK-India partnership and the significant impact it has had on local communities across the UK. "The prime minister set out his ambitions to further enhance the UK-India relationship, including through the UK-India Vision 2035 framework and strong people-to-people links," it said.

Burnham praised the contribution Indian communities in the UK make to the fabric of UK society, with Modi noting the links between the two leaders' own home cities of Manchester and Ahmedabad, in Gujarat, which he called the "Manchester of India", it said.

RBI data shows bank credit to industry surged 19.2% in June

MUMBAI

BANK credit to industry recorded a robust growth of 19.2 per cent in June compared to 6.3 per cent in the year-ago period as large companies as well as MSMEs displayed broad-based expansion, according to RBI data released on Friday.

On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit grew by 18.3 per cent as on the fortnight ended June 30, 2026, compared to 9.3 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (June 27, 2025), the central bank said.

It has released data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for June 2026, collected from 41 select scheduled commercial banks which together account for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit. Advances to agricultural



and allied activities registered a year-on-year growth of 16.8 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year. "Credit to industry recorded a robust y-o-y growth of 19.2 per cent (6.3 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of last year)," RBI said. All sub-sectors -- 'Micro and Small', 'Medium' and 'Large industries' displayed a broad-based expansion.

Among major industries, credit to infrastructure, all engineering, food processing, textiles, construction, basic metal and metal products, petroleum, 'coal products and nuclear fuels' and 'chemical and chemical

products' marked buoyant year-on-year (y-o-y) growth. However, 'rubber, plastic and their products' and 'wood and wood products' segments witnessed marginally subdued growth. According to the data, loans to the services sector registered a growth rate of 21.4 per cent y-o-y (8.8 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year), supported by accelerated growth in segments such as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), commercial real estate, and trade.

Also, credit to the personal loans segment recorded a growth of 15.8 per cent, as compared with 11.7 per cent a year ago. While segments such as vehicle loans and housing grew steadily in double digits, credit card outstanding registered a decelerated growth, the RBI said.

Digit Life enters retirement segment

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

Go Digit Life Insurance Limited (Digit Life Insurance), a new-age life insurance company, announced its entry into the retirement segment, launching two variants of Digit Life Pension Plan, a general annuity plan.

The plan will give customers a choice between two distinct retirement income solutions. Digit Sukoon will offer 100 per cent guaranteed annuity, while Digit Boss will combine guaranteed annuity with a variable annuity portion linked to the Nifty 50 Index.

Designed to deliver income for life, the plan is available for both individual

and group customers and will also be available on its app and website.

Sabyasachi Sarkar, MD, Digit Life Insurance, said: "Retirement planning needs are changing rapidly, and customers today are looking not just for lifelong income, but for solutions that reflect their own financial priorities: certainty for some, and a measured participation in market-linked upside for others. "With Digit Life Pension Plan, we are bringing both these needs together in one product architecture, while giving customers the flexibility to tailor payouts and retirement income structures in a way that makes the most sense to their individual needs."

Star Health's Q1 profit rises 25%

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

STAR Health and Allied Insurance Company posted a net profit of Rs550 crore for the quarter ended June 2026 (Q1-FY27), a 25 per cent increase YoY (Year-Over-Year). Underwriting profit for Q1-FY27 was Rs111 crore against Rs16 crore for a year ago. The company attributed it to healthy premium growth and operating efficiencies.

The company recorded Gross Written Premium (GWP) of Rs 4,287 crore during Q1 FY27, representing a growth of 19 per cent YoY. On the same basis, fresh retail health GWP for the quarter stood at Rs 730 crore, a 37 per cent YoY increase.

Maruti Suzuki Q1 profit slips 9.1% despite record sales

NEW DELHI

THE country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday reported a 9.11 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 3,446.9 crore in the first quarter ended June 2026, hit by high material costs, despite posting record quarterly vehicle sales.

The auto major, which had posted a net profit of Rs 3,792.4 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal, said its board also approved four CBG (compressed biogas) projects in the first phase with a budget of Rs 561 crore.

