

CITING 'POLITICAL' ANGLE...

Centre denies permission for CM Revanth's US visit

► Trip to UK okayed; officials will proceed to America

► Revanth will take return flight from London on Aug 23

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy, who embarked on a 10-day overseas tour to woo global education majors and investors to Telangana, was forced to cancel his visit to the United States of America



Chief A Minister Revanth Reddy at the Oxford University, London, on Friday

(USA), after the Union Ministry of External Affairs, citing "political" angle, denied him the permission to visit America. The state government had

sought the Centre's permission for trips to the UK and the US as per policy and protocol, but only the UK trip was approved. **Continued on Page 7**

Proposed prog not appropriate to CM's office: MEA
Clarifies denial of 'political clearance' for Revanth's US visit

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday clarified that the proposed programme for Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to the United States was not considered appropriate "to the office held and the purpose of the visit", and therefore political clearance was not granted. **Continued on Page 7**



Legendary actress Sowcar Janaki no more

CHENNAI: Legendary actress Sowcar Janaki, one of the most respected artistes of Indian cinema, died on Friday due to age-related ailments. She was 94. Her trailblazing career spans seven decades of legacy defined by immense versatility. She has acted in over 400 movies in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam and was conferred the Padma Shri award in 2022.

MORE REPORTS **PAGE 3 & 12**

SPLIT WIDE OPEN

Sack Surekha, chorus Cong legislators

Some demand action against Rajgopal Reddy, Chinna Reddy

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HYDERABAD

INDICATING that the split in the Telangana unit of the Congress is wide open, Congress MLAs and MLCs on Friday demanded that the party high command must step in and remove Minister Konda Surekha from the Cabinet and expel her from the party as she had failed to condemn the unpalatable remarks made by her daughter, Konda Susmitha, against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. **Continued on Page 7**



Cong MLAs & MLCs at a meeting in Gandhi Bhavan in Hyd on Friday



CM Revanth to take disciplinary action against Surekha

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BREZZA



A group of local residents and officials inspect the underground structure discovered during excavation at the historic Qutb Shahi graveyard near 18 Seedi on the Golconda premises in Hyderabad on Friday

Secret tunnel at Golconda turns out to be heritage chamber

ASI inspection finds 1.2m × 1.8m underground structure at 18 Seedi graveyard

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A tunnel has been discovered following alleged illegal excavation at a historic 400-year-old Qutb Shahi graveyard at 18 Seedi on Golconda premises, triggering serious concerns over possible damage to the protected heritage site. It revived the long-standing belief of a secret tunnel connecting Golconda Fort with the Charminar.

It was alleged that the excavation was carried out by Army officials in the area, following which the discovery of a tunnel came to light. The matter has now been brought to the attention of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for an immediate inspection and investigation. According to preliminary information, excavation was allegedly being carried out at the site, during which an underground passage or tunnel-like structure was noticed. The discovery has generated considerable interest because of a long-standing local belief that there is a secret underground passage between Golconda Fort and Charminar. However, there is no conclusive evidence so far establishing the existence of such a passage.

AIMIM Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin visited the site and contacted officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and brought the alleged excavation and discovery to their attention. The development has also been brought to the notice of the Hyderabad Collector, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner and DCP, South-West Zone.

Authorities have also deployed police personnel at the site to prevent any further unauthorised activity until the inspection and assessment are

completed.

On receiving the information, the ASI officials inspected the site on Friday and ascertained the nature and extent of the excavation and examined the tunnel discovered at the location.

Upon preliminary inspection, ASI said it was observed that the said structure is not a tunnel but a rectangular-shaped chamber measuring approximately 1.2 m × 1.8 m in length and width and 2.2 m in depth. It is constructed of granite stone, with rough stone masonry forming an internal wall-like structure. The team also noticed a few red-coloured potsherds, which appear to belong to the medieval period. The preliminary investigation has clarified that the structure is not a tunnel but a small chamber. Its exact purpose or usage, however, could not be identified without detailed investigation. The ASI Hyderabad Circle will report the matter to the Director General, ASI, and, upon approval, a detailed investigation will be undertaken to ascertain the purpose and usage of the chamber and to determine whether similar chambers exist in the surrounding area.

It may also be stated that the Bala Hissar portion of Golconda Fort is situated on a hillock, and the fortification wall encloses several other minor structures that were congealed for the utility of the public when Golconda Fort functioned as a residential settlement.

The ASI Hyderabad Circle has informed the Artillery Centre, Golconda, not to proceed further with the levelling of the land until a clear picture regarding this discovery emerges through further investigation.

Seven-year-old's voice prompts GHMC action on stray dogs

- Arfa raises stray dog concerns
- Complaint submitted to GHMC Zonal Commissioner
- Veterinary team inspects colony
- Five to six stray dogs caught
- GHMC vehicle deployed for two days
- Focus on children's safety and animal welfare

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



Seven-year-old student Arfa Mehreen hands over her representation to S Srinivas Reddy, GHMC Zonal Commissioner, Rajendranagar, on stray dog menace in University View Colony

seven-year-old child raised concerns over the stray dog menace in University View Colony, Rajendranagar.

Arfa Mehreen, a seven-

year-old child activist, noticed the growing presence of stray dogs in her area, which was creating fear among children and mak-



The handwritten complaint submitted by Arfa Mehreen to the GHMC Zonal Commissioner, Rajendranagar, highlighting safety concerns caused by stray dogs in University View Colony

ing them feel unsafe while walking to and from school.

Arfa decided to speak up and seek a solution. She wrote a complaint and submitted a representation to

S Srinivas Reddy, GHMC Zonal Commissioner, Rajendranagar, explaining the difficulties faced by children and other residents and requesting appropriate measures to address the issue.

Taking the young girl's complaint seriously, the Zonal Commissioner responded swiftly and deputised Dr Nizam, veterinary officer, along with his team, to inspect the area and resolve the issue on a war-footing.

As a result, for the past two days, GHMC's stray animal-catching vehicle has been making rounds in University View Colony, with five to six stray dogs caught and removed from the area.

Speaking to The Hans India, Arfa said her concern was never about harming animals, but about finding a safe and humane balance between animal welfare and

public safety.

"My representation sought responsible civic measures, including anti-rabies vaccination and appropriate action in cases involving aggressive dogs, while ensuring the safety of children and residents. The aim is to protect both people and animals through humane and responsible solutions," she said.

At just seven years, she saw a problem, understood that government authorities could help, raised her voice respectfully and sought a solution.

Her initiative has now become more than just a complaint about stray dogs. It stands as an example of early civic consciousness, leadership, empathy and community service—showing how even a little voice can make a big impact in building a safer neighbourhood.

Civil Supplies gets 'commando shield' against defaulting rice millers

28 personnel from Greyhounds and OCTOPUS inducted into Civil Supplies Enforcement and Vigilance wing to curb stock diversion

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a decisive move to safeguard the state's paddy procurement and public distribution system, the Telangana State Civil Supplies Department on Friday inducted 28 highly trained police personnel from the elite Greyhounds and OCTOPUS units into its Enforcement and Vigilance wing to crack down on defaulting rice millers.

Commissioner of Civil Supplies M Stephen Raveendra chaired a high-level briefing at Civil Supplies Bhavan to formally welcome the newly attached personnel and outline their strategic mandate.

Recognising that public distribution and civil supplies operations are a new domain for the tactical units, the Commissioner said the personnel had already undergone a specialised three-day training programme tailored to departmental protocols. The personnel

were also trained at the Telangana Police Academy in various legal aspects relating to essential commodities and enforcement procedures.

During the briefing, Raveendra highlighted the scale of the department's operations and the state's record-breaking paddy procurement during the KMS 2025-26 season. He said Telangana had successfully procured 154 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy during the procurement cycle.

He noted that the State government had spent around Rs 40,000 crore during the last procurement season to support the farming community and ensure smooth procurement operations.

The newly deputed personnel, leveraging their expertise in tactical operations, intelligence gathering and surprise inspections, will function as special task teams under the Enforcement and Vigilance wing.

The teams will be deployed across the state to conduct

intensive field inspections of rice mills identified as defaulting and verify compliance with government regulations. Their deployment is aimed at strengthening enforcement mechanisms and preventing the misappropriation of government-owned paddy and rice stocks.

The Commissioner issued a stern warning that the department would follow a strict zero-tolerance policy towards misappropriation, diversion of stocks and other operational violations.

He said criminal cases would be registered immediately against millers found violating government regulations and that stringent legal action would be initiated against those responsible.

The deployment of the specialised personnel is expected to strengthen the Civil Supplies Department's enforcement capabilities and ensure greater accountability among rice millers involved in the state's procurement and public distribution operations.

Garbage, encroachments under MMC Commissioner's scanner

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MALKAJIGIRI Municipal Corporation (MMC) Commissioner T Vinay Krishna Reddy came down heavily on civic lapses during a surprise field inspection in Kamala Nagar and Mahesh Nagar under the AS Rao Nagar Division. He directed officials to swiftly address sanitation issues, encroachments, unauthorised constructions and road-safety concerns.

During the inspection, the Commissioner expressed displeasure over garbage being dumped along road margins, in vacant plots and at other public places.

Taking note of negligence in maintaining sanitation at the field level, the Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner to transfer Sanitary Field Assistant (SFA) Vamsi from the area.

He suggested that Anjali, who had earlier served as the in-charge SFA of the locality, be

posted in his place.

At Nikhil Boys Hostel on Road No. 3 in Kamala Nagar, the Commissioner found that a kitchen and office room had been constructed in the designated parking area. Town Planning officials were instructed to initiate action as per rules against the unauthorised use of the parking space. The Commissioner also inspected Ayyappa Swamy Temple Road, where he found conditions affecting the safe movement of school vehicles and other motorists.

Engineering officials were directed to take appropriate technical measures to resolve the issue without causing inconvenience to the public. At the Radhika Multiplex area, he inspected a construction allegedly encroaching on the footpath and noted that construction material had been stored on the road for a prolonged period. Town Planning officials were directed to take action against such encroachments and obstructions to public movement.

Polytechnic reforms spark SIO fears over privatisation

SIO delegation visits Polytechnics, interacts with students and voices support for their concerns

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), Telangana, expressed serious concern over the proposed restructuring of Polytechnics under the SHAKTI framework and their integration with the Young India Skills University (YISU).

According to SIO, technical education reforms must expand opportunities for students, not weaken their

access to higher technical education. The concerns surrounding B Tech lateral entry and the future academic progression of Polytechnic students need clear assurance and protection.

There is also a serious concern that the restructuring may affect the availability of affordable government technical education. Any increase in fees or commercial use of public educational infrastructure could make technical education less ac-

cessible to students from economically weaker backgrounds.

State President Mohd Faraz Ahmed said that the proposed restructuring also raises serious concerns as the government is attempting to shift government Polytechnics towards a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, which could lead to the gradual privatisation of technical education.

"Technical education should not become increas-

ingly privatised or commercialised, with public institutions and infrastructure being treated primarily as avenues for commercial activity."

He said that at a time when the State government cites a lack of funds for RTF and MTF scholarships, it is concerned that public education is being pushed towards PPP models. Providing affordable education is the government's responsibility, not something to be

shifted to private players.

SIO Telangana urges the government to consult students, faculty and management before implementing major changes. The future of existing students, courses and facilities must be protected.

A delegation of SIO Telangana visited various polytechnic colleges and interacted with students, listening to their concerns and expressing solidarity with them.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
0/o. Dist. Panchayat Raj Engineer, PIU Yadadri Bhuvanagiri
Tender Notice
Short Tender Notice No. HD/02/2026-27, Dated:19.08.2026. Tenders are invited by the undersigned for total-26 Number of works in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Sanctioned under Various Grants with Total Estimate cost: Rs. 194.08 Lakhs, last date of receipt of application: 28.08.2026 up to 05.00 P.M., Tender schedules will be issued 29.08.2026 upto 05.00 P.M., Date of receipt of tenders: 31.08.2026 upto 03.00PM. Date of opening of tenders: 31.08.2026 at 03.30 PM. Further details can be had from the undersigned.
Sd/- Dist. Panchayat Raj Engineer, PIU Yadadri Bhongir
DIPR R.O. No.: 8422-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 21-08-2026

NOTICE
Forest Clearance has been accorded under Forest Conservation Act 1980 in favour of M/s. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited - Final (Stage-II) approval for Diversion of 0.1866 Ha of forest land (FP/TO/OF/467168/2024) in Medak Forest Division of Medak District for laying Optical Fibre Cable between Narsapur-Chandapur along the road within existing Right Of Way for providing LTE Voice & Data services vide G.O.MS.No.30, dated 04-08-2026 issued by Ministry Of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the details of permission are available on the State Government <http://goir.telangana.gov.in>

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RAJENDRANAGAR ZONE
Tender Notice
Sl. No. 1. NIT No.13/SE(M)/RJNRZ/GHMC /2026-27, Date: 21.08.2026, Name of the Work: 01 No of Civil Works, Estimated amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 118.00, Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Download Start Date: 22/08/2026@ 04.30 P.M, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 29/08/2026@ 3.30 P.M, Name & Address Officer Cell No.: SRI B.Narendar Goud, SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,RAJENDRANAGAR ZONE, GHMC, PH: 9989930608, Total: 01 No of Civil Works: 118.00, Further details can be seen at @ <https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in>
Sd/-SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (M) RAJENDRANAGAR ZONE, GHMC
DIPR R.O. No.: 8435-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27, Date: 21-08-2026

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
MADHAPUR CIRCLE – 50
Lr No: 19/EE/CIR-50/KPZ/CMC/2026-27 Date: 20.08.2026
S.no Name of the Work UNITS
1 Supply and delivery of Geocellular stormwater storage modules with high-load retention and infiltration system for rainwater management in heavy traffic areas. These modules must support usage in road construction or storm water drains with high load bearing capacity. each
Further details can be seen at e-Procurement at <https://cmc.telangana.gov.in/Tenderspage>
Terms and Conditions:
1) Last date for submission of Sealed Quotations is on or before 27.08.2026 11.00AM in the O/o Executive Engineer, Madhapur circle-50, CMC.
2) Price quoted must have breakup of basic price, GST applicable and other charges if any.
3) Bidders are requested to submit rates for different sizes of the blocks which serve the purpose mentioned above with specific details like size, material and storage capacity.
4) Bidder should mention their GST number on the Quotation submitted.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, Madhapur Circle-50, CMC
DIPR R.O. No.: 8395-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 21-08-2026

VARALAKSHMI VRATHAM CELEBRATED WITH RELIGIOUS FERVOUR

Women perform Varalakshmi Vratam with devotion and traditional fervour at Kukatpally in Hyderabad on Friday
Photos: Adula Krishna

