

SOUTH ZONAL COUNCIL MEET

# Settle lingering bifurcation issues, Naidu urges Centre

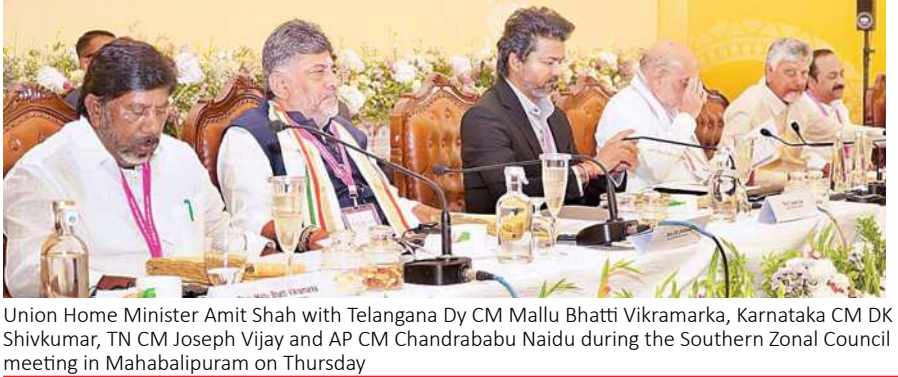
## Calls for solution to issues under Sections 56 & 66

- 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

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.

**SOUTH CMs RAISE 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 Reorganisation 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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## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convocation

&

Inauguration of  
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**22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2026 - SATURDAY | Time : 9.30 A.M.**

CHIEF GUEST



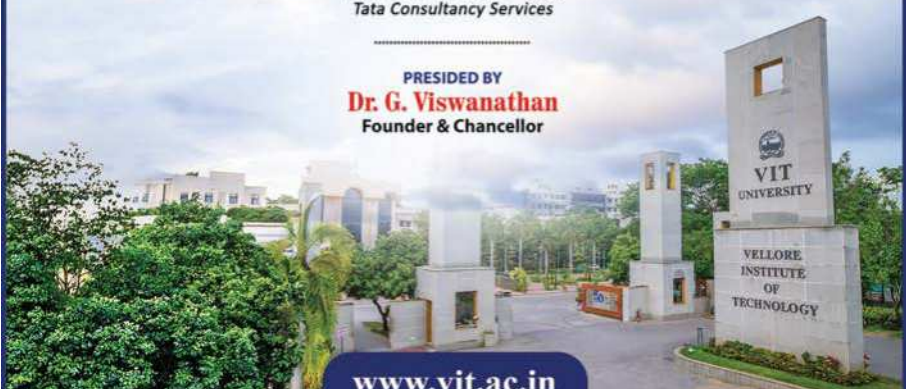
**Smt. Rekha Gupta**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi

GUEST OF HONOUR

**Mr. Babu Unnikrishnan**  
Vice President & CTO - BFSI,  
Tata Consultancy Services

PRESIDED BY

**Dr. G. Viswanathan**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Mangamma W/o G. Chandrappa Resident of Karukunta Village V Kota Mandal, while travelling from Karukunta Village to V Kota on 15/07/2026 Lost the original registered sale deed dated 19/01/2019 vide Document No. 200/2019 with regard to Properties situated at Patra palli, Revenue Village, Patra palli 7th Ward Near Sai Garden City Manjunath Nagar Lay Out V Kota Mandal, Chittoor District, A. P. The General Public hereby requested that if the above said Original Regd. Sale deed traced out to anybody kindly handover the same to the under-signed within 7 Days from the date of this Public Notice.

**B.S.ASHOK KUMAR,**  
**Kum. A. KAVITHA RANI**  
Advocates. Cell: 9440012997  
Place: Palamaner, Date:20.08.2026

## AP Trade Promotion Corporation Ltd

(Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)  
MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR DIST.

**Short Tender Notice**  
Short Tender Notification No.: **ATPTC/PPD/WWP & PWP/2026/009**, Dt.19.08.2026

ATPTC invites short notice bids for Supply of White Wove Paper and Pink Wove Paper through e procurement portal <https://www.apexporement.gov.in>. Last date for submission of bids is on 24.08.2026. For more details visit <https://www.apexporement.gov.in> in contact @ Mobile no.9000991832 and email id - [atptc1970@gmail.com](mailto:atptc1970@gmail.com).

Sd/-  
VC & Managing Director (Dr. Sekhar Babu Geddani, (I.F.S.)  
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Government of India  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Sub Office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai  
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road Vijayawada-10, AP  
email: [iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in](mailto:iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in)  
Regional Office, Chennai

Online Proposal No.: **FP/IA/PW/R, TRANS/567647/2026** Dated: 31/07/2026

To: The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 54.14 Ha. (37.11 Ha in Ananthapuram Division, and 17.03 Ha in Y.S.R. (T) Cuddapah Division) for construction of 765 Kv/D/C Ananthapuram II to Cuddapah Transmission Line, in favor of Anantapur II REZ Transmission Limited, Andhra Pradesh.-reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Government's on line proposal No.FP/IA/PW/R, TRANS/567647/2026 received on 04/06/2026 through Parivesh 2.0 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the above project. The proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted under sub-rule (2) of rule 6 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 in its meeting held on 29/06/2026.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the approval of the Regional Empowered Committee and the documents submitted by the State Government on 22/07/2026, I am directed to convey the Central Government's in-principal approval (Stage-I) under Section 2 (1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the proposal for diversion of 54.14 Ha. (37.11 Ha in Ananthapuram Division, and 17.03 Ha in Y.S.R. (T) Cuddapah Division) for construction of 765 Kv/D/C Ananthapuram II to Cuddapah Transmission Line, in favor of Anantapur II REZ Transmission Limited, Andhra Pradesh subject to the following conditions:-

