

SOUTH ZONAL COUNCIL MEET

Settle lingering bifurcation issues, Naidu urges Centre

Calls for solution to issues under Sections 56 & 66

Pushes Amaravati, Polavaram, Metro, rail, port, industrial projects

Proposes Godavari-Kaveri link as long-term solution to benefit 4 states

Moots national heritage and pilgrimage circuit



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Telangana Dy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Karnataka CM DK Shivkumar, TN CM Joseph Vijay and AP CM Chandrababu Naidu during the Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday used the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram to press the Centre for closure of lingering bifurcation issues concerning Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, while putting forward an ambitious blueprint for south India's economic and infrastructure integration.

Addressing the meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Naidu pointed out that 12 years after bifurcation, the division of certain institutions and assets between Andhra Pradesh

SHAH FAVOURS EARLY RESOLUTION OF WATER-RELATED ISSUES THRU TALKS

Hails development of South at CMs' meet

CHENNAI: UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed the development journey of the southern states, saying "high literacy rate, trained manpower and technical expertise in the utilisation of deep seas" have been the three pillars behind the progress of these states. Chairing the 31st meeting of the Southern

Zonal Council at Mahabalipuram, Shah stressed the need for early resolution of pending water-related issues concerning southern states through mutual dialogues and joint meetings involving the Union Ministries of Jal Shakti, Home Affairs, the Inter-State Council, and the respective states.

CHENNAI: DELIMITATION, WATER DISPUTES AT SZC MEET

CHENNAI: Delimitation issue was raised by the participating state governments at the 31st meeting of the South Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Mahabalipuram on Thursday.

and Telangana remains incomplete. He said Andhra Pradesh had been waiting for

nine years for a decision on issues under Section 66 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisa-

tion Act. He sought action also on matters under Section 56, the resource gap and the

financial burden on the state. He said the division of institutions listed in Schedules 9 and 10, along with assets and liabilities, must be settled on the principle of equitable justice.

Naidu thanked the Centre for its support to Andhra Pradesh and said 10 of the 11 promised national-level institutions had been established. He sought faster approvals and funding for projects under Schedule 13, including the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor, three airports, and rail connectivity to Amaravati. He also raised demands for the Dugarajapatnam Port, BPCL refinery, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro projects and rail connectivity to the Jindal Steel plant in Kadapa. Naidu thanked the Centre for support to Polavaram, the South Coast Railway Zone and Amaravati. He also raised the issue of AP Bhavan in Delhi.

The Chief Minister welcomed the Centre's legal recognition of Amaravati as the state's capital and said the new capital was being developed with focus on water resources, greenery, quality of life, connectivity, and economic opportunities.

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150 STUDENTS, NO DRAINAGE

Ternekal BC welfare hostel turning into a health hazard

• Nearly 150 students at the BC Welfare Hostel in Ternekal village have been residing in an overcrowded rented building for the last 1.5 years without proper rooms or toilets

• The rented premises lack a soak pit and permanent drainage, causing stagnant wastewater to discharge directly onto public roads, creating foul odors and mosquito breeding grounds

• Hostel Welfare Officer Koteswara Rao cited budget shortages for unresolved issues, while Deputy MPDO P Gopal stated a Rs 1.45 crore proposal was submitted via Jana Sena leader Venkappa for development works

NARENDRA KUMAR
VARIKUNTLA
TERNEKAL (KURNOOL DIST)

NEARLY 150 students residing at the BC Welfare Hostel in Ternekal village are facing severe hardship due to a acute shortage of basic infrastructure, including adequate rooms, toilets, and a permanent drainage system.

For the past one-and-a-half years, students have been accommodated in a rented building outside the main hostel premises due

to spatial constraints. The temporary premises lack proper soak pits and drainage connections, resulting in untreated wastewater flowing directly onto public roads.

The accumulation of stagnant sewage has generated foul odors and intensified mosquito breeding, raising major health concerns for both hostellers and local residents forced to walk through the waste.

Villagers claimed repeated representations to



Hostel wastage water being discharged on to the road



Students and residents are forced to walk in the sewage water

hostel authorities yielded no results.

They demanded that district officials inspect the site, hold the hostel management and building owner accountable, and prioritize basic civic infrastructure.

When contacted by The Hans India, Hostel Welfare Officer Koteswara Rao

acknowledged that 150 students are living in the rented accommodation and stated that higher officials, including the Panchayat Raj department, were alerted multiple times. He attributed the prolonged delay to a lack of budgetary allocations.

Meanwhile, Deputy MPDO P Gopal stated that

a development proposal worth Rs 1.45 crore has been submitted for official sanction through Jana Sena leader Venkappa.

He assured that once funds are released, repair and construction work will be executed on a war footing. Residents continue to appeal for urgent government intervention.

Four held for robbing man lured via polo dating app

• Nandyal Taluk police arrested four local youths for luring and robbing a man

• The gang befriended the victim via the Polo application, lured him to a spot near Golden Function Hall on August 15, took him to an isolated temple area, assaulted him with iron rods, and robbed him at knife point

• Police recovered two knives, two iron rods, five mobile phones, Rs 5,800 cash, and a Honda motorcycle from the arrested accused

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

THE Nandyal Taluk police on Thursday arrested four youths for allegedly luring a man through a social networking application, assaulting him with iron rods, and robbing him at knife point.

The arrested individuals were identified as Bolledula Pavan Kumar (21), Gurram Venkata Naga Charan alias Charan (19), Pasupuleti Venkata Umakanth (21), and Bal Shetty Hemanth (19), all residents of Nandyal town. Police seized two knives, two iron



ASP Susmitha addressing media in Nandyal on Thursday

rods, five mobile phones, Rs 5,800 cash, and a Honda motorcycle from their possession.

According to the police, the accused befriended the victim via the Polo application and persuaded him to meet near the Golden Function Hall on the Nandyal-Kothapalli road on August 15. They subsequently took him to an isolated area near Anjaneya Swamy Temple, where they threatened him with knives, physically assaulted him, and fled after snatching Rs 7,200 in cash and his mobile phone.

Following a complaint lodged on August 17, District

SP Suneel Sheoran directed special teams led by Taluk CI R Eshwaraiiah, under the supervision of ASP Susmitha, to track down the offenders.