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Tender Notice No: 2-MECH-NMGHSFS-TPT-R-2627
Dated 19.08.2026
Dy.CME/CRS/TPTY acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Sl.No.: 1, Description of work: 2-MECH-NMGHSFS-TPT-R-2627. Dated 19.08.2026 Conversion of NMG coaches to NMGHS-FS Coaches at Carriage Repair Shop Tirupati. Approx. Cost (in Rs.): Rs.3,76,28,602/-, Bid Security (in Rs.): Rs. 7,52,600/-, Period of Completion: 12 Months from the date of commencement of work. Date of Closing : 10.09.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs.
Website particulars : www.irops.gov.in
Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati
For further Tender Conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit of website <https://www.irops.gov.in>
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/ CRS/Tirupati
Tender Notice No: 09-Mech-LHB-VB-TPTY-26-27
Dated 19.08.2026
Dy.CME/CRS/TPTY acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Sl.No.: 1, Description of work: 09-Mech-LHB-VB-TPTY-26-27 Dated 19.08.2026 Stripping, Cleaning and Painting of LHB & Vande Bharat Bogies for Attending SS-I, SS-II, & SS-III Schedules at Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati. S Co. Railway for a Period of 24 Months. Approx. Cost (in Rs.): Rs. 1,40,74,757.72/-, Bid Security (in Rs.): Rs. 2,81,500/-, Period of Completion : 24 months. Date of Closing : 11.09.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs.
Website particulars : www.irops.gov.in
Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati
For further Tender Conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit of website <https://www.irops.gov.in>
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/ CRS/Tirupati
Tender No. GTL-EM-39-2026-27
Date: 20.08.2026
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/Guntakal, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.
Tender No.: GTL-EM-39-26-27, Name of work: Guntakal Division: Provision of roof top solar Plants on ABSS stations COPS. Approximate Value: Rs. 9,81,10,903.05/-, Closing date and time: 11.09.2026 at 15:00 hrs
For bidding the tender and other details, log in to <http://www.irops.gov.in>. Corrigendum of tender, if any, will be issued online only.
Note: To participate/Bid in this e-Tender, the tenderer should have a valid DSC (Digital Signature Certificate).
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, Guntakal
TENDER NOTICE NO: VSKP-TRS-RT-08-2026-27
For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following works.
(i) Name of work with its location: Dismantling, Overhauling, Cleaning, assembling, testing, inspection & exterior painting of 1750 LPM Main compressor of three phase electric locomotives for a period of three years at ELS/VSKP. (ii) Value of Tender: Rs. 91,58,855.76/- (iii) Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 1,83,200/- (iv) Cost of Tender Form : Rs. 5,900/- (v) Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TRS), Electric Loco Shed, South Coast Railway, NAD Post, Visakhapatnam-5009 (vi) Completion period of the work: 3 years (36 months) (vii) Bidding system: Two packet system (e-tendering) (viii) Tender closing date and time: 15.09.2026 at 15.00 hrs.
Website particulars: <http://www.irops.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), SCOR-A244 Visakhapatnam
For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents. Please visit website at <http://www.irops.gov.in> www.scor.indianrailways.gov.in

Revanth may spring a surprise on Congress rebels

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH a considerable number of Congress MLAs revolting against Environment, Forest and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is likely to take some crucial decisions soon after his return from London on Sunday.

To prove his political might in the party, the Chief Minister would pursue an action plan in consultation with the high command. "Expulsion of Surekha from the cabinet and the party and reshuffle of the cabinet is not ruled out," party leaders said that Revanth Reddy wanted to



send a strong message to all dissents in the party by taking some stringent action against those who were damaging the government reputations openly. Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Chinna Reddy already raised a banner of revolt in the party on political issues and created friction in the

ruling party. The party high command also took serious note of the increasing open defiance against the government by some leaders in recent times.

Leaders said that the CM will hold a meeting with TPCC President, State Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and some senior AICC leaders and take disciplinary action against the minister and also the two senior leaders.

"The party will take a serious note of the minister Konda Surekha family's political motives in the comments made against the CM. Action is imminent but in what form will be decided by only the party high command", leaders said.

TPCC DISCIPLINARY ACTION COMMITTEE LIKELY TO SERVE FRESH NOTICE ON KONDA SUREKHA?

HYDERABAD: THE pressure appears to be mounting on Minister Konda Surekha, with the Congress party reportedly preparing to initiate further action against her and considering issuing a fresh notice. Congress leaders from Warangal district reportedly passed a resolution on Thursday calling for action against Surekha. On Friday, around 17 MLAs and 2 MLCs from Congress reportedly wrote to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC)

and the party high command, demanding her removal from the Cabinet. Against this backdrop, the TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee is reportedly considering issuing another notice to Konda Surekha. The TPCC Disciplinary Committee had earlier served a notice on Surekha seeking her explanation within three days over remarks made by her daughter, Konda Susmitha. Susmitha's comments concerning Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy have triggered a fresh controversy within the Congress.

The latest developments have intensified the debate within the party over Surekha's position and the disciplinary action that may be taken against her. Meanwhile, Konda Surekha has said that she would speak about all the developments soon. Konda Susmitha, meanwhile, clarified that she had no grievance against the Congress party as such, but had specifically targeted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. She also questioned Revanth Reddy's authority to announce the allocation of party tickets.

Is Endowment Ministry proving unlucky even for Konda Surekha?

- 17 MLAs, 2 MLCs target Surekha
- Cabinet exit talk gains ground
- Surekha faces repeated controversies
- Daughter's remarks add to trouble
- Party high command to decide
- Endowments 'jinx' debate resurfaces



Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and her daughter Sushmitha Patel on Friday indicated that they would speak on the ongoing issue soon, but declined to make further comments for now. Speaking informally at her residence, Surekha said she had already addressed the matter on Thursday and would elaborate at an appropriate time. "I spoke about everything yesterday (Thursday). I said everything that needed to be said. There is nothing more for me to say," she said, adding that she was busy with a puja at home. Meanwhile, Sushmitha said, "I will speak about everything after CM Revanth Reddy arrives. I will not say anything else until then."

questions are being raised over whether the Endowment portfolio is proving equally challenging for the present Minister, Konda Surekha. Since assuming office, Surekha has frequently found herself at the centre of controversies. Now, she is reportedly on the verge of being dismissed from the Cabinet.

A Congress party leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Konda Surekha had been facing repeated controversies and criticism from some party MLAs and Ministers. The leader alleged that Ministers and MLAs had frequently interfered in matters relating to her ministry, besides those arising from her own outbursts.

The leader also referred to the recent controversy surrounding remarks made by Konda Surekha's daughter, Sushmitha, against Chief

'WILL SPEAK SOON': SUREKHA AND DAUGHTER KEEP MUM FOR NOW

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The leader said that 17 MLAs and two MLCs held a media conference at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) office and found fault with Konda Surekha and her daughter over the remarks made against the Chief Minister, following Surekha's reply to a notice issued by the TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee seeking her explanation.

However, the Congress leader questioned why the MLAs and MLCs, who criticised Konda Surekha and her daughter for openly criticising the Chief Minister instead of raising their concerns through party forums, had themselves chosen

to raise the issue publicly through a press conference rather than taking it up with the party leadership internally.

He said everything seemed to be turning negative for Surekha and that her political future was now in the hands of the party high command. It was not yet clear what the high command was considering regarding the Konda Surekha issue, he added.

The latest developments have once again brought the Endowment portfolio and its political implications into focus, with the controversy surrounding Konda Surekha adding to the ongoing debate within the Telangana Congress.

Srinagar Colony's stinking civic shame



A stretch of stagnant, dirty water along the roadside as a man relieves himself in the open, highlighting poor sanitation and lack of civic sense in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad, on Friday. Photo: CH Prabhu Das

FOUR HELD FOR SELLING MEPHENTERMINE INJECTIONS

HYDERABAD: THE sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force, Golconda, along with Goshamahahal police, apprehended four persons for allegedly procuring and selling Mephentermine Sulphate injections, which are used by some individuals for bodybuilding. According to police, the arrested persons were identified as Gowtham Singh, the main supplier; R Abhilash, a supplier; and consumers Siddesh Aundekar and Daksh Upadhyay. Police said Gowtham and Abhilash were gym friends. Abhilash initially used the injections for muscle growth, following which Gowtham also started using them. Due to financial difficulties, Gowtham allegedly planned to sell the steroid injections for profit.

He reportedly contacted an unidentified supplier in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, through WhatsApp and procured the injections through courier at Rs 160 per vial. The accused allegedly sold them to customers in Goshamahahal for Rs 900 per vial, making huge illegal profits. Acting on a tip-off, police caught the accused near Hyderabad Plastic Company Godown in Begum Bazar while they were allegedly carrying the injections for sale. Police seized 50 vials, five empty vials, five BD U-40 insulin syringes, four mobile phones and a Burgman bike, with the total seized property valued at Rs 1.85 lakh. A case was registered at Goshamahahal Police Station and further investigation is underway.

Curtain falls on Sowcar Janaki's glorious journey

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI

LEGENDARY actress Sowcar Janaki, one of the most respected senior artistes of Indian cinema, died on Friday due to age-related ailments, a hospital source said. She was 94. She breathed her last at 1.59 pm. Her trailblazing career spans seven decades of legacy defined by immense versatility, shifting seamlessly from a golden-age leading lady to a revered actress in the Indian film industry.

Born as Sankaramanchi Janaki, she was married to Sankaramanchi Srinivasa Rao. She is survived by three children, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

She has acted in over 400 movies in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam for over seven decades. She was conferred the Padma Shri award by the government in 2022 in recognition of her distinguished and lifelong contribution to Indian art and cinema. The veteran actress is famous for her depicting emotional depth and had portrayed strong-willed, modern, and highly witty woman roles.

She smashed the mold of suffering woman stereotype of her era. She was active from 1950 to 2023, perform-



ing across generations of cinema, commanding screen presence alongside iconic personalities like NTR, Sivaji Ganesan, MGR, Gemini Ganesan, and Rajkumar.

As she aged, she reinvented herself as a sought-after grandmother and matriarch. Her breakthrough was in the

1950 Telugu film 'Shavukaru', which earned her the title Sowcar.

Her Bhaga Piravinei (1959 film) was a landmark drama alongside Sivaji Ganesan in which she played a deeply devoted wife supporting her physically challenged husband. In 'Parthiban Kanavu' (1960), she showcased her range by depicting two starkly contrasting lookalike characters. 'Pava Mannippu' (1961), 'Tru Kodugal' (1969), and 'Bama Vijayam' (1967) in which she displayed her incredible, sharp comedy timing as a middle-class daughter-in-law obsessed with high-society glamour, were among her numerable hits.

Revanth condoles Janaki's demise

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow upon learning of the passing of popular film actress and Padma Shri awardee Janaki. The Chief Minister remembered that the veteran actress began her career by casting various roles in the plays during her childhood and left an indelible mark on the film industry over a span of nearly 70 years. The Chief Minister also recalled the departed film actress established herself as 'SowcarJanaki' through her exceptional performance in the film Sowcarand captivated audiences by acting in nearly 400 films across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and also in Hindi films.

CM Revanth Reddy praised Janaki as a versatile actress in numerous acclaimed films which remain etched in the hearts of the audience forever. Janaki's absence creates an irreparable void in the film industry, the Chief Minister said praying for her eternal soul to rest in peace. The Chief Minister conveyed his condolences and deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members and fans.

Megha Reddy lodges complaint with Kcharge against Chinna Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WANAPARTHY MLA Megha Reddy, who headed to Delhi on Friday, lodged a complaint with AICC president Mallikarjun Kcharge against Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy over several allegations, including corruption charges, made against him a few days ago.

Megha Reddy may also lodge his complaint with AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and former AICC president Rahul Gandhi after securing appointments with them.

Meanwhile, Megha Reddy, alleging that Chinna Reddy was a BRS covert,



Wanaparthi MLA Megha Reddy lodges a complaint with AICC president Mallikarjun Kcharge against Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy in New Delhi on Friday

had lodged a complaint with TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee chairman Mallu Ravi.

The Disciplinary Action

Committee subsequently served notices on Chinna Reddy and Endowment Minister Konda Surekha. Konda Surekha had already replied to the notice on Thursday.

Chinna Reddy skips Prajavani, heads to Delhi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy did not attend the Prajavani programme held on Friday, which is conducted twice a

week, it learnt. According to sources, Chinna Reddy also left for Delhi to meet the Congress party's high command over the recent comments he made against Wanaparthi MLA Tudi Megha Reddy. The MLA also reportedly

travelled to Delhi on Friday. The developments assume significance amid differences between the two leaders, with both reportedly seeking the intervention of the party high command.

Revanth takes Telangana Rising pitch to Oxford

CM seeks global university's partnership to boost education and research in Hyderabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy invited Oxford University to offer education in Telangana. The Chief Minister, as part of the Telangana Rising delegation, met top academics in 900-year-old Oxford University to discuss partnership with Telangana.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister held talks with Professors Maya Tudor of Blavatnik School of Government and Faisal Devji of Baliol College. The Oxford University expressed keenness to work with the state's youth and working professionals.



The CM gave an elaborate outline of the Telangana Rising vision and the state's plans to transform Hyderabad into a global education hub. He invited Oxford to bring their executive

education programmes and specialised research capabilities and rich ecosystem to Hyderabad and set up a centre there.

K Ramakrishna Rao, Advisor and Ex-officio Special

Chief Secretary, CMO, gave a detailed presentation on the opportunities available to foreign universities as part of the Central government's National Education Policy, with emphasis on advan-

tages they would have in Hyderabad and Telangana. Professors Tudor and Devji responded positively and offered several contexts for collaboration with the Telangana government.

The Telangana delegation also invited the Oxford representatives to send a team for the Telangana Rising Global Summit, which to be held in Hyderabad on December 7, 8 and 9. Subsequently, the Chief Minister visited the portrait of later former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Somerville College, of which she was an alumnus. The portrait was gifted to the college by Sonia Gandhi in 2002.

Later in the day, Revanth visited the Utilita Bowl run by the GMR Group, along with Kiran Kumar Grandhi, Corporate Chairman of GMR Group. The integrated sporting facility includes a golf course, other sporting infrastructure and a hotel.

The Chief Minister held discussions with Rao and the GMR global sports unit and invited him to invest and contribute to creating world class sporting infrastructure in Telangana.

The Chief Minister is slated to visit the Emirates Stadium to watch an EPL match featuring current champions Arsenal and Coventry later today evening.