- General Conditions
  - Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged
  - The boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, at 20 m apart each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar
  - The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 54.14 Ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal
  - The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years
  - The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in writ Petition (Civil) No. 2021/1995 and and the guidelines given under para 3 of the Chapter -3 of the Consolidate Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 published by the Ministry on 29.12.2023.
  - At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India
  - Compensatory levies, to be realized from the User Agency, in lieu of diversion of forest land, shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-payment module (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) of PARIVESH, into the concerned account of State/UT/CAMP, managed by the National Authority (CAMP)
  - The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required
  - No labour camp shall be established on the forest land
  - The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas
  - The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal
  - The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government
  - The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government
  - No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused
  - Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department
  - The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted in accordance with the relevant guidelines issued by the MoEFCC
  - The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project
  - The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the stated conditions to the State Government and concerned Regional Office by the end of March every year regularly
  - The State Government shall monitor compliance of conditions of Forest Clearance and shall submit in this regard yearly report every year regularly
  - Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife
  - The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
  - No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path
  - Violation of any of these conditions will amounts to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines.

- Standard conditions
  - The user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on conductors of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
  - The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
  - The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014 and provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulation and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the transmission line projects
  - All efforts shall be taken to minimize felling of trees and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of trees wherever feasible instead of resorting to felling, at the cost of the user agency

- Specific conditions
  - Width of right of way for the transmission line shall be limited to 67 metres
  - The enumerated trees on the 67 meter width strip (right of way) would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration shall be allowed to come up. Felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees shall be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of transmission lines
  - In case the portion of transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
  - The UA shall comply with the vertical & horizontal clearance specified in Regulation 61 of Safety and Electric Supply, Regulations, 2010.
  - During construction of transmission line, pollarding/ pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strip, whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be carried out to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local forest officer
  - The State Forest Department shall implement approved scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation as per approved CA scheme by raising of 1111 plants/ha in identified degraded forest land in three (3) bits over an extent of 138.44 ha (Effective area 108.28 ha) and two (2) bits identified in Compartment No. 707 & 708 of Dharmapuri RF of Dharmapuri beat of Rayadurg Section forest bit in Muddinayaniapalli RF, Kalyandurgam beat of Kalyandurg Range of Ananthapuram division. In addition to the above state government shall also implement approved CA scheme as per the details given below:  
Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme /Dwarf Species Plantation in Ananthapuram:  
Addl. CA in DFL area in 37.11 ha (for raising and maintenance of dwarf species) in Anantapur division in compartment no. 464 of Marutla RF, compartment no. 565, 566 Elliluta RF, Ananthapuram Range. Compartment no. 567, 568 of Mutchukota RF Goety Range and Compartment no. 795 of Hagari RF Kalyandurgam Range dwarf species plantation in RoW of proposed transmission line.  
Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme for YSR Kadapa:  
Addl CA Scheme for 12.80 Ha identified in Thummalur Extn B RF, Vempally range, Kadapa District. in the RoW of the proposed transmission line.
  - The KML file of the area diverted and CA area shall be uploaded in the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report.
  - The approved CA Scheme and CA area shall not be changed without prior approval of Government of India
  - The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the Writ No.1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard.

After receipt of the compliance report on the fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Government in this regard. Further, it may also be noted that this in-principal approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions within 5 years, the in-principle approval may be revoked by the Central Government

Your's faithfully  
(Balaji Kari)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUMALA

TO strengthen real time monitoring of wildlife movements and enhance devotee safety in forest areas around Tirumala,

## TTD explores use of robotic dog for wildlife monitoring

TTD is evaluating use of advanced robotic technology. On Thursday, TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, accompanied by officials, reviewed the performance of a quadruped Robot (Robotic Dog) at Sri Padmavathi Guest House in Tirumala. The delegation examined the robot's suitability for surveillance in difficult or hazardous terrain where human access is limited.

The robot is equipped with optical and thermal imaging cameras, a 360° LiDAR, multiple sensors and artificial intelligence. These features enable detection and tracking of wildlife under low visibility conditions such as darkness or fog. The AI system can classify



TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and officials checking the performance of a robotic dog in Tirumala on Thursday

large animals, humans, vehicles and domestic animals. On detecting wildlife movement, the system can send geo

tagged alerts and stream live video and thermal feeds to control room and patrolling staff for immediate response. Priority areas include forest stretches adjoining Alipiri-Tirumala footpath, where early detection of leopards and other wildlife will help warn devotees and enable rapid deployment of forest, vigilance and security teams. The feasibility of using the robot's sound and light units to non physically deter animals away from pilgrim areas was also examined to avoid direct human-wildlife confrontation.

It was noted that the robot would complement — not replace — existing camera traps, foot patrols and forest surveillance.

It can serve as a mobile monitoring asset that can be rapidly deployed to locations with high wildlife activity as required. Analysis of video, thermal imagery and movement data collected by the robot is expected to improve understanding of wildlife patterns and inform better patrol scheduling and surveillance deployment in critical zones.

**UCO BANK** Kadapa Branch, 1/336, Opposite APSRTC  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking) Bus Stand, Kadapa, YSR Kadapa District.

