



THE Hans India



Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi

For Advertisements PI Call: 8096967713

Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia

Book your Copy: 97055 55551



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. It reached \$38 trillion five months before that, in October. The unprecedented \$40 trillion figure highlights competing administration priorities, from boosting the defense spending that the US relies on to carry out President Donald Trump's almost-6-month-old Iran war to lowering the cost of gas and groceries.

Trust, Reliability & Service
Synonymous with Kapil Chits

KAPIL GROUP

Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com

KAPIL CHITS

SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL

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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Oh, he really cares. He hardly spends any of it



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 bullet train route via Kuppam

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



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

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.

Continued on Page 7

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.

Continued on Page 7

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

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

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

12 bills cleared in monsoon session

- ▶ BC reservations in local bodies get approval
- ▶ Assembly records 25 hours of debate as YCP stays away
- ▶ Council paralysed for 4 days over Mega DSC
- ▶ Group-1 irregularities, Super Six dominate proceedings

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 three 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.

Continued on Page 7

I CAN SEE PAPA SMILING: RAHUL

Pays emotional tribute to father Rajiv



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

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.

Continued on Page 7

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.

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.

Continued on Page 7

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

41st Annual Convocation

Inauguration of
Centre for Advanced Research in Bacteriophage and Infectious Diseases (CARBID)
(Sponsored by ICMR, Govt. of India, New Delhi & VIT)

22nd 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
Founder & Chancellor

www.vit.ac.in

vituniversity vit vellore-institute-of-technology vit-univ Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Vellore Institute of Technology

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, Tammana 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.

Continued on Page 7

AP ranks fifth nationally in crop insurance enrolment

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

Director of agriculture Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon appealed to all paddy farmers to utilise the extended deadline and ensure 100% insurance coverage. The extension was proactively sought by the State government and received a positive response from the Centre in the interest of farmers. He said Andhra Pradesh has secured fifth position nationally in terms of crop insurance enrolment, reflecting the improved response from farmers this year. He noted that both the number of applications and the area covered under crop insurance schemes had increased substantially compared with the



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

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

Among other districts, Nandyal recorded 99,702 hectares, followed by Prakasam with 84,544 hectares and YSR district with 83,548 hectares. Srikakulam covered 74,123 hectares, while Palnadu and Vizianagaram recorded 56,018 and 32,805 hectares respectively.

In the coastal belt, West Godavari recorded 32,533 hectares, Konaseema 31,685 hectares, Krishna 29,078 hectares and NTR district 28,324 hectares. Anakapalli covered 35,411 hectares, while Annamayya recorded 21,309 hectares.

Agriculture director Dr Samoon said relatively lower coverage was recorded in districts such as Kakinada (17,261 hectares), Guntur (9,736), Eluru (9,355), Bapatla (9,302), East Godavari (9,032), Vizianagaram (32,805), Manyam (7,686), Chittoor (4,726), ASR (4,602), Tirupati (3,990) and SPSR Nellore (908). Visakhapatnam recorded the lowest coverage at 700 hectares, he added. Dr Samoon directed agriculture department field staff to intensify awareness campaigns and work towards achieving 100 per cent coverage. He advised farmers to contact their local Agriculture Officers or concerned insurance companies regarding district-specific enrolment deadlines for crops other than paddy.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

The minister called



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

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

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

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

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

THE growing number of students choosing government junior colleges has pushed admissions in the sector up by 10 per cent in Tirupati district this academic year. The number of students admitted to government junior colleges increased from 2,642 in 2025-26 to 2,910 in 2026-27, a rise of 268 students.

Overall admissions in junior colleges across the district have also increased from 4,942 last academic year to 5,442 this year. The number of students has gone up by 500 and admissions are still continuing. The number of colleges has increased from 74 to 76 during the same period.

Of the total 5,442 admissions, 119 students joined APRJC colleges, 2,910 government junior colleges, 598 High School Plus



Picture for representational purpose only

institutions, 281 KGBVs, 72 MJ PAP 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.

CPM opposes direct elections to local body top posts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CPM state committee opposed the proposed direct election of mayors and chairpersons in the forthcoming local body elections, arguing that the system would weaken grassroots democracy and

undermine the role of elected representatives.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, party state secretary V Srinivasa Rao said direct elections would diminish the importance of corporators, councillors, MPTCs and ZPTCs, who are directly connected with the people.

He said concentrating power in the hands of mayors and chairpersons would go against the spirit of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments and weaken democratic decentralisation.

He demanded that the existing system be continued. Meanwhile, Srinivasa Rao welcomed the state government's decision to provide 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), but said the move could be effectively implemented only by removing the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations. He said the Mishra Commission had also highlighted the issue and demanded

that Parliament amend the Constitution to facilitate implementation of the BC quota without legal hurdles.

He urged the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP, which are part of the NDA government at the Centre, to exert pressure on the Union government to bring about the required constitutional amendment. He said political parties should stop trading allegations and instead work together to secure the amendment. Srinivasa Rao warned that announcing reservations without ensuring their legal implementation would amount to misleading BCs. He also urged the State government to take precautionary measures based on the Mishra Commission's recommendations to avoid legal complications. He cautioned that using reservations merely for publicity would invite public resentment.

MASSIVE SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR 7 MISSING FISHERMEN

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

and the Coast Guard.

He said Navy boats were deployed for extensive search from Visakhapatnam towards Paradip. A Navy vessel is also searching towards the port area. Dornier aircraft from Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, and Chennai were engaged in the search operation.