The police team intercepted and arrested the four accused near PAV Ventures in Nandamuri Nagar. A case was registered under Section 309(6) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Addressing the media, ASP Susmitha stated that the accused are suspected of having targeted other individuals using similar digital lures and appealed to other victims to approach the police without hesitation.

Kalahastiswara Institute of Technology granted affiliation with JNTUA

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

KALAHASTISWARA Institute of Technology (KIT), Srikalahasti, managed by the Srikalahastiswara Devasthanam, has been affiliated with Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur (JNTUA).

Temple authorities handed over necessary registrations and compliance documents to JNTUA Registrar Prof B Durga Prasad. JNTUA Vice-Chancellor Prof H Sudarsana Rao welcomed KIT into the university fold, emphasizing that the move will boost



quality technical education, research, and placement opportunities.

Prof Rao thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara

Lokesh for facilitating the affiliation.

The integration brings KIT students directly into JNTUA's academic and skill-building system.

‘Blood group mismatch no longer a barrier to kidney transplants’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

BLOOD group mismatch is no longer a barrier to kidney transplantation, declared Dr PS Vali, Senior Consultant Nephrologist at Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad.

Speaking on ABO-incompatible (ABOi) transplants, Dr Vali noted that nearly 30% of willing family donors were previously rejected due to blood group incompatibility.

Using pre-transplant antibody reduction and



plasma exchange, patients can safely receive kidneys

from mismatched family members, achieving success rates comparable to conventional transplants. Urging families not to reject donors prematurely, Dr Vali highlighted Yashoda Hospitals' specialized infrastructure for complex transplants, HDF, and CRRT dialysis procedures.

CHANGE OF NAME

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I, RAICHOOR ALLABAKESH (Old Surname & Name) S/o RAYACHUR BASHU R/o 12-1-351,1ST CROSS, Ashok Nagar, Anantapur, Ananthapuramu(D)-515001 AP, Have changed my New Surname & Name as RAYACHUR ALLABAKASH. Here after my name is known as RAYACHUR ALLABAKASH (NEW Surname & Name) S/o RAYACHUR BASHU

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I, SHAIK MOHAMMAD ROSHAN ZAMEERA, C/o Mohammad Sameena Parveen, residing at 4/14-27, Acharamma Kottala, Guntakal, Ananthapuram District, Andhra Pradesh, hereby declare that I have changed/corrected my mother's name from SAMEENA PARVEEN (Old Name) to MOHAMMAD SAMEENA PARVEEN (New Name) for all purposes, including Passport issuance Affidavit dated 20-08-2026, sworn before Notary Sri P. Babu, Guntakal.

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GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

AHUDA chairman TC Varun accepting petitions from citizens alongside Planning Officer Isaac at the urban development authority office in Anantapur on Thursday

MP holds public grievance day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

ANANTAPUR MP Ambika Lakshminarayana held a public grievance session at his camp office on Thursday, accepting petitions from citizens across the district.

The MP directly contacted officials from the Revenue, Police, Education, Panchayat, Endowments, and Electricity departments, instructing them to ensure immediate resolutions.

Citing Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's special



grievance mechanism, he urged authorities to prioritize citizen welfare.

Furthermore, during a review with postal officials, MP Lakshminarayana suggested expanding postal services in the region and promised to take infrastructural needs directly to the Union Minister to accelerate local postal sector efficiency.

97 attend Anganwadi ayah recruitment interviews



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADIRI

INTERVIEWS for Anganwadi Ayah posts under the Nallacheruvu ICDS project concluded peacefully at the Kadiri RDO office on Thursday.

Supervised by Kadiri RDO Kalavathi, Sri Sathya Sai District ICDS PD Katari Pramila, and CDPO Niharika, the drive processed 97 candi-

dates out of 100 applicants across 38 centers.

Three candidates were absent. Officials verified original certificates and conducted individual interviews to assess suitability. ICDS PD Katari Pramila assured that selections will strictly follow government rules and merit, warning candidates against trusting brokers or paying money to middlemen promising job placements.

IEI student chapter launched at Gates College

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GOOTY

AN IEI Student Chapter was inaugurated within the EEE department at Gates Institute of Technology, Gooty.

IEI AP State Centre Chairman Prof MLS Devakumar attended as guest of honor, highlighting membership benefits like R&D funds, technical exposure, and scholarships.

Chief Guest Dr M Ramakrishna Reddy, IEI Anan-

tapur Chairman, delivered a key address on "Energy Conservation and Sustainable Development," emphasizing renewable energy integration.

Management members including Correspondent Padmavattamma, Director Srivani, MD Raghunatha Reddy, Principal Dr Namratha, and EEE HOD Dr Madhumohan urged students to actively utilize the professional body to build technical expertise and career opportunities.



Vehicle worth Rs 20 lakh donated to Red Cross Society

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

PHILANTHROPIST Shankar Narayana Planjari donated a Tempo vehicle worth Rs 20 lakhs to the Anantapur Red Cross Society to transport Thalassemia patients and support blood donation drives.

Dedicated during Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's centenary celebrations, the vehicle was inaugurated in the presence of DRO A Malola and JNTUA VC Prof H Sudarsana Rao. Additionally, Planjari pledged



Rs 40 lakhs to purchase a specular microscope for the Red Cross Eye Bank to enable advanced cornea testing. Red Cross Chairman Dr G Lakshmana Prasad expressed deep gratitude, highlighting how these contributions will transform local patient care and eye bank operations.

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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 mAmembers 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 a 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-



YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy speaking to the media at party central office in Tadepalli on Thursday

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

National Games was denied a job. Jagan also referred to audio recordings that allegedly circulated in connection with job trading and questioned why no action had been taken. "This is why DSC needs a CBI probe and the Education Minister should resign," he said.

Jagan accused the NDA coalition government of raising the Group-I issue to divert attention from the alleged DSC irregularities and "save" Education Minister Nara Lokesh. He said

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.

AP journalists call on Rajasthan CM, Assembly Speaker

NARESH NANDAM
JAIPUR

A delegation of journalists from Andhra Pradesh called on Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani in Jaipur on Thursday. The visit was part of the final leg of a media tour in Rajasthan, organised by Press Information Bureau, Vijayawada.

The meeting with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma took place on the first day of the Rajasthan Assembly sessions. The Chief Minister enquired about the journalists' experience of the tour so far in the State. He also recalled his association with leaders from Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at the meeting, Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani

urged the visiting AP journalists to experience the culture, heritage, and hospitality of Rajasthan.