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BANK SHIFTING AND LOCKERS**

In order to provide better services to our customers, UCO Bank, Kadapa branch is being shifted to a new spacious building at D.No.42/327-4-1, Ground Floor, Bhagyanagar Colony, Apsara to Bus Stand Road, Kadapa, YSR Kadapa District, A.P. - 516001 on 07-09-2026. We inform all the locker holders and customers of our bank that since the lockers are being shifted to the new building, utmost care will be taken while shifting them. If the locker holders want to take possession of the items contained therein, we request them to take possession by 28-08-2026 and deposit them back after shifting the lockers to the proposed location after 07-09-2026. We request our existing customers to co operate in the above mentioned shift. And we assure you that we will be able to provide you with our best services in the new building from 07-09-2026.

Sd- Manager, UCO Bank, Kadapa Branch.

**New Address: Ground Floor, D.No. 42/327-4-1, Bhagyanagar Colony, Apsara to Bus Stand Road, Kadapa, YSR Kadapa District, A.P. - 516001**

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, NELLORE & COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Rc.B(LA)1636/2025 Dt: 12.08.2026

### PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER SECTION 3G (3) & (4) OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY ACT 1956

Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Department of Road Transport and Highways numbers S.O.920(E) of New Delhi, dated.19.02.2026 published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (II) issued under Sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/Two lane with paved shoulder), maintenance management and operation of Newly Proposed for Construction of 6 lane Vehicle Under Pass (VUP) on NH-16 at Chintareddypalem Junction at KM.1374+945 along with service road in the stretch of land from KM.1374+155 to KM 1376+275 of NH-16 (Old NH-5) Nellore Bypass of Nellore Bit-II of Nellore Rural Mandal in the District of SPS Nellore in the State of Adhra Pradesh has been acquired in excise of powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3D of the National Highway Act 1956 (48 of 1956) and published in the Government of India Gazette vide S.O.No.4443(E), dt.07.08.2026. Extraordinary Part-II section 3-Sub-Section-II.

In pursuance of sub-section 2 of section 3D of the Act, the Central Government declares that the lands specified in the said schedule Annexed here to shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free form all encumbrances from the date of publication of 3D (1) Notification in official Gazette of India.

All the persons interested/Land owners in the land specified in the following schedules shall appear in person or by agent, or by legal practitioner before the Competent Authority and Revenue Divisional Officer, Nellore for the public purpose for Acquisition of lands for Newly Proposed for Construction of 6 lane Vehicle Under Pass (VUP) on NH-16 at Chintareddypalem Junction at KM.1374+945 along with service road in the stretch of land from KM.1374+155 to KM 1376+275 of NH-16 (Old NH-5) Nellore Bypass of Nellore Bit-II of Nellore Rural Mandal in the District of SPS Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh of the dates, place and time specified below and submit claims and state nature of the representation interest on such lands with relevant records as detailed below.

- (1) E.C of the last 13 years, (2) Sales practitioner deed of title in original, (3) Pattadar pass books / title deeds, (4) For buildings approved plans and tax assessment and tax paid receipts, (5) Mutation extracts, (6) Conversions proceedings, (7) Receipts for having paid developmental charges, (8) Approved layout plan, (9) 1B extract from the Tahsildar, (10) Original DKT Patia, (11) Aadhar Card, (12) Extract of Bank Account Passbook and (13) Pan Card.

If anybody fails to submit claims and produces the documents at below mention officer within the stipulated time the compensation will be determined with reference to the available records in this office.

| Sl. No. | Name of the District        | Name of the Mandal | Name of the Village | Date       | Time         | Venue for receiving applications and documents |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore | Nellore Rural      | Nellore Bit-II      | 01.09.2026 | at 11:00 A.M | O/o Tahsildar, Nellore Rural Mandal            |



District : SPS Nellore  
Gazette ID : CG-DL-E-11082026-275373  
Publication Date : 21.08.2026  
Link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h7Dkq\\_9qpxxA40x7GYTmMeUfCE4VKDbeU/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h7Dkq_9qpxxA40x7GYTmMeUfCE4VKDbeU/view?usp=sharing)

Competent Authority for,  
Land Acquisition & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nellore



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### ADVERTISEMENT NO. :11/2026

#### WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

UCIL, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy intends to recruit **Medical Officer purely on contract basis** initially for a period of 01(one) year and it may be reviewed by the management for extension of one year subject to requirement & suitability. Eligibility criteria are as under:-

| Qualifications & Experience                                                             | No. of Posts              | Experience as on 02.09.2026                        | Consolidated monthly remuneration | Age limit as on 02.09.2026          | Remarks                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MBBS recognized by Indian Medical Council with relevant experience in reputed hospital. | 02 (UR-02)<br>(Tentative) | Experience 02 years & above but less than 05 years | Rs.80500/- per month              | Below 65 years including relaxation | No. of vacancies are tentative and may be increased subject to requirement of the company |
| PG degree in the relevant field will be an added advantage.                             |                           | Experience 05 years & above but less than 09 years | Rs.100600/- per month             |                                     |                                                                                           |
| Preference will be given to candidates with AFIIH qualification.                        |                           | Experience 09 years & above                        | Rs.120600/- per month             |                                     |                                                                                           |

Interested candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria may **WALK-IN FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW on 02.09.2026 (Wednesday) at 09.30 AM** in the Administrative Building – UCIL Tummalapalle unit at the address mentioned herein above. Candidates must bring a passport size recent photograph, all original certificates & testimonials in support of their qualifications, experience etc. and updated resume along with a set of photocopies of all relevant documents. Knowledge of Telugu language is essential. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview. Accommodation may be provided at UCIL housing colony subject to availability on chargeable basis. Advertisement & application format are also available on our official website: [www.uraniumcorp.in](http://www.uraniumcorp.in).

