



THE Hans India



RSS has decided it knows truth of 1.5 bn people: Rahul
Launching a sharp ideological attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the organisation of attempting to impose its version of the "truth" on 1.5 billion. **P10**

Mitigating adverse impacts of Artificial Intelligence
The AI for Good Global Commission is a high-level international commission established with the support of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was officially launched during the AI for Good event. **P6**

Bulls storm back after 7-day rout
Benchmark equity indices bounced back on Thursday, with the Sensex climbing 628 points and the Nifty snapping its seven-day losing streak as easing global bond yields fueled a stock rally worldwide. **P11**

'Killer/KIIR' release date creates buzz
The makers of the sci-fi thriller Killer/KIIR have announced October 17 as the worldwide theatrical release date of the film which will witness the grand opening on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. **P12**

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WINDOWS

Bapu's manuscript sold for record Rs 16.2 crore

NEW DELHI: A collection of 688 autographed reflections by Mahatma Gandhi on truth, ahimsa, and service among other subjects to his close associate and freedom fighter Anand T Hingorani was sold for Rs 16.20 crore at a Saffronart auction, setting the world record for an Indian historical document sold at an auction. Written over a span of two years after the death of Hingorani's wife Vidya, the daily handwritten messages of guidance, reflection, and encouragement were later compiled into a book titled "A Thought for the Day" and stand among the most intimate surviving records of correspondence between the two. The auction, "Gandhi: From the Collection of Anand T Hingorani", featured 86 lots of letters, manuscripts, photographs and personal objects associated with Gandhi.

PM's degree row: HC to hear case on September 29

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday listed for hearing on September 29 appeals by RTI applicants against an order refusing disclosure of details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree. "At request made on behalf of the appellant, list on September 29," a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said after a request was made to take up the case after a few other matters. The appeals challenge a single judge's August 2025 order that set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) decision directing disclosure of Modi's degree. Counsel for the appellant on Thursday said on the earlier occasion, the court had granted time to the Delhi University to file objections to the delay in filing of the appeals.

Alamgir becomes Bangladesh's new President

DHAKA: Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, a longtime secretary general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a close ally of former premier Khaleda Zia, was on Thursday elected as the country's new President in the first contested poll for the post in 35 years.

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PM CARES FUND

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MASTER PLAN 2047: 40L more houses in Capital

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

NEW Delhi: Delhi has unveiled its long-term development blueprint, the Master Plan for Delhi 2047 (MPD-2047), aimed at transforming the national capital into a more connected, sustainable and economically vibrant global city while preparing for a projected population of 3.2 crore by 2047. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled the plan on Thursday in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Lieutenant Governor Taranjit

Singh Sandhu. The blueprint is aligned with the Centre's "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" vision.

Prepared by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the plan adopts an infrastructure-led growth model, directing development towards areas with existing or planned roads, public transport, water supply and digital connectivity.

Housing is a major focus, with Delhi expected to require nearly 40 lakh additional residential units by 2047. The DDA plans to address the demand through land pooling and redevelopment, including

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) around Metro stations and major transport corridors; a 138-hectare Education Hub in Narela to promote education, technology and entrepreneurship; AI-enabled planning and digital land management for greater transparency and efficiency



higher-density development around transport corridors.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) will

integrate housing with public transportation,

particularly around metro stations and major corridors. The plan also proposes economic corridors and industrial clusters to attract investment and generate employment. A 138-hectare Education Hub in Narela is envisaged as a centre for education, technology and entrepreneurship.

The blueprint seeks to improve living conditions in slums and JJ clusters through in-situ redevelopment, allowing residents to remain close to their existing communities. Unauthorised colonies will also be integrated into the formal urban structure through regularisation and

improvements in roads, sewerage and civic amenities.

Environmental sustainability is another major pillar. The plan promotes green-blue infrastructure, restoration of Yamuna floodplains, urban forests and ecological corridors. Delhi's green cover, currently around 22 per cent, is to be strengthened.

Transport planning will prioritise public transport, pedestrians and cyclists over private vehicles. Expansion of the MRTS and RRTS is expected to improve connectivity with NCR cities such as Meerut, Panipat and Karnal.



Sajjan serving lifer in 1984 riots case dies

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

FORMER Congress MP Sajjan Kumar, who was serving life sentence in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, died at Safdarjung Hospital here on Thursday.

According to the hospital, Kumar, aged 84 years, was brought to the medical facility by police with altered sensorium.

"Sajjan Kumar, aged 84 years, was brought to VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital by police with altered sensorium around 11 am. He was immediately admitted and resuscitation measures were initiated," the hospital said in a statement.

"Despite providing all necessary medical and life-support measures, he could not be saved and passed away at 12:30 pm," it said.

"He was a known case of high blood pressure and Parkinson's disease and had a history of multiple hospital admissions in the past," the statement said. He was lodged in Tihar Jail. Kumar, a three-time Lok Sabha member, represented the Outer Delhi constituency and had been a prominent Congress leader. He resigned from the party after his 2018 conviction. He was serving multiple life sentences after his conviction in cases linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi.

SC asks the Committee to undertake a continuous and periodic assessment of the issues and submit its interim findings periodically

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court has formed a five-member high-powered committee headed by former top court judge Justice R Subhash Reddy to examine allegations of police excesses against student



protesters in Delhi recently and violence against police personnel.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said the committee would also comprise former Punjab and Haryana high court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi high court Judge Justice

Shalinder Kaur, former CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla and retired Meghalaya DGP L R Bishnoi.

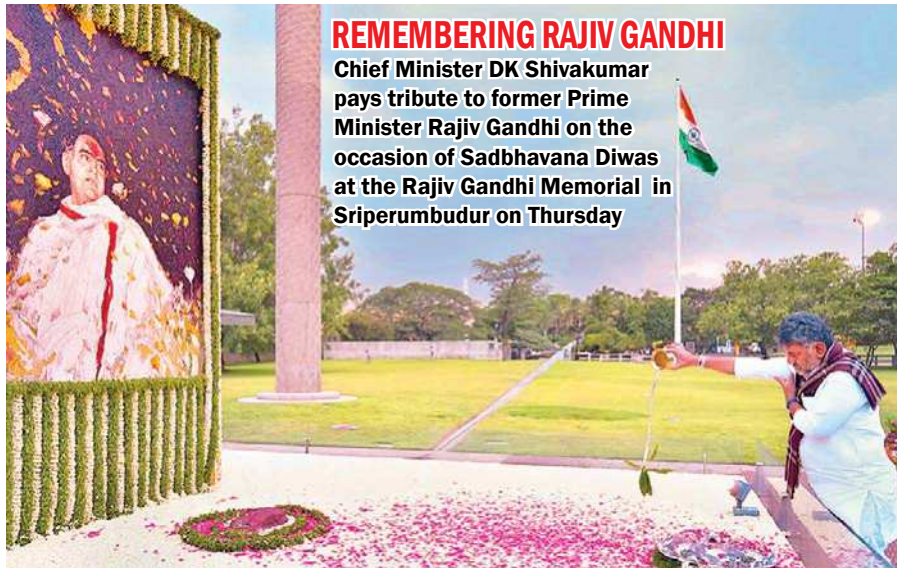
"This HPEC (High-Powered Enquiry Committee) has been constituted bearing in mind a wide variety of considerations, including the individual expertise and experience of each of

its members, as well as the diversity of the Committee, among other factors.

It asked the Committee to undertake a continuous and periodic assessment of the issues and shall submit its interim findings periodically.

"We are confident that the recommendations of the HPEC will be of invaluable assistance to this Court, and the Committee will be able to undertake a comprehensive assessment of all such issues as merit due contemplation," the bench said.

The top court clarified that as a matter of abundant caution, the enquiry undertaken by the HPEC shall not be a one-time exercise.



Shivakumar seeks 543 LS seats, 1971 Census

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday urged the Southern Zonal Council to adopt a resolution asking the Union government to honour the 1971 census for delimitation, retain 543 Lok Sabha seats for 25 years and fit women's reservation within the existing seats, while also touching upon inter-state river disputes where he stated "water must not divide us."

The meeting was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and attended by CMs of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, C Joseph Vijay, VD Satheesan and N Chandrababu Naidu, among others.



CM DK Shivakumar, Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Tamil Nadu CM C Joseph Vijay, Keralam Chief Minister VD Satheesan and Keralam Minister for Industries and IT PK Kunhalikutty during the 31st Southern Regional Council meeting in Mahabalipuram on Thursday

of the inter-state Cauvery river. Further, he also made a strong pitch for greater fiscal and political equity for the southern states, calling for "fairness in

funds, fairness in voice and fairness in the respect owed to the states that power this economy," Shivakumar noted that south was the "engine of the Indian

economy", with the five southern states accounting for nearly 33 per cent of the country's GDP despite having about 20 per cent of its population.

Structures at Pakistan mission demolished

NEW DELHI: In a tit-for-tat action, some unauthorised structures outside the Pakistan high commission in the national capital were demolished by authorities, a move that came after Pakistan removed parking poles outside the Indian mission in Islamabad this week. The demolition was carried as the construction of the structures were found to be beyond the high commission's approved boundary, official sources said on Thursday. The action was carried out by the agencies concerned using a JCB machine, which removed the structures and barricades erected along the lane outside the compound, including queue-management installations near the visa section, the sources said. Visuals showed that the demolition left a trail of rubble outside the mission, with



broken metal railings and gates, twisted metal frames, roofing sheets, bricks and chunks of concrete and plaster strewn across the paved area.

Additionally, visuals from the site showed sections of the outer structures completely pulled down, including corrugated roofing and white metal fencing. The facade around the service windows appeared damaged, with portions of plaster and masonry broken away. The visa section remained visible amid the debris, with service windows marked "Window 1", "Pakistani Passport Only" and "Window-5 / Collection of Visa Applications".

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WINDOWS



Student ‘threatened’ for raising Vande Mataram slogan

BIDAR: An FIR has been registered against the principal of a Shaheen College in Chitguppa town of Bidar district following allegations that he threatened a PU student for raising “Vande Mataram” and “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” slogans during an Independence Day programme.

The incident reportedly occurred on August 15 after the national flag was hoisted at the college. According to the complaint, student Sagar Gouli raised the slogans following the flag-hoisting ceremony. His family has alleged that principal Abdul Hakeem objected to the slogans and warned the student against repeating them on the college campus.

The student’s father, Hiroba Gouli, approached the Chitguppa police and lodged a complaint seeking action against the principal. Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR and initiated an investigation.

According to the complaint, the principal allegedly told the student that “Vande Mataram” was associated with a particular religious community and that such slogans would not be permitted at the institution. The family has alleged that the student was threatened and that the incident caused him distress. The allegations have sparked controversy in the town, with Hindu organisations demanding strict action if the charges are established. Activists have questioned the alleged objection to patriotic slogans during an Independence Day programme.

Temple thief caught hiding after camera triggers rapid response

UDUPI: Officers from the Mulki station arrested Ravi, aged 28, following his midnight attempt to steal from Bellayaru Kolnadu Sri Chandramouleshwara Temple.

The man scaled the higher portion of the structure with a rope, sliced through the iron grille and gained entry. He then examined the contents of the offering box and made an effort to destroy the closed-circuit camera. ‘Sign In Security’ company, monitoring the feed, immediately passed the information to the temple administration board and to the police. Responding personnel and nearby residents quickly encircled the temple complex.

The accused, seeking to get away, had taken cover inside the Subrahmanya shrine when the police seized him. Images of both the theft attempt and the damage aimed at the camera exist on the system.

Biker robbed of Rs 8 lakhs in broad daylight

MANGALURU: A bike-borne traveller named Mayyadi, residing in Surathkal near Mangaluru, lost a bag containing upwards of eight lakh Rupees when four men arrived on two motorcycles and confronted him in Bantwal taluk, Dakshina Kannada district.

He had just finished collecting dues for cement distributed wholesale across multiple retail outlets and was on his return journey. The group brandished a knife in broad daylight to intimidate him, snatched the money-filled bag and fled the scene. Jurisdiction belongs to Bantwal rural police station, whose personnel are currently conducting the inquiry.

Protests intensify in Cauvery basin over release of water to TN

BENGALURU/MANDYA

PROTESTS intensified in the Cauvery basin, especially in Mandya on Thursday, as farmers alleged that a huge amount of water is being released from the KRS dam to Tamil Nadu. The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee’s (CWRC) recommendation of releasing 12,000 cusecs of water for 15 days starting from August 12.

The Tamil Nadu government has approached the Supreme Court seeking a direc-

tion for Karnataka to respect the CWMA’s order, sources said. At Sanjay Circle in Mandya, farmers staged sit-in demonstration. Kannada Sena activists extended support to the farmers’ organisation’s protest and blocked the old Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. The protesters charged there was only 109 feet of water in the dam and questioned the decision to release water to Tamil Nadu despite this. Leading the protest, Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj appealed to people of Karnataka to unite and support the agitation to send across a strong

message all over the country.

Mandya MLA Ravi Kumar Gowda (Ganiga) demanded that the release of water to Tamil Nadu be stopped. Speaking at the Cauvery Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, Gowda questioned how water could be denied to Karnataka’s farmers.

“On the one hand, you are releasing water to Tamil Nadu, while on the other hand you are saying that you will not give us water. If you do not give water to our farmers for their crops,

it will become a very serious situation,” he said.

He also demanded calling a legislative session claiming there has been a severe drought, unforeseen seen in several decades. Sources in the chief minister’s office said that Cauvery dispute was raised before Union minister Amit Shah during a meeting with the Chief Ministers of southern states in Tamil Nadu. They said Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar made a pitch for a balancing reservoir across Cauvery river at Mekedatu in Karnataka near Kanakapura.



‘Carry forward aspirations of Rajiv Gandhi and Devaraj Urs’

Dual birth anniversary event emphasises public service over power in politics

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

THE people-oriented thinking and ideals of former Prime Minister the late Rajiv Gandhi together with former Chief Minister the late D Devaraj Urs require introduction to the present generation, declared former minister B Ramanath Rai.

Rajiv Gandhi, he noted, was a visionary who placed youth power first and supplied a new direction toward technology and the creation of modern India; the aspirations he nurtured regarding the nation’s



progress and the prospects of the young remain pertinent today.

“In parallel, Devaraj Urs took historic strides in support of social justice and, by means of numerous people-centered actions that encompassed land reforms, strove to provide social and economic openings for the poor, backward and exploited classes,” he said.

Rai portrayed Rajiv Gandhi as the symbol of hon-

esty, modernity and the dream of new India and Devaraj Urs as the symbol of social justice, equality and the voice of the exploited, asserting that the ideals of both continue to light the way of public service.

“Greater priority in current politics should attach to public service rather than power, to harmony rather than division and to social justice rather than inequality; true respect for the two

leaders consists in pursuing their goals,” he maintained.

Padmaraj Poojary, former principal secretary of the KPCC, spoke as well. The meeting was attended by Congress leaders and others. Tribute of condolence was paid to the late active Congress worker Lakshman Shetty. Welcome remarks came from Shubhodaya Alva while former mayor Shashidhar Hegde proposed the thanks.

Book launch, analytical sessions to mark tribute to pioneering Tulu litterateur

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

AN afternoon programme scheduled for August 22 at 2:30 inside Mangaluru’s Tulu Bhavan will review the Tulu literary output of Prof. B A Vivek Rai, who served as the first president of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy.

The event carries the title ‘Bennida Panidompa’ and includes the release of his books ‘Tuluva Jala Poli’ and ‘Nalayidd Nalurugu’. Dr. Padekallu Vishnu Bhat, a senior researcher and retired principal, will perform the release.

Taranath Gatti Kapikad, current academy president, will occupy the chair for the occasion. Umar U H, president of the Karnataka Beary Sahitya Academy, and Stany Alvares, president of the Konkani Sahitya Academy, will appear as chief guests.

The opening discussion will feature Gunapal Kadamb, retired principal and past academy member, addressing the theme of Prof. Vivek Rai’s leadership of the Tulu Academy. Dr. Ni-



Prof B A Vivek Rai

kethana, principal of Udupi Government First Grade Women’s College, will then explore the depth of his Tulu literary research.

Later, Dr. Tukaram Poojary, who established the Rani Abbakka Tulu Adhyayana Kendra, and journalist Kodibettu Rajalakshmi will lead a conversation directly with Prof. Vivek Rai. Kasargodu Chinnu, former head of the Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy, will preside over the final segment, where B A Muhammad Haneef, previous Beary academy president, and Dr. Poovappa Kaniyuru, a researcher of Tulu folklore, will join as principal guests, as stated in the Tulu Academy’s release.

State to build 1,582 toilets in 1,250 govt schools: Minister

BENGALURU

THE government has decided to construct 1,582 toilets in 1,250 government schools across the state during 2025-26 under the State Sector Scheme, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The minister was responding to a question raised by Hirekerur Congress MLA U.B. Banakar during the Question Hour. Bangarappa said 136 toilets had also been sanctioned under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka scheme for 2025-26.

Providing details of the funds allocated, the minister said Rs 5.04 crore remained available under the State Sector Scheme for construction of toilets, while Rs 23.17 crore was available for construction of classrooms.

Under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka scheme, Rs 544 lakh had been released for construction of toilets during 2025-26, he said.

The minister further said that Rs 48.55 crore had been sanctioned under the PM SHRI scheme during 2025-26 for construction of 216 classrooms.

Bangarappa said priority had initially been given to schools with a higher number of students while sanctioning funds for toilet construction. As a result, no funds had initially been sanctioned for construction of toilets in government schools in the Hirekerur Assembly constituency.

However, the government is now considering a proposal to utilise the remaining funds for toilet construction in nine government schools in the constituency.