A Navy helicopter from Kolkata has also been pressed into service. The minister said continu-

ous search sorties were on in potential areas. "We are using all available resources to search for the missing fishermen with constant coordination between the Navy, Coast Guard, and the Fisheries Department," he said.

He reiterated that the search will continue until the fishermen are brought back safely. The minister said that the government understands the anxiety of the fishermen's families and hopes for their safe return.

Earlier, minister for home and disaster management V Anitha directed officials to intensify search operations for the missing fishermen belonging to Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema district.

Officials informed the minister that the boat met with an accident about 12 nautical miles off the coast. Appanna, one of the eight

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

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

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

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

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



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

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

Rc.B.(L.A)/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 Chintareddyapalem 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 from 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 Chintareddyapalem 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 Patta, (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 Srimululu Nellore	Nellore Rural	Nellore Bit-II	01.09.2026	at 11:00A.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_9qpxA40x7GYTmMeUfcE4VKDeBU/view?usp=sharing

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

Spl survey to contain coffee berry borer

DEEKSHITULA SUBRAHMANYAM
ARAKU VALLEY (ASR DISTRICT)

THE Alluri Sitarama Raju district administration has drawn up a field-level action plan to check the spread of coffee berry borer, a pest that can cause serious damage to coffee plantations. As part of this action plan a special survey planned across 35 tribal villages covering nearly 2,500 acres. This aims to protect the interests of coffee growers in the agency area and minimise the impact of coffee berry borer on production and bean quality. District collector T Nishanthi has directed officials to identify the pest in its early stages and take scientific control measures to protect growers from crop losses. She reviewed the situation with Horticulture and Agriculture departments, DRDA, Coffee Project, APCNF, and Coffee Board, and discussed the field survey, and measures to contain the pest.

The survey will cover selected coffee plantations in Araku Valley and Dumbbriguda mandals. Fifty teams have been formed for the exercise, with each team comprising a coffee liaison worker, an ICRP and a VOA. Each team has been assigned a target of surveying 20 acres a day, and the exercise scheduled to continue for four days. The teams have been instructed to inspect plantations and record the presence and intensity of coffee berry borer, the affected area and other relevant details. The



Farmers and field staff participating in a training programme on identification of coffee berry borer signs and its control measures in coffee plantations

Collector directed officials to identify pest hotspots and give them priority while taking up control measures. Based on the survey findings, Broca traps, lures and Beauveria bassiana will be made available in areas where they are required. Officials said Broca traps would help attract the pest and detect its presence as well as assess its intensity. Training was given to farmers and field staff on installing the traps, using lures and preparing traps manually.

The district administration is also promoting biological control methods. Coffee AD Ayanti explained the use of Beauveria bassiana to farmers and field staff and imparted training on its application in coffee plantations.

DRDA Project Director Jayakrishna said coordinated efforts by all departments were necessary to tackle the pest problem effectively. Officials from the Horticulture and Agriculture departments, DRDA,

Coffee Project, APCNF and Coffee Board have been asked to deploy their field staff and work together during the survey and subsequent control operations. The survey teams were trained before being sent to the field. The training covered identification of coffee berry borer symptoms, detection of affected berries, assessment of pest intensity and systematic recording of field observations. Following the awareness programme, officials and the survey teams visited coffee plantations at Doravalasa village under Chinhalabudu panchayat for a field demonstration.

The Collector stressed the need to keep coffee growers involved in the control programme. Farmers will be sensitised on early symptoms, preventive measures, use of traps and biological control methods. They will also be advised to immediately inform field staff of infestation in their plantations.

Special drive against rule-violating private buses



As part of the special drive, Motor Vehicle inspectors examining the buses in Visakhapatnam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE transport department intensified enforcement against private Contract Carriage (CC) buses for violating motor vehicle regulations. Conducting a special inspection drive across the city, the transport department officials registered cases against 48 private bus operators for various violations. A total penalty of Rs.5,24,600 was imposed on the violators. During the three-day inspection drive, the cases were booked for operating without valid permits, violating permit conditions, non-payment of applicable taxes, non-functional emergency doors and other violations of motor vehicle laws and road-safety regulations. Transport department officials informed that the inspections would continue as part of the department's efforts to ensure passenger safety and strict compliance with road transport regulations.

Over 40 overseas buyers share a platform

- AP's vision of 'one family, one entrepreneur' seeks to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and create wider opportunities for self-employment and enterprise development
- The structured meetings provide MSMEs with an opportunity to showcase their capabilities, assess market suitability and explore exports, sourcing arrangements
- Increased demand for processed and export-oriented products can promote local value addition, reduce post-harvest losses and contribute to better value realisation and enhanced farmer incomes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

MSMEs are the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's industrial economy and play a vital role in employment generation, balanced regional development and inclusive economic growth, emphasised Tammireddy Siva Sankara Rao, chairman of AP MSME Development Corporation.

Delivering the inaugural address at the International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) hosted as part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, he mentioned that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to creating a supportive ecosystem where entrepreneurs can establish

enterprises, adopt modern technology, improve product quality, access finance and connect directly with domestic and international markets.

The three-day programme, which continues until August 21, brought more than 40 overseas buyers from 25 countries and over 250 MSMEs from across Andhra Pradesh onto a platform for structured one-to-one business meetings aimed at generating export enquiries, commercial partnerships and confirmed business orders.