PIB Jaipur Director Anubhav Bairwa and PIB Vijayawada Assistant Director R Ramesh Chandra explained the aim of the press tour to the hosts.

The visiting journalists also called on the Regional Office of PIB Jaipur. The journalists shared their experience and understanding of various issues gathered during their three-day tour in Jodhpur, which included visits to several National Institutes.

PIB Jaipur Deputy Director Dharmesh Bharti, Assistant Director Amit Kanaujiya, PIB Jodhpur Media and Communication Officer Ashish Verma, PIB Vijayawada officer Y Upender and other officers were also present at the meeting.



Delegation of journalists from Andhra Pradesh and PIB Vijayawada officials presenting a Kondapalli handicraft memento to Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at Assembly in Jaipur on Thursday

J'khand HC stays Soren govt order to cancel JPSC exams

RANCHI: The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday stayed Soren government's order to cancel 11th and 13th JPSC exams and appointments following student protests.

This comes days after the government cancelled the JSSC-CGL examination and all recruitment exams conducted by TSR Data Processing Pvt Ltd (TDPL).

Chief minister Hemant Soren had announced the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination and all



recruitment tests conducted by TDPL since 2014.

The government also decided to cancel the 14th JPSC and backlog examinations and announced measures to reform the recruitment system.

An exam reforms committee headed by senior IAS

officer Amitabh Kaushal has also been constituted to recommend measures to strengthen and streamline the recruitment process.

While the cancellations addressed a major demand of the protesting students, the demand for a CBI probe has remained a point of contention. Meanwhile, the government's decision triggered a separate protest by candidates who had cleared the JSSC-CGL examination and were appointed to government posts.

Govt limits SIM cards to 9 per person

NEW DELHI: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed telecom operators to decline new connections to subscribers who already have nine mobile SIMs in their name. According to a circular, telecom operators have been asked to put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures from August 24 onwards to identify each subscriber seeking to obtain a connection beyond the prescribed limit and deny them a new SIM card.

"From August 24, 2026, onward, TSPs (telecom service providers) shall take appropriate technical and organisational measures to identify each subscriber who seeks



to obtain mobile connections beyond the prescribed limit and communicate to him that he already has a maximum number of mobile connections permitted to an individual and accordingly, a new mobile connection cannot be provided to him," the circular said.

The DoT has also put in place a mechanism to help telecom operators identify such subscribers. From August 23, a representative image of the photo of each subscriber who has already reached the prescribed limit for mobile connections in their name will be made available on the DIP.

The DIP uses subscriber information submitted by telecom operators. The latest directive requires operators to use the platform to help identify people who have already reached the permitted limit and the details of such subscribers are available on the DIP," the circular said.

The DoT has also put in place a mechanism to help telecom operators identify such subscribers. From August 23, a representative image of the photo of each subscriber who has already reached the prescribed limit for mobile connections in their name will be made available on the DIP.



US debt tops \$40 trn, raises eco concerns

WASHINGTON: The national debt surpassed a record \$40 trillion on Wednesday, a staggering milestone as defense costs, social programs like Social Security and Medicare and interest on the burgeoning deficit to make up an enormous share of federal spending.

The milestone figure was recorded just five months after the US hit a record \$39 trillion debt in March.

MODI'S DEGREE ROW

Delhi HC sets Sept 29 for hearing appeals

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has scheduled September 29 to hear appeals requesting the disclosure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree details. The date was set after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing Delhi University, requested an expedited hearing. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia was hearing the appeals, which challenged a single-judge ruling that overturned a Central Information Commission (CIC) directive to release the degree records.

6-yr-old-boy dies as teacher hits him for not doing homework

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM: In a tragic incident at a private school in Visakhapatnam, a six-year-old child died after a teacher hit him for not completing his homework.

The child, Tammanna Pranay Tej, looked visibly scared while the teacher reprimanded and slapped him. Footage from a CCTV recording of the incident drew public ire and sparked a serious debate about the prevalence of corporal punishment despite its ban, apparently due to laxity in enforcement.



Soon after the teacher hit the LKG student, the boy collapsed in the classroom. When the child was rushed to the King George Hospital, doctors there declared him brought dead. Parents of Pranay Tej reached the hospital and demanded justice for their child. They expressed concern over

the death of the boy who was quite healthy before leaving for the school. They blamed the teacher for the boy's death. "The boy was very healthy. As we went on a pilgrimage, Pranay Tej could not complete his homework," Pranay Tej's father informed. The body of the boy has been sent for a post-mortem. Responding to the tragic incident, HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh assured the government's support to Pranay Tej's family. He mentioned that strict action will be taken against the teacher and the school

management.

For context, Section 17 of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 bans physical punishment and mental harassment of children in schools, making it a punishable offense for teachers.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights strictly prohibit physical punishment in affiliated schools. The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 outlaws cruelty to children in institutional care and alternative care settings.

Cops can't probe offences under PCPNDT Act: SC

NEW DELHI: Police cannot commence an independent investigation of the offences under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, the Supreme Court said on Thursday. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kottiswar Singh held that authorities designated under the law must take action in such cases. The PCPNDT Act was enacted with the intent to prohibit the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus.

Trump announces 'Economic D-day' Warns Iran and allies

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced what he called the "most crushing economic operation" against Iran, stating that any country that does business with Tehran will face "TREMENDOUS economic consequences." In a statement on Wednesday, Trump asserted that he provided Iran with an opportunity for a deal, but the Islamic Republic squandered it. "No one has given the Islamic Republic of Iran a greater opportunity to make a Deal than me. TRAGICALLY, for them, they have failed to take it. Therefore, today, I am announcing the MOST CRUSHING ECONOMIC OPERATION EVER TAKEN AGAINST ANY COUNTRY," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social account. Comparing the "operation" to an "Economic D-Day,"

I CAN SEE PAPA SMILING: RAHUL

Pays emotional tribute to father Rajiv

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday marked the 82nd birth anniversary of his father and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi with a deeply personal tribute, recalling the pain his mother Sonia Gandhi endured after his assassination and expressing pride in her decision to publicly share her life story. In an emotional social media post addressed to his mother as "Mama", Rahul Gandhi looked back on the last time he saw his parents together more than 35 years ago and spoke of the resilience with which Sonia Gandhi faced life after Rajiv Gandhi's death.