The proposal includes construction of two boys’ toilets in two schools and 13 girls’ toilets in seven schools. Each toilet unit is estimated to cost Rs 2 lakh, taking the total estimated cost of the proposed works to Rs 30 lakh.

The minister said the proposal would be examined as per the rules and appropriate action would be taken.

HEAVYWEIGHT HAUL



An elephant being lifted after its capture from a coffee plantation area at Virajpet in Kodagu district on Thursday

Five killed, 23 injured in separate road accidents



BENGALURU

AT least five people were killed and more than 23 others injured in two separate road accidents reported in Haveri and Mandya districts of Karnataka on Thursday. In a separate incident in Udupi district, seven passengers had a narrow escape after a private bus caught fire near Brahmavar town in Udupi district.

Three people were killed and three others critically injured after a car rammed into a parked truck near Chalageri Cross on the outskirts of Ranebennur town in Haveri district in the early hours of Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Siddharth, 27, Hasanmukhi, 29, and Yashoda Bai, 51. All three

were residents of Davanagere city. The injured — Soundarya, Sindhu and one-year-old Kashvasri — were shifted to a private hospital in Davanagere for treatment.

According to preliminary information, the car was travelling from Ranebennur towards Davanagere when it collided with the parked truck. The Ranebennur Rural police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Further details are awaited.

In another accident, two people were killed and 20 others injured after a private sleeper bus overturned near Bellur Toll in Mandya district. The accident occurred on the Mangaluru-Bengaluru highway after the bus reportedly hit a roadside signboard and overturned. Police sus-

pect that overspeeding may have led to the accident. The injured were shifted to Bellur town hospital for treatment. The identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, seven passengers escaped unhurt after a private bus caught fire near Brahmavar in Udupi district. The bus was travelling from Udupi towards Sagar when smoke was noticed inside the vehicle. The fire subsequently broke out in the electrical box and began spreading.

The conductor immediately stopped the bus and evacuated all seven passengers, averting a possible tragedy. Fire and Emergency Services personnel from Udupi rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze. Further details regarding the cause of the fire are awaited.

Forest officers’ body defends its team involved in firing incident

BENGALURU

THE Karnataka State Range Forest Officers’ Association has defended the forest personnel involved in the August 15 firing in Chamara-janagar district in which three suspected poachers were killed, saying the officials had opened fire only in self-defence and to protect wildlife. The statement comes amid continuing controversy over the incident in the Hanur Wildlife Range of the Cauvery Wildlife Division, with the deaths of the Tamil-origin men triggering outrage, especially in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Chief Min-

ister C Joseph Vijay had condemned the killings and sought an investigation, while political leaders in the state have demanded a probe into the incident. The association said the firing occurred inside a reserve forest when forest personnel were attempting to trace and apprehend suspected wildlife poachers.

“Forest department officers and staff work 24x7 in shifts to protect forests and wildlife. In the said operation, they opened fire only in self-defence and in the interest of protecting forests and wildlife, and had no other intention,” it said, adding that the deaths were



regrettable. It strongly condemned the registration of a police case against forest

department officials and alleged that relatives of the deceased had continuously

attacked forest personnel and forest department properties. “It has been observed

that various forms of pressure are being exerted on the government to take action against forest department personnel, and that this is being continuously propagated on social media,” the association said, describing the development as highly regrettable.

It said such pressure undermined the morale of forest officers and staff and made it difficult for them to discharge their duties. The association also pointed out that forest personnel had lost their lives while protecting forests and wildlife during several such operations, and that unavoidable incidents had occurred in some

instances in order to save their own lives.

“In such circumstances, the association believes that it would be appropriate to take necessary action only after a proper investigation into the incident,” it said. The August 15 incident has emerged as a sensitive Karnataka-Tamil Nadu issue, with demands for an independent probe growing in Tamil Nadu.

The Karnataka government, however, has maintained that the men had entered the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary for illegal hunting, while the circumstances surrounding the firing remain under scrutiny.

WINDOWS
Three FIRs regd over ‘unauthorised’ posters of Minister

BENGALURU: Three FIRs were registered for allegedly pasting unauthorised posters featuring Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on public walls, police said on Thursday. The cases were registered following complaints filed by civic authorities under the Greater Bengaluru Authority on August 19, they said.

Two of the three FIRs were registered against a person identified as Shivakumar within the limits of Vidyanarayapura and Kodigehalli police stations for allegedly pasting posters on walls along public roads without obtaining official permission. The details of the third FIR were not immediately available.

Taking to social media platform X, the minister said three cases had been registered over the pasting of his posters. “The case was booked under the Karnataka Open Places Disfigurement Act by Corporation (GBA) authorities. Case booked against the person who has put up my posters on walls and public places, causing disfigurement of public places. Corporation staff are also getting the walls cleared of these posters,” he said, adding the hashtag ‘No One Is Above Law’.

According to one of the FIRs, civic officials found during a routine inspection that paper posters had been illegally pasted on walls along public roads in Ward No: 10 of the Vidyanarayapura sub-division without official permission.

Expired products found in food establishments at 36 rly stns

BENGALURU: A special inspection conducted by the Food Safety and Drug Administration department of Karnataka at food establishments in 36 railway stations on Thursday revealed the suspected use of non-permitted colours in sweets, expired dairy products and food items, and fungal growth in vegetables.

The inspection was conducted at 112 food establishments at Bengaluru City Railway station (KSR), Yeshwanthapura, Krishna Raja Puram, Yelahanka, Kolar, Mysuru, Havri, Udipi, Koppal, Gadag, Davanagere, Bagalkote, Karwar, Yadgiri, Berur and Kadur junction, Ballari, Hospet, Hubaballi and Mangaluru, a statement from the food safety department said.

The teams inspected the railway pantry, railway hotel and food served on the train.

The team found that Vande Bharat trains between Mangaluru and Kerala and Hubballi and Bengaluru were maintained clean. There was, however, ‘suspected use’ of non-permitted colours in food products, the statement said.

Yellow colour was found to have been used in Jalebi and pink colour in Khova Peda. Expired curd and standardised milk packets were found at a railway station in Havri district, it said. Unhygienic conditions were observed in a hotel at KR Puram Railway Station.

Polar Bear opens 100th store

BENGALURU : Homegrown dessert brand Polar Bear has opened its 200th outlet in India, marking another milestone for the Bengaluru-based company.

The new outlet also takes its Bengaluru presence to 100 stores, 18 years after the brand opened its first outlet near ITPL in 2008.

Founded by entrepreneur Kishore Rai, Polar Bear has expanded to more than 200 dine-in sundae parlours across over 35 cities without external funding.

The brand offers ice cream sundaes, shakes, sorbets and ice cream cakes and has built a strong presence in India’s premium dessert segment.

Rai said the brand was founded with the aim of creating innovative sundae experiences at a time when the market was largely focused on ice cream scoops.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

A video allegedly showing a woman police officer engaging in an inappropriate conversation with a jailed inmate through a WhatsApp video call has gone viral on social media, triggering controversy within the police department. The officer featured in the video has now approached the Cubbon Park police, alleging that the footage was recorded and circulated without her consent.

According to the com-

Complaint filed against two rowdy-sheeters

plaint, the officer had been acquainted with a rowdy-sheeteer identified as Dharma several years ago. She allegedly spoke to him through a video call, during which he recorded the conversation. The officer has alleged that Dharma subsequently shared the recording with another rowdy-sheeteer, Saikumar, who circulated it on social media.

The officer has sought action against Dharma, Saiku-

mar and others allegedly involved in making the video public. She has claimed that the circulation of the footage has damaged her reputation and caused considerable embarrassment.

In her complaint, the officer stated that she was working as an officer in charge of security at a Metro station. She also referred to her family and social standing while seeking legal action against those responsi-

ble for circulating the video. Based on her complaint, Cubbon Park police have registered a non-cognisable report (NCR) and begun examining the allegations.

The episode has raised several questions that investigators may have to address, including how the alleged video was recorded, how a mobile phone was allegedly used inside the prison and whether anyone else was involved in facilitating



communication between the inmate and the officer.

Police will also have to establish whether the video has been edited or circulated selectively and determine

the circumstances under which it was originally recorded. The case has drawn attention because the video allegedly involves communication between a police

officer and a person with a criminal background. However, the allegations made by the officer and the circumstances surrounding the video are yet to be independently established.

The investigation is expected to focus on the origin of the recording, its circulation and the identity of others who may have been involved.

Police are also likely to examine whether any prison security protocols were violated. Officials have not disclosed further details of the inquiry so far

CM TO SHAH

‘Release Rs 5,300 cr soon for Upper Bhadra Project’



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister D.K. Shivakumar has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure the early release of the Rs 5,300 crore grant announced by the Centre for the Upper Bhadra Project.

Raising the issue at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram on Thursday, Shivakumar said the grant had been announced in the Union Budget during the previous BJP government in Karnataka and was also mentioned in Parliament. However, the funds have not yet been released, affecting the implementation of the project.

“During the tenure of the Bommmai government, the Union Finance Minister had announced Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project in the Union Budget. Though the amount was announced

in Parliament, it has not been released so far. This is causing difficulties in implementing the project. The funds should be released at the earliest,” Shivakumar said.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns over the manner in which Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds are being utilised by private companies and public sector undertakings. He suggested that a policy should be framed to enable state governments to decide how CSR funds generated by companies operating in their states are utilised, particularly for local priorities such as education and healthcare.

“Companies do business in one state but invest their CSR funds elsewhere. Our priorities are education and healthcare. Therefore, the state government should have a role in deciding where and how CSR funds are utilised,” he said.

Responding to the sug-



gestion, Amit Shah partially agreed and advised Shivakumar to discuss the issue with the heads of public sector undertakings. Shah noted that IAS officers are heading several PSUs and said both he and Shivakumar could discuss the matter with them.

Shivakumar also raised concerns over the disposal of land allotted by state governments to PSUs. He objected to instances where land granted for public purposes is subsequently sold or auctioned after the beneficiary organisation shuts down or ceases operations.

The Chief Minister argued that such land should be returned to the state government instead of being auctioned. “We provide land to PSUs. When they shut down or cease operations, the land

is auctioned. Since the state government provided the land, it should be returned to the government,” Shivakumar said. He alleged that there have been several instances where beneficiaries have disposed of government-allotted land without obtaining the required permission from the state authorities. Such disposal of resources provided for nation-building purposes amounts to misuse of public assets, he said.

Shivakumar further said the state governments should have a role in deciding the future use or disposal of such land and indicated that Karnataka would take legal measures to prevent such transactions where necessary. Responding to the issue, Amit Shah.

Second airport for Bengaluru

Three sites shortlisted, Tumakuru not under consideration

Somanahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara district, Chudahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara and Gudemaranahalli near Nelamangala have been taken up for detailed consideration

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Karnataka government has clarified that Tumakuru is not among the locations currently being considered for the proposed second airport for Bengaluru, with three sites shortlisted for further evaluation.

Industries Minister M B Patil gave the clarification in the Legislative Assembly while responding to a question raised by Tumakuru MLA Jyoti Ganesh. According to the minister, the government has shortlisted Somanahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara district, Chudahalli on the Kanakapura Road in Ramanagara and Gudemaranahalli near Nelamangala for detailed consideration.

Harohalli is also being examined at the final stage, the minister said, indicating that the government has not yet made a final decision on the location of the proposed airport. The clarification comes amid demands from politi-



cal leaders for an airport in Tumakuru. Earlier, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had advocated establishing the second airport in Tumakuru, citing the district’s growing industrial and economic importance. However, the government has pointed to restrictions under the Centre’s Greenfield Airports Policy. Patil said a new airport would normally not be permitted within a 150-km radius of an existing civil airport. If an airport is proposed within this distance, the impact of the new facility on the existing airport would have to be assessed separately. The Centre would take the final decision after examining the proposal and its likely impact, he said.

The minister’s response also made it clear that the state government has no proposal to allocate funds for an airport in Tumakuru in the upcoming budget.

Since no Tumakuru airport project is currently under consideration, the question of earmarking funds

for it does not arise, Patil said. The proposed second airport is being viewed as a long-term requirement for Bengaluru, considering the city’s expanding population, aviation traffic, industrial activity and limitations at Kempegowda International Airport.

With three locations now shortlisted and Harohalli undergoing further scrutiny, the government is expected to undertake detailed technical, environmental and connectivity assessments before arriving at a final decision.

The location of the second airport is likely to have a significant bearing on Bengaluru’s future transport infrastructure and regional development. The government’s decision is also expected to take into account road and rail connectivity, land availability, aviation requirements and the operational impact on the existing airport. For now, however, Tumakuru has been ruled out of the state’s shortlisted locations.

Assembly proceedings stay disrupted for 4th day

BENGALURU

ASSEMBLY proceedings were disrupted for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday as the Opposition protested, demanding the removal of Minister B Nagendra over alleged embezzlement of funds from the state-run Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation.

As the session began, Opposition BJP and JD(S) members raised the issue and demanded that Nagendra be dropped from the Cabinet immediately. Opposition members were seen wearing black armbands as a mark of protest.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said, “We have been protesting against the loot of ST community money for the last four days. For Nagendra, the House has not been able to function. For one, Nagendra, the privilege of 224 members is being breached.”

Speaker G S Patil asked the Opposition to participate in the proceedings and seek answers from the government. Ashoka, however, maintained that the Opposition would participate in the discussions only after Nagendra’s removal.

“I have had enough discussions on charges and allegations against Nagendra in the past,” he said. He accused Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara of “misleading” the House on Wednesday by giving a clean chit to Nagendra, despite the minister having been named in several chargesheets.

Parameshwara had on

Oppn demands removal of Minister Nagendra



Wednesday defended Nagendra’s induction into the Cabinet and criticised the Opposition’s protests. “Siddaramaiah had earlier removed Nagendra from the Cabinet, while Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and the Congress high command made him a minister once again by taking money from him,” Ashoka alleged.

This led to heated exchanges between the Opposition and treasury benches, with some ruling Congress MLAs, including Pradeep Eshwar, engaging in counter-sloganeering. Amid the sloganeering, the Speaker conducted Question Hour, during which some Congress MLAs sought answers from ministers on their questions.

The Speaker then asked Ashoka to participate in a discussion on the drought situation. Ashoka replied, “What is there to discuss when the government has not yet declared a drought and has not released money

for relief?” As the Opposition continued sloganeering and demanding Nagendra’s removal despite repeated requests from the Speaker to participate in the debate on the drought situation, the House was adjourned for some time.

When the House resumed, the Opposition again raised slogans demanding Nagendra’s resignation. The Speaker repeatedly urged the members to allow the House to function and participate in the discussion.

Responding to this, Ashoka said the ball was in the ruling party’s court.

“Let the government first declare the state as drought-affected. After that, we will participate in the discussion,” he said.

Ashoka questioned why the ruling Congress wanted to retain Nagendra as minister despite the allegations and cases against him and suggested that another Dalit leader without such allega-

tions be appointed instead.

With the Opposition’s protests and sloganeering continuing, the Speaker adjourned the House for lunch.

When the House resumed after lunch, the Opposition continued its protest despite the Speaker’s requests to withdraw it and participate in discussions on issues, including drought. The Speaker proceeded with the consideration and passage of Bills.

Amid sloganeering and protests, three Bills—the Bangalore Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026—were passed by the House.

The Speaker then allowed Congress MLAs A S Ponnanna, Thammaiah and T D Rajegowda to raise issues for which they had given no-

tices, including the Centre’s reissuing of the draft notification on the Western Ghats eco-sensitive zone.

As chaos continued amid confrontation between the ruling and Opposition benches over discussions on other pressing issues, the Speaker adjourned the House for some time.

When the House resumed, the situation remained unchanged. Despite the sloganeering and disruptions, the Speaker allowed a few Congress MLAs to speak on the drought situation in the state.

He then took up calling attention notices, during which some Congress legislators sought replies from the government. No Opposition MLA participated in these proceedings.

As the protests by the BJP and JD(S) continued, the Speaker adjourned the House for the day.

Nagendra, who resigned from the previous Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet following allegations of embezzlement of funds from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation, was inducted into the Shivakumar-led Ministry on August 3. He is currently the Minister for Planning and Statistics.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested the Ballari MLA in connection with the Valmiki corporation scam in July 2024, and a special court in Bengaluru granted him bail in October that year.

Nagendra has been named in the charge sheets filed by the ED and CBI in connection with the case.

City’s longest 28-km elevated corridor to be taken up under BOOT model



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

BENGALURU is set to take a major step towards easing its traffic congestion with the proposed construction of the city’s longest elevated corridor. Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) has invited tenders for the 28-km elevated corridor connecting Yeshwanthpur (Matikere Cross) to Tin Factory Junction in KR Puram.

The elevated corridor, which is also planned as the city’s first tolled elevated road, will pass through key locations including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Mekhri Circle, Jayamahal Road, St. John’s Church Road and the Ulsoor Lake area. Officials expect the project to significantly reduce traffic congestion along these busy stretches. The project will be implemented under the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model at an estimated cost of Rs 3,536.89 crore. The government will provide 40 per cent of the project cost as Viability Gap

Funding (VGF). The successful bidder will be permitted to collect tolls from road users for 30 years after completing the project. B-SMILE Technical Director B.S. Prahlad said the increasing number of vehicles in the city has made it necessary to expand the road network and develop elevated corridors. He said the toll rates would be fixed in accordance with government notifications, keeping the interests of motorists in mind. Under the proposed model, the concessionaire will also be responsible for maintaining the quality of the elevated road, while motorists are expected to benefit from smoother and faster travel.

The 28-km corridor is among 11 major infrastructure projects planned to address Bengaluru’s traffic problems. B-SMILE is also expected to invite a tender soon for another 18.5-km tolled elevated corridor connecting Ragi Gudda Junction on Marenahalli Main Road with Talaghattapura Junction on Kanakapura Main Road.