Organised jointly by the Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (AP MSMEDC) and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the inaugural session was at-



Chairman of AP MSME Development Corporation Tammireddy Siva Sankara Rao along with other officials at the launch of the International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet organised in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

tended by MSMEDC directors Neelapu Vijayananda Reddy, Mugada Rajarao, Pradhana Vijayaram, PVV Sathyanarayana Murthy, Chinnaraju Gudipudi and N Veera Prasanna Kumar, along with other senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Siva Sankara Rao observed that AP possesses considerable strengths in agriculture, food processing, marine products, spices, rice, textiles, chemicals, engineering products and several other manufacturing sectors.

The chairman noted that programmes such as the RBSM reduce the distance

between local enterprises and global markets by bringing credible international buyers directly to the state. He urged participating MSMEs to make effective use of the opportunity, understand the specific requirements of buyers and maintain sustained communication.

AP MSMEDC would continue to support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through capacity building, market linkages, technology adoption and other facilitation measures, he added.

Addressing the gathering, K Unnikrishnan, Joint Director General, FIEO, said that identifying credible

overseas buyers and establishing direct access to international markets remain among the most significant challenges faced by MSMEs.

The structured meetings provide MSMEs with an opportunity to showcase their capabilities, assess market suitability and explore exports, sourcing arrangements, product development and long-term commercial partnerships. Stronger international market linkages for agricultural and value-added food products are also expected to benefit farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations, food-processing units and rural enterprises.

61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commences



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

railways of Indian Railways are participating in the tournament.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by P Hariprasad, president of South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA), South Coast Railway, as chief guest. The ceremony was presided over by Lalit Bohra, DRM, South Coast Railway, Visakhapatnam division.

The three-day championship

provides a vibrant platform for railway sportspersons from across the country to showcase their talent, competitive spirit and sporting excellence.

The event reflects the commitment of Indian Railways and South Coast Railway toward promoting sports, fitness, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among railway employees. The championship will conclude on August 22nd.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

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

Search and rescue operation continue for missing fisherman

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

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

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

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

The rest of the seven fishermen managed to reach the Visakhapatnam coast safely and alerted the authorities about the incident.

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

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



AINU performs city's first robotic boari flap reconstruction surgery

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology (AINU), Vizag, performed the city's first robotic Boari flap reconstruction surgery, saving the kidney function of a 50-year-old woman suffering from a severe long-segment ureteric stricture.

Led by Dr Amit Saple, Dr G Ravindra Varma, and Dr

P Sridhar, the surgical team used a section of the patient's bladder tissue to reconstruct her damaged ureter through keyhole incisions.

The minimally invasive procedure offered high precision, minimal blood loss, and rapid recovery, allowing the patient to be discharged within three days.

AINU continues to set benchmarks in advanced robotic urology.

'Pranaam' to strengthen elder-friendly healthcare



City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi along with hospital officials during the launch of the 'Pranaam' in Visakhapatnam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

ON the eve of the 'World Senior Citizen Day', observed on August 21, Care Hospitals launched 'Pranaam' in Visakhapatnam on Thursday.

A comprehensive elder-care initiative designed to make healthcare more accessible, personalised and reassuring for senior citizens, the initiative aims to go beyond hospital treatment.

The programme focuses on continuity of care, preventive health, emotional wellbeing, caregiver support and healthy ageing.

Inaugurating the initiative, City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi

said senior citizens have contributed immensely to their families and society, and it is a shared responsibility to ensure that they are treated with care, dignity and respect. "As people grow older, they may need greater support, particularly when it comes to their health and day-to-day needs.

Pranaam in Visakhapatnam aims to provide dedicated support to senior citizens. Such initiatives can give elderly people and their families greater confidence and reassurance," the CP underlined. The initiative was inaugurated in the presence of Shalabh Dang, president, sales & marketing, Aster DM Quality Care Limited, G Sukesh Reddy, Chief Operat-

ing Officer, Care Hospitals, along with senior doctors, healthcare professionals, staff and senior citizens.

With India's senior citizen population crossing 150 million and expected to grow significantly over the coming decade, there is an increasing need to make healthcare systems more responsive to the specific needs of older adults.

For many senior citizens,

particularly those living alone or dependent on family members and caregivers, navigating hospital visits, investigations, multiple specialist consultations and follow-up appointments can be challenging.

Pranaam has been designed to make this healthcare journey simpler, more comfortable and more supportive, the hospital management explained.

IIFSE Group director bags 'Asia Pride Award-2026'

VISAKHAPATNAM: Institute of Industrial Fire and Safety Engineering Group director Srinu Mahanti was conferred with the 'Asia Pride Award-2026'. Srinu Mahanti, who has been rendering outstanding services in industrial fire safety, security, skill development and safety awareness, received the award from Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade at an award function organised in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

The award recognises the efforts of IIFSE Group in developing skilled human resources to meet industry requirements, creating public awareness about fire and safety and promoting a safe industrial environment. Srinu Mahanti described the recognition as an important milestone for the IIFSE Group. Expressing gratitude to the organisers of the Asia Pride Awards-2026, Srinu Mahanti dedicated the honour to the entire team.

Civic chief holds discussions with World Bank representatives

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg underlined the need for formulating long-term development plans to strengthen infrastructure in line with the city's growing population and expanding industrial and economic activities, while also ensuring improved civic services for residents.