Total revenue from operations was up 35.9 per cent at Rs 52,469.8 crore in the first quarter as against Rs 38,605.2 crore in the same period of 2025-26 fiscal, Maruti Suzuki



India said in a regulatory filing.

Total expenses in the quarter under review were higher at Rs 50,000.3 crore as compared to Rs 35,585.4 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. Cost of materials consumed in the first quarter shot up to Rs 32,013.2 crore from Rs 21,936.8 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, it added.

"Material costs had started to increase in the quarter and were seriously aggravated during the war..." the company said, adding that it had an impact on its bottomline.

Govt to question Meta's global team over algorithmic bias

NEW DELHI: The government will question Meta's global team - summoned after the social media company briefly restricted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post - on issues relating to algorithmic bias, the platform's algorithmic processes and their role in public order, sources said on Friday.

The questioning next week comes against the backdrop of the government's summons to Meta's top executives after Prime Minister Modi's recent Facebook post addressing India's youth and promising stringent action against paper leaks was briefly restricted on the platform. While the US-headquartered social media giant had attributed the incident to a technical glitch and apologised, the Ministry of



Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had found the explanation "inadequate". The company had said that the content was removed "in error" and was restored on the platform. Government sources on Friday pointed out that the matter is not just about technical aspects, but about "national security and public order".

Sources said that Meta's global team - expected in Delhi sometime in the middle of next week - will be "categorically" asked to clarify on issues around algorithmic bias, how their algorithm operates, and the company's role in public order.



‘Declassified: Operation Sindoor’ to reveal the untold story behind India’s counter-terror mission

INDIA’S high-profile military operation, code-named Sindoor, will see its declassified version when the documentary series Declassified: Operation Sindoor uncovers the events around it in detail. The project’s teaser trailer was unveiled earlier this week (August 5th), with the series scheduled to air on August 15th, on Discovery and discovery+.

Declassified: Operation

Sindoor follows the events leading up to, during, and following the operation, from the first preparations to its tactical and military implications. The documentary series will provide first-hand insight from defence officials, analysts, soldiers, and journalists.

It was a dawn attack on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Administered Jammu and Kashmir conducted under Opera-

tion Sindoor. The Ministry of Defence confirmed that the attack targeted terror camps and that it was a well-planned surgical strike. The operation came in response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed 25 Indian citizens and one Nepalese national, with India claiming to have retaliated due to Pakistan’s unwillingness to act against the perpetrators. Moreover, according to defence ministry officials,

the operation sent out a strong message to Pakistan that India would respond to cross-border terrorism despite the tension between the two nations, as both countries possess nuclear weapons. The series will feature several prominent military leaders, including General Anil Chauhan, Lt. Gen. Rajiv Ghai, Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, General Upendra Dwivedi, Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma, Air

Chief Marshal A. P. Singh, and others.

“The declassified series will present an inside view into one of India’s most powerful military operations, giving viewers unparalleled access to the people who made it happen,” said Sai Abishek, Head of Factual Entertainment, Lifestyle, and Kids – South Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery. “Declassified: Operation Sindoor marks the debut of



our new franchise, Declassified, which will delve deeper into some of the most significant moments in history, revealing never-before-told

insights and first-hand perspectives only available to us.”

Declassified: Operation Sindoor will go further than

simply recounting history, offering additional crucial information about the Sindoor operation for those interested in the subject.

‘I’m Game’ trailer: Dulquer Salmaan steps into the high-stakes world of gambling

THE I’m game trailer has been out today, introducing the audiences to a stylish crime thriller centered around gambling and featuring Dulquer Salmaan in the lead role. The film is directed by NahasHidayath, the man behind the blockbuster RDX, which sees its dubbed version on the way as well. Although primarily a Malayalam movie, I’m Game will be released across India in various dubbed languages.