MLA Parnika Reddy's birthday celebrated with welfare activities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NARAYANPET

SEVERAL welfare and service-oriented programmes were organised across Narayanpet district to mark the birthday of local MLA Chittam Parnika Reddy.

Special prayers were offered at the Shirdi Sai Temple in Sai Vijaya Colony and the Kalamma Devi Temple in Narayanpet town. Sports

kits were distributed to girl students at the KGBV School under the leadership of district RTA member Poshal Rajesh. Pens, books, school bags and first-aid kits were distributed to children at an orphanage in Narayanpet. At the ZPHS school in Jajapur village, fans were distributed and saplings were planted.

Shivakumar Reddy participated in several pro-

grammes held as part of the birthday celebrations. A cake-cutting ceremony was held at CVR Bhavan. A printer was donated to the KGBV school in Dhanwada and saplings were planted. At the ZPHS school in Gunmukla village, plates were distributed to students and a plantation drive was organised. Sarees were distributed to poor women in Eminonipally village.

Bhu Bharati will permanently resolve farmers' land issues, says Ponguleti

Its implementation will be referendum on our government's performance, he asserts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SATHUPALLI (KHAMMAM)

REVENUE Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Thursday said implementation of the State government's Bhu Bharati land legislation would serve as a referendum on its performance in the next elections.

Addressing a meeting of farmers on the sidelines of a land re-survey at Bethupalli revenue village in Sathupalli Assembly constituency, the Minister said the government was committed to providing permanent solutions to land-related problems and preventing irregularities in land records.

"The implementation of Bhu Bharati will be the referendum for our government's performance in the coming elections. We said this when the law was introduced and we stand by the same com-



mitment even today," he said.

He said the Bhu Bharati Act was aimed at providing a permanent solution to land-related problems of farmers and ensuring protection of genuine land rights.

The Minister said nearly 6,000 acres had already been re-surveyed in Bethupalli revenue village, which has a total extent of 12,047 acres.

He said the re-survey was being conducted using modern technology, with precise coordinates and maps being prepared for each land parcel. Farmers would be given 30 days to raise objections after completion of the survey and final rights would be recorded only after resolving the grievances.

Bhudhaar cards, similar to Aadhaar cards, would subsequently be issued to landholders, he said.

Reddy directed officials to protect access roads to agricultural fields and ensure that such roads were not recorded as private land. He also ordered protection of ponds by clearly demarcating their boundaries and taking necessary measures to pre-

vent encroachments.

The government has selected 70 villages in each district in the first phase of the re-survey and aims to complete the survey of agricultural and abadi properties across Telangana within the next 18 months, he said.

The minister warned of strict action against attempts to illegally regularise 22-A lands and said the government would not permit land grabbers to use poor people as a front to regularise illegally acquired properties.

Reddy said land was an emotional issue for farmers and not a political one, adding that protecting the interests of genuine farmers was the government's responsibility. District Collector Divakara TS said the revenue machinery would work at the field level to examine and resolve land-related grievances in accordance with rules.



Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy along with Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy garlanding former Prime Minister Rajiva Gandhi's statue on his birth anniversary in Nalgonda on Saturday

Congress cracks whip on leaders defying party line

TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud says notices issued over controversial remarks; candidate selection rests with central leadership

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday warned that strict disciplinary action would be taken against anyone crossing the party line. Addressing the media, he said the remarks made by Konda Susmitha against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy had caused concern within the party. A show-cause notice was issued to Minister KondaSurekha, seeking an



explanation, while clarification was also sought from senior leader Chinna Reddy over his recent comments.

On the Parkal constituency issue, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Congress central leadership, Central

Election Committee and CWC alone have the authority to select candidates. He dismissed claims of internal groups such as "Green Congress", asserting that every member belongs only to the Congress party.

Colonel gives inspirational address to students at JPNCE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

EVERY youngster should aspire to rise from Palamuru to the national level, said renowned Army officer Col. V. Suresh Goud. He emphasised that the right mindset, discipline, determination and consistent hard work can help anyone achieve his goals. He was speaking to students at the "From Palamuru to National Level" programme organised at Jayaprakash Narayan College of Engineering (JPNCE), where he shared his life journey, challenges, important decisions and achievements.

Col. Suresh Goud urged students not to wait for opportunities but to create them. He advised them to as-



pire beyond seeking jobs and strive to become job creators. He encouraged students to closely analyse global developments and make use of emerging opportunities in technology, startups, entrepreneurship and innovation. He said reading, physical fitness, self-confidence and a positive attitude are essential for success.

Stressing that the future of the country lies in the hands of its youth, he called upon students to develop the spirit of asking, "What can we do for our country?" He also explained various opportunities available in the defence sector and wished for greater enthusiasm, determination and patriotism among the youth of Palamuru.

Collector stresses quality education and better facilities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANCHERIAL

DISTRICT Collector Kumar Deepak on Thursday said the government was taking special measures to strengthen the education system and improve facilities in government schools. During his visit to Kasipet mandal, he inspected the construction of additional classrooms and a dining hall at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and directed officials to expedite the works. He stressed quality education, regu-



lar student attendance, timely nutrition and proper health care. The Collector also inspected development works in Pallanguda village, including the Gram Panchayat office, VO buildings, Indiramma houses, school, Angan-

wadi centre and health facilities. He later visited the Tribal Boys' Ashram High School at Rekulaguda and instructed officials to improve infrastructure, increase student enrolment and ensure better educational facilities.

VAI launches Telangana Chapter to strengthen veterinary welfare

New state chapter to unite veterinary professionals and promote scientific knowledge, animal welfare and professional development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

THE Veterinary Association of India (VAI) has announced the formation of its Telangana State Chapter (VAI-TG), bringing veterinarians, academicians, scientists, administrators, pet practitioners and students onto a common platform. The

chapter will work to strengthen the veterinary profession, promote animal welfare, encourage knowledge exchange and organise scientific and professional programmes across Telangana. Retired IAS officer Dr M.V. Reddy has been appointed State President, with Dr Suresh Potluri as Associate President. Prof. (Dr) M. Kishan Kumar



and Dr K. Simha Rao will serve as Vice-Presidents. Prof. (Dr) D. Sakarama has been named Treasurer and Dr Pulikanti Radhakrishna Secretary.

The chapter also includes an executive committee, advisory council and expert panel, along with dedicated forums for field veterinarians and pet practitioners. VAI expressed confidence that the new chapter would contribute significantly to professional growth and animal welfare in Telangana.

Grandparents carnival celebrates wisdom and family values

Alphores E-Techno School hosts lively event with games, activities and messages on intergenerational learning

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

A colourful Grandparents Carnival was organised at Alphores E-Techno School in Kothapalli, bringing together grandparents, students, parents and teachers. Dr. V. Narender Reddy, Chairman of Alphores Edu-

cational Institutions, attended the inaugural programme as chief guest. He offered prayers at the Goddess Saraswati idol and inaugurated the carnival by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Narender Reddy highlighted the valuable experience and wisdom of grand-

parents. He urged students to learn family values, life lessons and ways of handling challenges from their elders. He also encouraged them to consider their grandparents as role models and follow their advice to achieve excellence.

The carnival featured several games and recreational

activities, in which grandparents participated enthusiastically.

The grandparents appreciated the initiative and congratulated Dr. Narender Reddy for organising innovative programmes. The school principal, teachers, parents and students attended the event.



Errabelli leads 10 km protest walk over irrigation crisis

- Former Minister demands immediate release of irrigation water
- A scuffle breaks out during his arrest at Singarajupalli, leaving the former minister with a head injury
- Farmer Kunsothu Venkanna breaks down after his four-acre crop dries up despite drilling 16 borewells

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

FORMER minister and BRS leader Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Thursday led a 10-km walk along a canal in Jangaon district, demanding immediate release of irrigation water to farmers in Devarupula and Kodakandla mandals.

The walk began at Dhara-



vat Thanda and concluded at Banjara village, where Errabelli inspected dried paddy fields and interacted with farmers. He later staged a dharna at Singarajupalli, alleging that despite sufficient water in the Devadula reservoir, canals remained dry.

Questioning claims that 57,000 acres had received irrigation water, Errabelli asked the government to explain where the water had gone. During an attempt to arrest him, a scuffle broke out between BRS workers and police, in which Errabelli sustained a head injury. He continued the protest before being taken into custody. Farmer Kunsothu Venkanna broke down, saying his four-acre crop had dried up despite drilling 16 borewells without finding water. Errabelli demanded Rs 30,000 per acre as compensation and vowed to continue the agitation until farmers receive relief and irrigation water.

Council passes 10 Bills amid YSRCP uproar

- Oppn seeks debate on Mega DSC, sports quota
- Chairman adjourns House twice as YSRCP members stage protest
- Bills on municipal laws, higher education and ease of doing business cleared

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

AMID an uproar and protest by the Opposition YSRCP, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council on Thursday passed 10 key Bills, including amendments to municipal laws, higher education regulations and measures aimed at promoting ease of doing business.

The Bills, which had already been passed by the Assembly, were taken up by the Council on the last day of its monsoon session and were passed unanimously without opposition. As many



as 10 Ministers attended the Council proceedings on the final day of the session.

The proceedings began at 10 am on a stormy note, with YSRCP members led by Leader of the Opposition Botcha Satyanarayana entering the House wearing scarves around their necks. YSRCP members Varudu Kalyani, Ramesh Yadav and Isak Basha submitted an adjournment motion seeking a discussion on the Mega DSC-2025 issue and implementation of the sports quota. Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju rejected the motion.

The Opposition members rushed into the well and

raised slogans demanding a discussion on the Mega DSC issue and the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. They later moved towards the podium and continued their protest.

Despite the pandemonium, the Chairman continued the Question Hour and other listed business. Ministers replied to five questions raised by members, while papers received from the Legislative Assembly were also laid before the House.

As the protests continued, the Chairman adjourned the House for 10 minutes at 10.21 am. When it reconvened at 11.45 am, YSRCP members resumed their agi-

tation.

Meanwhile, the Chairman administered the oath to the newly nominated MLC under the Governor's quota, Vadde Dalavayi Rama Devi. With the Opposition continuing its protest, the Chairman adjourned the House for a second time at 11.50 am.

Even after the House was adjourned, the YSRCP members continued their agitation by sitting on the floor of the well, demanding a discussion on Mega DSC-2025, implementation of the sports quota and the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh.

The Council resumed at 12.44 pm, after which the Chairman asked Ministers to introduce the 10 Bills passed by the Assembly. The Council passed the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Third Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana. It also passed the Andhra Pradesh Public

Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh State Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Andhra Pradesh Skills Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2026, introduced by HRD minister Nara Lokesh.

The Council further passed the Andhra Pradesh Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Bill, 2026, introduced by Law and Justice and Minority Welfare Minister NMD Farooq.

The other two Bills were the Andhra Pradesh Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 2026. After completing the listed business, Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju adjourned the Council sine die.

Health centres' buildings on fast-track, says Satya Kumar

- Only 57 doctor posts vacant in PHCs; 1,143 centres already in own buildings
- 4,500 village health centre buildings under construction; 41 tests offered through Sanjeevani Digital Health

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh is accelerating construction of dedicated buildings for Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Urban PHCs and Village Health Clinics to strengthen primary healthcare, health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav told the Assembly on Thursday.

He said 1,143 of the state's 1,231 PHCs are already functioning from their own buildings. Of 88 newly sanctioned buildings, 13 have been completed. Of 140 dilapidated PHCs identified for replacement, 118 have been rebuilt and 22 are under construction. Another 948 PHC infrastructure projects have been completed, while 100 more buildings are proposed with 15th Finance Commission funds.

Of 43 buildings being constructed through the Roads and Buildings Department, 14 are complete and 29 are under construction. Another 57 are at the tender stage.

The minister said more than 600 appointments had been made in PHCs over the past two years. Only 57 doctor posts remain vacant, and these would be filled soon.

Of the 560 Urban Primary Health Centres, 175 are functioning from government buildings. The government has sanctioned buildings for the remaining 385 centres. Of these,



327 have been completed and handed over, while 55 are under construction. Three cases are pending in court. With this, 502 UPHCs have dedicated buildings, while 55 continue to function from rented premises.

Satya Kumar said the previous government had built only 3,105 dedicated buildings for Village Health Clinics, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Health and Wellness Centres under schemes including the 15th Finance Commission, NHM and PM-ABHIM.

Since the coalition government took office, construction of more than 4,500 buildings has been taken up with Central support. The Panchayat Raj Department is executing the works. He said Community Health Officers would also be recruited wherever required.

The minister said the government had launched Sanjeevani Digital Health to provide patient-centric services. The platform will facilitate 41 types of tests at patients' doorsteps, along with health profiling, follow-up care, appointments, medicines and digital health records.

URBAN INFRA UPGRADE GETS Rs 7,469 cr BOOST

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government has sanctioned Rs 7,469.46 crore for an urban infrastructure programme covering roads, drainage, parks, street lighting and central medians across the state's 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

The sanction includes Rs 5,500 crore for capital works and Rs 1,969.46 crore towards interest over 10 years under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). The latest programme is aimed primarily at closing the state's remaining 4,388-km urban road gap.

The road works will be taken up along with drainage and other civic infrastructure rather than as standalone projects.

The government said the wider urban infrastructure pipeline now stands at about Rs 40,743.67 crore across 123 ULBs. Of this, 514 projects worth Rs 15,274.21 crore are under implementation through

- Rs 5,500 cr earmarked for roads, drainage, parks, streetlights and medians across 123 ULBs
- Programme targets the remaining 4,388-km urban road gap through integrated civic works

AMRUT 2.0, AIIB and UIDF, while another Rs 25,469.46 crore is being taken up through UIDF, the Urban Challenge Fund and HAM.

The programme excludes nearly Rs 80,000 crore of infrastructure projects under implementation in the CRDA region, officials said.

Of the Rs 5,500 crore capital component, Rs 4,655.82 crore will go towards roads with drains, Rs 509.12 crore for parks, Rs 247.28 crore for street lighting and Rs 87.78 crore for central medians.

The state has assessed its urban road network at 25,626 km. Of this, 21,238

km, or 82.9 per cent, has already been improved, leaving 4,388 km for the latest intervention. Detailed project reports cover 4,388 km of roads, 541 parks, 20,340 street-lighting points and 1,186.56 km of central medians.

Under the financing model, Rs 2,200 crore will be provided upfront through LRS/BPS funds, while the concessionaire will finance Rs 3,300 crore. The latter will be repaid over 10 years in 40 quarterly instalments through an escrow mechanism linked to identified urban revenues. The concessionaire will also maintain the assets for 10 years.

The government has prepared Gap Assessment Reports and Infrastructure Investment Plans for all 123 ULBs, identifying requirements up to 2029. The assessment found gaps of 724 MLD in water-treatment capacity, 9,608 km in water-distribution networks, 1,443 MLD in



sewage treatment, 19,081 km in underground drainage, 23,612 km in storm-water drainage and 4,388 km in roads.

Minister P Narayana said the government was moving away from piecemeal works towards integrated urban planning. "Roads cannot be planned separately from drainage, drinking water, sanitation, lighting and public spaces," he said.

Principal secretary S Suresh Kumar said the urban programme also includes a major push on greenery and sanitation. Officials said 58 new parks have been developed and 110 existing parks refurbished, with another 45 under development. About 4.43 lakh saplings have been planted along

2,165 km of urban roads under the Harithandhra programme.

The government is also expanding scientific waste processing. Work orders have been issued for 108 integrated solid-waste facilities with a combined capacity of 5,385 tonnes a day.

Eight facilities were inaugurated in July, with 66 targeted to become operational by October. Four Waste-to-Energy projects are under implementation at Kakinada, Kadapa, Kurnool and Nellore. Six Compressed Bio-Gas plants are also being developed. Officials said 143 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste has been cleared against an estimated 157 lakh tonnes.

Kapu Corpn benefits 51.56 lakh in two years

- BC and EWS welfare Minister Savitha informs Council that alliance govt spent Rs 11,285.72 cr on Kapu welfare in two years
- Over 21.37 lakh people benefited from schemes in 2026-27 so far

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE alliance government has benefited 51,56,172 people through various schemes of the Kapu Corporation, spending Rs 11,285.72 crore during its first two years in office, BC, EWS welfare, handlooms and textiles minister S Savitha said. The minister gave this information in the Legislative Council on Thursday in response to a question raised by MLC Thota Trimurthulu on the funds allocated to the Kapu



Corporation and the number of beneficiaries since the alliance government came to power.

Savitha said a chairperson had been appointed to the Kapu Corporation and funds were being allocated every year for the development of the Kapu community. She also detailed the expenditure under different budgets.

In 2024-25, the govern-

ment allocated Rs 4,646.99 crore and spent Rs 4,440.25 crore, benefiting 9,55,144 people. In 2025-26, Rs 4,924.28 crore was allocated, of which Rs 4,360.28 crore was spent, benefiting 20,63,907 people. For 2026-27, Rs 5,012.10 crore was allocated. So far, Rs 2,485.19 crore has been spent, benefiting 21,37,121 people, the minister said.

Pawan signals bigger Jana Sena share in local polls

- Party cadre seek larger political space after 2024 alliance sacrifices
- Seat-sharing proposals to be discussed with TDP and BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

JANA Sena Party (JSP) chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has signalled that his party will seek a significantly larger share of seats in the forthcoming urban local body elections, responding to growing demands from the cadre for greater political space within the NDA alliance. At a meeting of the Jana Sena legislative wing on Assembly premises on Thursday, Pawan Kalyan discussed the party's performance during the recent Assembly session before turning to preparations for the municipal and municipal corporation elections.