**CBC 48134/11/0038/2627**

# Govt initiatives help boost Junior College admissions

- In Tirupati district, overall junior college admissions rose from 4,942 to 5,442, an increase of 500 students
- Schemes such as midday meals, Vidyarthi Mitra and SANKALP study material are helping increase students' preference for govt junior colleges



Picture for representational purpose only

High School Plus institutions, 281 KGBVs, 72 MJPA institutions, 555 Model Schools, 574 Social Welfare institutions and 333 Tribal Welfare institutions.

Officials attributed the increase in admissions in government junior colleges to several initiatives taken by the State government and the Department of Intermediate Education to provide better support and improve the learning environment for students. Regional inspection officer (RIO) Dr D Gopal Reddy said free meals have been provided to students in government sector junior colleges under the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meals Scheme since January 2025. The initiative is aimed at supporting students and encouraging them to continue their education.

Under the Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Scheme, students in government junior colleges have been receiving free textbooks, notebooks and records since the 2024-25 academic year.

The department is also providing SANKALP study material to average-performing students to give them

additional academic support. The programme focuses on improving examination performance through remedial schedules, special study hours and student categorisation.

Dr Gopal Reddy said the initiatives were aimed at improving both enrolment and academic performance. The rise in admissions in government junior colleges showed the response to the measures taken by the department, he said. AP Government Junior Lecturers Association president V Ravi said improvement in infrastructure was also playing a role in attracting more students to government junior colleges. The installation of Interactive Flat Panel boards in classrooms had improved the teaching-learning process.

The provision of midday meals has helped students avoid going home for lunch, improving attendance and allowing them to spend more time in classes, which in turn is supporting their studies.

The improvement in pass percentages in government junior colleges was another factor encouraging students to opt for government institutions, he felt.

## Rajiv Gandhi is the architect of digital India: Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

CONGRESS leaders led by its district president Gowdaperla 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 technological transformation. He highlighted Rajiv Gandhi's initiatives during 1984-1989 that promoted information technology, reduced import duties on computers, and expanded access to commu-

### CANAL WORKS TO BENEFIT 18 VILLAGES

## Obtain forest clearances: BJP

NELLORE: BJP Namami Gange State convener Midathala Ramesh has urged the authorities to obtain the required forest clearances and complete the long-pending irrigation canal works to provide water to 18 rain-fed villages located amidst the hills in Rapur mandal. A team of BJP leaders headed by Ramesh submitted a memorandum to Telugu Ganga SE Subrahmanyeswara Sharma and appealed him to send the representation to the government to initiate action as early as possible. In the representation, BJP leaders detailed that if forest clearances could not be secured, the government should provide irrigation water through alternative lift

irrigation system from Kandaleru reservoir for the benefit of farmers of 18 villages of drought prone Rapur mandal. They alleged that despite spending more than Rs 200 crore on works for supplying irrigation water through gravity canals, the project works came to a halt due to the non-availability of forest clearances. Due to lack of water facility, farmers these villages are forced to drill borewells to depths of 700 to 800 feet to obtain water. The BJP demanded completion of the proposed gravity canal from Kandaleru Vagu at 97-metre level to Rapur Pedda Cheruvu, which is situated at an elevation of about 88 metres.

## SAAP chairman unveils Amaravati Championship-2026 posters



SAAP Chairman A Ravi Naidu releasing posters of Amaravati Championship in Tirupati on Thursday

TIRUPATI: Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman A Ravi Naidu unveiled posters of Amaravati Championship-2026 state-level sports competitions to be held in Tirupati from August 24 to 27. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he said around 10,000 sportspersons from across the State would take part in various disciplines in Under-17 and Under-23 categories. The State government was conducting the championships as part of its efforts to develop Andhra Pradesh as a sports-oriented State. Instead of limiting Sports Day activities to rallies and other programmes, the government had launched 'Sports for All' initiative to encourage people to take up sports, he said.

Tirupati was selected to host the competitions due to the

availability of sports grounds, accommodation and other infrastructure, Ravi Naidu said. Events will be conducted at Sri Venkateswara University, Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Agricultural University, Campus School and Srinivasa Sports Complex, among other venues. The Chairman said nearly 14,500 people, including athletes, referees, coaches and physical education teachers, would stay in Tirupati during the event. The athletes are expected to start arriving from August 23 evening. The opening ceremony will be held at 9 am on August 24, while the competitions will begin at 2.30 pm. Later, along with officials, he inspected the sports venues and reviewed the facilities to be provided to the athletes and other arrangements for the state-level competitions.

## Tirupati prepares for Vinayaka Chavithi, Srivari Brahmotsavams



District Collector Dr S Venkateswar, SP L Subba Rayudu and other officials at a review meeting in Tirupati on Thursday

- Collector Venkateswar directs all departments to coordinate and make advance arrangements

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

DISTRICT Collector Dr S Venkateswar has directed officials to make advance arrangements in coordination with all departments as Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations and Tirumala Srivari Brahmotsavams will be held simultaneously this year.

He held a review meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday in the presence of SP L Subba Rayudu, Joint Collector R Govinda Rao, Corporation Commissioner M Jaya Krishna and other officials. The Collector said Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations would begin on September 14, while Srivari Brahmotsavams would be held from September 15 to 23.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Tirupati on September 15 evening would also require special attention to security, traffic management, police deployment and the movement of devotees and public. The Collector asked officials to prepare a special action plan for Garuda Seva, which is expected to

draw a large number of devotees. The timings of Vinayaka idol immersions, procession routes, movement of devotees and traffic diversions should be coordinated in advance.