"Mama, I last saw you and Papa together more than 35 years ago. Since the day Papa left, I have watched you face everything the life threw at you with never-ending courage and dignity," Rahul Gandhi wrote.

The Congress leader said that he and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were perhaps the only ones who could truly understand the difficulties their mother faced in the years following Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. "Only Priyanka and I



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays a moving tribute to his mother Sonia Gandhi on his father Rajiv Gandhi's 82nd birth anniversary on Thursday

PM'S TRIBUTE TO RAJIV GANDHI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary, remembering the Congress leader who served as India's prime minister from 1984 to 1989. In a post on social media platform X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "On his birth anniversary, my tributes to former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji." The tribute comes as Rajiv Gandhi's political legacy remains closely associated with the Nehru-Gandhi family and the Congress.

really know what you have been through, and how difficult your life after Papa truly was," he said.

NEET PROTESTS

SC sets up 5-member panel to probe police 'excesses' at CJP stir

NEW DELHI: A day after the Supreme Court announced it will be setting up a committee to examine allegations of excessive use of force by security personnel against students during the July 20 student march over the NEET paper leak, the top court on Thursday said that a five-member panel will be headed by former SC judge Justice R Subhash Reddy. Other members of the committee include 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 Director General of Police Dr LR Bishnoi.

The committee will examine allegations of excessive use of pellet guns, electric batons, lathi charges and tear gas, along with alleged violence against women protesters. It will also look into police surveillance, the proportionality of crowd-control measures, and the provision of medical assistance and compensation to victims. The committee will also consider allegations by authorities of violence against police personnel and damage to public property.

This comes as the apex



court is hearing a batch of petitions alleging excessive police action against students who participated in protests at Jantar Mantar and other locations across the country over alleged NEET examination paper leaks and broader concerns relating to the examination system.

The proceedings come against the backdrop of weeks of student demonstrations led by the Cockerroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar, including a hunger strike and a subsequent march towards Parliament.

On July 20, thousands of students participated in a Parliament march organised by the CJP, demanding, among other things, the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination paper leaks and seeking wider reforms in the examination system. As demonstrators attempted to move towards Parliament and breach police barricades in central Delhi, security personnel used tear gas and lathi-charge to disperse the protesters.

12 bills cleared in monsoon session

- ▶ BC reservations in local bodies get approval
- ▶ Assembly records 25 hours of debate as YCP stays away

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE monsoon session of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature ended on Thursday with a sharp contrast between the Assembly and Legislative Council. While the Assembly completed substantive business and debated key political and administrative issues, the Council was virtually paralysed for four days by YSRCP protests demanding a discussion on alleged irregularities in the Mega DSC recruitment.

The Assembly recorded about 25 hours and 15 minutes of debate, with 103 members participating in the proceedings. Ministers answered 45 questions, including 25 starred and one unstarred question. Three short-duration discussions and a special discussion under Rule 344 were held, while the government secured passage of 12 Bills. The House also witnessed major announcements on BC reservations in local bodies, with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announcing 33.33 per cent reservation for BCs



in urban local bodies and 34 per cent in rural local bodies. The Legislative Council, however, remained caught in a confrontation over the Mega DSC recruitment issue. YSRCP members repeatedly rushed to the Chairman's podium, raised slogans and demanded an immediate debate on alleged irregularities. The protests continued throughout the four-day session, preventing substantive discussions on other legislative businesses. Apart from Question Hour and the election of the Deputy Chairman, proceedings were repeatedly adjourned. The Assembly's agenda included detailed discussions on the implementation of the government's Super Six promises, the Mega DSC controversy, law and order and alleged irregularities in the APPSC Group-1 examination. On the opening day, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh gave a detailed statement on the Mega DSC allegations. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also initiated a discussion on rainfall deficit, outlining the government's response and contingency measures.

Shah favours early resolution of water-related issues thru talks

Continued from P1

The southern states agreed with the Home Minister's suggestion to resolve these pending water disputes expeditiously through mutual dialogue and constructive solutions. Shah said that since 2014, efforts have been made to transform the Zonal Council into a meaningful platform.

Regarding the issues concerning the division of assets and liabilities between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, both states agreed to resolve these matters in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shah said in his address at the meeting.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, who serves as the council's

vice-chairman, personally welcomed Shah upon his arrival. The two leaders also held a brief interaction before the meeting began. During the proceedings, Vijay was seated alongside Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. Representatives from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana took part in the meeting.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan and Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka were among those who attended. Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy was absent from the meeting, with Lieutenant Governor K Kailashnathan representing the Union Territory.

SOUTH CMs RAISE DELIMITATION, WATER DISPUTES AT SZC MEET

Continued from P1

Delimitation, an issue on which most southern states are on the same page, prominently figured in the meeting, with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu stressing that status quo of 543 Lok Sabha seats be maintained for another 25 years.

With his state locked in a dispute with Tamil Nadu over the Mekedatu dam proposal, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar told TN that its interests would be protected if the reservoir is constructed. Shivakumar also 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.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay conveyed to the Union Home Minister that the existing freeze capping Lok Sabha seats at 543 nationally and 39 in the state should continue, state minister R Nirmal Kumar said.

Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana agreed to resolve matters related to the division of assets and liabilities in consultation with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Keralam CM Satheesan raised the Mullaperiyar dam issue at the meeting and stressed the need for cooperative federalism in healthcare, infrastructure, environmental protection and regional security. The Mullaperiyar dam issue was among the key state concerns raised by the CM at the meeting, according

to a post on 'X'.

Satheesan said Keralam was willing to provide Tamil Nadu with its full share of water from a new Mullaperiyar dam. Tamil Nadu would manage the design, location and construction of the new dam, while Keralam would bear the entire cost.

Telangana Deputy CM Vikramarka sought protection of the state's rights in Krishna river waters and Central support for major irrigation projects. Puducherry was represented by Lt Governor K Kailashnathan. The LG sought the Centre and neighbouring states' support, particularly Tamil Nadu, to develop an integrated surface water system for a reliable year-round water supply.

Settle lingering bifurcation issues, Naidu urges Centre

Continued from P1

Naidu proposed that the Centre pursue Godavari-Kaveri river interlinking as a long-term solution to water security. He said Andhra Pradesh's rivers, including the Godavari, Krishna, Vamsadhara, Nagavali and Penna, support irrigation across 28 districts. He proposed diverting more than 500 TMC of surplus floodwater to the Kaveri basin through the Polavaram, Krishna and Penna systems. He said such a project could benefit Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Naidu also suggested that Ganga-Kaveri interlinking be taken up as a national project and called for a dedicated coordination mechanism for southern river basins. He urged the Centre to fix timelines for DPRs and statutory clearances.