Party MLAs and MLCs conveyed the strong sentiment among Jana Sainiks that the party should contest substantially more seats this time. During the 2024 elections, Jana Sena contested only 21



Assembly and two Lok Sabha seats as part of the NDA alliance, making what Pawan has repeatedly described as strategic sacrifices to defeat the then YSRCP government. The cadre now want that contribution to be reflected in the distribution of local body seats. Pawan acknowledged the sentiments of the party workers and indicated that Jana Sena would prepare an action plan to field candidates in a significant number of seats. He said the party would move forward while preserving the self-respect and fighting spirit of its cadre. Pawan later shared the details of the meeting on X, saying the party was preparing to contest a larger number of seats. The exact number or

percentage of seats Jana Sena will seek has not yet been finalised. Preliminary discussions on the party's demands were held during the legislative wing meeting.

The final allocation will be decided only after consultations with the NDA alliance partners. Jana Sena will now formulate its proposals for negotiations with the BJP and TDP. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, BJP State president PVN Madhav and Pawan Kalyan are expected to hold discussions soon to finalise the seat-sharing formula. The local body elections are set to provide the first major test of the NDA's internal seat-sharing balance after the alliance came to power in the State.

Jagan dares Naidu to order CBI probe into DSC, Group-I exams

- Says he is ready for Group-I scrutiny if government agrees to probe DSC 2025
- Alleges DSC question-paper leak, sports-quota manipulation; seeks Lokesh's resignation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday challenged Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to order a CBI inquiry into both the alleged irregularities in DSC-2025 and the APPSC Group-I examinations, turning the recruitment controversy into a direct political confrontation.

Addressing the media at party central office, Jagan said YSRCP was prepared to face a probe into the Group-I examinations but asked whether the Chandrababu Naidu government was equally willing to subject the DSC-2025 recruitment process to a CBI investigation.

He rejected the allegations against the APPSC Group-I examination conducted during the previous government, saying the 2018 recruitment process was conducted transparently and in accordance with court directions.

Jagan alleged that the DSC-2025 process was questionable from question-paper setting to recruitment. He claimed the same institution was entrusted with setting and conducting the examination, creating scope for leakage and manipulation. He cited the case of outsourcing employee Naveen, alleging that he gained access to the question paper and topped the merit list. Jagan said Naveen's name was subsequently removed from the second merit list, after which he approached the court. Jagan also alleged irregularities in recruitment under the sports quota. He claimed the government issued two G.O.s exempting job aspirants from taking the DSC examination, followed by two more G.O.s withdraw-



ing those concessions after the favoured candidates had been accommodated.

According to Jagan, 372 people were recruited under the process. He questioned the government's defence that the same benefit extended to others because badminton player P V Sindhu had been given a government job.

He claimed none of the 372 recruits had participated in international tournaments, while an archer who won a gold medal at the

preliminary Group-I examination was conducted when Chandrababu Naidu was Chief Minister, while the YSRCP government conducted the final examination for candidates who had cleared the preliminary stage. Jagan said the allegations had put the future of 163 candidates selected for senior government positions at risk. He defended the evaluation process, saying digital evaluation was initially planned because of the Covid situation but was switched to manual evaluation following court directions. According to Jagan, the answer scripts were evaluated under CCTV surveillance at APPSC offices and educational institutions. He said the papers were shuffled and bar-coded, preventing evaluators from identifying candidates.

The YSRCP chief demanded that the proposed CBI inquiry be expanded to cover both the Group-I examinations and DSC-2025, saying an independent investigation was necessary to establish the facts.

Tech should empower retail investors to avoid risks

TECHNOLOGY has brought in a paradigm shift in the investors' behaviour in recent years. India has seen a surge in number of participants investing in equities. As per latest available data, the country has more than 21 crore demat accounts by the end of December, 2025. Though multiple demat accounts are being held by individual investor, still the number is higher as compared to a decade back. And such surge in demat account has been possible due to faster and easier demat account opening process.

The whole process has now been undertaken through technology-powered solutions. From eKYC to digital onboarding, now a person can complete the whole process without a physical visit to any financial institution. In addition,

fintech startups like Zerodha and Groww have made stock investment extremely easier. The advent of discount brokerage firms has literally moved stock investment into the palms of investors.

Now, crores of investors invest in equities through the mobile apps of brokerage firms. While technology has created a culture of equity investing, it has also prompted lakhs of retail investors to do risky trading. A cursory look at these statistics will make this amply clear. In last financial year (FY26), losses incurred by retail investors in India's equity derivatives market stood at Rs 91,685 crore (around \$9.61 billion). Though it was a decline of around 18 per cent year-on-year basis, close to \$10 billion loss is not a small amount in any measure. These losses could have been

gainfully employed elsewhere by retail investors, which would have helped country's economic growth. In earlier years, losses were higher as compared to FY26.

After the market regulator, Sebi introduced various new norms, discouraging retail investors to trade in future & options (F&O), losses have declined in FY26. And technology-powered trading apps is one of the major factors behind such surge in derivative trading by retail investors.

In future and options trading, which is considered as one of the risky trading instruments in the equities; retail investors are competing against large institutional investors like big banks, NBFCs, pension funds and others. These institutional investors not only have better information sources,

but also are powered by cutting-edge technology tools. For instance, algo trading is a widely known practice by institutional investors, where the computer programme automates the trade based on the parameters given. Here, trades are executed in fraction of seconds. Compare this with the kind of trading undertaken by retail investors. This puts retail investors at a distinct disadvantage. With the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), the speed and accuracy of trades undertaken by institutional investors have increased manifold. So, though technology-powered brokerage firms' apps enable a retail trader to execute a trade, it can't possibly match with an AI-powered platform used by a big investor. Moreover, AI has increased the chances of market

manipulation. For instance, AI can help in creating misleading information about a company or stock or on overall market, which can then be posted in social media platforms. Market manipulators then try to amplify the reach of such posts to trap the retail investors. So, risks have aggravated after the advent of AI-kind of new age technology.

It can be said that technology has emerged as both a boon and a bane for Indian retail investors. In this contest, it will be better if technology can be leveraged to make well-informed decisions about a stock, do research about the market, and undertake hassle free investment than to dabble in risky derivative trade or to get trapped through technology-driven market manipulation tactics.

LETTERS

'Blanket clemency' for CJP

THIS is further to your editorial 'Govt should pronto drop cases against Jantar Mantar protestors'. There are no two views about genuine student protesters at Jantar Mantar who were involved in violent rioting with the police be granted one time pardon, and the police cases against them be quashed. But, there must be genuine remorse on their part, not to repeat the act in future protests, hoping for a similar reprieve. The CJP agitation, if enacted solely on the strength of students, without any out side anti-social elements being part of it would have been a success; in which the general public too would have extended their spontaneous support. But, needless shortcut methods were adopted involving ruffians with criminal elements to be part of the movement in order to intimidate the police. The acts of such characters were amply evident on the ground when the policemen were attacked and the vehicles vandalised. The blanket clemency on accused in the Jantar Mantar incident will further embolden the students who are on a warpath. The government must be tough on those elements involved in the crime; but be considerate of students, whose careers are at stake if a police complaint is filed against them.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

RSS members in NCERT panel

WHILE the din over irregularities in the conduct of national examinations, particularly NEET by the National Testing Agency (NTA), and the student protests that followed may be dying down, another matter of serious concern has emerged. It is reported that the NCERT has reconstituted the Textbook Development Team for Classes 11 and 12 Political Science, with at least four members having direct or indirect links with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). There have long been allegations that some CBSE textbooks reflect RSS ideology, distort history, and glorify Hindutva figures who had little or no role in India's Freedom struggle. The new panel is reportedly tasked with reviewing textbooks and integrating themes such as cultural rootedness and Indian Knowledge Systems. Given the availability of eminent scholars and academics in education and political science, why were individuals reportedly associated with the RSS chosen for such an important task? One cannot help wondering whether this is part of a deliberate attempt to reshape the political narrative presented to future generations.

Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

TN CM should act fast on DMK 'misrule'

THE Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay said he had evidence of corruption in the previous DMK Government, and would reveal it when necessary. The people of State have every right to clear the cloud by the CM since the matter is concerning much and involves public money. The Chief Minister has sworn an oath to faithfully and conscientiously discharge his duties and to do right to all people in accordance with the Constitution and the law, without fear or favour. If he possesses credible evidence of corruption committed under the previous government, does that constitutional oath permit him to simply keep the evidence "on his table" and wait indefinitely for a politically convenient time? The oath may not require him to disclose every piece of evidence publicly before due process. But it surely requires him to act upon credible evidence through the lawful constitutional and investigative mechanisms available to the State. Otherwise, allegations of corruption risk being reduced to political rhetoric while potential offences involving public money remain uninvestigated. If the evidence exists, let the appropriate authority investigate it, let those responsible answer it, and let the law take its course.

A P Thiruvadi, Chennai

T N largesse could be contagious

PROPOS, "A car, driver and Rs 1L allowance: TN MLAs' windfall from CM Vijay," (THI, Aug 20). The reported decision of the Vijay-led TVK government to provide cars, ₹75,000 monthly allowance to each of Tamil Nadu's 234 MLAs, and another ₹25,000 for an assistant deserves strong public criticism. Such a generous package raises serious questions about priorities and financial responsibility. At a time when citizens demand better roads, healthcare, education, jobs and basic services, public money should not be spent on expanding political privileges. Elected representatives enter public life to serve people, not to treat politics as a source of comfort and personal benefits. Moreover, such concessions could set a dangerous precedent, with legislators in other States demanding similar facilities. Governments must promote austerity, accountability and responsible spending.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Viral video puts woman police officer in spotlight

BENGALURU: A video allegedly showing a woman police officer engaging in an inappropriate conversation with a jailed inmate through a WhatsApp video call has gone viral on social media, triggering controversy within the police department. The officer featured in the video has now approached the Cubbon Park police, alleging that the footage was recorded and circulated without her consent.

According to the complaint, the officer had been acquainted with a rowdy-sheeter identified as Dharma several years ago. She allegedly spoke to him through a video call, during which he recorded the conversation. The officer has alleged that Dharma subsequently shared the recording with another rowdy-sheeter, Saikumar, who circulated it on social media.

The officer has sought action against Dharma, Saikumar and others allegedly involved in making the video public. She has claimed that the circulation of the footage has damaged her reputation and caused considerable embarrassment. In her complaint, the officer stated that she was working as an officer in charge of security at a Metro station. She also referred to her family and social standing while seeking legal action against those responsible for circulating the video.

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

Mitigating adverse impacts of Artificial Intelligence



DR P SUBRAMANYACHARY

THE AI for Good Global Commission is a high-level international commission established with the support of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was officially launched during the AI for Good event held in July 2026. The Commission comprises 44 founding commissioners and members, including heads of state, chief executive officers (CEOs) of leading global companies, technology experts, and representatives of international organizations.

The Commission is co-chaired by Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and Marc Benioff, Chairman and CEO of Salesforce. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), serves as the Vice-Chair. From India, Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, and Lakshmi N. Mittal have been appointed as founding members of the Commission.

The inaugural meeting of the AI for Good Global Commission was held on July 8 in Geneva, Switzerland. Although the Commission's first meeting took place on that day, it formed part of the broader AI for Good Global Summit 2026, which was held from July 7-10. The four-day summit featured more than 300 sessions, including conferences, exhibitions, training workshops, demonstrations, and high-level discussions.

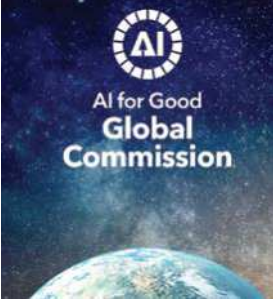
The deliberations focused primarily on AI governance, technological innovation, and

the role of artificial intelligence in achieving sustainable development, along with strategies to maximize AI's benefits while mitigating its potential risks and adverse impacts.

More than 40 founding commissioners participated in the inaugural meeting of the AI for Good Global Commission. During the meeting, the Commission adopted several key resolutions. Among the most significant were strengthening trustworthy and ethical AI governance and expanding global access to artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. The Commission also resolved to promote international collaboration among governments, industries, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations.

It emphasized the effective use of AI to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, climate change, and agriculture. Another key priority identified by the Commission was reducing the digital divide by investing in digital infrastructure, skill development, and capacity building.

In addition, the Commission reaffirmed that the development of human-centric artificial intelligence that safeguards human rights, promotes inclusiveness, and enhances public welfare is of paramount importance. It further emphasized that its primary objective is to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared equitably by all countries and all sections of society. However, the AI for Good Global Commission is not a regulatory body. Rather, it serves primarily as an advisory and coordinating platform. Consequently, for its recommendations to have a meaningful and lasting impact, they must be adopted and implemented by national governments and other relevant institutions around the world.



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AI: Impact on employment and sustainable development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is bringing about significant transformations in the global economy. Its impact is particularly evident in the areas of employment and sustainable development. According to the Future of Jobs Report 2025 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), AI and other emerging technologies are expected to create approximately 170 million new jobs worldwide by 2030.

At the same time, around 92 million jobs are projected to disappear, leading to major changes in the global labour market. Routine and repetitive tasks in sectors such as manufacturing, customer service, administration, and data processing are particularly vulnerable to auto-

mation. As a result, millions of workers will need to undergo re-skilling and upskilling to adapt to the changing nature of work. According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), nearly one-quarter (25%) of global employment is likely to be affected by generative AI.

Clerical and administrative occupations, in particular, are expected to experience the greatest impact due to the increasing automation of routine office tasks. If the benefits of AI are concentrated primarily among highly skilled workers and technology-driven enterprises, there is a significant risk that income inequality will widen further.

Therefore, governments, industries, and educational institutions must work together to ensure that the gains from AI are distributed more equitably through inclusive policies, workforce development, and access to digital skills.

From the perspective of sustainable development, AI systems require large-scale data centres that consume substantial amounts of electricity and water for their operation and maintenance. If these facilities are not powered by renewable or clean energy sources, they can place additional pressure on the environment and contribute to higher carbon emissions.

Developing countries may also face significant challenges due to limited digital infrastructure and a shortage of AI-related skills, increasing the risk of falling behind in the global digital economy. This could further widen the technological and digital divide between developed and developing nations. At the same time, the responsible and ethical use of AI offers immense opportunities.

AI can improve energy efficiency, enable more accurate climate change forecasting, enhance the accessibility and quality of healthcare services, and increase agricultural productiv-

ity through precision farming and data-driven decision-making.

Therefore, it is essential to implement effective AI governance, strengthen quality education, promote skill development, and invest in reskilling and upskilling initiatives. These measures are crucial to ensuring that the benefits of AI are inclusive, sustainable, and contribute positively to long-term economic and social development.

Significance of AI for Good Global Commission for India

The AI for Good Global Commission is of great significance to India. It supports the development of responsible and ethical artificial intelligence, promotes digital inclusion, and helps the country effectively address the economic and social challenges arising from the rapid adoption of AI.

India's AI ecosystem is expanding rapidly. Recognizing its strategic importance, the Government of India approved the IndiaAI Mission in 2024 with a budget of ₹10,371.92 crore. The mission aims to strengthen AI infrastructure, skill development, innovation, and research, thereby positioning India as a global leader in artificial intelligence. AI has the potential to deliver substantial benefits across several key sectors in India, including healthcare, agriculture, education, disaster management, and public service delivery.

In particular, the Commission can support India by: Promoting ethical and trustworthy AI standards, strengthening international cooperation on AI governance and innovation, enhancing cybersecurity and digital resilience and facilitating access to global best practices in AI development and regulation.

Furthermore, the Commission can help developing countries, including India, bridge the digital divide by encouraging equitable access

Why Lenin still remains relevant in modern times



ANJANI KUMAR

WHEN a special show was organised for screening of the new super hit movie of Akkineni Akhil – Lenin – at a private theatre, there was much excitement in the air. A select few were invited to watch the movie. It was an elite gathering of Hyderabad. The Akkinenis played a perfect host.

As the movie started, it was clear that the genes of the legendary Nageswara Rao and the ever-green Nagarjuna was speaking loudly in the outstanding performance of this young hero. The maturity of Akhil's acting skill and his successful effort to live in the role of a rural young man was

appreciated by all. Akhil has graduated from a hero to a fine artist now.

As violence depicted the prevailing mood of the Indian filmdom, earlier epitomised by Dhurandhar, one wonders if cinema represents the thought process of the contemporary society. If it does, then we need to do introspection about our society. The chat with Amla on the subject of violence in society and its impact on movies was interesting. Bhagyashri and Akhil together sparked a good on screen chemistry.

As we watched the movie, something which struck me was the title of the movie – Lenin. Man searches deep meaning in everything. During the interval while conversing with Akhil and Amla (whom age refuses to touch) the title Lenin was discussed. This part of the country has fascination with this name as there are many Lenin Babus here.

It was understandable in the decades of our independence and thereafter, when young



So far as the inequality in any society looms large, so far as few control the vast wealth of the nation depriving the majority to struggle for daily bread and butter, Lenin would remain relevant

boys were named after global leaders like Gandhi, Lenin, Stalin, Bose, Nehru, Patel, and other icons of those periods. But now in the third decade of the 21st century choosing Lenin as title of a movie has perhaps a special significance.

When the name Lenin appeals to us even after 100 years of Vladimir Lenin's death, it conveys many meanings. The irony of history is that Lenin and Mahatma Gandhi were contemporaries. Lenin brought the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, and Gandhi came to India from South Africa in 1915 after spending 21 years there. Both giants in their own way in liberating their respective countries from the then existing decadent systems.

Russia under the Tsar had

stagnated as a country and as a civilization. India under the British exploitative rule had transformed itself from being the richest country in the world to one of the poorest country in just 200 years. Inequality was the hallmark of both the countries when Lenin and Gandhi took the reins of leadership.