In view of the Brahmotsavams, he appealed to people in Tirupati to complete Vinayaka idol immersions on September 14, 16 and 20, corresponding to the first, third and seventh days of the celebrations. Vinayaka Sagar will be used as the main immersion point, while ponds at Daminedu, Thukivakam and Chennayagunta have been identified as alternative locations. Officials were asked to provide the required facilities at these places.

The Collector said the municipal department would have a key role in managing the Vinayaka Chavithi arrangements. He also directed officials to use the services of NCC personnel and volunteers for crowd management, guidance and emergency assistance. SP L Subba Rayudu said route maps for Vinayaka idol processions should be prepared in advance and special measures should be taken for traffic diversions, parking and crowd control. Drivers transporting the idols should undergo mandatory drunk-driving tests, and strict action should be taken against those found driving under the influence of alcohol.

## PD Act invoked against red sanders smuggler

TIRUPATI : The Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) has invoked Preventive Detention (PD) Act against a habitual offender involved in red sanders smuggling.

Ajay Kumar (57) from Kerala face multiple cases for organised smuggling activities that violate wildlife laws and threaten public safety. As per the recommendations of Task Force Head L Subba Rayudu, district Collector and Magistrate Dr S



Ajay Kumar

Venkateswar gave orders. Under SP P Srinivas and ASP J Kulasekar leadership, Ajay Kumar was shifted to Kadapa Central Jail.

## TTD steps up preparations for two Brahmotsavams at Tirumala

- Salakatta Brahmotsavams to be held from September 15-23 and Navaratri Brahmotsavams from October 12-20
- TTD EO Ravichandra held a coordination meeting with District Collector, SP and TTD officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

TIRUMALA will host two Brahmotsavams this year due to Adhika Masam, prompting the TTD, district administration and police to draw up coordinated plans to manage the expected rush and ensure smooth conduct of the festivals. TTD Executive Officer M Ravichandra held a coordination meeting at Annamayya Bhavan in Tirumala on Thursday with Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, district Collector Dr S Venkateswar and Superintendent of Police L Subba Rayudu, along with other officials.

Salakatta Brahmotsavams



TTD EO M Ravichandra, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, Collector S Venkateswar, SP L Subba Rayudu and CVSO KV Murali Krishna inspecting the Mada streets in Tirumala on Thursday

will be held from September 15 to 23, while Navaratri Brahmotsavams will take place from October 12 to 20. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will present silk robes on behalf of the State government on September 15. Ankurarpana for Salakatta Brahmotsavams will be held on September 14 and Garuda Seva on September 19.

Ravichandra directed officials to make all necessary arrangements to ensure that devotees do not face inconvenience during the festivals. He asked them to complete all pending works by September

utilised during the festivals.

Speaking to the media, Additional EO Venkaiah Chowdary said arrangements had been planned keeping in view the increasing number of devotees visiting Tirumala. The experience of Ratha Saptami, when around 3.75 lakh devotees and 15,000 vehicles visited the temple town, was also taken into consideration while preparing the plans. Special attention has been given to Garuda Seva, with separate plans to manage the rush in Tirumala and Tirupati.

The district administration is preparing arrangements for disaster and crisis management, including NDRF and emergency response teams. The police have also planned the deployment, accommodation and duty allocation of personnel. The TTD vigilance wing and CVSO will finalise security deployment based on previous experience.

After the meeting, Ravichandra and district officials inspected the four Mada streets around the Srivari temple and reviewed the arrangements on the ground. TTD JEOs Dr A Sarath and Prabha-la Gopinath and other officials attended the meeting.

## Aster Narayanadri doctors save 2-day-old baby with complex emergency surgery

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

DOCTORS at Aster Narayanadri Hospital successfully saved the life of a two-day-old newborn through a complex emergency abdominal surgery. The baby was admitted in a critical condition with severe abdominal swelling caused by an intestinal perforation and life-threatening infection.

Leading the surgery, renowned paediatric surgeon Dr Prasanna Venkatesh



successfully repaired the intestinal perforation and controlled the spreading infection. Following the surgery, the newborn received round-the-clock critical care in NICU under the supervision of senior neonatologist Dr M Kiran Kumar Reddy.

The hospital management congratulated the paediatric surgery, NICU and Mother & Child teams for their coordinated efforts.

## BLAs told to assist in timely delivery of notices



Municipal Commissioner M Jayakrishna speaking at a meeting in Tirupati on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

CONSTITUENCY Voter Registration Officer and Municipal Commissioner M Jayakrishna appealed to booth-level officers (BLOs) and leaders of all political parties to cooperate with officials issuing notices during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of national and State parties on Thursday, Commissioner Jayakrishna said notices are being issued to voters with 'no mapping' and other anomalies and requested booth-level agents and party representatives to assist in timely delivery and follow-up.

He clarified document requirements for verification as per Election Commission guidelines: voters born before 1987 must present one valid document; those born between 1987 and 2004 must present two, and those born after 2004 must present three.

Jayakrishna provided a detailed list of the 11 acceptable documents and asked party representatives to submit details of booth agents for the 84 newly created polling centres. He said voters, who are completely immobile, hospitalised, or differently-abled will be handled virtually by the area team, while all other voters, who have received notices, must attend physical verification on the date and time shown on the notice. He also shared statistics on notices already distributed. Additional Commissioner Sarada Devi, Tahsildar Suresh Babu, Deputy Election Officer Sudhakar Naik, and representatives of all political parties were present.