The trailer sees Dulquer Salmaan playing a gutsy gambler who seems to control the flow of both high-rolling markets as well as underground matches. The I’m Game trailer showcases the protagonist’s luxurious lifestyle, but also delves into his psyche, where the psychiatrist (played by KayaduLo-



har) seems to have a differing opinion about the man’s thoughts.

As the 90-second promo-scope unravels, it becomes clear that I’m Game is primarily set in places associated with gambling activities – be it inside a high-class casino, a rowdy cricket stadium, or a corporate office space. Moreover, it seems

that the game and money are at the center of virtually everything that happens in the film. NahasHidayath appears to have taken a different route this time around as compared to the highly successful RDX. While the director managed to pull off an excellent action entertainer with the former project, I’m Game sees him attempting to

make a commercial film that touches upon a rather controversial topic.

The I’m Game trailer may not indicate a substantial emotional quotient, but the very fact that such a film is being made in Malayalam suggests that the movie possesses a certain degree of appeal. The film has impressive cast that includes names like Mysskin, Antony Varghese, Samyuktha Viswanathan, Vinay Forrt, and Kathir apart from the lead pair of Dulquer Salmaan and KayaduLohar. Jimshi Khalid has been handling the camera, while the music has been composed by Jakes Bejoy. Notably, the film is set to release during the Onam holiday, which makes it even more anticipated as one of the biggest Malayalam movies of the year.

Mammootty wraps shooting for Dhanush’s ‘OM’

THE makers of Dhanush’s upcoming project OM have announced another good news as the team confirmed that Malayalam superstar Mammootty has completed his part of the shoot for the much-anticipated action entertainer directed by Rajkumar Periasamy.

MammoottyKampany shared a video on social media welcoming the veteran actor back in Kochi after wrapping up his portions for the film. Earlier, director Rajkumar Periasamy had stated that in the film, Mammootty has played a character named Karthikeyan, which has a great impact on the story. The team has been busy with the shoots as the film has been progressing at a rapid pace after wrapping up the crucial portions in Malaysia. During the trip, the cast and crew celebrated the actor’s National Award along with National Award-



winning singer Dhanush, director Rajkumar Periasamy, and editor Kalaivanan on the sets of the film.

As the makers had announced that the film will hit the theatres on October 16, as per the latest reports, the release date might get postponed. Though the report stated that an official confirmation might be out any day

now, neither the makers nor the team have confirmed the report yet.

Besides, the film also stars Bollywood legend Naseeruddin Shah apart from the National Award-winning Dhanush in the lead. With the title ‘OM: Chapter 1’, it is anticipated that the makers will roll out the subsequent parts of the film too which

will take the story forward.

The first look of the film that went viral on social media introduced Dhanush as a woodcutter involved in the illegal trade of red sanders being chased by the police. The action-filled promos promise to deliver a mass entertainer that will see Dhanush’s old avatar back on the big screen. As Wunderbar Films unveiled the title of the film, they mentioned that it is one of the most expensive projects that Dhanush has ever been a part of and promised the fans that it marks the return of Dhanush’s classic hero persona.

Starring Sai Pallavi and Sreeleela, the film features music by Sai Abhyankkar, cinematography by EzhilArasu, editing by Kalaivanan R, and costumes by Kavya Sriram. With Mammootty completing his shoot, the fans are excited to know more about Dhanush’s OM.

All set for ‘Agadha’ trailer launch



Agadha makers have announced that the trailer of Agadha is all set to be unveiled on August 3 at 12 PM, which will create more hype around the film’s worldwide release. After the great response to the teaser and posters of the film, the makers are now ready to take the audience deeper into the supernatural world of Agadha with a mysterious look.

For the announcement, a new poster of the film has gone viral, which features a female ascetic in the middle of a mysterious forest. The new poster of Agadha promises to deliver unexplored mysteries of the divine world with a blend of supernatural forces, thrill, and much more.

Agadha is a mystic divine thriller directed

by M.S.Raju, known for his association with Tollywood. The film is also Raju’s self-written venture, as he has written the story and screenplay for Agadha, which marks his passion project.