The closest Gandhi came to Russia was through Leo Tolstoy in whose name he had developed a farm in South Africa. Tolstoy's quote: "There is only one thing in this world which is worth dedicating all your life is creating more love and breaking barriers between people" impacted Gandhi all throughout.

Lenin and Gandhi with their diametrically opposite pathways of Ahimsa versus

the Communist violent revolution, brought an end to an exploitative system. India and Russia threw away their respective existing yokes. The Tsarist Russia and the British India primarily represented an unequal society where the few were exploiting the toiling masses. Lenin like Gandhi had kindled a ray of hope with an underlining principle of equality.

When Lenin carried forward the slogan "workers of the world, unite", it was a global message for unity and struggle against oppression and inequality. Has this slogan lost its relevance now? The Gen Z have to find an answer to this.

While Gandhi remains father of our nation, Russia threw away the communist path in the early 1990s. Gandhi too is facing difficulties as many scholars of WhatsApp University find it fashionable to criticise the Mahatma before whom the world leaders still bow with utmost reverence. India still has to discover a better export than Gandhi.

The misdeeds and purges

of Stalinist regime, and the failure of Soviet economy to modernise could not be attributed to Lenin. USSR failed as a State not because of the concept of Lenin but because of the application of a faulty state repressive policy. So far as the inequality in any society looms large, so far as the few controls the vast wealth of the nation, depriving the majority to struggle for daily bread and butter, Lenin would remain relevant.

These names would keep lurking in our minds and would compel the State for a real socialistic pattern of governance and society. It would yearn us to go beyond token doles but a systemic reform within a time bound limits. Giants like Lenin and Gandhi would remain icons of selfless service and inspiring leadership. Such title of a super hit movie reminds us of the harsh realities of economic disparity and an urgent need to address the issue.

(The author is a former Director General of Police, Telangana.)

AP ranks fifth nationally in crop insurance enrolment

- Anantapur, Kurnool and Sri Sathya Sai lead State in insured area
- Paddy insurance deadline extended to Aug 31
- Agriculture dept targets 100% coverage of cultivated area

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ANANTAPUR, Kurnool and Sri Sathya Sai districts have emerged as the top three districts in the state in terms of area covered under crop insurance during Kharif 2026, even as the State government extended the deadline for paddy crop insurance enrolment to August 31.

Director of agriculture Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon appealed to all paddy farmers to utilise the extended deadline and ensure 100% insurance coverage. The extension was proactively sought by the State government and received a positive response from the Centre in the interest of farmers.

He said Andhra Pradesh has secured fifth position nationally in terms of crop insurance enrolment, reflecting the improved response from farmers this year. He noted that both the number of applications and the area covered under



crop insurance schemes had increased substantially compared with the previous year. According to the latest data as of 2 pm on Thursday, a total of 16.15 lakh hectares has been covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) across the State.

Anantapur tops the list with 3,66,802 hectares, comprising 2,03,062 hectares under PMFBY and 1,63,740 hectares under RWBCIS. Kurnool stands second with 3,31,059 hectares, including 1,70,263 hectares under PMFBY and 1,60,796 hectares under RWBCIS. Sri Sathya Sai is third with 2,31,082 hectares, of which 58,845 hectares is under PMFBY and 1,72,237 hectares under RWBCIS. Among other districts, Nandyal recorded 99,702 hectares, followed

by Prakasam with 84,544 hectares and YSR district with 83,548 hectares. Srikakulam covered 74,123 hectares, while Palnadu and Vizianagaram recorded 56,018 and 32,805 hectares respectively.

In the coastal belt, West Godavari recorded 32,533 hectares, Krishna 29,078 hectares and NTR district 28,324 hectares. Anakapalli covered 35,411 hectares, while Annamayya recorded 21,309 hectares.

Agriculture director Dr Samoon said relatively lower coverage was recorded in districts such as Kakinada (17,261 hectares), Guntur (9,736), Eluru (9,355), Bapatla (9,320), East Godavari (9,032), Vizianagaram (32,805), Manyam (7,686), Chittoor (4,726), ASR (4,602), Tirupati (3,990) and SPSR Nellore (908). Visakhapatnam recorded the lowest coverage at 700

Atchanna urges farmers to enrol in crop insurance before month-end

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu has urged farmers to enrol in the crop insurance scheme before the month-end deadline, cautioning that El Nino could lead to rainfall deficits and erratic weather, increasing the risk of crop losses.

Speaking in the Assembly, the minister said unpredictable weather conditions made crop insurance an essential financial safeguard against natural calamities and inadequate rainfall. He appealed to farmers not to wait until the last day to complete registration.

Atchannaidu said farmers bear only a small portion of the insurance premium, with the amount varying according to the crop and region. The Centre and State governments bear the remaining premium burden, he said, urging farmers to make use of the scheme by paying the



nominal premium.

The minister called on MLAs to take personal responsibility for increasing insurance coverage in their constituencies rather than leaving the task entirely to the agriculture department.

He asked legislators to convene meetings with farmers and coordinate with agriculture department officials and staff at Rythu Seva Kendralu to ensure that all eligible farmers are enrolled.

With the registration window closing at the end of August, Atchannaidu stressed that farmers should act immediately and secure insurance protection against possible crop losses caused by adverse weather.

hectares, he added.

Dr Samoon directed agriculture department field staff to intensify awareness campaigns and work towards achieving 100 per cent coverage. He advised

farmers to contact their local Agriculture Officers or concerned insurance companies regarding district-specific enrolment deadlines for crops other than paddy.



NTR District Ganesh Utsav Samithi representatives submitting a memorandum to Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu seeking single-window permissions and necessary arrangements for the upcoming Ganesh chaturthi and Navaratri celebrations in Vijayawada on Thursday

Ganesh utsav organisers seek single-window clearance

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE NTR District Ganesh Utsav Samithi has appealed to the police and municipal authorities to facilitate permissions for Ganesh pandal organisers through a single-window system during the forthcoming Ganesh Chaturthi and Navaratri celebrations, commencing on September 14.

A delegation of the Samithi met NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra separately on Thursday and submitted memoranda seeking hassle-free permissions and necessary support for the celebrations.

The delegation comprised Samithi president P Trimurthi Raju, secretary Sana Srinivas, Vijayawada Mahanagar president Yanduri Kishore, district

office secretary GVS Ramana Murthy and city secretary Vasa Pallapuraju.

They sought arrangements for sanitation, health services, security and clearance of immersion procession routes. They also requested permissions for sound systems and electricity connections for the pandals. They sought adequate security at immersion points along the Krishna River, Polavaram Right Main Canal and various tanks in NTR district. The Samithi also appealed to the authorities to provide cranes and other necessary facilities for the smooth immersion of idols.

The delegation urged the police and municipal authorities to convene a coordination meeting with representatives of the Samithi and other concerned departments to finalise arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Ganesh immersion Shobhayatra in Vijayawada.

Massive search underway for 7 missing fishermen

- Minister for fisheries Atchannaidu says two Dornier aircraft, a helicopter and seven Navy-Coast Guard boats are searching the Bay of Bengal
- The fishermen's boat reportedly met with an accident 12 nautical miles off the coast
- Officials are coordinating round-the-clock efforts and have assured families the search will continue until they are found

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

A massive search operation was underway in the Bay of Bengal for seven fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who had set out to sea earlier this month, officials said on Thursday.

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu said the search operation involves two Dornier aircraft, a helicopter, and seven boats of the Navy and the Coast Guard.

He said Navy boats were deployed for extensive search from Visakhapatnam towards Paradip. A Navy vessel is also searching towards the port area.

Dornier aircraft from Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, and Chennai were engaged in the search operation.

A Navy helicopter from Kolkata has also been pressed into service.

The minister said continuous search sorties were on in potential areas. "We are using all available resources to search for the missing fishermen with constant coordination between the Navy, Coast Guard, and the Fisheries Department," he said. He reiterated that the search will continue until the fishermen are brought back safely.

The minister said that the government understands the anxiety of the fishermen's families and hopes for their safe return.

Earlier, minister for home and disaster management V Anitha directed officials to intensify search operations for the missing

fishermen belonging to Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema district.

Officials informed the minister that the boat met with an accident about 12 nautical miles off the coast.

Appanna, one of the eight fishermen, went missing following the accident. The minister enquired about the condition of the other fishermen.

According to an official release, the home minister said that all available resources must be utilised to locate the missing Appanna safely and reunite him with his family.

Anitha said that greater vigilance is required for the safety of fishermen venturing out to sea.

Stating that search operations are being constantly monitored, she assured that the government stands by the families of the missing fishermen.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday reviewed the search operations. He directed officials to intensify search operations to trace the missing fishermen.

fishermen managed to reach the Visakhapatnam coast safely and alerted the authorities about the incident.

Acting swiftly on the information, a search and rescue (SAR) operation was launched on the directions of District Collector M Abhishikth Kishore. A boat from the Coast Guard and a private boat were deployed to search for and trace the missing fisherman.

Visakhapatnam Revenue Divisional Officer Dileep Chakravathy is closely monitoring the search and rescue efforts and reviewing the operations periodically. Officials and rescue teams are continuing their efforts to trace Appanna and bring him back safely.

Date extended for journalism course

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

CR Media Academy and Acharya Nagarjuna University have extended the last date for applications to their jointly offered 'Diploma Course in Journalism' till September 5, according to academy chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar. In a statement, he said the decision was taken in view of the demand and enquiries from various sections and following requests from journalists' unions and journalists. He said the applicants would have to pay the course fee by Demand Draft drawn in favour of Secretary, CR Media Academy from any nationalised bank. The fee is Rs 2,000 for journalists and Rs 2,500 for other candidates. Intermediate pass has been fixed as the eligibility for journalists and degree pass for other candidates who have aptitude for journalism.

Search and rescue operation continue for missing fisherman

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE district administration has intensified its search and rescue operations for a 45-year-old fisherman who went missing after accidentally falling into the sea off the Visakhapatnam coast on Wednesday.

According to officials, the fishing boat carrying a crew of eight had set out from Visakhapatnam on August 16 and was returning to the coast on August 20 when the incident occurred around 12.15 pm.

Appanna, a fisherman from Peda Jalaripeta, reportedly slipped into the sea about 11 nautical miles off the Visakhapatnam coast and was swept away. The rest of the seven

GenAI workshop concludes



PB Siddhartha College Principal Dr Meka Ramesh, Director V Babu Rao, Department Head Dr Udaya Sri Kompalli and industry trainers Praneeth and Bhuvan with students in Vijayawada on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A three-day intensive workshop and hackathon on Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), organised by the Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence of Parvathaneni Brahmayya Siddhartha College of Arts & Science, concluded here on Thursday. The programme was conducted from August 18 to 20 in collaboration with Brainovision Solutions India Pvt Ltd for students pursuing B Sc Honours in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Data Analytics, and M Sc Data Science. Around 120 students participated in the programme.

The workshop received an encouraging response, with students actively participating in the technical sessions and hackathon activities. Department Head Dr Kompalli Udaya Sri coordinated the programme. Industry trainers Praneeth and Bhuvan conducted the sessions, providing students with hands-on exposure to Generative AI, its applications and emerging industry technologies.

College Principal Dr Meka Ramesh appreciated the Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for organising programmes aimed at familiarising students with rapidly evolving technologies.

Director V Babu Rao said exposure to emerging technologies such as Generative AI would help students transform theoretical knowledge into practical solutions.

Dean Prof Rajesh C Jampala stressed the importance of experiential learning and hackathons in developing creativity, problem-solving abilities and innovation among students.

Dr Kompalli Udaya Sri said the programme aimed to provide students with practical exposure to advanced technologies in Generative AI and encourage them to develop innovative solutions using the technology.



NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha inspecting the New Government General Hospital in Vijayawada on Thursday

Collector inspects new GGH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha conducted a surprise inspection of the New Government General Hospital (New GGH) here on Thursday night and reviewed the medical services being provided to patients.

The collector inspected the emergency treatment department and enquired about the availability of doctors, nursing staff and other personnel, besides the facilities being provided to patients and their attendants.

He stressed that providing timely treatment

to every patient visiting the hospital should be the primary responsibility of the hospital authorities.

Dr Lakshmisha directed doctors, nursing staff and other employees to work in coordination to ensure immediate medical attention for patients arriving at the hospital in emergency conditions. He also reviewed the seating arrangements and other facilities available in waiting areas for patients and their attendants. Hospital Superintendent Dr Raghunandan and Dr J Suman, District Coordinator of Dr NTR Vaidya Seva, accompanied the Collector.

Speed up land pooling, Collector tells officials

GUNTUR : District collector CM Saikant Varma directed officials to speed up the second phase of CRDA land pooling process. He directed the officials to create awareness among farmers about the process. He reviewed the land pooling process at the CRDA office on Thursday. He said that it was essential to complete the pooling of notified lands and directed officials to educate farmers about the need for land pooling and its benefits.

AP CRDA additional commissioner A Bhargav Teja, Guntur district joint collector Ashutosh Srivastava, Guntur RDO K Srinivasa Rao, Tenali RDO K Sriramani, CRDA officials were among those who participated.

61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commences

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

WITH eight teams competing, the 61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commenced at the Railway Ball Badminton Courts in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The inaugural ceremony was organised by the South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA), Visakhapatnam Division, while the championship will continue till August 22nd. Eight teams representing different zonal railways of Indian Railways are participating in the tournament.



President of South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA) and DRM Lalit Bohra inaugurating Ball Badminton Championship in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

The inaugural ceremony was attended by P Hariprasad, president of South Coast Railway Sports Association

(SCORSA), South Coast Railway, as chief guest. The ceremony was presided over by Lalit Bohra, DRM, South Coast Railway, Visakhapatnam division. The three-day championship provides a vibrant platform for railway sports persons from across the country to showcase their talent, competitive spirit and sporting excellence.

The event reflects the commitment of Indian Railways and South Coast Railway toward promoting sports, fitness, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among railway employees.

The championship will conclude on August 22nd.

Srinivasa Rao warned that announcing reservations without ensuring their legal implementation would amount to misleading BCs. He also urged the State government to take precautionary measures based on the Mishra Commission's recommendations to avoid legal complications.

He cautioned that using reservations merely for publicity would invite public resentment.

When Kathak becomes a dialogue with the divine

ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

At Ethnic Hall, Shilparamam, Madhapur, a Kathak recital took an unconventional approach to the familiar idea of devotion. Aavahan: Some Dialogues with the Divine, presented by Aangan and Nadee School of Movement, explored prayer not as ritual or surrender, but as an intimate conversation between the seeker and the divine. The 40-minute solo production was performed by Niral Uprit, an Indore-based dancer who has trained in Kathak since the age of five and is a senior disciple of Guru Damayanti Miradwal. Uprit is also the founder of Technrityam, a digital riyaz companion for Indian classical arts, and works as a public speaker and writer while studying management science. The performance created an intimate setting for its central idea. A line of flowers bordered the dance space, while Uprit appeared in a flowing, silvery-white costume that complemented the movement. A telephone placed on a table became



Niral Uprit's solo production Aavahan: Some Dialogues with the Divine brings classical Kathak into conversation with contemporary theatre, poetry and Advaita philosophy

an unusual theatrical device through which the Gods were "summoned" one after another. A carved wooden screen provided transitions between sections. Ganesha, Shiva, Devi and Krishna were each approached through a distinct musical and

choreographic language. Rather than retelling their familiar stories, however, the production questioned how people inherit forms of devotion. The dancer-seeker encounters the silence or ambiguity that can follow conventional prayers and begins to question whether inherited ways of asking and accepting can remain meaningful.

The production therefore sought a more personal path to the divine. Traditional Kathak compositions and Sanskrit shlokas shared the stage with spoken word, English voiceover and original Hindi poetry. Ancient and contemporary elements were placed side by side, turning mythology into a

subject of enquiry rather than simply narration. The prerecorded music, composed by Savni Bhatt, combined singing, instrumental passages, recitation and voiceover. Tabla and pakhawaj formed the rhythmic foundation, while harmonium provided melodic support. The bansuri was particularly prominent in the Krishna section, adding a distinct melodic character to the movement.

Kathak's rhythmic vocabulary remained central to the production. Teental featured in the invocatory and celebratory sections, including Ganesha and Devi, as well as the final movement. The Shiva bandish used Roopak, whose uneven cycle brought urgency to the section. Ektaal appeared during faster passages, allowing Uprit's swift movements and chakkar to heighten the performance's intensity. Kavitts, parans and bandishes were woven into the choreography alongside Sanskrit verses from the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. These textual elements operated as another layer of meaning

beneath the dance, connecting the physical vocabulary of Kathak with the philosophical questions at the heart of the production. Uprit differentiated the four deities through rhythm, expression and movement. Her portrayal of Shiva, in particular, combined poetic composition with a striking interpretation of the Lord of Dance. The Krishna section drew on the interplay between flute, voice and choreography. Across the recital, clean footwork, controlled angika patterns and fleet chakkar demonstrated her command of the classical form. The performance gradually moved towards its central philosophical insight. As the dancer addresses the deities and finds that their answers repeatedly return the questions to her, the

search turns inward. The ultimate realisation echoes the Advaita understanding that what one seeks outside may ultimately be discovered within the self. Aavahan thus emerged as an exploration of seeking, questioning and self-discovery through Kathak. Its distinctive quality lay in bringing a traditional Indian classical form into dialogue with contemporary theatrical devices, original poetry, technology and philosophical enquiry. The programme was organised and introduced by Aditi Rao Ashtaputre, founder of Nadee School of Movement. The performance was received with appreciation, particularly for the way it retained the discipline of Kathak while creating space for a contemporary interpretation of devotion.