**Hans India Classifieds**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CHANGE OF NAME</b><br>I, SYED HABEEB UNNISA is the Wife of No.177044-M, Rank: CHMECH, Name: SYED KARIMULLA, Residing at Cheekavolu (VII) & (Po), Sydapuram (M),SPSR NELLORE Dt, AP. Do you here declare that I have changed my name from SYED HABEEBUNNISA & D.O.B: 22y (Wrong) to SYED HABEEB UNNISA & D.O.B: 07/03/1983(Correct).Due to Variation of Name & DOB in the Army and Gref Records Vide affidavit sworn before public notary dated:20/08/26. I declare that both names are one and the same person. | <b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br>I, NANNAPANENI CHANDU S/o. N.SREEHARI (OLD NAME), RESIDING AT 1-2-6, KAMMA PALLE, RAMACHANDRAPURAM, TIRUPATI DISTRICT, (AP), PIN-517561, Here by Declare that I have changed my name NALLAPANENI CHANDU (NEW NAME).                                                                                                                           |
| RAJENDRA-TPT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>CHANGE OF NAME</b><br>I, EDDALA THULASI (Old Name) W/o EDDALA RAMESH, R/o. PEDDAMITTA PALLI,NELLEPALLI, GANGADHARA NELLORE, CHITTOOR Dt. AP-517167. I changed my name to EDDALA THULASAMMA (NEW NAME)W/o EDDALA RAMESH. Henceforth, I will be known as EDDALATHULASAMMA (New Name).                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>CHANGE OF SURNAME</b><br>I, SYED SAHERA BANU ( Old Surname) W/o SHAIK INTHIYAZ, D.No.5-51, Maseed street, Gudur, SPSR Nellore Di, AP- 524101. I changed my Surname to SHAIK SAHERABANU (New Surname).                                                                                                                                                                  |
| RAJENDRA-TPT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| MADAN-NLR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>CHANGE OF NAME</b><br>I, YELCHURI SREENIVASA RAO (Old name), Resident of D.No.27-1-1447/1, 1st Line, Near Children's park, Ramji Nagar, Nellore, SPSR Nellore Dt, AP. Here by declare that I have changed my name as YELCHURI SRINIVASA RAO (New name) S/o. VENKAIAH GUPTA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>PASSPORT LOST</b><br>I, BATTHALA SREEDEVI W/o. BATTHALA PRASAD, Resident of Kothuru, Ambapuram, Nellore, SPSR Nellore Dt, AP. I have lost my Indian Passport bearing No. X2871907. While I was travelling from Kothuru to Ayyappagudi Center, Nellore on the way take Xerox Copy on 15/04/26. If anyone found please inform at the above address or Cont: 93467 58314. |
| RAJENDRA-TPT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| MADAN-NLR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>PASSPORT LOST</b><br>ID Chandana Priya D/o D Pattabi, 197, Ramapuram Village & Post, Gudipala Mandal, Chittoor District, AP herey declare that I have lost my minor son Muppiri Mahanth Royal's Indian passport No. T8785392 on 16-08-2026 while I was waiting to bus at Gandhi Circle, Chittoor. If any body found said Passport please handover to me at above address or contact : 8555940335                                                                                                                | <b>CHANGE OF NAME</b><br>I, UPPUTURI RATNAMMA (Old Name) W/O UPPUTURI PICHIAIAH Residing at D. No. 3-7,Kalava(HW) Obulavari palli Mandal,(Old Dist:YSR Kadapa Dist),New Dist-TIRUPATI Dist, AP, Pin. 516110, have Changed my Name as UPPUTURI RATHNAMMA( New Name)w/o UPPUTURI PICHIAIAH                                                                                  |
| RAJENDRA-TPT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>SURNAME ADDING</b><br>I, MUHAMMED( OLDNAME)S/O ABDUL SALAM, R/O 3-145-9-6-17-7,14th cross, prasanth nagar Madanapalle town and Mandal annamayya Dist. A. P here by declare that i have changed my name as MUHAMMEDABDUL SALAM(NEWNAME)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>CHANGE OF NAME</b><br>I, POLI JESWANTHA KUMAR REDDY (Old name), resident of D.No.5/128, Polivandla Pali Village, Botumeedipalli Post, Obulavariipalli Mandal, Tirupati District, A.P., hereby declare that I have changed my name as POLI JASWANTH KUMAR REDDY (New name), S/O. P.NARASAREDDY.                                                                         |
| SV ADS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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**AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 9(1) and proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **08.09.2026** for recovery of outstanding as mentioned here below is due to the Canara Bank from below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s).

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 08.09.2026 at 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.** (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (baanknet.com) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 07.09.2026 at 4.00 p.m

**Borrower:** M/s Andhra Steels And Hardwares, Hsc No.3524, Gnt Road, Near Brahmagiri Matam, Sullurpeta. **Proprietor:** Anis Raja, C/o Yasmin Rizwana, 5-164-18/16 Gandia St, Sullurpeta. **Guarantor:** Yasmin Rizwana, 2, Nakkiran Street, Muthamizh Nagar, Pammal, Alandur, Tamilnadu-600075.

**Total Liabilities: Rs.1,60,75,824.50/- as on 27.07.2026** + applicable further interest and charges from 28.07.2026.

**Description of the immovable property with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank:**

**Item No.1:** Tirupati District, Tirupati registration District, Sullurpeta sub Registration, Sullurpeta Mandal, Sullurpeta Municipality, Yarrabalem alias Kollamitta, Western side of national highway no 05 and southern side of D No.4-22 in patta no 5, S.No.3-5 of an extent of Ac 0.10 cents and Patta No.119 Sy No.3-6 of an extent of Ac 0.16 cents totalling to Ac 0.21 cents an extent of 876 sq.ft or 97.33 Sq.yds with in the following **Boundaries of Item No.1:** East: Vacant site of Item No.2, South: Vacant site of Sriharikota project pipe line, West: Kalangi River Bed, North: Joint compound wall of Anis Raja, Yasmin Rizwana Begum and P.Mohammad Shareef. **Measurement of Item No.1:** Eastern side: North to South: 26 Ft or 7.93 Meters, Southern Side: East to West: 32 Ft or 9.76 Meters, Western Side: North to South: 28 ¾ Ft or 8.76 Meters, Northern Side: East to West: 32 Ft or 9.76 Meters.