Naidu proposed a bullet train corridor linking Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka through Kuppam, connecting Amaravati, Bengaluru, and Chennai. He also called for a shared logistics network and dry ports, integration of the southern power grid with the national grid, and a common skill-development system involving universities and skilling institutions. A dedicated southern disaster-management task force was proposed to enable states to support one another during natural calamities.

Naidu said south India could become a USD

10-trillion economy by 2047 and play a decisive role in India's ambition to become a USD 30-35 trillion economy.

Naidu proposed a national heritage and pilgrimage circuit linking Tirupati, Srishailam, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Rameswaram, and Mysuru with Varanasi, Ayodhya, and the Char Dham. He urged the Southern Zonal Council to work on mutual trust, Centre-State cooperation, and faster implementation of decisions.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Ministers of Kerala and Karnataka, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar attended the meeting.

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

AI for Good Global Commission

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.

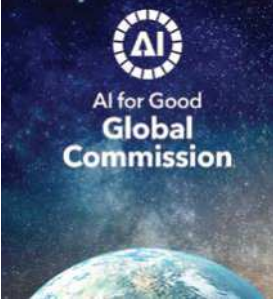
The deliberations focused primarily on AI governance, technological innovation, and

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 automation. 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 productivity 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

to AI technologies and digital infrastructure. It also promotes the extension of AI's benefits to rural areas and socially disadvantaged communities, ensuring that technological progress is more inclusive.

In addition, the Commission can play a crucial role in helping India mitigate the potential adverse impacts of AI on employment, society, and the environment through responsible AI governance, capacity building, and sustainable policy frameworks. This will enable India to harness the transformative potential of AI while ensuring that its benefits are shared broadly across all sections of society.

To achieve its objectives, the AI for Good Global Commission promotes global collaboration among governments, technology companies, researchers, and civil society organizations. By fostering cooperation among these key stakeholders, the Commission seeks to ensure that artificial intelligence is developed and deployed in a responsible, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

The Commission also plays a vital role in maximizing the benefits of AI for individuals and societies worldwide while minimizing its potential risks and adverse impacts. It aims to encourage the adoption of ethical AI practices, strengthen international coordination, and support policies that ensure AI serves the broader public interest. If governments, industry, academia, and civil society work together to implement the Commission's recommendations, the AI for Good Global Commission can make a significant contribution to building a safer, more equitable, and AI-driven global economy that promotes sustainable development and shared prosperity for all.

(The writer is Professor, School of Commerce and Management, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati)

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

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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>

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.)

MLA SUNITHA RAISES EL NIÑO WATER CRISIS IN ASSEMBLY

- Speaking during Zero Hour, Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha highlighted severe drought in Anantapur district, noting that borewells drilled to 1,000 feet are yielding no water
- Demanded an allocation of ₹1 crore per mandal to expand water tanker operations, particularly in large segments like Anantapur Rural mandal with 70,000 voters

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

RAISING the acute drought conditions caused by the El Niño phenomenon in Anantapur district during Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly, Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha urged the state government to immediately sanction ₹1 crore per mandal to tackle severe drinking water shortages.

Highlighting the crisis in her constituency, MLA Sunitha pointed out that groundwater levels have plummeted drastically, leaving borewells dry even at depths of 1,000 feet.

She noted that heavily populated regions like Anantapur Rural mandal, housing over 70,000 voters, are facing acute shortages. She requested deploying additional water tankers and releasing at



Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha raising the El Niño drinking water crisis and highlighting the positive impact of 'Super Six' welfare schemes in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Thursday

least 30 percent capacity into local irrigation tanks through the Handri-Neeva project to replenish groundwater and supply drinking water for livestock.

She also requested expedit-

ing the completion of unfinished Rythu Bharosa Kendras and Secretariat buildings.

Speaking during a short discussion on the 'Super Six' welfare initiatives, MLA Sunitha commended Chief

Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for implementing transformative schemes.

She highlighted that ₹2 crore reached 40,000 mothers in Raptadu under Talliki Vandanam, while ₹136 crore was distributed to 51,000 local farmers through Annadatha Sukhibhava. Furthermore, she appreciated the seamless doorstep delivery of pensions under NTR Bharosa.

Addressing issues arising from the Stree Shakti free bus travel initiative for women, MLA Sunitha noted that buses are severely overcrowded, with passenger loads reaching 60 to 80 per trip. She appealed to the Transport Department to immediately augment the RTC fleet with new buses and recruit additional drivers and conductors to relieve operational stress.

Govt schemes must be taken closer to people: MVS Prasad

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ANANTAPUR

REGIONAL Joint Director (RJD) of Information and Public Relations MVS Prasad stressed that government welfare and development schemes must be widely publicized to reach citizens effectively.

Inspecting the DIPRO headquarters near Rythu Bazaar on Thursday evening, he reviewed operational tasks with DIPRO Bala Kondaiah. Calling the Information Department a crucial pillar of public administration,



Prasad urged staff members to work responsibly and efficiently to uphold the department's reputation. DPRO Prabhakar, PRO Suryanarayana Reddy, APRO Fakruddin, and other administrative staff attended the review to align on public outreach strategies.

Rajiv Gandhi is the architect of digital India: Cong

TIRUPATI

CONGRESS leaders led by its district president Gomedapera Chittibabu, held a commemorative event to mark 82nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, here on Thursday. Leaders and party workers paid floral tributes at Rajiv Gandhi statue. Speaking on the occasion, G Chittibabu praised Rajiv Gandhi as the architect of India's modern tech-



nological transformation. He highlighted Rajiv Gandhi's initiatives during 1984–1989 that promoted information technology, reduced import duties on computers, and expanded

access to communication technologies in rural areas. He said these policies laid foundation for widespread use of computers and mobile phones and accelerated national development. Senior Congress leader Mangati Gopal Reddy recalled Rajiv Gandhi's role in supporting telecom expansion, including the work led by Sam Pitroda and the establishment of C-DOT, which extended telephone networks to villages.