Niral Uprit

Meenakshi Seshadri questions cinema's in-law stereotypes

Veteran actress Meenakshi Seshadri has reflected on the way the relationship between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law has traditionally been portrayed in Indian cinema. She noted that the dynamic has often been presented in a negative light. Talking about the same, the 'Damini' actress recalled her 1990 film 'Ghar Ho To Aisa,' in which she played a daughter-in-law opposite veteran actress Bindu. She shared that her character stood up to her on-screen mother-in-law and taught her some hard lessons, with the film using comedy, melodrama and even karate sequences to highlight the conflict. Meenakshi Seshadri shared a video recreating the song 'January February' from her 1990 film Ghar Ho To Aisa. Dressed in a stylish co-ord outfit, the actress showcased her dance moves and expressive performance, giving a nostalgic glimpse of the popular track. The song was originally sung by Asha Bhosle and Mohammed Aziz, with music composed by Bappi Lahiri and lyrics penned by Majrooh Sultanpuri. For the caption, she wrote, "The relationship between a mother-in-law



and her daughter-in-law has often been portrayed with a negative flavor in Indian cinema. In my movie Ghar ho to aisa I pretend to be a daughter-in-law to the character played by famous actress Bindu. My character teaches some hard lessons to the mother-in-law, using exaggerated comedy, melodramatic components, and some keen karate moves!" "I personally wish that after marriage, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law develop a beautiful relationship, just

like a real-life mother and daughter." In Ghar Ho To Aisa, Meenakshi Seshadri played Seema Kumar, the strong-willed wife of Amar, portrayed by Anil Kapoor. Her character was portrayed as a fearless daughter-in-law who stood up to her cruel in-laws and challenged the domestic mistreatment she faced. Bindu portrayed the film's quintessential negative mother-in-law, a role that became one of her memorable characters. The film was later remade in Telugu as "Attintlo Adde Mogudu."

Sonam Kapoor returns to spotlight after postpartum sabbatical

Actress and fashion icon Sonam Kapoor made a striking appearance at a luxury jewellery showcase in Mumbai. The actress was seen turning heads in an elegant black saree paired with statement jewellery.

The actress, through her post on social media, stated that she is 'coming out of postpartum sabbatical' as she stepped out for the event. For the event, Sonam opted for a black saree featuring detailed metallic-gold along the border and 'pallu'. The saree also featured traditional embroidered motifs in shades of gold and brown. She paired it with a black blouse with gold-stripped detailing on the sleeves.

The actress accessorised the look with an elaborate diamond and gemstone-studded necklace, matching earrings and statement rings. For the hair, she chose to neatly pull it back into a sleek bun, with a dewy makeup look. Talking about Sonam, over the years, she has built a distinct style identity in the world of fashion.

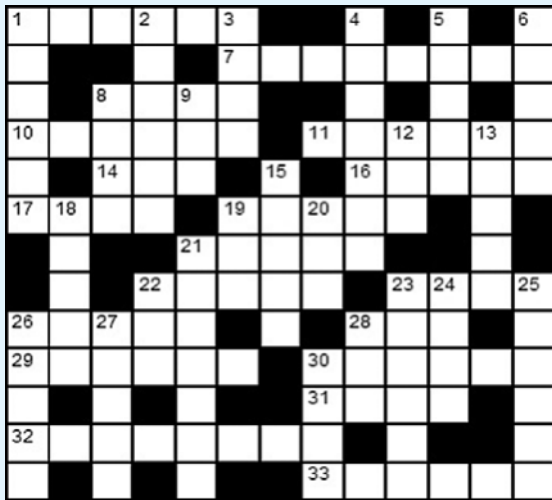
Her relationship with fashion has been closely intertwined with her sister Rhea Kapoor, who has frequently styled her for major public appearances. Rhea, for the uninitiated, is a film producer and fashion designer, stylist.

The sisters' creative partnership also extends to production. Rhea began her film-production career with Aisha in 2010, which starred Sonam alongside Abhay Deol. The sisters subsequently collaborated on films including Khoobsurat and Veere Di Wedding. Aisha, in particular, became an important part of Sonam's fashion and film journey. Released in 2010, the romantic comedy saw her play the title character, a young woman deeply interested in fashion and social life. The film also became closely associated with Sonam's evolving fashion image during her initial days in Bollywood.



On the acting front, Sonam began her career with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Saawariya in 2007. She went on to feature in films including Delhi-6, I Hate Luv Storys, Aisha, Raanjhanaa, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Khoobsurat, Neerja, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, Veere Di Wedding, Sanju, Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga, The Zoya Factor and AK vs AK. Her performance in Neerja earned her a National Film Award. On the personal front, Sonam married businessman Anand Ahuja in May 2018. The couple welcomed their first son, Vayu, in August 2022. In March 2026, they welcomed their second son, Rudralokh.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Fingal's Cave island (6)
- Fine thread (8)
- Winglike (4)
- Became the responsibility of (4,2)
- Prized (6)
- A distress signal (3)
- Golf course (5)
- Put away (4)
- 2504 in Roman numerals (5)
- Cutter's edge, sword or knife (5)
- Venomous snake (5)
- Prison (4)
- South ____ : Seoul is its capital ? (5)
- 100% (3)
- Nothing (6)
- Varlets (6)
- "__ _ Wonderful Life" (3,1)
- Sweet, rich (8)
- Recoiling or drawing back (6)

DOWN

- Ridicules or derides (6)
- Companion (6)
- Hairstyle (4)
- Ms Portman of Hollywood (7)
- Started (5)
- Small projects or nails ? (5)
- Additionally (4)
- Auxiliary Territorial Serv. (3)
- Actress Tyler (3)
- Supplementing with difficulty (5)
- Online missive (5)
- Forbidden (5)
- Vidhan sabha member, in short (3)
- Commonly used pesticide (3)
- Upper caste Hindu (7)
- Beer barrel (3)
- Stylish (6)
- Thomas ____ Edison : the famous inventor ? (4)
- Relaxing (6)
- Sound a bell (5)
- Ballet follower (5)
- As industrious as an ____ ? (3)
- Join lips (4)



Solution to August 20

SUDOKU



Solution to August 20



Solution to August 20



Scholarships	
Scholarship Name 1:	Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2026-27
Description:	The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India's future leaders who can think big, think green, and think digital for the benefit of society.
Eligibility:	- Students who are enrolled in the first-year full-time regular postgraduation programmes pursuing select future-ready courses from Engineering, Technology, Energy and Life Sciences - Must have secured 550 to 1,000 in the GATE examination, OR must have a CGPA of 7.5 or above in their undergraduate studies (or equivalent percentage normalised to CGPA) if the student has not attempted GATE - Open to resident Indian citizens only
Prizes & Rewards:	Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree
Last Date to Apply:	05-10-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/RFS15
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2026-271787032072.png
Scholarship Name 2:	Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships 2026-27
Description:	The Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships support meritorious students from all corners of the country in pursuing their undergraduate education. This empowers them to continue their studies, become successful professionals, and realise their dreams, unlocking their potential to uplift themselves and their communities and contribute towards India's future socio-economic development.
Eligibility:	- Students must be enrolled in the first year of a full-time regular undergraduate (UG) degree in any stream at a recognised Indian institute - Must have passed Class 12 with a minimum of 60% marks - The annual household income should be up to INR 15,00,000 per year (preference will be given to those students whose family income is less than INR 2,50,000) - Open to resident Indian citizens only. An aptitude test is mandatory
Prizes & Rewards:	Up to INR 2,00,000 over the duration of the degree
Last Date to Apply:	05-10-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/RFS14
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2026-271787032064.png
Scholarship Name 3:	Luxury Connect Business School Scholarship Program 2026-27
Description:	The Luxury Connect Business School Scholarship Program 2026-27 is an initiative by Luxury Connect Business School (LCBS) to support aspiring professionals planning to pursue careers in the luxury industry. Students admitted to the MBA in Luxury Brand Management or the Advanced Diploma in Luxury Retail Management & Client Experience can receive tuition fee waivers for their studies at LCBS, making specialised luxury education more accessible.
Eligibility:	For an MBA in Luxury Brand Management - ust have completed a bachelor's degree from a recognised university/institution. - Final-year UG students may also apply, subject to LCBS admission norms and submission of final academic documents before enrolment. - Annual parental income from all sources must not exceed INR 8,00,000. For the Advanced Diploma in Luxury Retail Management & Client Experience - Must have passed Class 12 or equivalent from a recognised board. - Must be a second-year/final-year UG student or a graduate. - Candidates with prior exposure to retail, hospitality, fashion, lifestyle, beauty, luxury sales, customer service, or related sectors are encouraged to apply. - Annual parental income from all sources must not exceed INR 8,00,000.
Prizes & Rewards:	Tuition fee waiver up to INR 2,00,000 for MBA or up to INR 25,000 for Advanced Diploma, based on graduation percentage.
Note:	- Scholarships apply only to students who secure admission to the eligible LCBS program and fulfil all applicable eligibility criteria. - The maximum tuition fee waiver of up to INR 2,00,000 is applicable only for the Offline (Campus) MBA in Luxury Brand Management program, where the course fee is INR 9.5 lakh.
Last Date to Apply:	26-08-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/LCBSSP2
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/luxury-connect-business-school-scholarship-program-2026-271784610098.png
Scholarship Name 4:	Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2026-27
Description:	Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2026-27 is a collaborative CSR initiative of Kotak Mahindra Group companies and Kotak Education Foundation, offering financial assistance to meritorious girl students from underprivileged backgrounds. Girls who have passed Class 12 and secured admission to a professional graduation course receive INR 1.5 lakh* per year until they complete their degree.
Eligibility:	- Open to meritorious girl students across India who have scored 75% or more (or equivalent CGPA) in Class 12 boards. - Secured admission to the first year of a professional graduation programme (Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, Integrated LLB, and more) at an NIRF/NAAC-accredited institute for the academic year 2026-27. - Annual family income must not exceed INR 6,00,000. - Children of Kotak Mahindra Group, Kotak Education Foundation, and Buddy4Study employees are ineligible.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 1.5 lakh* per year, till completion of the professional graduation degree.
*Disclaimer:	Subject to terms and conditions, at the discretion of Kotak Education Foundation.
Last Date to Apply:	31-08-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/KKGS5
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/kotak-kanya-scholarship-2026-271784610111.png

How AI is redefining executive education

RANJITA RAMAN

Artificial Intelligence is changing not only how professionals work, but also what they expect from learning. Across industries, AI is influencing decision-making, customer engagement, productivity, research and business strategy. Yet, discussions around executive education often remain limited to whether institutions should introduce more AI-focused courses.

That is no longer the most important question

The real question is whether executive education itself is evolving fast enough for a workplace where professionals are expected to continuously learn, adapt and make decisions alongside intelligent technologies. For years, executive education was largely viewed as a pathway to leadership roles, career progression or specialised expertise. Today, its purpose is becoming more fundamental. Professionals are not returning to learning simply to earn another qualification. They are doing so because the relevance of their existing knowledge is being tested more frequently than ever before.

This shift demands more than adding another AI module or introducing a course on Generative AI

The biggest mistake institutions can make is to treat AI only as a subject to be taught. AI must also influence how professionals learn, practise, receive feedback and apply



knowledge. Working professionals enter executive education with different experiences, responsibilities and career aspirations. A finance leader, healthcare administrator, marketing professional and technology manager may enrol in the same programme, but their learning requirements will rarely be identical. AI can help institutions create more contextual and adaptive learning journeys. It can identify knowledge gaps, recommend relevant content, provide timely feedback and allow learners to progress according to their individual needs. For professionals balancing demanding careers, this level of personalisation can significantly improve the relevance and practical value of learning.

Generative AI is expanding these possibilities further

Learning no longer needs to remain confined to lectures, scheduled discussions or static course material. Professionals can use AI-powered tools to clarify concepts, test ideas, simulate business situations and explore alternative approaches to real-world problems.

This can transform exec-



utive education from periodic classroom engagement into continuous knowledge support. However, greater use of AI should not be confused with reduced dependence on educators.

Executive education derives much of its value from faculty expertise, peer discussion, mentorship, debate and the exchange of real-world experiences. These interactions help professionals challenge assumptions, understand different perspectives and develop judgement. Technology can strengthen this process, but it cannot replace it. AI can generate information, but leadership requires interpretation.

It can suggest options, but decision-making still requires accountability. It can personalise content, but meaningful learning depends on reflection, experience and human context.

In the years ahead, institutional success will increasingly depend on how effectively academic excellence, faculty expertise and intelligent learning technologies are combined

- AI is changing the purpose of executive education, as professionals increasingly return to learning to keep their knowledge and skills relevant.
- Institutions need to move beyond standalone AI courses and integrate intelligent technologies into how professionals learn, practise and receive feedback.
- AI can enable personalised learning by identifying knowledge gaps, recommending relevant content and adapting learning journeys to individual professional needs.
- Human capabilities remain central, with critical thinking, ethical judgement, communication, leadership and reflection continuing to require strong human involvement.
- The future of executive education will depend on balance, combining faculty expertise, peer learning and mentorship with AI-driven tools to improve workplace relevance

to create outcomes relevant to the workplace. At the same time, institutions must avoid using technology simply because it is new. The objective should not be to use AI everywhere, but to apply it where it improves understanding, engagement, accessibility and application.

Executive education must therefore evolve on two levels. It must prepare professionals to understand and use AI effectively, while

strengthening the human capabilities that technology cannot replicate, including critical thinking, ethical judgement, communication and leadership. The institutions that succeed will not necessarily be those that teach AI the fastest. They will be the ones who use it thoughtfully to make executive education more relevant, adaptive and valuable for professionals navigating an increasingly AI-driven world.

Grade 8 student secures global rank in LogiQids Olympiad

Grade 8 student Ansh Kumar of Birla Open Minds International School, secured International Rank 118 and School Rank 1 in the LogiQids Olympiad 2025-26, competing against students from across the globe.

The Olympiad was conducted in two stages, beginning with a school-level round followed by an online round. According to the school, nearly 3,100 schools participated in this year's competition. The result marked Ansh's first participation in an international-level Olympiad.

Ansh said the scale of the competition initially made him nervous, but regular practice helped him approach the subsequent rounds with greater confidence. He prepared using LogiQids worksheets and worked on developing his logical reasoning and problem-solving abilities with support from his teachers.

His performance highlights the role of sustained practice and analytical thinking in competitive academic platforms. The Olympiad focuses on logical reasoning and encourages students to approach problems through observation, analysis and structured thinking.

The school introduced computational thinking as part of its academic curriculum this session, with activities designed to encourage



students to examine problems from different perspectives and develop solutions. Such skills are increasingly relevant across academic disciplines and areas of future study.

Mr Anurag Upadhyay, Principal, Birla Open Minds International School, Daltonganj, said Ansh's achievement demonstrated the importance of dedication, perseverance and willingness to take on challenges.

"Ansh's achievement is a proud milestone for our school and a wonderful example of what dedication and a passion for learning can accomplish. Competing at an international level and securing such an impressive

rank in his first attempt is truly commendable," he said.

He added that the achievement demonstrated how consistent effort and guidance could help students approach challenging academic opportunities with confidence.

For Ansh, the result represents a significant academic milestone and an experience that helped him develop greater confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems. His performance also provides an example of how participation in Olympiads can expose school students to competitive environments while encouraging them to strengthen reasoning and problem-solving skills.

TODAY IS INTERNET SELF-CARE DAY

Healthier habits: A guide to digital self-care

The internet is increasingly becoming a useful space for people to learn about self-care, develop healthy routines and access support for personal well-being. When used thoughtfully, digital platforms can complement everyday practices such as mindfulness, meditation, reflection and emotional support. Meditation and mindfulness apps, for instance, offer guided exercises that can help users build regular moments of calm into busy schedules. Short breathing sessions, relaxation exercises and sleep-focused programmes can make self-care more accessible, particularly for students and working professionals managing demanding routines.

Virtual support groups are another important resource. Online communities allow people with shared experiences and interests to connect, exchange practical suggestions and feel less isolated. Such spaces can encourage empathy and create opportunities to learn from others while



maintaining flexibility about when and how people participate.

Educational websites, podcasts and videos can also introduce users to techniques related to stress management, sleep, physical activity and mindful living. The advantage of digital resources is that many can be accessed from home and incorporated into an individual's daily routine.

For students especially, learning to use technology not only for entertainment and academic work but also for reflection, relaxation and healthy habits can contribute to a more balanced digital lifestyle. Used responsibly, the internet can become a supportive tool for building awareness, resilience and everyday well-being.





BWF World Championships

Sindhu, Ayush bow out; Treesa-Gayatri into last 8

NEW DELHI: India suffered a big blow at the World Championships as PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty faced contrasting defeats in the pre-quarterfinals, bringing the country's singles campaign to an end here on Thursday.

Two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu's hopes of winning an unprecedented sixth World Championships medal ended with a gruelling 11-21 21-15 17-21 loss to China's world No. 3 Wang Zhi Yi, who battled severe cramps in both legs to advance to the quarterfinals.

Earlier, Shetty suffered a tame 19-21 11-21 defeat against Indonesian nemesis Alwi Farhan in the men's singles pre-quarterfinals.

The 21-year-old Shetty, who had created a flutter by stunning defending champion and world No. 1 Shi Yu Qi in the opening round, went down to world No. 12 Farhan. It was his



fifth defeat in eight meetings against the 11th-seeded Indonesian, bringing the curtains down on India's men's singles campaign.

Lakshya Sen had bowed out of the premier tournament on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, India's women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand moved a step closer to a medal by reaching the quarterfinals with a straight-game win over Japanese seventh seeds

Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakamishi.