Do you have any civic issues? Are any roads in your locality damaged? Do you have any complaints against govt departments? Are any private companies taking you for a ride regarding sales and service?

The Hans India will publish your complaints, concerns and grievances in these columns on every Wednesday.

Mail the details along with relevant photographs if any, to hanspeoplesvoice@gmail.com

— EDITOR



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar inaugurating the newly constructed facilities at the SSB's 4th Battalion in Lucknow on Friday. SSB senior officials are seen

Bandi Sanjay hails SSB's high-tech border guarding

Union Minister praises SSB's modernisation drive, welfare initiatives and role in securing India's 2,450-km borders with Nepal and Bhutan

HANS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday lauded the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) for its commendable role in securing the approximately 2,450-km international borders with Nepal and Bhutan and strengthening border management through modern technology.

Addressing a programme at the SSB headquarters in Lucknow during his visit to Uttar Pradesh, Bandi Sanjay said the force was enhancing its operational capabilities through drones, CCTV surveillance systems, thermal imagers, night-vision devices, GPS-based patrolling, secure digital communication and GIS-based planning.

The Union Minister inaugurated newly constructed barracks, a subordinate officers' mess and residential buildings of the SSB's 4th Battalion at Mohanlal Ganj in Gomtinagar. He also laid the foundation stone online for the Regional Headquarters, Training Centre and

Joint Hospital in Gorakhpur and the 22nd Battalion in Maharajganj. The Centre has sanctioned Rs 191 crore for the construction works.

Bandi Sanjay said the new facilities reflected the government's commitment to the welfare of Central Armed Police Forces personnel and their families. He said providing jawans with safe, dignified and comfortable living conditions would enable them to concentrate fully on border security and national service.

He noted that the SSB was taking stringent action against organised crimes along the borders, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, illegal migration, counterfeit currency and wildlife smuggling.

Highlighting emerging security challenges, he said criminals and anti-national forces were increasingly using drones, cyber channels and digital communication, making technology-driven security systems essential.

The minister also praised the SSB's disaster-response

role, noting that its 18 relief and rescue teams remain prepared to respond to floods, earthquakes and landslides. He appreciated the force's outreach programmes, including medical camps, educational assistance, skill development, sports, women's empowerment and awareness initiatives, saying these helped build trust between security personnel and border communities.

Paying tribute to SSB personnel who sacrificed their lives, Bandi Sanjay said 51 personnel had laid down their lives in border and internal security operations since the force's inception. He conveyed his respect and condolences to their families.

He said the government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, remained committed to modernising the CAPFs, upgrading training and technology, and improving medical, housing, mess, education and sports facilities for jawans and their families.

Yogi predicts saffron surge in Telangana

UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER TELLS BANDI SANJAY THAT A BJP GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE CAN REPLICATE UTTAR PRADESH'S DEVELOPMENT MODEL

HANS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed confidence that the BJP will also win in Telangana and form a double-engine sarkar, as in Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's remarks came during a meeting with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday. The two leaders' meeting lasted half an hour, during which Yogi said that the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government would fully cooperate for Telangana's development. However, when a double-engine sarkar is formed in Telangana, it will witness all-round development, as in Uttar Pradesh.

As part of his visit to Uttar Pradesh, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday evening. After participating in several development programmes of the Central Paramilitary Sashastra Seema Bal, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, who went directly to the CM's official residence in Lucknow, paid a courtesy call on Yogi Adityanath. The meeting lasted for more than half an hour.

Both leaders discussed the party's situation in Telangana and the UP election. Yogi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fully cooperating with Telangana's development. He said that Uttar Pradesh is proof of this that if a double-engine government comes

to power, Telangana will benefit even more. He said that with the continuation of the double-engine government in UP, a large amount of funds is being brought in and development is being carried out with the help of Modi. He believed that a double-engine government in Telangana would also address the problems plaguing the state, and that the people would benefit.

He said that there is a positive atmosphere for BJP in Telangana and if all the leaders work together, there are plenty of chances of it definitely coming to power. He expressed confidence that the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh will be held soon and that under Modi's leadership, the saffron flag will be hoisted for the third time.



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar presents a memento to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Friday

ACCIDENT CASE AGAINST MP LINGAMANENI RAMESH'S SON

Police send blood samples of Sanjush for forensic tests

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a major development in the fatal road accidentcase involving Jana Sena Rajya Sabha MP Lingamneni Ramesh's son Sanjush, Cyberabad Police on Friday said blood samples of the accused had been sent for forensic examination to find whether he consumed any alcohol or drugs.

The police however confirmed that the preliminary testsfor alcohol and drug turned out to be negative. The Motor Vehicle Inspector also completed the inspection of the seized Aston Martin car.

On August 16, the Aston Martin car whichSanjush was driving allegedly hit 26-year-old Bharati Mukhi, a saleswoman at a retail out, near Inorbit Mall in Madhapur in Hyderabad. She later died. Madhapur police booked a case against Sanjush and released him on bail.

Police clarified that San-



jushwas granted station bail because the offence registered against him is punishable with less than seven years of imprisonment and there were no circumstances warranting his arrest at that stage of the investigation.

Police said Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which carries a maximum punishment of five years, was invoked based on the facts and circumstances available at the time. Since the offence carries a punishment of less than seven years, the Investigating Officer was required to consider whether arrest was necessary under Section 35 of

the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Supreme Court's guidelines in the Arnesn Kumar vs State of Bihar case.

According to DCP Ritiraj, the accused was apprehended immediately after the case was registered. He was subjected to preliminary tests for alcohol and drugs, and both tests returned negative. His blood samples were subsequently collected and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for scientific examination. The police also collected CCTV footage and other evidence, and they are examining the footage to determine the speed of the car that caused the accident.

DCP further said after assessing the material available at that stage and found no circumstances requiring the accused to be arrested. A notice under Section 35 was therefore served on him, directing him to appear and cooperate with the investigation. The police are investigating the case.

SBI Tellapur traffic alert: Diversions from Aug 22 for 25 days

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Cyberabad Traffic Police has announced traffic diversions at SBI Tellapur from August 22 for 25 days to facilitate the construction of a storm water drain with an RCC pipeline on the Nallagandla - Tellapur Road, a stretch identified as vulnerable to severe water logging during heavy rainfall.

According to traffic police, the civic authorities will undertake the works from SBI Bank to MM Wine Mart at Tellapur Ward No. 263, Patancheru Circle-46, SLP Zone, CMC, to provide a permanent drainage solution and prevent water accumulation near SBI Tellapur, which frequently causes inconvenience to commuters and disrupts the smooth flow of traffic during rains.

As part of the traffic management arrangements, one side of the road between SBI Tellapur U-Turn and MM Wines U-Turn will be closed, with traffic in both directions regulated on the available side of the road for a stretch of approximately 300 metres. Motorists have been advised to expect slow-moving traffic and congestion in the area during the diversion period.

Nallagandla Circle towards Tellapur, Osman Nagar and ORR Exit-2

Traffic proceeding via SBI Tellapur will be diverted onto the opposite/available side of the road between SBI Tellapur U-Turn and MM Wines U-Turn.

- **Storm-water drain works to close one side of Nallagandla-Tellapur Road**
- **Motorists advised to take alternate routes**

Nallagandla Circle towards Kollur and Osman Nagar Motorists are advised to take the alternate route: Nallagandla Circle - Neo Mall - Gopanally X Road - Aliens Junction - Osman Nagar - ORR Service Road - Kollur Village. Tellapur Circle towards RC Puram

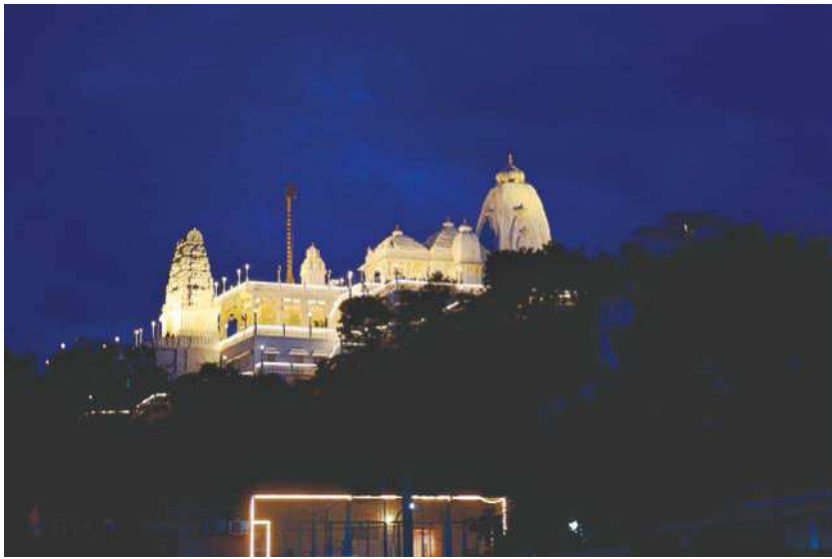
Commuters heading towards RC Puram are advised to take the route: Tellapur Circle - Saibaba Temple, Tellapur - Railway Under Bridge - Old MIG - RC Puram.

Kollur Village and Osman Nagar towards Gachibowli

Motorists can use the alternate route: Kollur Village - Osman Nagar - Aliens Junction - My Home Sayuk - Gopanally Junction - Gowlidoddy - Wipro Circle - IIT Junction - Gachibowli.

The Cyberabad Traffic Police said necessary traffic regulation measures would be put in place at various roads and junctions around SBI Tellapur to minimise inconvenience and ensure the smooth movement of vehicles. The general public has been requested to use the suggested alternate routes, plan their journeys in advance and cooperate with traffic police personnel during the execution of the works.

BIRLA MANDIR BATHES IN DIVINE RADIANCE



Birla Mandir glows in illuminated splendour on the auspicious occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam in Hyderabad on Friday

Photo: Srinivas Setty

GHMC goes full steam on monsoon cleanup across Hyderabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) 10-day special monsoon drive, being conducted from August 11 to 21 across the city, has intensified civic and sanitation activities, with teams filling over 900 potholes and cleaning around 800 catch pits across the city.

The intensive campaign covered 30 yards on the 10th day, with teams focusing on garbage removal, pothole repairs, desilting and measures to prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of monsoon-related illnesses.

On Friday, the GHMC filled 94 potholes and cleaned 106 catch pits, removed 40.5 metric tonnes (MT) of legacy municipal solid waste and 19.0 MT of construction and demolition waste. Another five MT of floating material and silt was cleared as part of monsoon preparedness.

As part of the drive the sanitation facilities were inspected, with eight public toilets checked and 58



commercial waste bins installed at shops to improve waste collection and prevent dumping on roadsides. The civic body also initiated five rainwater harvesting structures and surveyed four non-residential buildings.

With stagnant water and accumulated waste raising concerns over mosquitoes and monsoon-related diseases, GHMC stepped up awareness and preventive measures and conducted 249 health and veterinary awareness activities, besides pyrethrum spraying and measures related to stray-dog vaccination and shelter transfer.

As many as three Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) awareness meetings were

conducted, while two new BWG registrations were taken up. IEC and training programmes were held in five schools, covering around 186 participants.

Further, GHMC lifted 20.8 MT of pruned tree branches and 7.7 MT of dry and green waste from 28 parks. In addition, 09 awareness camps were held for Self-Help Group women, involving 39 participants, while 296 Indiramma sarees were distributed.

GHMC officials said the special drive would focus on keeping roads, drains and public spaces clean and strengthening Hyderabad's preparedness to deal with the continuing monsoon.

TRSMA demands protection for private school teachers

HANS NEWS SERVICE NIZAMABAD

DEMANDING robust government protection for private school teachers, representatives of the Telangana Recognised Schools Managements Association (TRSMA) conducted a massive protest rally in Bodhan on Friday.

Over a thousand private

school teachers marched through the town's streets, raising slogans of "Roopa Reddy Amar Rahe" to protest the brutal murder of Principal Roopa Reddy in Nalgonda. Expressing deep outrage over the incident, the protesters highlighted the growing vulnerabilities faced by teaching staff in private institutions and urged the

state government to initiate immediate safety measures to secure their workplace environment.

Following the demonstration, the union leaders submitted a formal representation to the Bodhan Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), demanding exemplary punishment for those responsible for Principal Roopa Reddy's

killing to deter future occurrences.

The leadership underscored the urgent necessity for policy-level safeguards to protect educators from harassment and violence across the state. TRSMA District President Kodali Kishore and Town President Harikrishna spearheaded the protest march and delegation.



CEIR helps Rein Bazar police recover 11 missing phones

HYDERABAD: Rein Bazar Police recovered 11 lost or missing mobile phones worth around Rs 1 lakh with the help of the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal on Friday.

According to police, the phones were traced using their respective IMEI numbers after complaints were received from the owners. The police team used the CEIR portal to track the missing devices and successfully recover them.

The recovered mobile phones were subsequently handed over to their respective owners. Police said the recovery highlights the effective use of technology and the CEIR portal in tracing lost or missing mobile phones and helping members of the public recover their devices.

Build upon the success of Southern Zonal Council meeting

THE 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Mahabalipuram, under Union Home Minister Amit Shah, can be called successful to the extent that it has paved the way for further negotiations to thrash out interstate and federal issues. A major upshot was the assent of the two Telugu states to sort out the matters of the division. "Regarding 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," a Central government release said. By and large, regional water disputes, parliamentary delimitation, and more devolution of federal funds dominated the meeting, which was attended

by Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu C Joseph Vijay, N Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh along with, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu), Karnataka's D K Shivakumar and Kerala's V D Satheesan, Lieutenant Governors of Puducherry K Kailashnathan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), and Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Patel. There was near unanimity about delimitation and on retaining the current proportion of southern states in the Lok Sabha, albeit with shades of difference. While Shivakumar urged the council to accept the 1971 census as the basis for delimitation and continue with the Lok Sabha's existing strength of 543 seats for

the next 25 years, Vijay insisted on an unambiguous legislative assurance from the Union government for their continuation of their percentage of representation in Parliament. Unsurprisingly, the two other Congress-ruled states Karnataka and Kerala, supported Shivakumar's stand. Sharing of river waters, however, was a divisive issue among southern states. Shivakumar elaborated upon the benefits of the Mekedatu dam on the Cauvery not just for his own state but also for farmers in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. It may be recalled that last month Vijay had sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to ensure that no statutory or administrative approval was granted to the Mekedatu project unless it was con-

sistent with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's 2007 award and the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment. Satheesan also spoke about the said Mullaperiyar dam, which is resisted by Tamil Nadu. Vijay didn't appear adamant on the delimitation and river matters, but the Opposition in his state, led by DMK, is not slamming him for not protecting the interests of the state. This is a problem not just with Tamil Nadu but other states as well. When regionalism and sentimentalism blend, the concoction is often toxic. Even reasonable agreements are dubbed as 'sellout'. The Central government emphasised this very point. Shah said that protecting the interests of one's state is not wrong, but

if this results in states being deprived of water for years while it simply flows into the sea, then no actual interest is being served. He also said that linking major rivers, from the Brahmaputra to the Kaveri and Godavari, could ensure that India faces no water shortage for the next 100 years. Besides, the proposed interlinking would create multiple waterways that can provide a cost-effective and fuel-saving transportation system. Such interstate and Centre-state interactions should increase in frequency. They will not just make our federal structure stronger and more resilient but also give a boost to economic development and national integration. Moreover, this will help keep toxic regionalism in check.