EXTRAORDINARY
PART-II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY)

NOTIFICATION

Secunderabad, the 7th August, 2026

S.O. 4458(E) - In exercise of the power conferred by Sub-Section (i) of section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereafter referred to as in as the said Act.), Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for execution of the special railway project, **Doubling of Railway Track between Mahabubnagar – Dhone Section (Bypass Line) in NANDYAL** district in the state of Andhra Pradesh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such lands.

Any person interested in the said land may raise objection, within a period of Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, for the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purposes under sub-section (1) of section 20D of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, the Special Deputy Collector, New B.G. Railway Line, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh State, in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority, the Special Deputy Collector, New B.G. Railway Line, Nandyal district shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (ii) of section 20D of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Description of Lands in Acquisition :- Doubling of track between Mahabubnagar and Dhone Section Bye-Pass line within the limits of Dhone (Village), Dhone (Mandal) of Nandyal District jurisdiction for passenger and freight facility in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Village : DHONE		Mandal : DHONE		District : NANDYAL	
Sl. No.	Sy.No	Sy.No	Name of the land Holder	Tentative Land Acquisition Extent (Acres – Cents)	Details of the Project
1		73-3A	V.Bajaramma, W/O Chinna Venkataiah		
2			Maraboini Mahesh, S/O Giddaiah		
3			Maraboini Ramakrishna, S/O Giddaiah		
4		73-3B	Maraboini Maddaiah, S/O Giddaiah		
5			Maraboini Ramaiah, S/O Giddaiah		
6			Maraboini Obulesh, S/O Giddaiah		
7			Migulu Bhoomi,		
8	73/3	73-3C	V.Pedda Venkatamma, W/O Balanna		
9		73-3D	V.Venkatamma, W/O Erranna		
10		73-3E	Devarabandha Raghu, S/O Bala Rangadu		
11		73-3F	S.Muni Rangadu, S/O Seethammagari Thimmaiah		
12			V.Pedda Rangaswamy, S/O V.Nadi Madhaiah		
13		73-A1-A4	Venkaraboyina Chinna Rangaswamy S/O Nadipi Maddaiah		
14			Mugulu Bhoomi,		
15	72/3	72-3A	Mugulu Bhoomi		
16		72-3B	Mugulu Bhoomi		
17			Ramanjaneyulu, S/O Avula Sunkanna		
18			Surendra Kumar, S/O Sunkanna		
19			Guvvalakuntla Madhavi, W/O G.Sriramulu		
20			Gandham Obulesu, S/O Gandham Lakshmanna		
21			Kadimetla Venkata Lakshmi, W/O Kadimetla Nagaraju		
22			Mugulu Bhoomi		
23			Avula Sunkulamma, W/O Maddaiah		
24			A.Shivaiah, S/O Sunkanna		
25			Avula Raminjaneyulu, S/O Avula Sunkanna		
26			Surendra Kumar, S/O Sunkanna		
27	114/3	114/3	Avula Chinna Ramanjaneyulu, S/O Sunkanna		
28			G.Obulesu, S/O Gandham Lakshmanna		
29			Kadimetla Venkata Lakshmi, W/O Kadimetla Nagaraju		
30			Malichetla Rajendra Kumar, S/O Narayana		
31			Boya Venkateswarlu, S/O B.Pedda Maddaiah		
32		116/3B	Vettivella Venkateswarlu, S/O Vettivella Chinna Venkataiah		
33	116/3B	116-3B-A	Awd Assessed Waste Dry		
34			Vettivella Rangamma, W/O Vettivella Venkataiah		
35		116-3B-B	Golla Rangamma, W/O Chinna Sunkanna		
36			Vettivella Rangaswamy, S/O Sunkanna		
37	124/3	124-3	Bachchu Jayaseelam Gupta, S/O Bachu Venkata Subbaiah		
38	123/1	123-1	Poramboku		
39	160/1	160-1	Migulu Bhoomi		
40			Avula Adilakshmi, S/O A.Gorantla		
41		159-2A	Avula Pedda Sanjanna, S/O Madakrishnaiah		
42	159/2	159-2C	Pedda Ramanjaneyulu, S/O Maddilety		

43			Chinna Ramanjaneyulu, S/O Maddilety		
44	159/1	159-1	Migulu Bhoomi		
45	158/1	158-1	Railway Land		
46	157/1	157-1	M.Venkata Ramana S/O Muni Swami		
47	156/2	156-2	Migulu Bhoomi		
48	156/3	156-3	Not Ported In Webland		
49	158/2	158-2	Bandidari		
50			B.Thyagaraju S/O Anjanappa		
51			Talari Rama Krishna S/O Venkata Naidu		
52			Talari Vijayudu S/O Gorantla		
53			Kommu Nadipi Krishnaiah S/O Peddagorantla		
54			Sheikh Madar Vali S/O Karimsaheb		
55			Abdul Subhan S/O Maasum Saheb		
56	163	163-1	Chandramuni Naidu S/O Talarigorantla		
57			Sheikh Noor Basha S/O Sheikh Masumsab		
58			Sheikh Abdul Rahim S/O Masoomsaheb		
59			Kurukundu Rajamma W/O K.Srinivasulu		
60			Kenje Arjun S/O Pullaiah		
61			Kommo Manohar S/O K.Madhava Krishna		
62			Talari Lakshmi Devi W/O Talari Ramakrishna		
63			Kurukundu Pawan S/O K.Srinivasulu		
64			Kurukundu Mohan S/O Srinivas		
65		163-1B	Vaddo Thirupalamma W/O Pedda Polakailu		
66		163-1C	Remala Veralakshmi W/O R.Venkateswara Reddy		
67		163/B	Kommu Chinna Naganna S/O Salanna		
68			K.Raghuramulu S/O Kurukundu Maddaiah		
69	164	164	Kenje Arjun S/O Pullaiah		
70			Sandubolini Ramagopal S/O S Venkatesh		
71			Sandaboyina Malleswari W/O Rama Gopal		
72			Sandaboyina Ramakrishna S/O Sandaboyina Venkatesh		
73			Sandaboyina Venkataramudu S/O Sandaboyini Venkatesh		
74			Sandaboyini Padmavati W/O Sandaboyini Ramakrishna		
75			Sandaboyini Chandrakala W/O Sandaboyini Venkataramudu		
76		165-2	Kunnuru Sravan Kumar S/O Pedda Rangaswamy		
77		165/3	Sanduboi Kiran Kumar S/O Venkataram		
78			Kurukundu Venkatasubbamma W/O Ramakrishna		
79		212-1	Kv Sriramulu S/O Govindu Rajulu		
80			Kenche Lakshmi Devi W/O Govinda Rajulu		
81		212-2	Kurukundu Venkatasubbamma W/O Ramakrishna		
82		212-3	Yerrakuntla Ramaswamy S/O Yerrakuntla Ramaswamy		
83		212-4	Konda Ramaswamy S/O Pagoda		
84			Kurukundu Srinivas S/O Venkata Rama		
85			Kurukundu Srinivas S/O Venkata Rama		
86			Govindarajulu S/O Venkataramudu		
87			K.Bhushi Reddy S/O Bhushi Reddy		
88			K.Raghuramulu S/O Kurukundu Maddaiah		
89			K.Raghuramulu S/O Kurukundu Maddaiah		
90		214	Migulu Bhoomi		
91	214	214-3	D.Chinnamma W/O Pedda Chinna Eranna		
92			Eddula Srinivasulu S/O Eddula Narayana		
93		215	Eddula Shiva S/O Eddula Ramaiah		
94			Pocha Sri Naga Phanindra Reddy S/O P.Srikanth		
95		219/2A	Talari Sriramulu S/O Pedda Ramudu		
96		219/2A1	Boya Balapullaiah S/O Ramudu		
97	219	219/2A2	Rayudu Amrutha Lakshmi W/O Venkatesh Satri		
98		219/2A3	Arekanthi Gresamma W/O Rayudu Surya Chandra Sekhar		
99		219/2A4	Raudu Amrutha Lakshmi W/O Venkatesh Satri		
100		219/2B	Boya Jayamma W/O Bala Pullaiah		