The civic chief highlighted it when World Bank representatives Jones, Abhijit Roy and Jyoti Nayak met him



GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg with the World Bank representatives in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

at the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation chamber on Thursday. In line with the development of the

Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER), the Commissioner held detailed discussions on various develop-

ment-related issues with the World Bank representatives. Also, the Commissioner discussed several developmental initiatives proposed in the GVMC limits, including infrastructure creation and major projects aimed at directly benefiting the public while addressing future urban requirements with the delegation. Additional Commissioner (Finance) SS Varma, Smart City CEO Anand, Visco consultant KVN Ravi, and other officials participated in the meeting.

Har
Payment
Digital

← Send money to any UPI App

Q Su

Contacts

SK Sujit Kumar

SK Sumit Kumar

₹8000

Pay

Making
a payment?

THODA
DHYAN SE !

When making a payment, take a moment to recheck the amount and beneficiary name, and pay only when you are sure they are correct. Stay alert to keep your money safe.

For more details
visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in>
For feedback write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

Official WhatsApp App No. 99990 41935 / 99309 91935

Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

Color calibration bars and registration marks.

Council passes 10 Bills amid YSRCP uproar

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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



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

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

The Opposition members rushed into the well and

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

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

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

tation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

URBAN INFRA UPGRADE GETS Rs 7,469 cr BOOST

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Kapu Corpn benefits 51.56 lakh in two years

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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



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

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

In 2024-25, the govern-

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

Pawan signals bigger Jana Sena share in local polls

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

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



ing those concessions after the favoured candidates had been accommodated.

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

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

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

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

Fresh areas inundated in Baleshwar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BALESHWAR

THE flood situation in Odisha remained grim with 12.85 lakh people affected in six districts, even as fresh areas got inundated in Baleshwar on Thursday as the Subarnarekha river flowed above the danger level, officials said. Subarnarekha witnessed peak flooding at 3 am on Thursday when the water level at Rajghat in Jaleswar touched 11.82 metres against the danger level of 10.36 meters.

At 9 am, however, the water receded to 11.6 metres, which was still above the danger level, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Rajesh P Patil said. The SRC said flooding in the river has caused fresh inundation in Bhograi and Baliapal blocks. While 28 gram panchayats in Bhograi block have been inundated, 20 blocks of Baliapal have been affected, the official said. As the floodwater submerged villages and paddy fields, the Baleshwar district administration deployed additional relief and rescue teams in the affected blocks.

“The rescue operation has been intensified by deploying personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF),



Odisha Disaster Response Force (ODRF), fire services and local police,” an official at the Baleshwar District Emergency Office said. Odisha’s Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the water level in Subarnarekha swelled due to discharge of water from Galudih barrage in neighbouring Jharkhand.

The upper catchment areas of the river also received very heavy rainfall due to a depression. Apart from Subarnarekha, Jalaka and Budhabalanga rivers in Baleshwar were also in spate. As many as 331 villages in Baleshwar district have been affected by flooding in Subarnarekha, Jalaka and Budhabalanga rivers.

The floodwaters inundated State Highway 57, which connects Jaleswar and Chandaneswar in Baleshwar district, and vehicular move-

ment was completely halted. Patil said that the government was optimistic that the flood situation would improve soon, but may require more days for Baleshwar to return to normalcy. The affected six districts were Baleshwar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar, where floodwaters caused breach of embankments, inundation of villages and disruption of road connectivity.

A total of 4,28,475 people have been evacuated and accommodated in 728 shelters, it said. In Kendrapada district, flooding in Baitarani, Kharasota, Brahmani and Kani rivers have raised concerns. A 50-foot breach in the Luna river embankment near Kaima Kanpur in Baraha Domanda panchayat of Rajkanika block inundated villages under four gram panchayats.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Odisha Transport department has initiated action to cancel or suspend the permits of around 400 auto-rickshaws allegedly used to block roads during an ongoing protest by app-based cab drivers and bike riders at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, said an official on Thursday. The road blockade and alleged vandalism by unruly protesters disrupted normal traffic in the area for some time in the Master Canteen Square area on Wednesday.

Several government properties, including CRUT/Ama Bus vehicles, were reportedly damaged during the incident. Based on police records, CCTV footage and preliminary examination of seizure lists, authorities identified and seized more than 400 auto-rickshaws allegedly used to obstruct the road. The Transport department said the use of ve-



hicles for such illegal activities amounts to a violation of permit conditions.

Accordingly, proceedings have been initiated under Section 86(1)(b) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, for suspension or cancellation of the permits. The Bhubaneswar-I RTO has issued show-cause notices to the registered owners and permit holders of the vehicles concerned. They have been asked to provide details regarding who was in control of the vehicles during the in-

cident and whether they were used with the owners’ permission, direction or knowledge.

The vehicle owners have been directed to submit written explanations along with the required documents within the stipulated deadline and appear before the RTO for a personal hearing. If no response is received within the prescribed period, or if the persons concerned fail to appear, the authorities may take a decision on permit suspension or cancellation based on the

available records.

The Transport department clarified that the action against the vehicle permits will not affect any separate criminal or other legal proceedings related to the incident. On Thursday, the Commissionerate Police informed that 113 protesters have so far been arrested and forwarded to court in this case. The Police seized 354 auto-rickshaws involved in the violent protest. Similarly, 60 protesting online cab service drivers have been

released on bond of good behaviour. A total of seven cases have been registered in this regard at the Kharavel Nagar Police Station.

The Commissionerate Police again warned that strong action will be taken against anyone taking the law into their hands. Notably, the app-based cab drivers and bike riders in Odisha have been holding protests in Bhubaneswar over several demands for the last couple of days.