LETTERS

Sowcar Janaki personified acting

VETERAN South Indian actress Sowcar Janaki passed away in Chennai at the age of 94 on Friday. Debuting in the Telugu film 'Shavukaru', her remarkable career spanned over seven decades, featuring more than 400 films across Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam cinema. Her 'Kavia Thalaivi' with Gemini Ganesh in the lead brought her name, which was cemented further in 'Bama Vijayam' and 'Ethir Neechal'. Janaki remained a major star throughout her film glittering career. Her death is a great loss to the film industry.

Gemini K Maniam, Coimbatore

Janaki deserved Dada Saheb Phalke

THE oldest living Telugu actress Sowcar Janaki, who breathed her last in Chennai on Friday, was born as Sankaramanchi Janaki. After the success of Telugu film "Shavukaru" (1950), she starred in popular hits like "Rojulu Maarayi", "Kanya Sulkam", "Dr Chakravarthi" and "Alam Chellelu" to name a few. It is a pity that the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke was never conferred on her despite an extraordinary career.

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad-89

Corporal punishment has no place in society

THE tragic death of a six-year-old UKG student inside the classroom of a private school in Visakhapatnam after he was allegedly subjected to corporal punishment and harassment by the teacher deserves denunciation. It is a profound moral failure of our educational environment. Corporal punishment has no place in modern society. When the safety of a classroom is compromised, the trust of every parent is broken. The authorities must file a case against the culpable teacher and the complicit school management, ensuring that they are brought before the law swiftly.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai-210

Tragic death of UKG student

THE gruesome death of a six-year-old Upper Kindergarten student in a private school in Visakhapatnam sent shock waves across the state on Thursday. The boy was allegedly slapped and striped for not completing his homework. It has become a fad for private and corporate schools to give massive homework to even LKG and UKG kids. The victim belonged to a lower middle class family, and the father is a catering master. Many private schools engage the services of Anglo-Indian and Malayali teachers, who hardly have any professional training in child psychology. There is a compelling need to do away with burdening KG students with homework.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru (AP)

Tech must 'mentor' new investors

WITH reference to "Tech should empower retail investors to avoid risks", (THI, Aug 21), digital investing has brought many first-time participants into the market, including those with limited financial knowledge. Brokerage applications should provide plain-language explanations, regional-language support and easy access to human assistance for decisions. Fraud prevention also deserves attention, particularly when fake investment advice circulates through messaging platforms. Technology will empower retail investors when it makes good decisions easier, mistakes less costly and fraudulent practices harder to execute.

K Sakunthala, Coimbatore-641016

Investors need grievance mechanism

WITH reference to "Tech should empower retail investors to avoid risks", (THI, Aug 21). Investors need a grievance mechanism. Brokers should maintain transparent records of orders, system alerts and execution times so disputes can be examined independently. A time-bound compensation framework may be considered for proven technological failures. Investors remain responsible for decisions they knowingly make. As trading grows, accountability must keep pace, accordingly. Investor confidence will be stronger when every participant knows where the responsibility lies when something goes wrong.

Durga Arunkumar, The Nilgiris-643101

Come up with regulatory framework

THE editorial "Tech should empower retail investors to avoid risks" rightly highlights the growing reliance of retail investors on tech-driven trading platforms. Easy digital onboarding, demat accounts and mobile applications have widened market participation, but convenience should not come at the cost of informed decision-making. Losses from futures and options show the need for investor education and risk awareness. SEBI and brokerage firms should ensure that tools, artificial intelligence and automated trading do not encourage speculative behaviour or create information asymmetry. Technology must empower investors, not expose them to manipulation, which can be achieved with a regulatory framework.

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thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

ADB to provide Rs 1,750 cr for 500 KPS schools

BENGALURU: The ADB and the Karnataka government on Friday signed an agreement under which the multilateral agency will provide Rs 1,750 crore assistance for developing 500 government schools across the state as KPS.

The agreement was signed at Vidhana Soudha in the presence of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa. Under the project, the state government plans to invest Rs 2,500 crore over the next four years, till 2029-30, for developing the 500 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS). While the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Rs 1,750 crore, the state government will contribute Rs 750 crore. Schools with the potential to attract a larger number of students are being selected for upgradation as KPS institutions, with the objective of enabling each school to cater to at least 1,200 students.

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

Gen Z needs mentors, not political manipulators



FROM VOTE BANKS TO GEN Z: POLITICS WITHOUT PRINCIPLES

POLITICAL parties in India seem to believe that when you cannot convince the people, confuse them. That perhaps explains the contradictions in their positions on almost every issue. Whether it is Gen Z or Vande Mataram, their arguments often have neither head nor tail. To have a head or tail, however, you need a body—and that is precisely what appears to be missing from much of our political discourse.

Political parties seem to be in a hurry to chant the Gen Z mantra in the hope of attracting votes. It apparently does not matter to them whether Gen Z is moving in the right direction or heading down the wrong path. If we must hand over a country to Gen Z to rebuild, it means the generations before them have already destroyed it. The real responsibility should be to hand over a country ready to move forward, not one that needs to be rebuilt first.

It is shocking to see Gen Baby Boomers (61–80) and Gen X (45–61) constantly invoke Gen Z while forgetting that their real responsibility is to mentor, guide, and prepare the younger generation to take over the reins of the country. Instead, for the sake of a few votes, they support—or pretend to support—young people even when they violate the law. Worse, some of these older generations themselves violate the law and then shamelessly defend their actions.

For cheap publicity, some Gen X politicians and ac-

tivists indulge in theatrics, claim to speak for Gen Z and even make objectionable remarks against the Army. They seem to believe that invoking "Gen Z" gives them a licence to justify anything and everything. What is more disturbing is the manner the opposition parties attempt to defend such behaviour by linking it to unrelated political issues.

Take the recent incident in Ladakh. A woman tourist, apparently from Gen X, objected to a road blockade by Army personnel at a check post, questioning the manner in which the security personnel were handling the situation. She was heard shouting, "We are Gen Z," and saying that such behaviour would not be tolerated. She also reminded the personnel that they were paid from taxpayers' money.

This is not the first time that irresponsible remarks have been made against the Army. Far more objectionable comments were reportedly made during the politically charged agitation against the NEET paper-leak issue at Jantar Mantar on July 20. Those making such statements need to remember one basic fact: they can protest freely because the Army and other security forces protect the country's borders.

The Ladakh woman later apologised, apparently fearing legal consequences, saying frustration had driven her to behave that way. But an apology after crossing the line does not erase the act. It raises a larger question about character-building, parenting, and respect for the law. Increasingly, there appears to be a belief among sections of the younger generation that wealth, influence, or the lan-



Political parties appear increasingly willing to chase Gen Z votes rather than guide the generation that will inherit India. From defending irresponsible behaviour to politicising Vande Mataram, contradictions abound. The larger question is whether young Indians are being taught to respect the law, democratic institutions and national values—or to follow political convenience.

guage of "freedom" can place them above accountability.

Political parties, driven by electoral calculations, refuse to call a spade a spade. Instead, they try to defend the indefensible when the offender happens to belong to a constituency they hope to attract.

The same contradiction is visible in the opposition's stand on Vande Mataram. The Congress Working Committee's 1937 decision to restrict the song did not resolve the political issue then, yet some leaders continue to invoke that position today despite Parliament having taken a fresh position on the matter.

Having a difference of opinion with a law is perfectly legitimate. But declaring that one will not follow a law passed by Parliament raises a far more serious question. If lawmakers themselves refuse to follow the law, what message are they sending to Gen

Z? Do laws need to be obeyed only when one agrees with them? Does Parliament have value only when it does what a particular political party wants?

It was particularly unfortunate to hear Rahul Gandhi speak of singing "hamara version" of Vande Mataram. Once Parliament has prescribed a particular form, there cannot be competing political versions of the national song simply to suit political convenience. The issue has also been unnecessarily communalised. I have interacted with several Muslims in both the Telugu states and Gujarat in recent times, and none expressed objection to singing the full version of Vande Mataram. The Congress and its allies, which have raised such a hue and cry, should explain whether their objection is genuinely about religious sentiment or about electoral calculations.

The Congress's position

also raises questions about consistency. Karnataka's state song contains references to figures including Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Sage Kapila, Sage Patanjali, Sri Ramanuja, Guru Nanak, Swami Vivekananda and Gautama Buddha. Will the Congress, in keeping with its 1937 position, demand changes to that song? The River Krishna is mentioned in the state songs of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Will those references also be removed?

It is time to stop selectively invoking the 1937 resolution. Congress leaders often point out that Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Rabindranath Tagore, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Jawaharlal Nehru accepted the decision to omit certain stanzas. But history is more complicated than that. Bose, for instance, was not initially in favour of the truncated version and accepted the decision under pressure. Several other prominent leaders like C Rajagopalachari, H V Kamath (1912–1982), a distinguished freedom fighter, journalist, parliamentarian and constitutionalist, and Ramananda Chatterjee expressed reservations.

Why, then, should one 1937 decision be treated as sacrosanct nearly nine decades later? During the freedom struggle, Vande Mataram was sung in its original form despite objections from the Muslim League. The Congress's later decision was essentially a political compromise of its time. Circumstances have changed. India has changed. Parliament has changed. Why should political parties remain trapped in a 90-year-old political calculation?

If opposition parties

genuinely believe that a law passed by Parliament is unconstitutional or wrong, they have every right to challenge it before the Supreme Court. That is the democratic way. Acting as though they are above Parliament or the Constitution is not.

The larger irony is that parties that constantly claim to be defenders of the Constitution sometimes hesitate to support provisions or reforms that are also rooted in the constitutional framework. If constitutional principles are to be respected, they cannot be selectively invoked only when politically convenient.

Political parties must understand that before being members of a community, a political constituency, or a generation, every citizen is an Indian. If someone does not wish to sing Vande Mataram, that is a personal choice. But there should be no attempt to prevent others from singing the full version, nor should its rendering be disrupted, as was reportedly seen at the AICC office in New Delhi.

And this brings us back to Gen Z—the generation that supposedly wants reforms in everything.

Here is the question they should ask themselves: Do we want to inherit a politics that teaches us to respect the law, debate it, and change it democratically? Or do we want a politics that teaches us to reject every rule that we dislike?

Do we want to be progressive or regressive?

The answer will determine not merely how Gen Z votes, but what kind of India it eventually inherits—and what kind of India it chooses to build.

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

Beginning of the end for archaic political psychosis

SATYAPAL MENON

PREDICTABLE are the ways that a dispensation under siege reacts to a backlash over its incapacities, improprieties, incapacities and insouciance. The Indian government - read as ruling political establishment at the Centre - has expectedly unleashed its proxy propaganda and vindictive blitzkrieg to transform the narrative related to Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) initiated upsurge against NEET scandal. Not unexpectedly, the fabrication division of the establishment is working overtime to manufacture disinformation against the non-violent and innovative agitation by the proactive youth of the country.

After succumbing to the demand of the youth and beating a hasty and clumsy retreat - consequent to the failure of suppressing the agitation through coercion and intimidation- the ruling political establishment- the National Democratic Alliance, specifically the BJP - is now in a retaliation mode. The latest reports indicate investigations into the antecedents of youth leaders and their linkages to political parties. Inevitably, the target and objective of the propaganda machinery of the establishment, and its machinations, is to create a narrative against political parties that are inimical to



its own agendas. News reports reflect that the besieged government is desperately attempting to portray the agitating youth as desperadoes sponsored and funded by political parties. To obfuscate the truth, stories are being planted to create the impression that the agitation was pre-planned and contrived and not a spontaneous response of anger and frustration.

Such interpretations and claims are convenient for the government, since the touted reason that it is politically sponsored - is more convenient than the latter cause and effect - that it is spontaneous and simultaneous outburst by the youth

of the country. It is not difficult to fathom the psychology of archaic mindset and dogmatic politicians holding the country's reins. It is not in tune with the needs, aspirations and ambitions of the youth in the country. It also reveals an irrational mindset, which views youth as malcontents and attempts to decimate dissent and discontent. While the ruling party is on a denial mode - see no truth, hear no truth, avoid inconvenient truth -- underestimating and undermining the undercurrents could prove to be counterproductive.

Threats by the government to investigate 'money trails', and imputa-

It is not difficult to fathom the psychology of archaic mindset and dogmatic politicians holding the country's reins. It is not in tune with the needs, aspirations and ambitions of the youth in the country. It also reveals an irrational mindset, which views youth as malcontents and attempts to decimate dissent and discontent.

tion of political funding, will eventually prove to be ridiculous and superfluous, since there is nothing illegal in providing monetary support to an apolitical outfit for its' fight against the NEET deception. In the aftermath of the agitation that shook and activated the conscience of the nation - specifically the youth - there were also reports pointing to devious means to muzzle and muffle the heightening clamour through pressure tactics. Despite successive defeats and depletion of its arsenal to subdue and stifle the agitation, the truth seems to be too bitter and unpalatable for the ruling party. According to reports, those who had displayed banners displaying critical and satirical

slogans against the government are being targetted and singled out for special treatment. Such vindictive actions are reflective of an incorrigible psychosis, impenetrable to reform. The perpetrators are perhaps nursing delusions that the uprising by the youth can be uprooted and ended through coercive tactics.

On the contrary, this could be the beginning of the end for oppressive and suppressive regimes. And, consequently, such an end will usher in the beginning and dawn of a new and reinvigorated era for the young generation and steered by the young generation.

(The writer is a senior journalist and media educator)

CM Revanth to take disciplinary action against Surekha

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH over a dozen legislators out for Environments and Forest Minister Konda Surekha's scalp, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is likely to mend matters by taking some crucial decisions soon after his return from London on Sunday.