101		219/2E	K.Jayapalu S/O K.Gorantla		
102	218	218	Kasiveri Chandrayya S/O Kasiveri Sunkanna		
103			Sheikh Chand Basha S/O Sheikh Mahaboob Basha		
104	217	217	Sheikh Chandr Basha S/O Sheikh Mahabub Basha		
105		217-A	K.Manohar S/O K.Chandraiah		
106			Golla Ganganna S/O Golla Lakshmanna		
107			A.Srinivasulu S/O Venkataswamy		
108		216	Telugu Gunteppa S/O Pedda Ranganna		
109			Sheikh Chand Basha S/O Sheikh Mahaboob Basha		
110		216/2	Telugu Obulamma W/O Telugu Gunteppa		
111		216/A	K.Manohar S/O K.Chandraiah		
112			P.Ramalakshmi W/O P.Sunkanna		
113			Patan Mabu Hussain Khan S/O Patan Abdul Khadarjilan		
114			Patan Hussain Khan S/O P.Abdul Khadar Jilan		
115	573/C	573-C1A	Boya Diwakar Naidu S/O Chinnanna		
116			Debbe Madhavaswamy S/O Late Debbe Sivaiah		
117			K.Hamid S/O Katike Kasim Saheb		
118			Boya Rama Naidu S/O Boya Chinanna		
119			Debbe Veeranna S/O D.Shivaiah		
120			Mala Sasikala W/O M.Narayana Rao		
121			Gummadi Yellamma W/O G.Hussainiah		
122			Dasari Eswaramma W/O D.Raghuramudu		
123			Debbe Kanna Babu S/O D.Shivaiah		
124			Kummari Kasamma W/O Kummari Vemaiah		
125			Sheikh Lal Basha S/O Sheikh Hussain Peera		
126			Sheikh Razia S/O Sheikh Mahaboob Basha		
127		573/C1A	Telugu Gunteppa S/O Pedda Ranganna		
128		573/C1A1	Bailija Satyanarayana S/O Bailija Ranganna		
129		573/C1A2	Anumula Udaya Kiran Reddy S/O Anumula Chinna Pulla Reddy		
130		573/C1A3	Patan Abdul Kadir Jilani S/O Ganige Hussain Khan		
131		573/C1A4	Syed Munthaz Begum W/O Syed Sajjah Malik		
132		573/C2	Patan Abdul Kadir Jilani S/O Ganige Hussain Khan		
133			G.Chandrasasa Reddy S/O G.Rameswara Reddy		
134	574/D	574/D	Ram Mohan Reddy S/O Rameswara Reddy		
135			Chenna Reddy S/O Rameswara Reddy		
136	574/C	574-C	Railway Land		
137			G.Chandrasasa Reddy S/O G.Rameswara Reddy		
138	574/B	574/B	Ram Mohan Reddy S/O Rameswara Reddy		
139			Chenna Reddy S/O Rameswara Reddy		
140			Chenna Reddy S/O Rameswara Reddy		
141		575-C1	Migulu Bhoomi		
142			H.Peddannagi Reddy S/O Pedda Pulla Reddy		
143	575/C		M.Venkateswara Reddy S/O Pedda Pulla Reddy		
144		575-C2	M.Chandra Sekhar Reddy S/O Pedda Pulla Reddy		
145			M.Chinna Nagi Reddy S/O Pedda Pulla Reddy		
146	575/B	575-B	Railway Land		
147		571-B1	Awd Assessed Waste Dry		
148		571-B2A	Anumula Subba Reddy S/O Animi Reddy		
149	571/B	571-B2B	Rasta		
150			Pwd Road		
151		571-B2C	Anumula Subba Reddy S/O Animi Reddy		
152	576/D	576-D	Government Land		
153	576/C	576-C	Poramboku		
154	583/C	583-C	Poramboku		
155	609/B	609-B	Awd Assessed Waste Dry		
156	576/B	576-B1	Lakshmi Devi W/O Venkatesh		
		576-B2	Government Land		
			TOTAL		66.68

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[F. No. W.Con.182/SRP-06/MUE-DHNE/23-24/247/20A/070826]

B. KRISHNA REDDY, Chief Engineer/Con-II



Womenia

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.

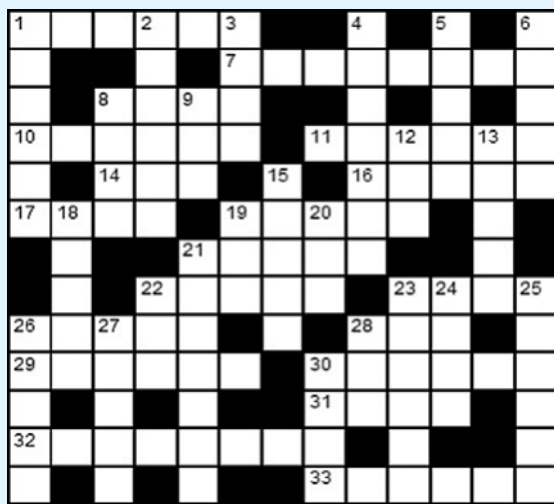
Her relationship with fashion has been closely intertwined with her sister Rhea Kapoor, who has frequently styled her for major public appearances. Rhea, for the uninitiated, is a film producer and fashion designer, stylist.