However, the protest turned violent on Wednesday after the drivers staged a road blockade at bustling Master Canteen Square by keeping their auto-rickshaws on the road. They clashed with police when the latter tried to clear the blockade by removing the vehicles. The protestors pelted stones at police and damaged some public buses at the spot. The police later resorted to a mild baton charge to bring the situation under control.

State launches WhatsApp revenue grievance system

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari on Wednesday launched the Revenue Grievance Redressal System through the ‘Ama Sathi’ WhatsApp Chatbot, stating that the new initiative would bring revenue services closer to the people and ensure a transparent, accountable and citizen centric administration.

Launching the new system, the minister said the grievance redressal mechanism has been introduced through the ‘Ama Sathi’ WhatsApp Chatbot as a simple, convenient and transparent digital platform for citizens to lodge complaints relating to various Revenue department services and track their status.

He said that in keeping with changing times, the Revenue department is strengthening and modernising itself to make public services simpler and more accessible. Pujari said this innovative initiative would be a landmark step for the government of Odisha and further strengthen public trust in the administration.

Under the new system, citizens can select the appropriate grievance category through WhatsApp, submit the required details, and upload supporting documents. The complaint will then be forwarded to the authority concerned based on its nature.



For general grievances, the Tahasildar will initially examine the complaint and take necessary action. Where field level verification or additional information is required, the Tahasildar may forward it to the Revenue Inspector (RI) concerned. Following submission of the RI’s report, the matter will return to the Tahasildar for further action. Grievances requiring higher level intervention may be escalated to the Sub Collector and subsequently to the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) and the District Collector.

According to the department, it will monitor grievances against prescribed timelines to ensure timely action and disposal. Complainants will receive WhatsApp updates at various stages, including submission, progress, verifica-

tion, escalation, resolution or rejection. They will also be informed of the outcome and can rate the service and provide feedback.

The system provides facilities for digital submission of grievances, category wise registration, online tracking, field verification by Revenue Inspectors, escalation to higher authorities, citizen notifications and digital record keeping and monitoring. The department said the initiative would enable citizens to lodge complaints without first visiting Revenue offices in person, while giving officials a structured digital workflow, transparent tracking, and clearly defined responsibilities.

Discussions are also underway to digitise grievances submitted physically at Revenue offices and integrate them into the unified

grievance management system, allowing online and in person complaints to be managed and tracked through a single platform.

The ‘Ama Sathi’ WhatsApp Chatbot is already providing several Revenue services. Citizens can access the services through WhatsApp number 9437292000, including mutation, conversion of land classification, marriage registration, society registration, registration related information, certified copies of registered documents, caste, income and residential certificates, among others.

On the occasion, the administration demonstrated how citizens from Rayagada, Jharsuguda and Katka districts can lodge grievances through WhatsApp, followed by their management and resolution.

Odisha SIR 2026 enters final phase

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Odisha entered the final phase as the deadline for filing claims and objections for registration and revision ended on Wednesday, officials said. A statement issued by the office of the Odisha’s Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said the final decision on all claims and objections will be published on September 21.

The CEO said that till August 19, notices have been issued in the names of a total of 58,36,430 voters. Of them, notices have been successfully delivered to 58,36,374 voters, the CEO statement said. “Till now, a total of 3,09,71,941 eligible voters in the State have been considered eligible for inclusion in the final voter list,” it said, adding that the number may further increase as the hearing process is ongoing.

Officials made it clear that the electors to whom notices have been issued but have been unable to submit the required valid certificates



or correct information will be removed from the voter list. The SIR process also witnessed great enthusiasm among the youths to add their names in the voter list. A total of 2,79,315 people applied for new name registration through Form-6. Also, 53,625 applications have been received through Form-7 for voters whose names are in two places to remove their names from one place and put them in another place, and for deleting the names of deceased persons, the statement said. As many as 1,97,952 voters have applied through Form-8 for the names of all members of a family to be put together in one polling station along with the name, address, age or other corrections in the voter list, it said.

Elephant tusk seized, four arrested

RUDRANSH MISHRA
DHENKANAL

FOUR persons were arrested by forest officials on Wednesday for allegedly possessing an elephant tusk in the Mahabir range of Dhenkanal. The accused include Sipun Patra from Baghamunda, and Tampai village residents Laxmidhar Naik, Kuber Singh, and Sanatan Naik.

Forest officials stated the accused claimed they found the elephant tusk while gathering mushrooms and decided to take it. The Forest department seized the tusk following the arrests. Officials are now investigating its origin and how the four individuals acquired it.



The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, bans the possession, collection, transportation, and trade of elephant tusks and other wildlife artifacts.

Forest officials warned of strict legal action against anyone involved in the illegal possession or trade of wildlife articles. Divisional Forest Officer Lalit Kumar Patra stated that an investigation is ongoing

to establish the full facts of the case. The arrests follow an intensified crackdown by the State’s Forest wing on rampant wildlife trafficking and poaching networks in Odisha’s protected zones. The region has recently seen a surge in elephant casualties driven by ivory smuggling, deliberate poisoning, and high-voltage power line electrocutions.

ASHA worker carries elderly woman to safety

BHADRAK : AN ASHA worker has been applauded by the Bhadrak district administration for rescuing a 60-year-old woman from the recent Odisha floods by carrying the elderly person to safety on her back, an official said on Thursday. Minati Sahoo carried the woman on her back for around 500 metres through knee-deep water to a safe shelter in Dhamnagar block.