Agadha has been produced by Kasi VisalakshiBalusu under Sri Adi Varaha Productions LLP, while the film is presented by Ajay K. R. This pan-Indian flick is being simultaneously made in 5 languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi, and is all set to release worldwide on August 14. With its intriguing teaser, Agadha created a massive mystery and horror-packed vibe around its release date, which has now fetched the film a great response from the viewers. Thus, the makers are now confident that Agadha trailer will leave the audience more thrilled than ever. With such an amazing concept, Agadha is indeed one of the most anticipated films of this year.

Vicky Kaushal to gain 25 kilos for his next!



AFTER the massive success of Chhaava; Vicky Kaushal is set to board on his most challenging role. The actor will play the lead role in the mythological film Mahavatar, where he will essay the role of the legendary Parashurama.

The actor will reportedly transform his body to gain more than 25 kilos to match the legendary figure of the character in the mythological story. Vicky Kaushal will once again work with celebrity fitness trainer TejasLalwani for his fitness and nutritionist needs. The two had worked together before for Chhaava. The actor’s transformation will begin soon for the project. The actor has been working out extensively for the historical drama and has undergone a strict diet. The film will begin its shoot in December 2023, and the pre-production work is already underway.

The film is directed by Amar Kaushik, who has given some hit films in the Stree Franchise. The project has already created a lot of intrigue among the movie buffs as it will mark the directorial debut of Amar Kaushik in the mythological genre while his co-star Vicky Kaushal will be seen playing one of the most legendary and iconic characters in the Indian Mythology.



THE makers of Toxic: Fairytale for GrownUps have released a mesmerizing picture starring Kiara Advani ahead of the film’s release, adding another compelling chapter to the promotional adventures of one of Indian cinema’s most anticipated films. The poster celebrating Kiara’s birthday showcases the actress in a majestic and glamorous look that has fans buzzing about her global stardom.

Starring Yash, Toxic has been making waves since its announcement, and the fairytale actioner is all set to create a historic footprint in the filmography of the year, with its larger-than-life appeal and star-studded cast. The much-awaited film is all set to release globally on August 26th and has been garnering tremendous attention for every bit of its promotional content that has been unveiled so far.

Toxic, directed by Geethu Mohandas, has been entertaining movie buffs with its intriguing teasers, theatrical trailer, and chart-dominating songs Tabaahi and Madhoshi, giving a glimpse into the extravagant world of the film. With the exciting content released, the film has successfully captured the audience’s attention with its promising action-packed narrative and fantastical treatment of the story.

Besides the star-studded lead pair of Yash and Kiara Advani, the film also features Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, Huma Qureshi, and Rukmini Vasanth in prominent roles. With its current rate of progress, Toxic is bound to be one of the highest-grossing films in the country.



Kiara’s dazzling poster from ‘Toxic’ unveiled

Yami Gautam speaks about career struggles

YAMI Gautam talked about one of the darkest times in her career, saying that she almost quit Bollywood after a few failures and then her two successful movies made her realize her stardom.

Speaking in one of her recent interactions, the actress opened up about considering quitting movies. She said that there was a time when everything seemed to be going wrong and she failed to get good roles. This made her to think about quitting as she was fed up with the failures and disappointments. Yami Gautam said everything turned around

for her with the Uri: The Surgical Strike and Bala fame and both of them made her realize that she was one of the most bankable stars in the industry.

Talking about her upcoming projects, Yami Gautam was recently seen essaying the role of ShaziaBano in Dhurandhar: The Revenge, the much-anticipated super hit film directed by her husband Aditya Dhar. The actress is all set to be a part of NayiNaveli, the supernatural drama directed by Balaji Mohan. The film revolves around an ideal bride who appears to have changed everybody’s life in Meerut and her suspicious brother-in-law who starts doubting if she is a human or a ghost. The actress will be seen sharing screen space with Rajesh Dubey in the film which promises to give the audience another powerful performance from Yami Gautam.