An extent of 876 Sft or 97.33 sq.yds or 81.37 sq.mtrs or 12 Ankanams 12 Sft of vacant site.

**Item No.2:** Tirupati District, Tirupati registration District, Sullurpeta sub Registration, Sullurpeta Mandal, Sullurpeta Municipality, Yarrabalem alias Kollamitta, Western side of national highway no 05 and southern side of D No.4-22 in Patta No.5, S.No.3-5 of an extent of Ac 0.10 cents an extent of 1807.50 Sft or 200.83 Sq.yds with in the following **Boundaries of Item No.2:** East: National Highway 5 Road, South: Vacant site of Sriharikota project pipe line, West: Vacant Site of Item No.1, North: Joint compound wall and shop wall of Anis Raja, Yasmin Rizwana Begum and P.Mohammad Shareef. **Measurement of Item No.2:** Eastern side: North to South: 34 Ft or 10.363 Meters, Southern Side: East to West: 61 Ft or 18.592 Meters, Western Side: North to South: 26 Ft or 7.924 Meters, Northern Side: East to West: 59 ½ Ft or 18.135 Meters.

An extent of 1807.50 Sft or 200.83 Sq.Yds or 167.896 Sq.Mtrs or 25 ankanams 7.50 Sfts of Vacant site. Extent of 2 Items is 2683.50 Sfts or 298.16 Syds or 249.267 Smts or 37 ankanams 19.50 sfts of Vacant site.

**RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 1,59,32,000/- EMD AMOUNT: Rs. 15,93,200/-**

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\* Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs.50,000/-.

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Date: 19.08.2026, Place: Tirupati Sd/- Authorised Officer, CANARA BANK

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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 members Varudu Kalyani, Ramesh Yadav and Isak Basha submitted an adjournment motion seeking a discussion on the Mega DSC-2025 issue and implementation of the sports quota. Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju rejected the motion.

The Opposition members rushed into the well and

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

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

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

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 government 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

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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

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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 withdrawing



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

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.

WINDOWS

Three FIRs regd over ‘unauthorised’ posters of Minister

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

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

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

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

Expired products found in food establishments at 36 rly stns

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

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

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

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

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

Polar Bear opens 100<sup>th</sup> store

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

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

According to the com-

Complaint filed against two rowdy-sheeters

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

The officer has sought action against Dharma, Saiku-

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

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

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

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



communication between the inmate and the officer.

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

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

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

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

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

CM TO SHAH

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



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BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

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

Responding to the sug-



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

Shivakumar also raised concerns over the disposal of land allotted by state governments to PSUs. He objected to instances where land granted for public purposes is subsequently sold or auctioned after the beneficiary organisation shuts down or ceases operations. The Chief Minister argued that such land should be returned to the state government instead of being auctioned. “We provide land to PSUs. When they shut down or cease operations, the land

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

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

Second airport for Bengaluru

Three sites shortlisted, Tumakuru not under consideration

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

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

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



cal leaders for an airport in Tumakuru. Earlier, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had advocated establishing the second airport in Tumakuru, citing the district’s growing industrial and economic importance. However, the government has pointed to restrictions under the Centre’s Greenfield Airports Policy. Patil said a new airport would normally not be permitted within a 150-km radius of an existing civil airport. If an airport is proposed within this distance, the impact of the new facility on the existing airport would have to be assessed separately. The Centre would take the final decision after examining the proposal and its likely impact, he said. The minister’s response also made it clear that the state government has no proposal to allocate funds for an airport in Tumakuru in the upcoming budget.

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

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

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

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

Assembly proceedings stay disrupted for 4<sup>th</sup> day

BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

Parameshwara had on

Oppn demands removal of Minister Nagendra



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tions be appointed instead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

# 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

## LETTERS

### 'Blanket clemency' for CJP

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

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

### RSS members in NCERT panel

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

Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

### TN CM should act fast on DMK 'misrule'

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

A P Thiruvadi, Chennai

### T N largesse could be contagious

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

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

thehansreader@gmail.com

## BENGALURU ONLINE

### Viral video puts woman police officer in spotlight

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

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

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

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

# Mitigating adverse impacts of Artificial Intelligence



DR P SUBRAMANYACHARY

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

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

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

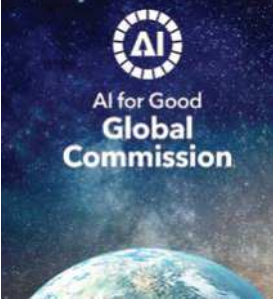
The deliberations focused primarily on AI governance, technological innovation, and

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

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

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

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



**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**

#### AI: Impact on employment and sustainable development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore, it is essential to implement effective AI governance, strengthen quality education, promote skill development, and invest in re-skilling 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)

# 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 Nagarajuna 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

# 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 asked telecom service providers to use the secure and centralised system Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), established by the department. "Subscribers who have already obtained mobile connections beyond

the prescribed 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.

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.



## 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 life threw at you with never-ending courage and dignity," Rahul Gandhi wrote.



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 south-

ern 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, Srirailam, 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.