Sahoo, who serves Nadiagon and Bharatpur areas, was providing medicines in waterlogged villages and spreading awareness among residents about precautions against diseases likely to spread due to the floods, he said. While she was returning from her field visit, she learnt that a breach in the Karanpal river embankment had caused floodwaters to enter Nadigaon village.

When she visited the area, she noticed the elderly woman, identified as Basanta Das, sitting alone on the verandah of her house. Floodwaters had already reached the verandah level, the official said. Das was unable to move on her own as she was suffering from an infection in her legs and normally needed the support of family members even to walk. Her son, meanwhile, had gone to a medical facility with his pregnant wife, he said.

19 years on, Biriguda families seek ‘Displaced People’ status

C B SINGH
RAYAGADA

NEARLY two decades after the proposed Aditya Alumina project sparked discussions on displacing Biriguda Colony, affected families still await a final decision on their resettlement and rehabilitation benefits.

The long-pending issue came up for discussion at the 5th Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDSC) meeting held at the Zilla Parishad conference hall in Rayagada. The meeting was chaired by the RDC, Southern Division, Brahmapur, and attended by Koraput Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan, Rayagada Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni, the Koraput Lok Sabha member, MLAs from Koraput and Rayagada districts and members of the RPDSC.

However, the Biriguda rehabilitation issue remained unresolved, with representatives of the affected families

insisting that their long-pending demands be settled before they are asked to vacate the colony for project-related requirements. According to a written submission made by Bipin Kumar Mandinga, an RPDSC member and representative of Biriguda Colony, the present settlement has its roots in a government rehabilitation exercise dating back to 1975, when 45 families were reportedly shifted from the original Biriguda village and settled at the present colony.

The families claim that the government subsequently provided agricultural and homestead land to the settlers. While ‘pattas’ were reportedly issued for agricultural land, the families say they were provided documents relating to their homestead land instead of formal ‘pattas’, leading to the present dispute over their legal and rehabilitation status. Official records placed before the authorities provide a different but complementary picture.



Proceedings of a meeting held on April 17, 2013, in the office of the Sub-Collector, Koraput, recorded that Biriguda Colony was situated over approximately 1.77 acres of government land, classified as Patita, under Khata No. 81 and Plot Nos.

414 and 415 of Biriguda village. A joint inquiry conducted in 2008 had identified 114 families in the colony. By February 2013, the number had increased to 124 households.

The 2013 proceedings recorded that the Aditya

Alumina Project authorities considered acquisition of the 1.77 acres necessary for the project and had submitted a requisition for alienation of the government land. The colony representatives, however, demanded that the families be recognised as

Displaced Persons (DPs) and extended benefits under the Odisha Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2006.

The issue had already figured in an official meeting held on February 5, 2011, according to the statement submitted by the colony

representative. The meeting reportedly discussed rehabilitation of the Biriguda families, including proposals relating to rehabilitation housing and recognition of the families as Displaced Persons. Two years later, the April 17, 2013 proceedings again dealt specifically with the 1.77-acre settlement.

The proceedings recorded that the project authorities had expressed the view that acquisition of the land was necessary and that the families would consequently have to be displaced. The colony representatives maintained that they should receive benefits under the R&R Policy before displacement.

Significantly, the 2013 proceedings recorded that the project authorities agreed to accept the proposal for declaring the families as Displaced Persons and providing employment and other benefits under the Odisha R&R Policy, 2006. Yet, the proposed rehabilitation process did not reach a final

settlement.

The matter resurfaced in December 2023, when the Tahsildar, Laxmipur, visited the colony following a direction from the district administration and submitted a report concerning issuance of House Site RORs. The report, dated December 22, 2023, referred to approximately 124 households continuing to reside on the 1.77 acres.

At the RPDSC meeting, the RDC acknowledged the delay in resolving the Biriguda rehabilitation issue and said that a subcommittee would be constituted to expedite the process. The subcommittee will comprise the Collectors of Koraput and Rayagada, the Special Land Acquisition Officer and the Sub-Collectors concerned. It will examine the matter and submit its recommendations within two months. After approval of the subcommittee’s recommendations, the matter will be placed before the RPDSC for a final decision.

Tech should empower retail investors to avoid risks

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

The whole process has now been undertaken through technology-powered solutions. From eKYC to digital onboarding, now a person can complete the whole process without a physical visit to any financial institution. In addition, fintech startups like Zerodha and Groww have made stock investment extremely easier. The advent of discount brokerage firms has literally moved stock investment into the palms of investors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS

'Blanket clemency' for CJP

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

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

RSS members in NCERT panel

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

Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

TN CM should act fast on DMK 'misrule'

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

A P Thiruvadi, Chennai

T N largesse could be contagious

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

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Viral video puts woman police officer in spotlight

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

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

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

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

Mitigating adverse impacts of Artificial Intelligence



DR P SUBRAMANYACHARY

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

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

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

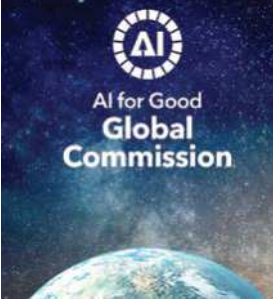
The deliberations focused primarily on AI governance, technological innovation, and

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

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

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

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



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 reskilling and upskilling initiatives. These measures are crucial to ensuring that the benefits of AI are inclusive, sustainable, and contribute positively to long-term economic and social development.