The unseeded Indian pair, on a comeback trail after Treesa recovered from an injury, produced a dominant performance to outwit the world No. 7 Japanese pair 21-16 21-12 in a one-sided contest.

It was the first quarterfinal appearance by an Indian women's doubles pair at the World Championships since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa achieved the feat in 2015.

Chakraborty starts with win, Vignesh held to draw

MUMBAI: Top seed Mayank Chakraborty began his campaign with an impressive win while two leading contenders -- Vignesh Advait Vemula and Akhilbhai Imangali -- were held to a draw by lower-rated opponents in the Asian Junior Classical Championship here on Thursday.

Vignesh was forced to share the point with Neemay Bhanushali, while Imangali of Kazakhstan was held by Rishaan Jain.

The opening round in the girls' section, however, produced a couple of notable upsets. Swara Lakshmi S. Nair

was held to a draw by Vakcheri Mohitha despite enjoying a significant rating advantage, while Aadya Gowda scored an impressive victory over the higher-rated WFM Mrittika Mallick.

Another surprise result saw Liliya Belaya of Uzbekistan defeat the higher-rated Archita Agrawal of India. The Open Championship has attracted a strong field of 85 players representing nine federations.

The tournament features six International Masters and eleven FIDE Masters, making it one of the strongest junior events in Asia. Leading the field

is top seed International Master Mayank Chakraborty of India, rated 2500.

The girls' championship has attracted players from seven federations. The top three seeds, WFM Pratitee Bordoloi of India, WFM Mariya Kholavko of Kazakhstan and WFM Shohradova Lala of Turkmenistan, opened their campaigns with convincing victories to move into the lead group after the first round.

The championship was inaugurated by Grandmaster Vidity Gujrathi, who has been named a recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award.

"Modern pop singers, if they are asked to do classical singing, ragas, then it will be very difficult. But these people are doing that. It is a mystery to me that the generation of IPL, the generation of T20, how do they play such good Test cricket? In both game of ball and game of gain.

- Sanjay Manjrekar

FIH Women's World Cup

India enter round 2 after goalless draw with England

AMSTELVEEN: The Indian women's hockey team advanced to the second round of the FIH World Cup after being held to a goalless draw by England in their final Pool D match here on Thursday, surviving a dozen penalty corners and late pressure.

India, who needed only a draw to progress, finished second in the pool with one win and two draws from three matches. China topped the group after beating South Africa 5-1 earlier in the day.

The result, however, masked a below-par performance from India, who struggled with passing, ball control and penalty-corner execution. They earned six



penalty corners but failed to convert any, with Deepika and Navneet Kaur unable to make their opportunities count.

India's goalkeepers Savita Punia and Bichhu Devi stood out, particularly as England earned as many as 11 penalty

corners during the match. Bichhu produced the crucial save with just 30 seconds remaining, diving to her left to deny England and preserve India's qualification.

India and China will carry one point each in the second round. India started aggres-

sively and earned three penalty corners in the opening 15 minutes. Their first chance came in the fourth minute when Sunelita sent the injection, but Navneet's attempt appeared to have gone in off Ishika's stick, resulting in the goal being disallowed.

Navneet's attempt from India's second penalty corner went wide before Deepika failed to find the target with the third.

England responded with counter-attacks and earned their first penalty corner in the 10th minute. Sunelita produced an excellent save to deny Sophie Hamilton's drag-flick, while Jyoti cleared the danger.

Hyderabad District Athletics Meet tomorrow

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad District Athletic Association will conduct an Athletics Meet-cum-Selections at Gymkhana Grounds, Secunderabad, on August 22, 2026, from 9 am. Competitions will be held for boys and girls in Under-14, Under-16, Under-18 and Under-20 categories, featuring track and field events, including triathlon, pentathlon, heptathlon, race walk, jumps and throws. Interested athletes can register by contacting P. Tejeshwar at 8374715899.

TG State Under-17 Chess C'hip from Aug 22

HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Under-17 Chess Championship 2026 will be held on August 22 and 23 at Vikas Concept School, Bachupalli, Hyderabad.

The top two players in the boys' and girls' categories will represent Telangana at the upcoming National Under-17 Chess Championships.

Players born on or after January 1, 2009 are eligible. Registration closes on August 21.

Entries can be made through cheshtelangana.com or by contacting 7337578899 /7337399299. No spot entries will be accepted.

RSS has decided it knows truth of 1.5 bn people: Rahul

NEW DELHI

LAUNCHING a sharp ideological attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the organisation of attempting to impose its version of the "truth" on 1.5 billion Indians, stating that only individuals have the right to define their own paths.

Speaking at the "Hara Bharat Swaraj: A Tribute to Rajiv Gandhi's Vision" programme in the national capital, Gandhi contrasted the RSS's philosophy with Mahatma Gandhi's concept of 'Swaraj' (self-rule).

"What Gandhiji was saying was that every living being is a unique entity with their own path towards the truth. I cannot tell you what your truth is. Today, the ideological battle in India is precisely that. It is not fundamentally about environment, politics, or free media--those are symptoms. The real fight is that a small group of people have decided, because they control the system, that



they know the truth of everyone in this country. That is my problem with the RSS: the RSS has decided that they know the truth of 1.5 billion people. And I say, no. Only 1.5 billion people can know their own truth," Rahul Gandhi asserted.

"And I say, no. Only 1.5 billion people can know their own truth. Even I cannot do that. If I begin to believe that I know your truth, I would be a madman. Because I am not you. I haven't faced what you've faced; I haven't seen what you've seen; I haven't dealt with what you've dealt with. I don't have the same parents, the same friends, or the same life. So how can I

say that I know your truth?" he added.

Noting how Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography was titled 'My Experiments with Truth', and not 'The Truth', he further said, "Please notice, Gandhiji's book was not called 'The Truth' or 'My Understanding of the Truth'. It was titled 'My Experiments with Truth'. I have experiments with my truth; you have experiments with your truth."

Rahul Gandhi further accused the BJP and RSS of creating a sense of exclusion among various communities, stating that such actions are harming "Bharat Mata." (ANI)

Ministers' dogs get better facilities: Dipke on govt schools

LATUR: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convener Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday said Maharashtra School Education Minister Dada Bhuse should resign, claiming government schools are in a pitiable condition and that even "ministers' dogs get better facilities" than students.

Dipke, whose group launched the 'School Thik Karo' (improve government schools) campaign last week, visited a Zilla Parishad school at Ujani village in Latour's Ausa tehsil. Later, talking to reporters, he said elected representatives and ministers must be held accountable for the condition of schools, many of which continue to lack basic facilities such as proper classrooms, benches, toilets and safe access roads.

Students in some schools



were being treated "worse than animals", he alleged.

"It is a question of students' lives. When political leaders are not doing anything for students, why should people vote for them? Do people vote for them so that they can only travel in helicopters? People should see in what conditions their children are studying. The dogs of these ministers get better facilities than this," he said.

Dipke also asked people to force the leaders of political parties to work for education first and then come to seek votes.

Ganga nears danger mark in Varanasi, boat services suspended

VARANASI: The water level of the Ganga river has been rising steadily in Varanasi, prompting the administration to suspend boat operations as a precautionary measure, officials said on Thursday. ACP Atul Anjan Tripathi said the water level of the river stood at 68.35 metres on Thursday and was steadily moving towards the danger mark of 71.26 metres.

"Lakhs of devotees are visiting Varanasi during the month of Sawan. Keeping their safety in mind, boat operations have been suspended as a precautionary measure," Tripathi said.

He said a decision on resuming boat operations would be taken once the water level and the flow of the river return to normal.

RTOs quiz taxi, auto drivers in Marathi, notices sent

MUMBAI: Taxi and autorickshaw drivers in Maharashtra are being put through a 16-question test after the transport department launched a statewide drive on Thursday to check their working knowledge of Marathi.

Teams from Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) are issuing one-month notices to those unable to answer satisfactorily and warning that their badges would be suspended if they fail a subsequent test, officials said. "Mala CNG bharayche aahe. Thode thambave lage!" (I need to fill up with CNG, we'll have to stop for a while); "majhi rickshaw/taxi sharingchi aahe" (my auto/taxi is a shared one); and "meter chalu kele aahe" (have started the meter) are among the routine responses that officials expect from the drivers.

The exercise, announced by



Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Wednesday, is being conducted as part of the state government's move to make working knowledge of Marathi mandatory for drivers of taxis, autorickshaws and app-based cabs.

A senior RTO official said a 16-question questionnaire was received from the Transport Commissioner's office and was based on the Marathi language training imparted to taxi and autorickshaw drivers by the Konkani Sahitya Parishad, which ended on Independence Day. (PTI)

China destroys residential quarters of monks in Tibet

Serta (Tibet) : China has intensified security restrictions at Larung Gar in Serta, with large numbers of troops deployed inside the religious encampment as authorities continue demolishing residential quarters used by monks, nuns and lay practitioners, Tibet Times reported.

According to Tibet Times, access to Larung Gar has been sharply restricted since the demolition drive began, with a checkpoint on the main access road allowing only a limited number of local residents and tourists to enter under strict supervision. Visitors are reportedly required to use public transport arranged through the checkpoint and are prevented from moving freely around the encampment.

A source cited by Tibet Times said tourists and pilgrims travelling from within



Tibet and other parts of China are now being barred from entering the settlement. Those permitted to enter are confined to designated areas, while troops and security personnel monitor the movements of visitors, residents, and monastics.

The report further said drone photography and filming, previously permitted for those holding authorisation, have been prohibited since the demolitions began last month. Military personnel and plainclothes officers have

allegedly been deployed for both overt and covert surveillance, with monks, nuns, residents, and visitors facing increased scrutiny.

According to Tibet Times, the demolition of residential quarters began on July 13 and has continued despite earlier appeals by the monastic administration. Chinese authorities had previously cited overcrowding and safety concerns while seeking to demolish structures around the Gyutrul Lhakhang area.

Tarun Tejpal challenges rape conviction in SC

NEW DELHI

Tarun Tejpal challenges Bombay High Court's rape case conviction order in Supreme Court days after Goa's 'life term' plea.

The Goa government had approached the Supreme Court seeking the maximum sentence for former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal in a rape case, arguing that the passage of time cannot

be a reason for imposing a lesser sentence in such a serious offence, Advocate General Devidas J Pangam said on Wednesday.

He said the government filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court against the quantum of sentence imposed in the case.

The Goa bench of the Bombay High Court on August 6 convicted Tejpal

and sentenced him to 10 years in prison for raping a former colleague, overturning his 2021 acquittal in a decade-old case.

On September 29, 2017, Tejpal was charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including rape, sexual harassment, and wrongful confinement. However, he pleaded not guilty.



“We expect consumption demand to remain healthy. The company remains confident of sustaining double-digit topline growth while improving profitability through premiumisation, innovation and scale benefits.” **-Sunil D'Souza, MD & CEO, Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL)**

BIZ BRIEFS

Tech Survey by Amazon

Amazon.in's inaugural Best in Tech Survey, found AI features are now expected by 82 per cent of smartphone buyers. Performance and speed remain the strongest purchase drivers at 87 per cent, followed by battery life at 79 per cent and camera quality at 77 per cent. About 42 per cent are considering phones priced Rs25,000-Rs50,000, while 48 per cent plan upgrades within three months. Reviews and ratings influence 47 per cent of buyers.

Declassified on Discovery+

Discovery has announced the availability of Declassified: Operation Sindoor on this Independence Day to stream on Discovery+. The two-part docuseries was broadcasted on August 15, where Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor of India gave insights on Operation Sindoor. According to Doval: "We had decided the objective of the operation was destruction of the enemy camps particularly those who had been responsible for the Pahalgam attack."

Milestone in robotic surgeries

Dr. Mohit Bhandari and Team Mohak marked the national milestone with an extraordinary achievement: 51 robotic bariatric and metabolic surgeries completed in just 14 hours on August 15. The unprecedented initiative brought together six robotic systems, one designated console surgeon and one highly coordinated Indian clinical team. A total of 51 patients underwent robotic bariatric and metabolic surgery, comprising 30 men and 21 women. The patients ranged in age from 21 to 77 years, with an average age of 43.6 years.

AWS opens Builder Lofts

AWS has announced the opening of AWS Builder Lofts in Berlin, Hyderabad, and São Paulo, the permanent community spaces give students and developers a place to learn, connect, and contribute through hands-on experiences, community-led sharing, and technical collaboration. David Nalley, Director, AWS, said: "Twenty years ago, AWS launched its first services, and it was the builder community that believed in us from the very beginning. These spaces are our way of investing back in that community."

VAYU forays into India

VAYU, an air compressor brand created for manufacturers and growing businesses, announced its launch in India with a portfolio of compressed air solutions. At launch, VAYU offers a 5-45 kW range of air compressors, available in fixed- and variable-speed configurations and designed for operating pressures ranging from 7 to 12.5 bar. The portfolio is supported by a range of accessories, genuine spare parts, comprehensive warranty coverage and nationwide service support.

Bulls charge after 7-day rout

US TREASURY INTERVENTION SPARKS BROAD-BASED RELIEF RALLY

MUMBAI

BENCHMARK equity indices bounced back on Thursday, with the Sensex climbing 628 points and the Nifty snapping its seven-day losing streak as easing global bond yields fueled a stock rally worldwide.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 628.04 points, or 0.82 per cent, to settle at 77,537.72 after four days of decline. During the day, it surged 701.43 points, or 0.91 per cent, to 77,611.11. Snapping its seven-day falling streak, the 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 153.55 points, or 0.64 per cent, to close at 24,231.85.

"Markets found much-needed relief after the US Treasury stepped in to contain the surge in global bond yields, triggering a strong broad-based rebound and ending the domestic market's week-long losing streak. The intervention has dragged down the dollar, which, along with a firmer rupee and easing yield pressures, boosted attractiveness to EMs," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said. The recovery was



widespread across sectors, driven primarily by strength in IT and financial stocks, as a cooling yield environment supports spending, he said. "Yet, the market's optimism remains guarded as stubbornly high crude oil prices, driven by unresolved US-Iran tensions, continue to cast a shadow over inflation and corporate profitability," Nair added. Among the Sensex firms, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ITC, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and UltraTech Cement were the biggest winners. Tata Steel, InterGlobe Aviation, HCL Tech and Titan were the laggards. "Indian equity markets ended higher on Thursday, snapping a sev-

en-session losing streak—the longest in nearly 11 months—as easing global bond yields revived risk appetite and encouraged investors back into equities. "The recovery marked a decisive shift from the cautious tone that had dominated recent sessions, with benchmark indices holding on to their early gains throughout the day," Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a SEBI-registered Research Analyst firm, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 407.99 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. The BSE SmallCap Select index climbed 0.83

Bullion fires up: Gold hits ₹1.62 lakh, silver jumps ₹10,000

NEW DELHI

GOLD staged a sharp comeback in the national capital on Thursday, rising by Rs 4,300 to a three-month high of Rs 1.62 lakh per 10 grams, and silver surged by Rs 10,000 as investors turned to precious metals amid a weak US dollar. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 4,300 to Rs 1,62,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), according to local traders. It had closed at Rs 1,58,000 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

The precious metal was last seen at comparable levels on May 26, when it was quoted at Rs 1,62,400 per 10 grams.



Silver mirrored the rally, soaring to a seven-week high of Rs 2,45,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from Rs 2,35,000 per kg. The white metal had traded near these levels on July 3, when it was quoted at Rs 2,45,000 per kg. "Gold hovered near its highest level in more than two months on Thursday, supported by a sharp decline in the US dollar and Treasury yields," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securi-

ties, said. The dollar index slid to a three-month low, while lower Treasury bond yields improved the appeal of assets such as gold, he added. The rally in spot bullion prices came despite a retreat in the overseas markets. Gold dipped USD 66.31, or 1.47 per cent, to USD 4,456.72 per ounce, and silver dropped nearly 2 per cent to USD 65.82 per ounce. Spot gold was trading lower at USD 4,450 per ounce as crude oil prices surged over 2 per cent after the US President Donald Trump announced new economic sanctions on Iran, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

per cent and MidCap Select index was up 0.56 per cent. Among sectoral indices, Realty jumped the most by

1.87 per cent. FMCG (1.03 per cent), Focused IT (1.02 per cent), IT (0.94 per cent), Financial Services (0.85 per

cent), Consumer Discretionary (0.75 per cent) and Top 10 Banks (0.69 per cent) also advanced.

Sebi allows IFSCA-regulated entities to access KYC records

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday allowed entities regulated by the IFSCA to access the systems of registered KYC registration agencies, facilitating seamless sharing of client information for financial services. The markets watchdog said the step will enable interoperability and facilitate sharing of information between Sebi-registered KRAs and entities regulated by IFSCA. Under the move, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) regulated entities can access KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) records for carrying out KYC of clients who engage them for financial services, Sebi said. A KYC Registration Agency (KRA) is an agency that maintains investors' KYC (Know Your Customer) records.

Cement sector powers core industries' 5.4% rise in July

NEW DELHI: India's Index of Core Industries (ICI) recorded a 5.4 per cent growth in July this year compared to the same month of the previous year, driven by the strong performance of the iron ore, cement, and electricity sectors, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday.

The cement sector clocked a robust growth of 13.1 per cent during the month as demand stayed buoyant due to large government investments in big-ticket infrastructure projects such as highways, ports, and railways.

The production of iron ore surged by as much as 29.5 per cent in July. Owing to intensive use of iron ore in the production process, and its contribution to in-



dustrial development, it has been included in the list of core industries as a new item in the revised series of ICI. Accordingly, the number of core industries has increased from eight to nine in the new series, which kicked in for the first time from last month.

Electricity generation grew by 9 per cent during July while coal production went up by 7.6 per cent. The output of steel and refinery products during the month increased by 2.9 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively, the data showed.