To reiterate his political might in the party, the Chief Minister would pursue an action in consultation with the party's high command. "Removal of Surekha from the Cabinet, her expulsion from the party and reshuffle of the state Cabinet are not ruled out", party leaders said. Revanth Reddy wants to send a strong message to all dissidents in the party by taking some stringent action against those who are damaging the government's reputation openly, sources indicated. Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Ch-inna Reddy have already raised a banner of revolt in the party on political issues and created friction in the ruling party. The party high command has taken a serious view of the increasing open defiance against the government of late by some leaders. Leaders said that the Chief Minister will hold a meeting with TPCC president, State Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and some senior AICC leaders and take disciplinary action against the Minister and the two senior leaders. "The party has taken a serious note of Minister Konda Surekha family's political motives in the comments made against the CM. Action is imminent, but in what form will be decided by only the party high command", leaders said.



NO WATER FOR FARMERS EVEN AS NAGARJUA SAGAR BRIMMING

WATER LEVEL RISES AS INFLOWS INCREASE



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARJUNASAGAR

WATER levels in the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir are gradually rising with the inflows reaching the reservoir from the Srisaillam Project through power generation.

As of 9 am on Friday, the water level in Nagarjuna Sagar reached 531.70 feet, while the storage stood at 171.4844 TMC. The reservoir is receiving heavy inflows of 55,278 cusecs. At present, the Nagarjuna Sagar crest gates remain

closed, and no water is being released through the main power house or the right and left canals. Only 500 cusecs of water is being released through the SLBC (AMRP), with the total outflow recorded at 500 cusecs.

Meanwhile, confusion continues among farmers in the Nagarjuna Sagar ayacut area over the release of irrigation water. Despite the heavy inflows into the reservoir, officials have so far not given clarity on when irrigation water will be released to crops in the aya-

cut area, causing concern among farmers. Farmers said the Kharif crop season is currently at a crucial stage and warned that any delay in supplying irrigation water could result in crop losses.

They expressed concern that timely water supply is essential to protect their standing crops. With the reservoir storage steadily increasing, farmers have urged the government and irrigation authorities to immediately make a clear announcement regarding the release of irrigation water to

Nagurjana water for Hyderabad

IRRIGATION Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday said the Meteorological Department had warned that there might not be adequate rainfall during September and October due to the impact of El Nino. He said the water available in Nagarjuna Sagar may

have to be conserved and used for Hyderabad's drinking water requirements through the coming summer. Therefore, the available water must be used cautiously, giving equal importance to both agricultural and drinking water needs, he clarified.



the Nagarjuna Sagar ayacut.

While the rising water level in Nagarjuna Sagar has brought some relief, farmers remain uncertain about

when water will reach their fields. They are anxiously awaiting clarity from the authorities on the irrigation water release.

Release Nagarjuna Sagar water to farmers immediately: Jagadish



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

FORMER minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy accused the Congress government of failing to protect Telangana's water interests and alleged that Andhra Pradesh was diverting Krishna water through Pothireddypadu.

Addressing a press conference in Nalgonda, Jagadish Reddy alleged that the district ministers, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, had remained silent while water was being diverted from Srisaillam. He claimed that the diversion was adversely affecting agriculture in the Nagarjuna Sagar ayacut. Jagadish Reddy said the water level in the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir currently at around 532 feet and argued that irrigation water could be released to the left canal and lift irrigation schemes. He claimed around 30 TMC of water was available in the reservoir and questioned why the government was delaying the

release. Recalling the previous BRS government, he claimed that irrigation water had been supplied to the Nagarjuna Sagar ayacut on 17 consecutive occasions, even when the reservoir had much lower water levels. He also alleged that water was being diverted through Pothireddypadu to fill projects in Rayalaseema.

The BRS leader claimed that around 148 TMC of water had been diverted through Pothireddypadu and alleged that water which should have reached Nagarjuna Sagar was being diverted elsewhere.

He criticised the government for conducting a yagam instead of taking concrete measures to provide irrigation water to farmers. He demanded immediate water release to the left canal and lift irrigation schemes. Jagadish Reddy warned that the BRS would launch a major agitation if the government failed to respond. He said the party would discuss the issue with K Chandrashekar Rao and formulate an action plan to fight for the farmers' irrigation rights.

New H1B fee move clears White House review

NEW DELHI: A proposal from the Donald Trump administration that could raise or otherwise change fees for petitions for the H1B work programme has cleared a key White House regulatory review, bringing it closer to publication and implementation, reported the US-based outlet, Bloomberg Law. While details of the proposal are not available for public viewing yet, any increase or change in H1B fees could hit Indian professionals hard, who accounted for a majority of all H1B approvals and renewals in 2025. According to the report, the proposal from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), identified

as RIM 1615-AD20 was cleared by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) on Wednesday. This proposal will be published by the DHS publicly in the coming weeks.

The move comes as the Donald Trump Administration continues to overhaul the H1B programme from the ground up, a visa route that is heavily used by highly skilled Indian professionals looking to live and work in the US. The DHS proposal concerns fees associated with H1B visa workers' petitions. But the proposal's precise provisions remain under wraps as the DHS has yet to publish the regulation.

Proposed prog not appropriate to CM's office: MEA

Continued from P1

Responding to a question on Telangana Chief Minister being denied political clearance for his proposed US visit, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said visits by Chief Ministers and other dignitaries are assessed by the ministry before political clearance is accorded. "Let me say that the visits of Chief Ministers, as with other dignitaries, are assessed by the Ministry of External Affairs to accord political clearance.

The programme proposed in such cases should be appropriate to the office held and the purpose of the visit. In this particular case regarding the United States, that was not so, and therefore the clearance was not given," Jaiswal said. He, however, clarified that political clearance had been

granted for Revanth Reddy's visit to the United Kingdom. The MEA's response comes after Revanth Reddy, earlier in the day, claimed that the Centre had denied permission for his proposed visit to the US, forcing the Telangana Rising delegation to cancel the US leg of its tour. According to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, the state government had sought Central clearance for the Chief Minister's proposed visits to the UK and the US, but permission was granted only for the UK leg. The CMO said the state government was informed about the denial of permission for the US visit after the official delegation had reached the UK. The Chief Minister's Office said Revanth Reddy will now return to Hyderabad from London on August 23 instead of travelling to Boston.

Cops file FIR on pellet gun victim's complaint after Rahul's dharna

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Friday registered a first information report (FIR) in the case of 19-year-old Sahil Lochab, who allegedly suffered pellet injuries during the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest, hours after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi staged a sit-in outside the Parliament Street Police Station. However, no individual has been named as an accused in the FIR.

As per the latest information, the police registered the FIR under Sections 118 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Section 118 deals with voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt using dangerous weapons or means, while Section 125 concerns acts endangering the life or personal safety of others.



Rahul Gandhi at the Parliament Street Police Station

The drama unfolded in the early hours of Friday when Gandhi and a few Congress leaders accompanied Lochab to the police station after the latter alleged that the Delhi Police had refused to register the FIR. They first went to the Connaught Place Police Station; however,

after being informed that the New Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sachin Sharma, was at the Parliament Street Police Station, they soon reached the spot.

Visuals show that Gandhi, decked up in his white T-shirt and light-brown pants, walked

into the police station, taking the officials by surprise.

He first pressed the officials to register the complaint; however, as the officials refused, he began his sit-in outside the police station. He also said that he would not end his sit-in until the officials agreed to register Lochab's complaint.

Three pellets were lodged in his (Lochab) eye, and 200 in his body. There are shells near his heart that cannot be touched. Delhi Police say they did not fire pellet guns. Who fired pellet guns if not cops? Police said they had orders from the top not to file an FIR on the complaint of the victim," Rahul told the media. He also showed the metallic pellets recovered from the student's body.

SACK SUREKHA, CHORUS CONG LEGISLATORS

Continued from P1

Some of the legislators also demanded immediate action against Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinnna Reddy.

The demand follows recent remarks reportedly made by Susmitha against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over ticket distribution in the next elections. Following furore within the party, Konda Surekha had appeared before the party disciplinary committee and clarified that she should not be held responsible for her daughter's remarks, considering that the remarks in question represented Susmitha's "personal" views. Reacting to the

issue, Government Whips Beerla Ilaiah, Vemula Veeresham, and Venkat Balmoor, along with MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy, Balu Naik, Chikkuudu Vamsi Krishna, B. Manohar Reddy, G. Madhusudhan Reddy, Nayini Rajender Reddy, Gandra Satyanarayana, K. R. Nagaraju, K. Rajesh Reddy, Veerlapalli Shankar, Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Kunduru Jayaveer Reddy, B. Lakshma Reddy, Vedma Bhojju, Mandula Samel, and MLC Baswaraj Saraiah, strongly criticised Surekha. They said that if she had no connection with her daughter's remarks, she should have publicly condemned them.

Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah said criticism from opposition par-

ties was expected, but criticism of the party leadership from within the Congress was unacceptable. He questioned the criticism directed at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that the Chief Minister had worked hard to bring the Congress to power and had been consistently strengthening the party. Ilaiah demanded that Konda Surekha respond to the remarks made by her daughter and criticised those making allegations against the Chief Minister. Ilaiah said it was unfortunate that "some leaders within the party" were publicly criticising the Chief Minister and stressed the need to maintain discipline and unity within the Congress.

Government Whip Vemula

Veeresham said Konda Surekha should have condemned her daughter's remarks if she was not associated with them. He alleged that Surekha's statements were causing embarrassment to the Congress party and recalled that she had faced criticism earlier over controversial remarks concerning an actress. Veeresham said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had worked hard to bring the Congress to power and alleged that attempts were being made to weaken his leadership. "Action must be taken against anyone who speaks against the Chief Minister," he said, adding that party leaders should raise their grievances on appropriate party platforms rather than making public statements.

PM pitches for India as global space hub

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for wider use of space technologies to address everyday challenges and urged India's burgeoning private space industry to forge stronger partnerships with other sectors to create new opportunities.

Modi made the remarks during an interaction with the CEOs and founders of 20 space startups at Seva Teerth, where he reviewed the growth and emerging potential of India's private space ecosystem. According to a PMO release, the startups represented diverse areas of the space economy, including rocket and reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicle development, avionics, satellites, advanced propulsion systems, space and defence intelligence, space-debris management and artificial intelligence-based hyperlocal weather and climate intelligence. The startup leaders briefed the Prime Minister on the rapid progress of the private space industry and their efforts to develop advanced capabilities and technologies within India. They also highlighted the increasing interest from organisations around the world in adopting and leveraging technologies developed by Indian space companies. The CEOs said the government's decision to open the space sector to private participation had generated



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with CEOs and founders of 20 space startups at Seva Teerth in New Delhi on Friday

considerable enthusiasm and created multiple new opportunities for entrepreneurs. They also appreciated the support extended by the government and spoke about growing collaboration within the industry.

Congratulating the entrepreneurs for entering and expanding in a relatively new area, Modi said the confidence demonstrated by private space companies had reinforced the vision behind opening the sector to private participation. The Prime Minister pointed out that several countries either lacked the resources to invest in space or were not inclined to make such investments, arguing that this provided India with a significant opportunity to strengthen its position in the global space industry.

He urged the companies to explore applications beyond their existing areas of work and focus on how space technologies could make people's lives easier. Modi also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between space companies and organisations working in other sectors.

Citing examples, he suggested that companies developing technologies to tackle space debris could collaborate with environmental organisations to expand their applications. Similarly, space technology firms working in agriculture could partner with agricultural universities and government departments to help farmers take better-informed decisions and improve productivity.

NTA clarifies on Rs 200 answer key challenge fee

NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has said that its 'answer key challenge' system is designed to be fair to all students, and rejected concerns about it being expensive. An NTA answer key challenge is an online process where candidates who take an exam (like JEE Main, NEET, or UGC NET) can object to errors in the provisional answer key.

The NTA has been under fire lately over issues ranging from NEET-UG paper leak to errors in the UGC-NET examinations. "On the concern being raised that answer key challenges are 'too expensive': a quick clarification for candidates. The answer key challenge system is designed to be fair to every student, not just the one who challenges," NTA said in a post on X. "One challenge, everyone benefits. If even a single candidate challenges a question, and the subject experts accept the challenge, the revised answer key applies to every candidate who wrote the exam," it said.

The NTA said that fee is charged for challenging an answer to discourage frivolous challenges and it is refunded if the challenge turns out to be right.

Centre denies permission for CM Revanth's US visit

Continued from P1

The Centre informed the state government of the refusal of permission to visit America, after the official delegation had reached the UK. Responding to the Centre's decision, the Chief Minister said: "The only purpose of the visit was to, as part of the New Education Policy of the Centre, bring the world's best institutions to India, to Telangana, to Hyderabad. They would have been an answer to our youth's aspirations to get education, skills, and training from the best Ivy League and top global institutions."

I have always believed we should all think beyond politics and elections when

it comes to nation building and future of the youth, he remarked.

Although visibly shocked by the "political denial" of permission for him to further Telangana Rising and education, and to contribute to Viksit Bharat, Revanth Reddy decided to comply with the Centre's decision and return to India from London, taking a flight back to Hyderabad, instead of proceeding to Boston, USA. The Chief Minister, however, instructed the officials to go ahead with the US trip and conclude all the partnership agreements.

Revanth Reddy will continue, as per the scheduled programme, his visits to and

interactions with Oxford, Cambridge, London School of Economics, the London Business School, University of London, among others.

He will also be meeting with top sports institutions and skilling leadership in the United Kingdom, and try to formalise partnerships with Telangana.

"My resolve and endeavour to make Hyderabad one of the top global cities, where any common Indian can get education and a certificates from Harvard and Oxford, or an MIT and LBS or LSE, is because while most leaders have wanted to send their children abroad, I want to bring the world's best to India," he observed.

A crorepati, but still a middle-class homebuyer

In Hyderabad, ₹1 crore is increasingly the price of a new home rather than a luxury purchase

SRIKANTH GODAVARTHI
HYDERABAD

A few years ago, being a crorepati was a big deal. It still is for many. But Hyderabad's real estate prices have changed the meaning of that milestone, at least when it comes to buying a home.

Today, Rs 1 crore is no longer necessarily a luxury-home budget. In many established parts of the city, it is increasingly the money a middle-class buyer may need for a decent new apartment. Even with Rs 1 crore in hand, buyers may still have to make choices on size, location and amenities.

For those with a lower budget, the Rs 50-75 lakh segment has not disappeared. But it has increasingly moved towards emerging and peripheral areas.