Significance of AI for Good Global Commission for India

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 film industry, 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. Bhagyashree 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 underlying 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

12 bills cleared in monsoon session

Continued from P1

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 dis-

cussion on rainfall deficit, outlining the government's response and contingency measures.

The second day was dominated by BC reservations, with the Cabinet decision on 34 per cent reservation in rural local bodies being placed before the House.

On the third day, the Assembly debated the state's law and order situation and held a special discussion on the APPSC Group-1 examination. Naidu presented a

PowerPoint presentation on the alleged irregularities and warned that those responsible would face action irrespective of their position or influence.

The final day's proceedings focused on the implementation of the Super Six welfare promises. Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan attended the sitting, participated in the debate on amendments to the Panchayat Raj Act and moved a resolution.

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

Continued from P1

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.

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.

MLA SUNITHA RAISES EL NIÑO WATER CRISIS IN ASSEMBLY

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

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

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

She noted that heavily populated regions like Anantapur Rural mandal, housing over 70,000 voters, are facing acute shortages. She requested deploying additional water tankers and releasing at least 30 percent capacity into local irrigation tanks through the Handri-Neeva project to replenish groundwater and supply drinking water for livestock.

She also requested expediting the completion of unfinished Rythu Bharosa Kendras and Secretariat buildings.

Speaking during a short discussion on the 'Super Six' welfare initiatives, MLA Sunitha commended Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for implementing transformative schemes.



Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha

She highlighted that ₹52 crore reached 40,000 mothers in Raptadu under Taliki Vandanam, while ₹136 crore was distributed to 51,000 local farmers through Annadatha Sukhibhava. Furthermore, she appreciated the seamless doorstep delivery of pensions under NTR Bharosa. Addressing issues arising from the Stree Shakti free bus travel initiative for women, MLA Sunitha noted that buses are severely overcrowded, with passenger loads reaching 60 to 80 per trip. She appealed to the Transport Department to immediately augment the RTC fleet with new buses and recruit additional drivers and conductors to relieve operational stress.

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 com-

mittee 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 deci-

sion triggered a separate protest by candidates who had cleared the JSSC-CGL examination and were appointed to government posts.

They have opposed the cancellation, arguing that successful candidates should not be punished for alleged irregularities unless wrongdoing is established against them.

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, Srisailem, 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.

Govt limits SIM cards to 9 per person

Continued from P1

"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 be-

yond 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.

The DoT has asked telecom operators to streamline the process with

the Digital Intelligence Platform before November 30. "Till the time such measures are implemented by a TSP on a post-facto basis, as per terms and conditions of the Customer Application Form (CAF), any mobile connection activated beyond the prescribed limit for a day shall be immediately suspended till resolution of the issue in respect of crossing the permitted limit for mobile connections," the circular said. The government said the objective is to ensure that each subscriber is able to subscribe to and use mobile connections only within the prescribed limit. Under existing instructions issued on August 9, 2012, an individual customer can have a maximum of nine mobile connections in their

name across all telecom service providers and all licensed service areas in the country. However, the limit is lower in certain regions. Subscribers in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and the North-East can have a maximum of six mobile connections. The latest development is about enforcement of the existing limit.

The instructions also require customers to provide a declaration in the Customer Application Form (CAF) regarding the mobile connections already held in their name across telecom operators and licensed service areas. The DoT said the respective Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) will be the competent authorities to decide issues arising from the implementation of the instructions.

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

Continued from P1

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 Cockroach 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. Several videos subsequently circulated on social media, purportedly showing protesters being manhandled by police personnel, leading to allegations of excessive use of force.

The Delhi Police, however, defended its action and maintained that force was used only after sections of the protesting crowd allegedly turned violent and engaged in stone-pelting.

'I CAN SEE PAPA SMILING'

Continued from P1

"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. The Congress leader said that he and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were perhaps the only ones who could truly understand the difficulties their mother faced in the years following Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. "Only Priyanka and I really know what you have been through, and how difficult your life after Papa truly was," he said. Rahul Gandhi also welcomed the publication of Sonia Gandhi's memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, saying he was proud that her story would now be read by millions of people who have followed her public life. He noted that opening up about her personal journey could not have been easy for someone as private as his mother.

When Kathak becomes a dialogue with the divine

ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

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



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

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

choreographic language. Rather than retelling their familiar stories, however, the production questioned how people inherit forms of devotion. The dancer-seeker encounters the silence or ambiguity that can follow conventional prayers and begins to question whether inherited ways of asking and accepting can remain meaningful. The production therefore sought a more personal path to the divine. Traditional Kathak compositions and Sanskrit shlokas shared the stage with spoken word, English voiceover and original Hindi poetry. Ancient and contemporary elements were placed side by side, turning mythology into a

subject of enquiry rather than simply narration. The prerecorded music, composed by Savni Bhatt, combined singing, instrumental passages, recitation and voiceover. Tabla and pakhawaj formed the rhythmic foundation, while harmonium provided melodic support. The bansuri was particularly prominent in the Krishna section, adding a distinct melodic character to the movement. Kathak's rhythmic vocabulary remained central to the production. Teental featured in the invocatory and celebratory sections, including Ganesha and Devi, as well as the final movement. The Shiva bandish used Roopak, whose uneven cycle brought urgency to the section. Ektaal appeared during faster passages, allowing Uprit's swift movements and chakkar to heighten the performance's intensity. Kavitts, parans and bandishes were woven into the choreography alongside Sanskrit verses from the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. These textual elements operated as another layer of meaning