Centre tightens sugar stock norms amid price surge

NEW DELHI: THE Centre on Thursday imposed a stock-holding limit on bulk consumers of sugar, amid concerns over rising prices due to tight supplies ahead of the festival season.

Food Minister Pralhad Joshi, in a social media, announced that bulk consumers using more than 10 tonnes of sugar a month will not be allowed to hold stock beyond what they would consume in 15 days. The food ministry has notified the Sugar (Stockholding Limit of Bulk Consumers) Order, 2026, which covers confectioners, soft drink manufacturers, food processing units, sweetmeat sellers and other institutional buyers. The order will come into force from September 1 and remain



in effect till November 30.

This follows an earlier order, effective August 1 to November 30, capping stock with sugar dealers at 4,000 quintals for 30 days.

The curbs come against the backdrop of a sharp rise in sugar prices, with ex-mill rates hitting record levels on account of a lower opening stock ahead of the 2026-27 season.

The all-India average ex-mill price rose to Rs 5,400-5,500 a quintal on Tuesday,

up from Rs 3,900 a year earlier, according to an industry body. Retail sugar prices have climbed about 13 per cent year-on-year to Rs 52.30 a kg as on August 18, from Rs 46.34 a year ago, as per consumer affairs ministry data. Demand for sugar typically rises between August and November, as the country celebrates major festivals, such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra, and Diwali. Under the new order, the monthly quantity of sugar sold by each mill to a bulk consumer -- whether directly or through dealers -- will be verified, and consumption will be determined with reference to GST returns filed by sellers and/or buyers, using the relevant HSN code applicable to sugar.

Local currencies can cut trade costs: RBI deputy governor

MUMBAI: Local currencies will play an ever-increasing role in cross-border trade and payments as they lower transaction costs, reduce currency mismatches, and improve settlement efficiency, RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain has said.

Speaking at the Annual Day of the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDA) last week on 'India's Foreign Exchange Markets: Getting ready for the next Decade', Jain said that by their very

nature, markets are continuously evolving and parameters of their readiness are being regularly renewed according to the needs of the time. "Our market would be ready for the next decade if it can help facilitate India's ever-increasing engagement with other countries, absorb shocks in a non-disruptive manner, serve the smallest user as efficiently as the biggest, and embrace new technology without vitiating the trust it has earned," he said.

DGFT opens door wider for rupee-settled exports

NEW DELHI: THE government on Thursday amended certain provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy to make it easier for exporters to invoice overseas sales and receive payments in Indian rupees.

The amendments cover exports to all countries, although the rules vary by destination. Two paragraphs of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 have been amended "to align the provisions relating to denomina-

tion of export contracts and eligibility for FTP benefits in respect of export realisation in Indian Rupees with the Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) Regulations 2023", the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

For countries outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), export contracts and invoices may now be denominated in any foreign currency or Indian rupees.

Earlier, export earnings generally had to be received in a freely convertible currency. Commenting on the notification, economic think tank GTRI said eligible rupee payments for exports to any country other than Nepal and Bhutan will now qualify for FTP benefits and count towards fulfilment of export obligations. Rupee earnings received through approved banking channels will there-

fore be treated on par with export payments received in foreign currency, it said, adding that exports financed through EXIM Bank or Government of India lines of credit may also be invoiced in Indian rupees. The ACU is a regional payment arrangement established in 1974 to facilitate trade settlements and reduce repeated transfers of foreign exchange by periodically settling the net obligations of its members.

KARAN ADANI ON WATCHING HIS FATHER THROUGH STORM

‘Sometimes the strongest answer is to keep building’

NEW DELHI

FOR Karan Adani, the past three years have been less about watching a business leader navigate a crisis and more about watching a father carry a burden.

In a deeply personal note, the managing director of Adani Ports reflected on what it was like to watch his father, billionaire Gautam Adani, navigate the turbulence that followed the Hindenburg Research report and subsequent US Department of Justice proceedings.

"Over the last three years, through the Hindenburg at-

tack on the Adani Group and the US DOJ proceedings, I was asked one question more than any other: What is it like, as a son, to watch your father endure all of this?" Karan wrote in a post on LinkedIn.

Karan said he struggled to answer the question while the events were unfolding.

"Now that it is behind us, I can."

There were mornings when another headline, accusation or judgment greeted him, he said.

"I felt anger. I felt concerned. And, as a son, I often wondered, how much should



one man have to absorb?"

But what stayed with him, he said, was not the noise.

It was watching his father go to work.

"My Father Kept Going to Work."

"It sounds like such an or-

dinary statement. It was anything but ordinary," Karan wrote.

He said resilience was often imagined as something dramatic - a speech, a show of defiance or a promise to prove critics wrong. What he saw instead was his father simply returning to the work in front of him every morning.

"Projects still had to be built. People still depended on us. Ports had to run. Power had to reach homes and businesses. Airports had to serve passengers. Investments whose results would be seen only decades later

still had to be made."

"India had not paused because our family was leaving through a storm. And neither did he."

For Karan, the experience also changed his understanding of the man he had always known simply as "Papa".

"Papa always had an extraordinary ability to focus on the task in front of him," he wrote.

"Work speaks for itself" has always been his instinct, Karan said.

The experience, he added, made him understand more deeply why his father had devoted his life to infrastruc-

ture and what he describes as nation-building.

"For him, these were never slogans," he wrote.

Gautam Adani has built the group around infrastructure and energy businesses ranging from ports and airports to power and other sectors, with investments often requiring a long-term view.

His ports-to-energy group never slowed during the three years of turbulence. It invested more than Rs 2.08 lakh crore in the second half of FY25 and FY26, including record capital expenditure of Rs 1,52,967 crore in FY26

AWS rolls out advanced OpenAI models in India

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

AMAZON Web Services (AWS), announced the general availability of OpenAI GPT-5.6 Terra and Luna models on Amazon Bedrock in India with in-country inferencing. With this capability, OpenAI model inference on Amazon Bedrock is processed on AWS infrastructure, giving organizations the ability to leverage frontier models locally.

Nitin Bawankule, Head-Enterprise Sales, India, OpenAI, said: "What we're seeing in India is a shift from AI as experimentation to AI as operating leverage. Businesses want models that can help teams write better software, work through complex information, and make higher-quality decisions in the flow of work. For many organizations in India, especially in regulated sectors, local inferencing is a key part of adopting AI with confidence. Making our models available through Amazon Bedrock gives more organizations a practical way to bring that capability into production."

Satinder Pal Singh, Director, AWS India, said: "India's enterprises are moving rapidly from AI experimentation to production-scale deployment, and they need frontier intelligence that runs where their data already lives.

JawaYezdi expands digital reach campaign

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

JAWAYEZDI Motorcycles launched the Yezdi Roadster Red Wolf campaign on e-commerce platforms Amazon.in and Flipkart.

For online purchase, the customer has to pay the ex-showroom booking amount on the e-commerce sites. After which an authorised local dealer confirms the order and guides the customer for the remaining on-road payment. Registration and insurance are completed at the dealership, followed by the final handover. Accessories and add-ons remain dealership purchases.

Anupam Thareja, Co-founder, JawaYezdi Motorcycles, said: "The Yezdi Roadster has resonated with riders because of its distinctive styling and refined engineering, when the Red Wolf came along, it called out to its pack like nothing before. With its availability on India's leading e-commerce platforms, the Red Wolf can bring its bold individuality across multiple Indian cities."

Thareja, further added: "Online presence for riders to discover and start their ownership journey seamlessly has become indispensable for us, and we will continue to endeavour to make our range of performance classics widely available."



Viswanath & Sons: Venky Atluri speaks about Suriya's belief and movie's Rs 150 cr success



Viswanath & Sons, the family entertainer starring Tamil hero Suriya and Mamitha Baiju, saw a spectacular opening after its release on August 14, 2026. The film directed by Venky Atluri has earned over Rs. 150 crore at the worldwide box office in four days. It has seen great response from the audience for its humor, sentiment, and family-centric theme.

Venky Atluri said that he is overwhelmed by appreciation for the film. The director also said Surya was immediately roped in for the project because he narrated it to him. Surya was open to

doing a family entertainer at this stage in his career, said Atluri. Plus, he pushed the team to keep the narration straightforward and avoid commercialism.

The Tholiprema director stated that his idea for this project, which was conceived in 2022, was to create a film about a man turning 40 without getting married. He also noted that the film's purpose is to explain why the protagonist behaves the way he does rather than cast him as a villain.

Furthermore, Venky Atluri stated that constructing a big house set for the film was challenging. He added that it had to be something extraordinary, and he complimented production designer Banglan and cinematographer Nimesh for their excellent work on the film.

Moreover, Atluri stated that Trivikram Srinivas saw the film and enjoyed it. He further stated that the filmmaker suggested no changes to the project after seeing it, and it was

surprising because Trivikram and Mani Ratnam were Atluri's boyhood heroes. In addition to Suriya, Venky Atluri signed Mamitha Baiju after seeing the actress in Premalu. Atluri revealed watching her perform comedy in Tamil was a treat for him. Her Tamil skills and great sense of humor made him decide to cast her in the film. In addition, it is reported that "Viswanath & Sons" have been produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Srikara Studios banner in association with Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas.



'Manasa Vacha' from 'EPIC' is a soulful melody

The makers of the upcoming youth romance entertainer **EPIC - FIRST SEMESTER** have released the third single from the film titled **Manasa Vacha**, a beautiful soulful melody that delves deep into the emotions of love, longing and relationships.

Rendered in a melodious voice by legendary singers **KS Chithra & SP Charan**, the song is composed by **Hesham Abdul Wahab** while **Sri Harsha Emani** has penned down the beautiful lyrics that reflect the emotions of the lead pair played by **Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya**.

The beautiful pictorial narration of the song revolves around the emotions of the lead pair while also reflecting the onscreen relationship between them. The composition by **Hesham Abdul Wahab** along with the enchanting voices of **KS Chithra and S. P. Charan** create a unique soulful blend.

EPIC - FIRST SEMESTER, a youthful romance entertainer, directed by **Aditya Haasan** and produced by **Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, Sai Soujanya**, under **Sithara Entertainments, Fortune Four Cinemas** presents **Srikara Studios**.

With a beautiful romantic theme, the film has been creating waves with the audience and we expect that the latest single **Manasa Vacha** will contribute to it. The makers are rolling out the promotions for the film in gradual manner which will eventually reach its peak on the release day.

EPIC - FIRST SEMESTER slated to release globally on **September 11, 2026**.



similarity with Kerala. She has a particular fondness for the song "Yalo Yalo".

With Ravi Teja, Priya Bhavani Shankar and baby star Nakshatra at the helm of the emotional family drama, **Irumudi** promises to deliver a compelling tale of family, action and drama.

'Irumudi' baby star Nakshatra shares her excitement over playing Ravi Teja's daughter

Baby Nakshatra makes her Telugu debut with the much-anticipated **Irumudi**. The young girl has expressed her delight to play the daughter of **Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja** in **Shiva Nirvana's** directorial venture and she is confident that the audience will connect to this emotional family entertainer.

Starring **Ravi Teja** in a lead role, the film also marks the debut of **Priya Bhavani Shankar** in Telugu cinema. This family genre movie produced by **Mythri Movie Makers** is all set to release on **August 21 st**.

Speaking about her role in the film, Nakshatra said, "I play the daughter of **Ravi Teja** in the film while **Priya Bhavani Shankar** plays my mother. Both **Ravi Teja** and **Priya** were extremely supportive and helped me a lot during the shoot. Interestingly, I have dubbed my own songs for the movie."

The thirteen years old actress who was from Kerala, has starred in 6 films in kannada, Malayalam and Tamil and studied 7th standard said that she got signed by the director **Shiva Nirvana** who saw her Instagram reel. She also added that working with legend **Ravi Teja** was an incredible experience and **Vikramarkudu** is his favorite film. Nakshatra thanked the parents and teachers for encouraging her and made her pursue studies and acting career.

Nakshatra also said that shooting in **sileru**, which is the shooting location of **Irumudi** was nostalgic for her as it had

Audience of every age group will enjoy 'Rambha Urvashi Menaka': Director Chandra Mohan Chintada

WAllari Naresh's much anticipated comedy entertainer, **Rambha Urvashi Menaka**, is all set to hit the screens this September 4 globally. The director, **Chandra Mohan Chintada**, said that the movie is the total entertainment package for all age groups.

Reportedly, the film, which has released its first lookers including teaser and song **Naa Kanti Maa Kanule**, is produced by **Rajesh Danda** along with **Nimmakayala Prasad** banner under **Annapurna Studios** and **Hasya Movies**. While talking about the movie, the director said, "Rambha Urvashi Menaka is an interesting story of an aspiring hero who wishes to establish himself in his village and stumbles upon a mysterious book belonging to **Rambha, Urvashi** and **Menaka** and lands up in a hilarious fantasy world."

The film has **Allari Naresh's** comedy and has a massive 25 minutes embedded as a surprise episode. But there is no vulgarity and adult humor in it," he added.

Moreover, **Chandra Mohan** stated that the movie is a total family entertainer.

The film also stars **Vennela Kishore, Senior Naresh** and **Srinivas Reddy** apart from the heroines **Surabhi, Raashi Singh, Prisha** and **Vishnupriya**. With 35 minutes of CG, the massive fantasy comedy is said to be a treat for the audiences as they would witness **Allari Naresh's** comic talent in full swing. The music is composed by **Chetan Bharadwaj**, and the makers are confident that the film will see **Allari Naresh** coming back in full-fledged entertaining avatar.



'Killer/KillR' release date creates buzz

The makers of the sci-fi thriller **Killer/KillR** have announced **October 17** as the worldwide theatrical release date of the film which will witness the grand opening on the auspicious occasion of **Vijayadashami**. Starring **Jyothi Poorvaj, Poorvaaj** in lead roles, the movie has been creating a lot of speculations in the media and social circles with some interesting glimpses.

Presented by **Urveesh Poorvaj**, with blessings of **Dhyanam Nannagaru**, this **Poorvaaj** directorial venture produced by **Poorvaaj** and **Padmanabha Reddy A.** under **Think Cinema** and **AU & I Studios** banners is all set for its release soon. The film features **Manish Gilada, Chandrakanth Kollu, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth** and **Gautham Chakradhar Koppishetti** in pivotal roles. The latest released glimpse of **Killer/KillR** on the occasion of **Vijayadashami** hints at **Dr. Poorvaaj**, the greatest genius scientist of India to whom an alien from the different dimension communicates on the day of the film's release informing him about sending a space-ship to save the mankind.

With the line "Our future is that alien's past", the glimpse leaves lot of questions about the movie's story-line regarding what is actually coming for humans to be saved

and what exactly the alien has up his sleeve for them. As it wraps up, the intriguing statement of "On October 17, we will decide your destiny" leaves the audience wanting more of the film.

Apart from the theatrical release, **Killer/KillR** is also gearing up for an overseas release with **OMG Pictures** entertaining the international distribution rights to this sci-fi thriller across **US, Europe, Canada, Arab, Malaysia, New Zealand** and **Russia**.



'Kingdom' fame Venkatesh VP turns hero with Ruudransh Celluloids new film

Following the blockbuster success of **K-Ramp**, **Ruudransh Celluloids** is all set to release their third production, with working title **D.G.P.**, starring **Kingdom** fame **Venkatesh V.P.** The movie will be produced by successful producer **Bommak Shiva** and directed by **Suresh Tej** under the guidance of **Dheeraj Nyathi**.

The makers celebrated the actor's birthday by announcing big news regarding the film as they shared hilarious video with the caption "Meet the hero



of our project".

In the video, producer **bomaak shiva** and director **sushreth tej** approach the actor at his restaurant in **Thiruvananthapuram** while he is busy taking orders. When the producer asks him to join their film, the

actor is surprised to hear that they wanted him for a villain's role but as they proceed to inform him that they actually want him to play the lead, the actor's confusion turns out to be amusement.

The actor is thrilled to

know that he is offered the lead role and gets more excited as he listens to the plot of the film. The announcement video manages to capture all these developments in the form of a funny video, giving a sneak peek into the project's trailer. **Venkatesh VP** is a well-known face in the malayalam television and film industry. He had gained immense popularity for his role as **Murugan** in **Vijay Deverakonda** starrer **Kingdom**. Additionally, the actor is also the co-founder of a restaurant start-up called **Suda Suda Idly**.

'Ameer Log' team looks confident ahead of release

The team of **Ameer Log** has been riding high on the waves of positivity after the film's premieres. The Telugu film, marking **Madhavi Reddy Soma's** first production venture under **Awwal Number Production**, is all set for a grand release on **August 21** via **Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media**. Directed by **Ramana Reddy Soma**, the film stars **MC Hari, Manoj** and **Sashidhar** along with **Vedha Jalandhar, Ravan Nittoor, Vishwender Reddy** and **Sai Yogi**. At the event, the cast and crew expressed their confidence that the "Telangana-ness", sentiment and unique presentation of the film would strike a chord



with the viewers.

They said that positive response to the film's premieres has emboldened them in their belief. **Ramana Reddy Soma** said that **Ameer Log** was a "unique exercise" and that the film captured the spirit of **Hyderabad**. **MC Hari** lauded the work put in by technicians, specially

editor **Rohith** and music director **Smarnan** while **Manoj** felt that the movie encapsulated the spirit and culture of **Telangana**. **Vedha Jalandhar** said that the film had innocence, simplicity and emotions.

Manohar Reddy and **Sai Yogi** also spoke about the overwhelming response

that the film has been getting post premieres in the neighbouring states of **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana**. With the word of mouth for the film being very positive, makers of **Ameer Log** are expecting similar kind of positive reaction from the audience on **August 21**.