# 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 Nadée 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 Nadée School of Movement. The performance was received with appreciation, particularly for the way it retained the discipline of Kathak while creating space for a contemporary interpretation of devotion.

Niral Uprit

## Meenakshi Seshadri questions cinema's in-law stereotypes

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



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

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

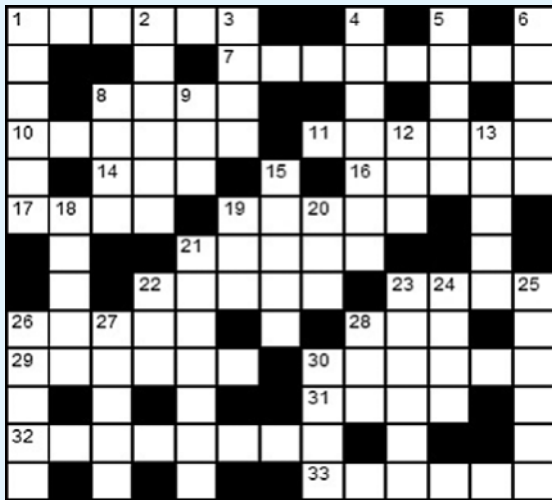
## Sonam Kapoor returns to spotlight after postpartum sabbatical

Actress and fashion icon Sonam Kapoor made a striking appearance at a luxury jewellery showcase in Mumbai. The actress was seen turning heads in an elegant black saree paired with statement jewellery. The actress, through her post on social media, stated that she is 'coming out of postpartum sabbatical' as she stepped out for the event. For the event, Sonam opted for a black saree featuring detailed metallic-gold along the border and 'pallu'. The saree also featured traditional embroidered motifs in shades of gold and brown. She paired it with a black blouse with gold-stripped detailing on the sleeves. The actress accessorised the look with an elaborate diamond and gemstone-studded necklace, matching earrings and statement rings. For the hair, she chose to neatly pull it back into a sleek bun, with a dewy makeup look. Talking about Sonam, over the years, she has built a distinct style identity in the world of fashion. Her relationship with fashion has been closely intertwined with her sister Rhea Kapoor, who has frequently styled her for major public appearances. Rhea, for the uninitiated, is a film producer and fashion designer, stylist. The sisters' creative partnership also extends to production. Rhea began her film-production career with Aisha in 2010, which starred Sonam alongside Abhay Deol. The sisters subsequently collaborated on films including Khoobsurat and Veere Di Wedding. Aisha, in particular, became an important part of Sonam's fashion and film journey. Released in 2010, the romantic comedy saw her play the title character, a young woman deeply interested in fashion and social life. The film also became closely associated with Sonam's evolving fashion image during her initial days in Bollywood.



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

### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

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

#### DOWN

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



Solution to August 20

### SUDOKU



Solution to August 20

WINDOWS



Student ‘threatened’ for raising Vande Mataram slogan

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

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

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

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

Temple thief caught hiding after camera triggers rapid response

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

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

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

Biker robbed of Rs 8 lakhs in broad daylight

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

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

Protests intensify in Cauvery basin over release of water to TN

BENGALURU/MANDYA

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

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

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

message all over the country.

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

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

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

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



‘Carry forward aspirations of Rajiv Gandhi and Devaraj Urs’

Dual birth anniversary event emphasises public service over power in politics

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

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

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



progress and the prospects of the young remain pertinent today.

“In parallel, Devaraj Urs took historic strides in support of social justice and, by means of numerous people-centered actions that en-

compassed 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 Chinnna, former head of the Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy, will preside over the final segment, where B A Muhammad Haneef, previous Beary academy president, and Dr. Poovappa Kaniyuru, a researcher of Tulu folklore, will join as principal guests, as stated in the Tulu Academy’s release.

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

BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEAVYWEIGHT HAUL



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

Five killed, 23 injured in separate road accidents



BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forest officers’ body defends its team involved in firing incident

BENGALURU

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

Tamil Nadu Chief Min-

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

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



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

department officials and alleged that relatives of the deceased had continuously

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

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

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

instances in order to save their own lives.

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

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



## 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 Nakaniishi.

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 Akhilbay 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 Pratitree 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 Vidit 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-

## 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 for 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 while 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.

## 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 Latu'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 thambave lage!" (I need to fill up with CNG, we'll have to stop for a while); "majhi rickshaw/taxi sharingchi aahe" (my auto/taxi is a shared one); and "meter chalu kele aahe" (have started the meter) are among the routine responses that officials expect from the drivers.

The exercise, announced by



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

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

## 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.

# Tarun Tejpal challenges rape conviction in SC

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

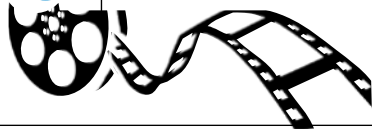
He said the government filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court against the quantum of sentence imposed in the case.

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

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

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





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



**V**iswanath & 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.



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

**W**Allari 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.

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

**T**he 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

**B**aby 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

## 'Killer/KillR' release date creates buzz

**T**he 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

**F**ollowing 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

**T**he team of **Ameer Log** has been riding high on the waves of positivity after the film's premieres. The Telugu film, marking **Madhavi Reddy Soma's** first production venture under **Awwal Number Production**, is all set for a grand release on **August 21** via **Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media**. Directed by **Ramana Reddy Soma**, the film stars **MC Hari, Manoj and Sashidhar** along with **Vedha Jalandhar, Ravan Nittoor, Vishwender Reddy and Sai Yogi**. At the event, the cast and crew expressed their confidence that the "Telangana-ness", sentiment and unique presentation of the film would strike a chord



with the viewers.

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

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

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

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