beneath the dance, connecting the physical vocabulary of Kathak with the philosophical questions at the heart of the production. Uprit differentiated the four deities through rhythm, expression and movement. Her portrayal of Shiva, in particular, combined poetic composition with a striking interpretation of the Lord of Dance. The Krishna section drew on the interplay between flute, voice and choreography. Across the recital, clean footwork, controlled angika patterns and fleet chakkar demonstrated her command of the classical form. The performance gradually moved towards its central philosophical insight. As the dancer addresses the deities and finds that their answers repeatedly return the questions to her, the search turns inward. The ultimate realisation echoes the Advaita understanding that what one seeks outside may ultimately be discovered within the self. Aavahan thus emerged as an exploration of seeking, questioning and self-discovery through Kathak. Its distinctive quality lay in bringing a traditional Indian classical form into dialogue with contemporary theatrical devices, original poetry, technology and philosophical enquiry. The programme was organised and introduced by Aditi Rao Ashtaputre, founder of Nadee School of Movement. The performance was received with appreciation, particularly for the way it retained the discipline of Kathak while creating space for a contemporary interpretation of devotion.

Niral Uprit

Meenakshi Seshadri questions cinema's in-law stereotypes

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



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

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

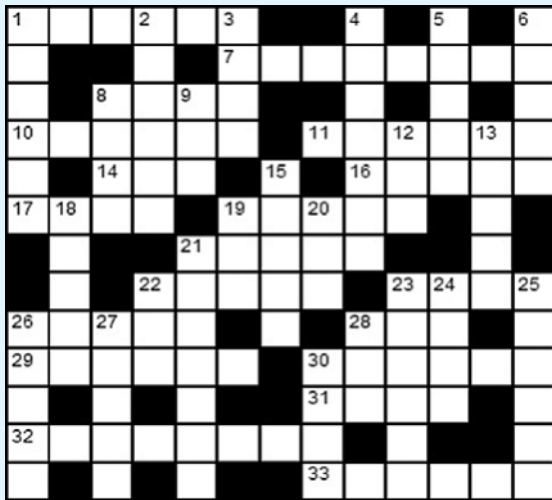
Sonam Kapoor returns to spotlight after postpartum sabbatical

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



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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

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

DOWN

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



Solution to August 20

SUDOKU



Solution to August 20



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

How AI is redefining executive education

RANJITA RAMAN

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

That is no longer the most important question

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

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

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



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

Generative AI is expanding these possibilities further

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

This can transform exec-



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

Executive education derives much of its value from faculty expertise, peer discussion, mentorship, debate and the exchange of real-world experiences. These interactions help professionals challenge assumptions, understand different perspectives and develop judgement. Technology can strengthen this process, but it cannot replace it. AI can generate information, but leadership requires interpretation. It can suggest options, but decision-making still requires accountability. It can personalise content, but meaningful learning depends on reflection, experience and human context.

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

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

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

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

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

Grade 8 student secures global rank in LogiQids Olympiad

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

TODAY IS INTERNET SELF-CARE DAY

Healthier habits: A guide to digital self-care

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

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



maintaining flexibility about when and how people participate.

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

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





BWF World Championships

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakamishi.

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

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

Chakraborty starts with win, Vignesh held to draw

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Sanjay Manjrekar

FIH Women's World Cup

India enter round 2 after goalless draw with England

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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, one final five minutes for white and four for black will be played,



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

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

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

D Varshith lifts bronze at Jr National Swimming C'ships



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

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

say that I know your truth?" he added.

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

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

Ministers' dogs get better facilities: Dipke on govt schools

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

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

Students in some schools



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

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

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

China destroys residential quarters of monks in Tibet

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

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

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



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

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

Ganga nears danger mark in Varanasi, boat services suspended

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

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

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

RTOs quiz taxi, auto drivers in Marathi, notices sent

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

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

The exercise, announced by



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

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

Domicile row

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

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

Treating the petition as a special case, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vivek Rusa 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.



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

BIZ BRIEFS

Tech Survey by Amazon

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

Declassified on Discovery+

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

Milestone in robotic surgeries

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

AWS opens Builder Lofts

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

VAYU forays into India

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

Bulls charge after 7-day rout

US TREASURY INTERVENTION SPARKS BROAD-BASED RELIEF RALLY

MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Centre tightens sugar stock norms amid price surge

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

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



in effect till November 30.

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

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

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

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

Sebi allows IFSCA-regulated entities to access KYC records

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

Cement sector powers core industries' 5.4% rise in July

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

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

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



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

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

Local currencies can cut trade costs: RBI deputy governor

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

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

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

DGFT opens door wider for rupee-settled exports

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

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

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

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

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

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

KARAN ADANI ON WATCHING HIS FATHER THROUGH STORM

‘Sometimes the strongest answer is to keep building’

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



one man have to absorb?"

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

It was watching his father go to work.

"My Father Kept Going to Work."

"It sounds like such an or-

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

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

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

still had to be made."

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

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

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

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

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

ture and what he describes as nation-building.

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

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

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

AWS rolls out advanced OpenAI models in India

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

JawaYezdi expands digital reach campaign

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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





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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



'Manasa Vacha'

from 'EPIC' is a soulful melody

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



'Killer/KillR' release date creates buzz

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



of our project".

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

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

The actor is thrilled to

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

'Ameer Log' team looks confident ahead of release

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



with the viewers.

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

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

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

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