"In Hyderabad, a new 2-BHK in the affordable to mid segment would typically start at around Rs 70-75 lakh in emerging locations, while in established and well-connected micro-markets, prices are increasingly closer to Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1 crore and above," said N Jaideep Reddy, President, Credai Hyderabad. "The Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore range has become increasingly common, particularly in the western corridor, where land values and development costs are significantly higher."

Where Rs 50-75 lakh still works

Reddy said buyers can still find new homes in this range in Bachupally, Kompally, Kapra, Medchal, Pocharam, Ghatkesar, Vijayawada Road near Ramoji Film City, Shamshabad, Kothur,



Patancheru and Mutangi, depending on the project and its stage of development. "In these markets, buyers can still find 2-BHK apartments, generally in the range of around 1,000-1,300 sq ft, although sizes vary considerably," he said. But the same budget buys less as the location gets closer to established employment centres. "In some projects, particularly closer to established employment corridors, the same budget may translate into a more compact 2-BHK or smaller configurations," Jaideep Reddy said. "The important point is that affordability at this price point increasingly depends on the buyer being flexible about location and distance from the established city centres."

Smaller homes, not cheaper homes

Rising costs are also changing the size and design of homes in the lower-ticket segment. "There has been a gradual shift towards more efficient and compact home configurations in the sub-Rs 75 lakh segment, largely reflecting the increase in land and construction costs,"

Jaideep Reddy said. "Developers are focusing on optimising layouts to provide functional homes within a particular price range rather than simply reducing specifications." There is no single figure for how much average home sizes have fallen over the past five years, he said, as the change varies across locations and projects. "However, the broader trend has been towards better space utilisation and more efficient layouts, with developers trying to balance apartment size, functionality and affordability."

A Rs 75-lakh home can become an Rs 85-lakh-plus purchase

The advertised price is only the starting point. Registration and government charges, parking where separately charged, maintenance or corpus deposits, amenity-related charges and interiors can push up the final bill. "The advertised price should not be treated as the final cost of ownership," Jaideep Reddy said. "For a property advertised at Rs 75 lakh, the final outlay can certainly cross Rs

80-85 lakh depending on the project, specifications, applicable taxes and the buyer's interior requirements." Once interiors are added, the actual amount can rise further, particularly for wardrobes, modular kitchens, lighting, electrical work and other basic fittings.

"Buyers should evaluate the total cost of acquisition rather than only the base apartment price," Reddy said.

Why Rs 1 crore is becoming common

The rise in land and construction costs is making low-ticket homes harder to deliver in established locations. "Land values have risen more sharply in established and high demand corridors such as Gachibowli, Financial District, Kokapet and Nanakramguda. Construction costs have also increased due to higher material, labour, logistics and other development related expenses," Reddy said. "There is no uniform proportion of land and construction costs that applies across Hyderabad. In established areas, land accounts

for a larger component of the overall project cost, while in emerging locations, construction and development costs form a relatively larger share."

Reddy said the shift towards higher-ticket homes is not simply developers chasing bigger margins. "There has been a visible shift in new residential supply towards higher ticket-size homes. However, this is not simply because developers are pursuing higher margins," he said. The Rs 50-75 lakh segment is increasingly being served through emerging locations, smaller configurations and projects by regional and local developers.

The EMI is only part of affordability

For a middle-class family working in HITEC City, Gachibowli or the Financial District, staying within Rs 50-75 lakh may mean moving farther away. Reddy said buyers may explore Bachupally, Kollur, parts of Tellapur, Kompally, Ghatkesar and Shamshabad, depending on the project and connectivity. But the lower



“The Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore range has become increasingly common, particularly in the western corridor, where land values and development costs are significantly higher”
-N Jaideep Reddy, President, Credai Hyderabad

purchase price can come with a higher daily cost. "A lower ticket size may come with a longer daily commute and higher transportation costs," Reddy said. "The overall affordability of a home should consequently be assessed by considering the EMI alongside the time and recurring cost involved in travelling to work." There is also no single income threshold for a Rs 75-lakh home.

"Affordability depends on the down payment, loan amount, interest rate, tenure and the buyer's existing financial commitments," Jaideep Reddy said.

"While incomes have grown, particularly across Hyderabad's technology, services and professional sectors, the pace of growth has varied across households."

For first-time buyers, he said, "building adequate savings for the down payment and maintaining a manageable EMI" is increasingly important.

What does affordable really mean?

Reddy believes a cheaper home is not automatically an affordable home. "A Rs 60-lakh home may be affordable relative to a Rs 1.5-crore home, but that does not automatically mean it is affordable for every middle-class household," he said. "The true affordability of a home is determined by a combination of its purchase price, apartment size, financing cost, registration and other charges, maintenance and, importantly, the cost and time involved in commuting." "What has changed is the geography and definition of affordability," Jaideep Reddy said. "A buyer with a Rs 50-75 lakh budget still has options, but may need to compromise on location, size or amenities." He said the longer-term answer is to increase housing supply across price points, improve connectivity between residential and employment centres, make land and development more efficient and reduce avoidable costs.

"Affordable housing should ultimately mean affordable ownership without an unsustainable EMI or an unreasonable daily commute," Reddy said. For Hyderabad's middle class, that is the new housing reality: Rs 50-75 lakh can still buy a new home, but Rs 1 crore is increasingly becoming the price of buying one without too many compromises.

Charminar BirlaNu's roofing solutions

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

CHARMINARBIRLANU, a high-quality fiber-cement and composite roofing solutions have announced that their products are being widely used across residential, commercial, and industrial structures

Vijay Lahoti, Business Head - Roofs, BirlaNu, said: "For decades, fibre cement roofing has traditionally been valued for its core attributes: strength and durability. Today, however, the category is undergoing a shift. Customers increasingly expect roofing solutions that combine long-term performance with lasting aesthetics."

Lahoti further said: "In India's residential and commercial markets, especially in high-rainfall regions—the ability to resist weathering, preserve surface finish, and minimize maintenance has become an important differentiator. These attributes are no longer optional; they are increasingly shaping specification and buying decisions."

According to the company: "The product also offers a smoother surface finish compared to conventional fibre cement options, a difference that is strikingly visible."

CORRIGENDUM

In the article titled "Modi Builders faces residents' ire over Silver Oak amenities, safety," published on August 15, Modi Properties was inadvertently mentioned as Modi Builders. The error is regretted.

BUSINESS

BIZ BRIEFS

Dubai Chambers signs two MoUs

Dubai Chambers has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) during a high-level visit to Bengaluru to advance collaboration in Agentic AI, strengthen trade and investment between Dubai and India, and support business expansion. The MoU with NASSCOM establishes a framework for cooperation in Agentic AI and deeptech. It aims to support market access for Indian companies seeking to establish and expand in Dubai.

Active.in opens outlet

Active Green Products Pvt. Ltd., has inaugurated its second franchisee showroom in Andhra Pradesh at Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam. Mudunuri Venkata Subba Raju, MD, Active Green Products, said: "For us, the showroom is not simply a place to display products. It is a space where customers can experience the quality, technology and possibilities of our solutions before they make an investment."

Danone unveils new flavours

Danone India has announced the launch of two new flavour sachets Vanilla and Chocolate, to its toddler nutrition drink, Dexogrow. Priyanka Verma, MD, Danone India, said: "Getting toddlers to enjoy something that's genuinely good for them can be a big battle for parents. With Vanilla and Chocolate flavours now part of the Dexogrow range, we want nutrition moments to feel less like a negotiation."

Centre rejects ethanol link to sugar price surge, blames millers

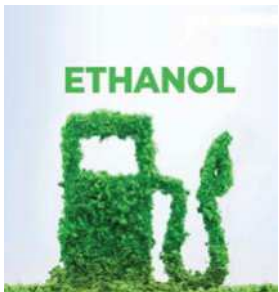
CENTRE SAYS AMPLE STOCKS ARE AVAILABLE AND WARNS AGAINST HOARDING, BLACK MARKETING AND UNJUSTIFIED EX-MILL PRICE HIKES

NEW DELHI

THE government on Friday rejected claims that diversion of sugar for ethanol production was driving a sharp rise in the price of the sweetener and instead blamed the industry for jacking up prices despite the country having sufficient stock to meet domestic demand.

The Centre said it has asked States to take action against hoarding and black marketing of the sweetener and also start preparing for early start of the crushing season by mills, by around October 15. It is also considering reducing the stock that dealers can currently hold.

Briefing the media on sugar availability and prices, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said the government has taken precaution-



ary measures by allowing imports of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar by October 31 and imposing stock-holding limits on dealers as well as bulk consumers such as soft-drink and ice-cream makers.

He asserted that there are ample sugar stocks in the country despite a fall in production to 306 lakh tonnes for the 2025-26 marketing year (October-September), down from earlier estimates of 343 lakh tonnes. Annual domestic sugar demand is

around 280-285 lakh tonnes.

The production has been affected by Red Rot and Top Borer disease in sugarcane, as well as waterlogging caused by excess rainfall, Chopra said.

Following the government's recent measures, the secretary said retail prices are expected to fall in the coming days. The all-India average retail price has shot up to Rs 56 per kg from Rs 48 per kg on July 20.

Chopra pointed out that ex-mill sugar prices have shot up to Rs 62 per kg from Rs 47-48 per kg in just about 7-10 days, and said this kind of hike is completely unjustified. On Friday, the secretary called representatives of the industry bodies ISMA and the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFSCF) and told them

that this sudden, sharp hike in ex-mill prices is "not acceptable". "It is incorrect to attribute the recent increase in sugar prices to diversion of sugar for ethanol production," Chopra said, adding that the diversification has improved the financial health of the sugar sector and also helped in timely payment to farmers. He said only 28 lakh tonnes of sugar have been diverted in the current 2025-26 marketing season. Only one-fourth of ethanol is now made from sugar and the rest from grains, mainly maize. "There has been this sharp increase in the prices of sugar in the recent past, and they have gone up from Rs 48 just about 15 days back to a level of Rs 56 now. It is important to clarify that this is not based on any fundamentals," Chopra said.

Tata Motors raises prices as input costs, inflation bite

NEW DELHI: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd will raise prices of its cars and SUVs by up to Rs 25,000 from September 1, 2026, citing rising input costs and sustained inflationary pressures.

The increase will cover the company's passenger vehicle portfolio, including internal combustion engine and electric models. The extent of the hike will vary across models and variants, the company said on Friday.

Tata Motors said it continues to absorb a significant portion of the increase in costs.

Govt rolls out ₹62,500-crore mobile manufacturing push

NEW DELHI: MOBILE phone companies, including electronics contract manufacturers, having a turnover of Rs 10,000 crore in FY26 will be eligible for benefits under the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, the government said on Friday.

According to the guidelines of the Rs 62,500-crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) issued on Friday, mobile phone companies, including electronic manufacturing services (EMS) firms with 51 per cent Indian ownership, having a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore in FY26 will also be eligible for participation in the scheme. The MPMS is aimed at pro-



viding support in the form of production-linked incentives for manufacturing mobile phones in India.

"Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme is open officially from today (Friday). It will be effective from April 1, 2026," Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said. Under the guidelines, any existing brand will be required to meet the minimum threshold sales of Rs 5,000 crore every year over

and above the total sales of FY26 to be eligible for benefits under the scheme. This means, threshold sales over and above the FY26 turnover will be Rs 5,000 crore for the ongoing 2026-27 fiscal year, Rs 10,000 crore for FY28, Rs 15,000 crore for FY29, Rs 20,000 crore for FY30, and Rs 25,000 crore for FY31. Any new brand will become eligible for benefits under the scheme only after achieving total annual sales of Rs 10,000 crore in India. The incentive amount will be eligible sales in a financial year multiplied by the incentive rates - 2.75 per cent in FY27 and FY28, 2.5 per cent in FY29 and FY30, and 2.25 per cent in FY31.

Up to 10% Chinese stake rule unlocks ₹4,896-cr FDI pipeline

NEW DELHI

THE decision to allow overseas companies with up to 10 per cent Chinese shareholding to invest in India under the automatic route has begun to yield results, with 29 FDI proposals worth Rs 4,895.65 crore reported so far, an official said.

The investments span sectors including information technology, artificial intelligence, information and communication, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, data centres and transport services.

The proposals have been reported by investors or entities based in jurisdictions including Mauritius, the US, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands.

The Finance Ministry notified the changes under

FEMA on May 1, significantly easing the process for companies with limited Chinese or Hong Kong shareholding.

Under the revised framework, foreign companies having Chinese or Hong Kong shareholding of up to 10 per cent can invest in sectors where FDI is permitted under the automatic route, subject to applicable sectoral conditions.

The government said the move removes the requirement of prior approval in such cases, allowing investors to proceed through the automatic route while complying with reporting requirements. The reform is expected to provide greater certainty to investors, reduce transaction time and improve ease of doing business, the official said.

DGFT relaxes One Star Export House eligibility norms

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday relaxed the 'One Star Export House' eligibility condition for exporters by revising the specific international trade and financial performance norms in three consecutive fiscal years. Earlier, exporters were required to achieve specific export performance in all three preceding financial years to receive the 'Star Export House' status. Under the revised norms, export firms reporting the same in any two of the three preceding fiscals will be eligible to get this recognition. This change, however, does not apply to the gems and jewellery sector as that sector already has a separate two-year requirement under foreign trade policy (FTP) 2023. The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) has amended a provision of the FTP "to allow granting of One Star Export House status to applicants (other than for the Gems and Jewellery sector) who possess export performance in any two out of the three preceding financial years subject to other provisions...".

Bridging academic learning and career readiness through professional education



With B.Com continuing to attract thousands of students, commerce education is increasingly being viewed as a pathway to careers in finance, banking and business. As employers place greater emphasis on practical skills, communication and problem-solving, students are looking beyond classroom learning. Industry exposure, internships, mentorship and professional qualifications can help bridge the gap between academic knowledge and workplace expectations, particularly in emerging areas such as FinTech, financial analytics and wealth management

RAMESH VISHWANATHAN

One of the most popular academic programs for students who want to work in business and finance is the commerce program. According to Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST), 42,000 undergraduate students have confirmed admission to the B.Com programme. Due to its increasing popularity relative to traditional streams, commerce has consistently accounted for 37% to 40% of admissions. Nearly 44.08 lakh students are enrolled in undergraduate commerce programs nationwide, with male students accounting for 52.8% of enrolment and female students 47.2%, according

to the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE). These numbers show that young Indians are more interested in pursuing jobs in business, finance, and related fields.

These figures reflect the growing interest among young Indians in pursuing careers in business, finance and related sectors. However, in an increasingly competitive job market, a degree alone is no longer enough. Employers today are looking for graduates who can apply their academic knowledge to solve real-world problems and adapt to evolving industry requirements.