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

- 1 Fingal's Cave island (6)
- 7 Fine thread (8)
- 8 Winglike (4)
- 10 Became the responsibility of (4,2)
- 11 Prized (6)
- 14 A distress signal (3)
- 16 Golf course (5)
- 17 Put away (4)
- 19 2504 in Roman numerals (5)
- 21 Cutter's edge, sword or knife (5)
- 22 Venomous snake (5)
- 23 Prison (4)
- 26 South ____ : Seoul is its capital ? (5)
- 28 100% (3)
- 29 Nothing (6)
- 30 Varlets (6)
- 31 " __ _ Wonderful Life" (3,1)
- 32 Sweet, rich (8)
- 33 Recoiling or drawing back (6)

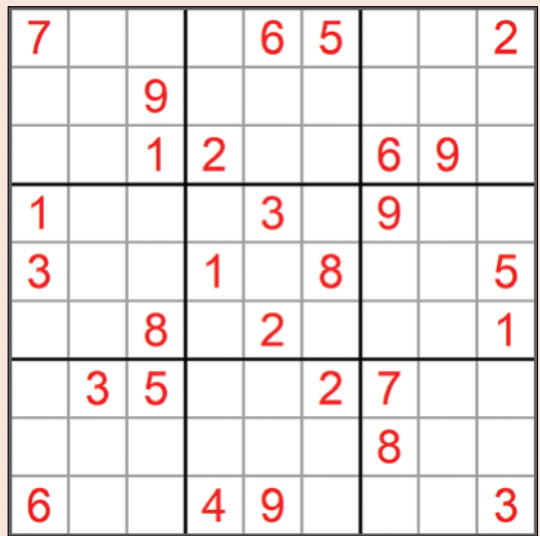
DOWN

- 1 Ridicules or derides (6)
- 2 Companion (6)
- 3 Hairstyle (4)
- 4 Ms Portman of Hollywood (7)
- 5 Started (5)
- 6 Small projects or nails ? (5)
- 8 Additionally (4)
- 9 Auxiliary Territorial Serv. (3)
- 12 Actress Tyler (3)
- 13 Supplementing with difficulty (5)
- 15 Online missive (5)
- 18 Forbidden (5)
- 19 Vidhan sabha member, in short (3)
- 20 Commonly used pesticide (3)
- 21 Upper caste Hindu (7)
- 22 Beer barrel (3)
- 23 Stylish (6)
- 24 Thomas ____ Edison : the famous inventor ? (4)
- 25 Relaxing (6)
- 26 Sound a bell (5)
- 27 Ballet follower (5)
- 28 As industrious as an ____ ? (3)
- 30 Join lips (4)



Solution to August 20

SUDOKU



Solution to August 20



“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 docu-series 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. "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 Securities, 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.

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

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 stockholding 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.

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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 living 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."



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.

Sinquefield Cup

PRAGG LOSES TO WESLEY SO IN ARMAGEDDON, ENDS SECOND

ST. LOUIS (USA): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa lost the finals in the Armageddon game against eventual champion American Wesley So to finish second in the Sinquefield Cup here.

After drawing with Anish Giri of the Netherlands in the final Classical game, Praggnanandhaa forced a tiebreaker against Wesley So who was leading the tournament for most of the rounds.

Wesley So was able to play out a draw with black pieces to win the tournament, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour. The rules clearly stipulated that the tied players would play two rapid games.

If the tie is still unresolved, one final Armageddon game, five minutes for white and four for black will be played,



wherein black wins the match if he draws. As it happened both the rapid games ended in draws, leaving the score tied at 1-1. In the final Armageddon, Praggnanandhaa had the more difficult chance of winning with white which the Indian could not do and the game ended in a draw.

However, the silver lining for Praggnanandhaa was that he stood first at the end of the last event and has now qualified for the grand finale later this year.

For the records, Praggnanandhaa scored 35.5 in the total tour which was a full point clear of Wesley So.

D Varshith lifts bronze at Jr National Swimming C'ships



Telangana swimmer Dhulipudi Varshith won the bronze medal in the 200m Medley (Male) at the 52nd Junior National Swimming Championship 2026, being held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from August 18 to 23, 2026. Varshith clocked 2:10.97 seconds to finish third, behind Mongam Theerdhu Samadev (SSCB), who won gold in 2:09.36, and Daniel Paul J (Karnataka), who secured silver in 2:10.60. Varshith has continued his medal-winning run since 2024, when he won silver in the 400m Individual Medley at the Junior Nationals in Bhubaneswar. In 2025, he added gold in the 400m Individual Medley at the 7th Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar. Varshith has trained at Zionsportz Swimming Academy under Chief Coach John Siddiqui since the age of eight.

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.

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

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 thamhave 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)

Domicile row

MP HC ends women's 13-yr wait for MBBS degree

JABALPUR: Thirteen years after a woman completed her MBBS, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has cleared the way for her to obtain her degree and pursue medical practice, stalled after her admission was cancelled over a domicile issue.

Treating the petition as a special case, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vivek Rana and Justice Pradeep Mittal on Wednesday set aside the June 13, 2013 order cancelling Shailja Pandey's admission and directed Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, to issue her marksheet and degree.

Pandey had fairly disclosed all facts about her residence in Madhya Pradesh, the court observed, adding that action could have been taken at the time of her admission rather than after she completed her studies.

"On the basis of this degree, the petitioner will be



entitled to practice in the medical field, but the fact remains that she completed her studies in the year 2013, and now more than 13 years have passed," the court said in its order.

Pandey could not practice during this period because she did not have her degree or registration with the medical regulator, the HC noted.

In her petition, Pandey said the college raised the objection over her domicile midway through the MBBS course, although she had secured admission after furnishing a domicile certificate issued by the competent authority.

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 Suthalkal 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.

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 Shiksha 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 Shiksha 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.



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 **Snaran** 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**.