The degree-to-career gap
A degree remains an



important starting point, but employment standards have changed over time. Today, recruiters are considering someone with more than just degree achievements: someone who can communicate effectively, solve problems, and apply their knowledge in real-world situations. This is particularly relevant for graduates in commerce. Careers in banking, wealth management, financial planning, FinTech, financial analytics, and corporate finance require specialised skills that go beyond classroom learning, even if their education gives them a strong foundation. This is where industry exposure becomes valuable. Internships, mentorship programmes and live projects help students understand workplace expectations,

develop practical skills and make more informed career choices. These experiences enable graduates to transition more confidently from the classroom to the workplace.

Professional Education as a Bridge to Industry

The financial services sector provides a good example of how professional education enhances academic learning. As household finances become more complex, financial decisions today extend beyond savings and investments to include retirement planning, insurance, tax planning, children's education and long-term wealth creation. This has increased the need for professionals who can take a holistic view of an individual's financial situation and provide in-

formed guidance.

This is where professional qualification becomes increasingly valuable. They help students apply what they learn in college while developing practical skills, ethical values and the ability to understand clients' financial needs. One such pathway is CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® certification, which provides specialised education in financial planning and helps learners develop the practical skills needed in the profession. It can prepare graduates for roles in areas such as financial planning, wealth management and investment advisory, while also strengthening their ability to make ethical, client-focused financial decisions. Professional qualifications

like these help students connect classroom learning with the practical demands of the workplace.

Preparing for a changing workplace

The transition from education to employment is becoming increasingly dynamic. Technology is reshaping financial services; new roles are emerging, and the skills required across professions are evolving.

This makes continuous learning increasingly important. Educational institutions can provide the academic foundation, while

industry exposure and professional development can help students understand changing workplace expectations and adapt to them.

For commerce students, the breadth of their education offers the flexibility to explore different career paths. The focus now should be on helping them make informed choices and develop the capabilities needed to grow within those careers.

Ultimately, academic and professional education work hand in hand. While professional learning provides practical

skills, ethical awareness and industry readiness, a university degree provides the theoretical foundation. Together, they prepare graduates not only to secure meaningful employment but also to adapt, grow and contribute confidently in an increasingly dynamic and competitive economy. As India continues to build a future-ready workforce, creating a strong bridge between classrooms and careers will be key to unlocking the full potential of India's youth.

(The author is CEO, FPSB India)

Student leaders take charge at Nasr school ceremony

Nasr School conducted its 61st Investiture Ceremony, formally marking the assumption of leadership responsibilities by the newly appointed student leaders for the academic year 2026–27. The ceremony was attended by chief guest Brigadier Manoj Kumar Sharma, along with Nawab Mir Khutubuddin Khan, Chairman, Nasr Education Society; Begum Salwa Khan, Director, Nasr Education Society; Mir Hafeezuddin Ahmed, CEO, Nasr Education Society and Principal, Nasr Boys School; Mir Jamaluddin Hammad, Executive Director—Finance, Nasr Education Society, and members of the school community. The programme began with the NCC Guard of Honour and a prayer by the school choir. The newly appointed student leaders took the oath, formally



accepting their responsibilities for the academic year. A ceremonial salute and March Past by the five Houses—Amethyst, Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz—highlighted the importance of discipline, coordination and teamwork. The proceedings also included the presentation

of saplings to dignitaries, reflecting the school's emphasis on environmental responsibility.

Principal Mir Mohiuddin Mohammed said excellence was built through discipline and consistent effort. He emphasised that leadership and responsibility extend beyond achievement and

require individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Brigadier Manoj Kumar Sharma, addressing the students, highlighted the importance of discipline, perseverance, responsibility and service. He encouraged students to approach their responsibilities with commitment and

a sense of purpose.

The ceremony also recognised student achievement through the presentation of cups and shields for excellence in academics, literary and cultural activities, marching and inter-house competitions. Topaz House was named Best House in literary and cultural events and also won the Best House award in the Patriotic Song Singing and Dance Competition.

Emerald House was declared the Best Marching Contingent.

Nawab Mir Khutubuddin Khan urged students to believe in themselves, pursue their aspirations with dedication and uphold values such as integrity, discipline, kindness and respect for diversity. The ceremony concluded with an emphasis on student leadership, responsibility, academic achievement and holistic development.

Today is National Surgical Oncologist Day

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGISTS

Surgical oncologists play a specialised role in cancer care, combining advanced surgical expertise with detailed knowledge of tumour biology and cancer treatment. Their work often involves complex procedures aimed at removing cancerous tissue while preserving as much healthy tissue and normal function as possible. These specialists are involved at several stages of a patient's treatment journey. They may help diagnose certain cancers, assess whether a tumour can be surgically removed, plan treatment with other specialists and perform procedures ranging from biopsies to major cancer surgeries. Their decisions often require careful consideration of the tumour's location, stage and relationship with surrounding organs and tissues.

Modern cancer care increasingly relies on multidisciplinary teams. Surgical oncologists work alongside medical and radiation oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, nurses and other healthcare profes-



sionals to determine appropriate treatment strategies. In many cases, surgery may be combined with chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted treatment or immunotherapy. The field also demands continuous learning as surgical techniques and cancer treatments evolve. Advances in minimally invasive and robotic-assisted procedures, imaging and surgical planning are changing how some complex operations are performed.

IIT Hyderabad centre to advance steel research and innovation

Jindal Steel and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on high-strength, value-added and value-engineered steel products and solutions at the IIT Hyderabad campus.

The Centre will focus on developing and demonstrating advanced steel applications for infrastructure, engineering, construction and strategic industrial sectors. The initiative will bring together IITH's technical and

research capabilities with Jindal Steel's manufacturing, metallurgical and engineering expertise.

The Centre will explore applications of advanced steel grades in buildings and bridges, penstocks and large-diameter pipes, defence, heavy equipment, power plants, refineries, transportation, heavy engineering and other industrial sectors.

A key objective will be to support the wider adoption of high-strength and value-engineered steels by demonstrating their potential to reduce material consumption and structural weight, improve durability,



enable faster project execution and enhance lifecycle economics.

The Centre will serve as a hub for application development, technical demonstrations, training,

industry engagement and knowledge sharing. It will work with designers, consultants, engineers, fabricators, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC)

companies, equipment manufacturers and project developers to identify suitable applications and support the technical evaluation of advanced steel solutions.

Prof. B S Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said the Centre would strengthen the institute's role in promoting advanced steel solutions across India's engineering, infrastructure

and industrial sectors. He added that the initiative would provide faculty and students opportunities to work with industry on real-world applications and explore how advanced steels can contribute to efficiency, performance and sustainability.

V R Sharma, Managing Director, Jindal Steel, said the partnership would help expand the use of high-strength and value-engineered steel across infrastructure and industrial applications. He highlighted the combination of IITH's technical capabilities and Jindal Steel's manufacturing and engineering expertise

as a key element of the initiative. The collaboration will include application development programmes, workshops, symposia, industry-academia training and demonstration projects. It will also provide opportunities for student internships and placements, academic modules and other industry engagement initiatives.

The Centre is expected to engage with industry stakeholders and end users to facilitate technical assessment and support the adoption of advanced steel solutions across various sectors.



BWF World Championships

Treesa-Gayatri duo stuns world No. 4, to enter semis

India assured of first medal in women’s doubles in 15 years

NEW DELHI

INDIA’S women’s doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have staged an upset at the BWF World Championships after handing a shock loss to the world no. 4 Chinese pair of Ji Yifan and Zhang Shuxian to enter the semifinals, confirming a medal for the country.

The Indians, coming from game down, registered a 16-21, 21-15, 21-13 win over the Chinese to become the second-ever pair to win a BWF World Championships medal in women’s doubles. In 2011, Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa won bronze, securing India’s second-ever World Championships medal -- 28 years after the country’s maiden medal in 1983 (Prakash Padukone’s men’s singles bronze).

The Indian duo looked vulnerable early on as Jia and Zhang raced to a 6-2 lead and kept their advantage through the opening game. Treesa and Gayatri gradually found their attacking rhythm, using their powerful smashes and sharper exchanges at the net to close the gap to 8-9.

The recovery, however, was not enough to prevent the Chinese to head into the breather with 11-8 advantage and eventually sealing the opening game 21-16.

The response in the second game was immediate. The Indians refused to allow their opponents the same control, matching them in



Satwik-Chirag pair loses in quarters

NEW DELHI: Star Indian men’s doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty’s dream of winning a third medal at the BWF World Championships ended with a straight-game loss to China’s world No. 3 Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in the quarterfinal here on Friday.

The world No. 5 Indians, who have won bronze medals at the 2022 and 2025 editions, lacked the required sharpness and crashed to an 18-21 9-21 loss in just 36 minutes against Wang and Liang, the Paris Olympics silver medalists.

The Indians had lost nine times and won four against the Chinese world No. 3 pair.

the longer rallies while defending under pressure as they earned a slender 11-10 advantage at the interval.

From there, Treesa and Gayatri grew increasingly assertive. The Indians opened a 17-14 lead before closing out the game 21-15 to force a decider.

In the decider, after an even start at 4-4, Treesa found the breakthrough with a powerful smash, and the Indians suddenly surged. Treesa’s attack continued to cause damage for

the Chinese, and the Indians entered the interval with a commanding 11-5 lead.

After the change of sides, Jia and Zhang briefly attempted to revive their challenge, but the Indian earned three straight points to restore their momentum.

At 18-9, the Indians were within touching distance. A review after Zhang’s shot was called out did little to alter the outcome, and two further errors from Chinese handed Treesa and Gayatri the decisive points.

We’re really happy that we converted this win into this semifinal (BWF World Championships) and getting a medal, but it’s not stopping yet. There are matches coming tomorrow also.

- Treesa Jolly

U20 Wrestling Worlds

Kajal wins 2nd title in row; Tanu, Savita grab silver

BRATISLAVA (SLOVAKIA): Kajal Dhochak won her second consecutive U20 World title while Tanu Sharma and Savita settled for silver medals at the U20 Wrestling World Championship here.

Kajal, 18, won the 76kg title with a commanding 7-0 victory over China’s Jingru Sun in the final. She had won the U20 World title in the 72kg last year.

Kajal is already graduating to the senior level, winning a gold medal at the Ranking Series event in Mongolia in June this year apart from winning a gold at the Budapest event in July. She also won the U20 Asian Championship in Pattaya.

In the 72kg category, Tanu put up a resilient fight in the gold medal match against Japan’s Chisato Yoshida before losing 3-5.



In the 62kg division, Savita faced a formidable opponent in Japan’s Sakura Onishi in the gold medal bout and lost by technical superiority (2-12).

Mansi Lather is in gold contention in 68kg event. She is up against China’s Chenling Song in the final while Komal will fight it out with Spain Rosa Molina Rodriguez in the 59kg repechage round.

None of India’s Greco Roman wrestler won a medal. The men’s freestyle competition will begin later Friday and conclude on Sunday.

Hyderabad to host TPL season 8 from Dec 8-13

HYDERABAD: Tennis Premier League season 8 will be staged from December 8 to 13, 2026, at the LB Tennis Stadium in Hyderabad under the auspices of the All India Tennis Association and with the support of the Government of Telangana.

Eight franchise teams will compete in TPL’s signature 25-point format, where every point matters, with the action live-streamed on JioHotstar, allowing fans across the country to follow the league as some of the world’s top-ranked international players go head-to-head alongside India’s leading tennis stars. The League will also see the presence of tennis icons Leander Paes and Sania Mirza, along with Bollywood personalities and team co-owners Rakul Preet Singh and Sonali Bendre Behl, who will be cheering on and supporting their respective teams.

For TPL, Hyderabad is more than just a new venue. It marks



the league’s move into new markets, expanding its audience and building a stronger national footprint for professional tennis, with the TPL App already connecting the league to more than 400 affiliated academies across the country.

Hyderabad, with its strong sporting culture and growing tennis community, will provide the backdrop for Season 8 at the LB Tennis Stadium, one of India’s largest dedicated tennis venues.

The stadium will host six days of high-intensity action as eight franchise teams – GS

Delhi Aces, Hyderabad Strikers, Lucknow Blazers, Gurgaon Grand Slammers, Gujarat Panthers, Rajasthan Rangers, Kolkata Thunder Blades and Mumbai Royals compete in TPL’s exciting 25-point format.

Sharing his excitement on the announcement, Kunal Thakkur, Co-Founder, Tennis Premier League, said “Season 8 is a landmark chapter for TPL, not just because we’re bringing world-class tennis to Hyderabad for the first time, but because it’s the first season where fans will see our partnership with Kia India come alive.

Khelo India Scheme a gamechanger: Jwala Gutta

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TWO-time Olympian (2012 London and 2016 Rio) and former world championships medallist Jwala Gutta has described the revamped Khelo India Scheme (KIS) as a “gamechanger” with the potential to transform sports in India.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Gutta said, “I am a government product myself and without its support I would not have achieved whatever I have as a player. In its new avatar, the Khelo India Scheme looks extremely promising. With its thrust on grassroots development and sustainability, parents will feel very secure to send their

children to play a sport.” She added, “The government has always been serious about boosting sports, but this will have a far-reaching impact and the reach will be enormous. I am happy to be associated with the scheme.”

The 2026–31 scheme has an outlay of ₹29,054 crore, an eight-fold increase over the previous allocation, and aims to support 10 times more athletes. Its key focus areas include grassroots development, scientific talent identification, coaching, academics, infrastructure and sports technology.

S Hima Bindu, SAI deputy director, outlined the scheme’s key pillars and its potential impact on Telangana. “The grassroots to Olym-



Jwala Gutta, former badminton world doubles champion and Olympian, Dr A Sonibala Devi, Vice-Chairperson & Managing Director of Sports Authority of Telangana, Vishnu Sudhakaran, Regional Director of Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru and S Hima Bindu Deputy Director, SAI during a media interaction on the revamped Khelo India Scheme in Hyderabad on Friday.

(Photo: Srinivas Setty)

pic excellence pathway has been well thought through. The scheme addresses gaps in the system and the formation of a coaches’ board will help uplift the way a child plays sport. The academy structure will be bolstered

and there are adequate funds to boost infrastructure and sports technology,” she said.

Telangana already has 33 notified Khelo India Centres, supporting more than 601 athletes through Past Champion Athletes.

Bikash selected for World Masters Athletics C’ships

HYDERABAD

BIKASH Karar, Chairman of Athletic Coaching

Academy, Hyderabad and a master athlete, has been selected to represent India at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, from August 22 to September 3, 2026. Competing in the 50+ age group, he will participate in the 200m, 400m and 400m hurdles. Karar is trained by Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Physical Education, Osmania University. He has previously represented India at Masters Championships in Finland, the US, France and Brazil.



SC grants freedom to 105-yr-old murder convict

NEW DELHI

A 105-year old murder convict will now be able to live as a free man after the Supreme Court on Friday, closed the case against him and waived the remaining period of his life sentence, taking into account his advanced age.

Born in 1920 in West Bengal’s Malda district, Rasik Chandra Mondal was convicted in 1994 in the murder case and was in jail till November 29, 2024, when the top court granted him bail.

On Friday, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymyla Bagchi and V Mohana said that, having regard to the age of the petitioner, it was closing the case and waiving the remaining sentence, if any, in the matter.

Even if the life sentence is not over, he will not be taken back in custody, the CJI said and made the interim bail order of 2024 absolute and final.

“As an interim order, we direct that the petitioner,



Rasik Chandra Mondal, will be released on interim bail/parole during the pendency of the present writ petition, on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court,” the court had said earlier. Mondal had age-related health issues, it had noted.

In 2018, the Calcutta high court dismissed Mondal’s appeal challenging his conviction in the murder case. Later, he moved the apex court, which also dismissed his plea.

In 2020, Mondal, then 99 years old, moved a plea seeking premature release, citing his advanced age and age-related ailments. In May 2021, the apex court had issued notice to the West Bengal government in the matter.

22 Indians aboard two ships hijacked by pirates

NEW DELHI

TWO commercial vessels carrying a total of 22 Indian nationals have been hijacked by pirates in separate incidents off Yemen and Somalia, a senior shipping ministry official said on Friday. He said that according to the latest information, the Indian crew members are safe.

An Eritrea-flagged oil products tanker, M T Sibul, with 20 crew members -- 16 Indians, one Syrian national, one Sudanese national, one Iraqi national and one seafarer whose nationality is yet to be confirmed -- was hijacked by armed pirates in the Gulf of Aden, around 30 nautical miles off the coast of Yemen on August 20, the official told PTI.

“As reported by Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) agency - S K S Krishni Marine Services



(Opc) Private Limited, six armed pirates are presently onboard the vessel and have taken control of the vessel,” he said.

He said the RPSL has been advised to submit the incident report and subsequent periodic updates through the e-Navik online marine casualty reporting system for examination and record.

Another Cameroon-flagged cargo ship, LUTUF, with six Indians among its 10 crew members was hijacked

by pirates off Somalia’s Puntland coast on August 17, the official said.

“The vessel is reported to have been boarded by eight pirates, armed with AK-47 type weapons and operating from two skiffs. “The crew initially mustered in the citadel. However, the pirates gained access and subsequently brought them to the bridge. The vessel is currently under pirate control. No injuries have been reported thus far,” he said. (PTI)

Child killed in leopard attack in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: A three-year-old boy was killed after a leopard attacked him in Rajasthan’s Sawai Madhopur district, forest officials said Friday.

Deputy Conservator of Forests of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve Manas Singh said the child, Dilkhush Bairwa, was playing in the courtyard of his house on Thursday when the leopard dragged him towards the forest.

Following the incident, the child’s family members and villagers launched a search operation. A forest department team also joined the search after being alerted, the official said. The child was eventually found in an injured condition on a hill, Singh said. He was rushed to the district hospital, where doctors declared him dead, the official said.

The incident triggered anger among villagers, who later reached the Phalodi range office and staged a protest.

During the protest, a motorcycle kept at the range office was set on fire, officials said.

RSS chief to visit US, Canada, UK for centenary outreach

VISAKHAPATNAM

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will visit the US, Canada and Britain as part of the Sangh’s centenary-year global outreach programme, a senior Sangh functionary said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference after the three-day all India coordination meeting here, RSS Sah Sarkaryawah CR Mukunda said the foreign visit has three main objectives - presenting a factual and positive perspective on India, Hindu society and the RSS, conveying the message of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ and increasing dialogue with mainstream society on the interests and rights of Hindus and people of Indian origin.

“Bhagwat will visit the US, Canada and Britain as part of the Sangh’s centenary-year global outreach programme,” Mukunda said.

He said Bhagwat would participate in the Universal Oneness programme in New York and community leader-



ship programmes in Toronto and London. The visit would also seek to address misconceptions and misinformation about India, Hindu society and the RSS prevalent in various parts of the world, Mukunda said.

The RSS chief would convey the message of global unity and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam given by India’s sages and seers, he said. The outreach would also focus on dialogue with mainstream society in the three countries on the interests and rights of Hindus and people of Indian origin living around the world, he added.

Rashtrapati Bhavan does U-turn on B’desh PM’s visit

NEW DELHI: A fresh communicate from the Rashtrapati Bhavan stated that the “press release issued on the subject ‘No Change of Guard Ceremony this Saturday’, which was issued on August 21, 2026, stands withdrawn.” This came an hour after the President’s house had announced the cancellation of the weekly ceremony for the full rehearsal of the welcome planned for the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister. The withdrawn communicate had read: “The Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan will not take place this Saturday (August 22, 2026) due to the full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.”

Musk pitches Starlink for rural India amidst stalled launch

NEW DELHI

EVEN as the Elon Musk owned Starlink tries to unlock a stalled launch in India, the satellite internet service provider has again made a pitch as a public-service solution with particular focus on rural India. “Starlink would help the least served in India, especially in rural areas,” wrote Elon Musk, in a post on X, earlier today. Starlink awaits final regulatory clearance from the Indian government, which would allow it to flip the switch on commercial operations in India.

Musk has a point. The latest Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) data points to a flat growth for



mobile and broadband connections in rural regions. In June 2026, urban India added 4.36 million subscribers (0.55% growth), while rural India added just 0.62 million subscribers (0.11% growth).

Secondly, rural tele-density of 60.89% at the end of June, compares unfavourably to 153.43% in urban areas, indicating that roughly 40% of the rural population still lacks individual mobile or fixed-line connectivity.

13-YR-OLD BOY RESCUED FROM BONDED LABOUR

MUMBAI: A 13-year-old boy was rescued from alleged bonded labour at a farm in Maharashtra’s Jalna district, officials have said. Following inputs received by the District Legal Services Authority and the Child Helpline 1098, a raid was conducted at Chincholi village of Bhokardan tehsil on Wednesday, they said. According to officials, the boy told the authorities that he had been working at the farm for around one-and-a-half years, performing agricultural tasks, grazing goats, feeding and watering cattle and cleaning cow dung. The boy was allegedly forced to work at the farm against a Rs 40,000 advance taken by his father from the farm owner.

Parents die trying to stop son from suicide

MUMBAI

A couple and their 19-year-old son fell to their deaths from a hill while the parents attempted to stop the teenager from committing suicide in Maharashtra’s Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district on Friday, police said.

The tragedy unfolded in the Tisgaon area under Waluj MIDC in the afternoon, an official said. According to the police, Kunal Chandgude (19) went up the hill around 10 am, allegedly intending to commit suicide following a dispute with his parents about wanting a mobile phone. The parents, Murlidhar (48) and Sangita Chandgude, residents of the Zalta Phata area of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, arrived there to stop him.

An official said police and villagers tried to convince Kunal not to jump, and the fire brigade was also called in, and they tried to place a net below. But the teen kept changing his position. Even as his father tried to console and



convince him, Kunal jumped, and the father went after him, falling to his death. Horrified, the mother also jumped off the hill and died, the official said. The bodies were recovered by the police and were sent for further formalities, he added.

Nadda reviews country’s H1N1 preparedness

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda on Friday reviewed the prevailing situation and preparedness for H1N1 Influenza in the country with particular focus on the national capital. Delhi Health Minister D Panjaj Kumar Singh was also present in the meeting. According to a release, the Union Health Minister reviewed the national surveillance and epidemiological situation, IILI and SARI trends, testing and laboratory surveillance, and preparedness of healthcare facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases. Nadda emphasised the need for continued vigilance, robust surveillance and proactive preparedness, with close monitoring of influenza trends.



Why your scalp suffers more than your hair during monsoon



CLELIA CECILIA ANGELON

care it received earlier.

Monsoon humidity can leave hair dull, rough and difficult to manage, but the seasonal changes often affect the scalp first. Understanding how moisture, sweat and limited airflow influence scalp health can help make hair care more effective during the rainy months.

Why the Scalp Bears the Brunt of the Season

Humidity during the monsoon is rarely consistent. The air may remain damp and heavy on some days before becoming comparatively dry after rainfall. These fluctuations can affect the scalp's natural balance over time. Hair may appear flat by the afternoon or feel rough even after washing, while the underlying issue may actually begin at the roots.

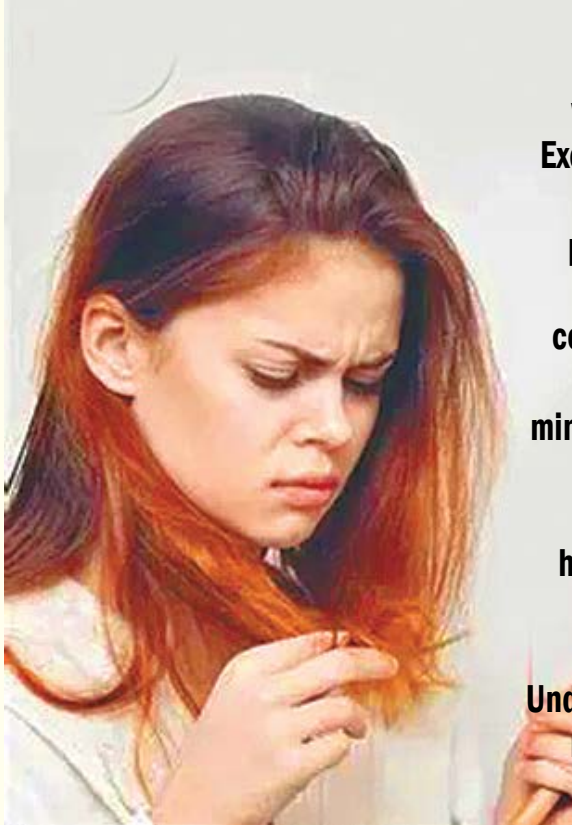
Warmth and moisture can also contribute to flaking and itchiness. Wet hair takes longer to dry during humid weather, whether it becomes soaked in the rain, damp after a shower or moist from sweat.

Tying hair up frequently to keep it away from the face and neck can further reduce airflow around the scalp.

These effects may not always be immediately visible. Because hair that has already grown cannot repair itself in the same way living skin can, the condition of the scalp and hair over time often reflects the

aloe vera is commonly used for its cooling and moisturising qualities. Ingredients such as amla, hibiscus and fenugreek have also traditionally featured in hair-care practices, particularly for maintaining scalp and hair condition.

Henna is another traditional ingredient associated with a cooling effect on the scalp. Some formulations combine it with botanical ingredients sourced from regions such as the Amazon, with the aim of supporting scalp comfort and balance



during humid weather. Ingredient awareness is another consideration when choosing hair-care products. Some formulations avoid ammonia and related chemicals such as ethanolamine, diethanolamine and triethanolamine, ingredients commonly used in certain hair-colouring products. Consumers are also increasingly paying attention to formulations that follow defined clean-ingredient standards and exclude potentially undesirable substances. However, natural or

plant-based ingredients are not automatically suitable for everyone. Individual scalp conditions, allergies and sensitivities should be considered when introducing any new product, particularly if irritation or persistent flaking is already present.

Care That Restores, Not Just Corrects

Monsoon hair care does not necessarily have to centre on repairing visible damage. Paying attention to scalp hygiene, allowing wet hair to dry properly and

Rainy weather can change the way hair behaves, making everyday routines such as washing, drying and styling more important. Excess moisture, sweat and frequent exposure to rain can influence scalp comfort, while prolonged dampness may affect hair texture and manageability. A seasonal routine that considers cleansing frequency, drying habits, hairstyles and product ingredients can help minimise these concerns. Traditional botanical ingredients such as neem, amla, hibiscus and fenugreek continue to feature in many hair-care practices, while growing ingredient awareness is encouraging consumers to examine formulations more closely. Understanding these seasonal factors can help make monsoon hair care more informed and consistent



avoiding prolonged dampness can help maintain comfort during the season.

A consistent routine that suits an individual's scalp and hair type can be more useful than frequently changing products in response to temporary concerns. Gentle cleansing, adequate drying and careful ingredient selection can support scalp health while reducing some of the problems commonly associated with humid weather.

The monsoon may challenge the scalp in subtle ways, but understanding those changes can make seasonal hair care more deliberate. Rather than reacting only when hair becomes visibly dull or rough, maintaining scalp health throughout the rainy season can help support healthier-looking hair as the weather changes.

(The author is Founder & CEO of Surya Brasil)

Manisha Koirala shares how her relationship with food has evolved

Actress Manisha Koirala, who was last seen in the streaming series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', has shared how her relationship with food has changed over the years. The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a picture of herself eating her meal, while trying to talk to the person holding the phone camera. She also penned a long note in the caption, and how her relationship with food has evolved, and how she has started listening to her body.

She wrote, "My relationship with food has changed over the years. From restriction and guilt to learning to nourish, enjoy and listen to my body. I no longer want to fight my body. I want to care for it, respect it and feel at home in it". Earlier, the actress celebrated her birthday with celebrations arranged by her parents. Recently, the actress' friend Sarosh Pradhan took to his Instagram, and shared a joint post with the actress. The post featured videos and a picture from the celebrations with happy faces of close friends and family of the actress ringing in her birthday.

The actress can be seen dressed casually in the videos and the picture, as she swings and enjoys every bit of her celebrations. He wrote in the caption, "Joy of Parents taking the initiative to organize Manisha's Birthday".

Sarosh Pradhan is actress' cycling partner. The actress has often attributed her diminishing fear of cycling in heavy



traffic. Manisha Koirala emerged as one of Hindi cinema's most acclaimed actresses of the 1990s. She has delivered memorable performances in 'Bombay', 'Khamoshi: The Musical', 'Dil Se', 'Gupt', and 'Company'. In 2012, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and underwent extensive treatment in the United States, eventually recovering. She documented that journey in her memoir 'Healed: How Cancer Gave Me a New Life'. The actress later returned to acting, earning praise for 'Sanju' and 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'.

Preity Zinta embraces a brand new 'Vibe' as she reflects on life

Actress Preity Zinta offered a glimpse of her new 'Vibe', sharing a picture as she took a moment to soak in the experience ahead for her upcoming film of the same name. Preity shared a selfie of herself on Instagram, where she is seen sporting chunky sunglasses paired with a black oversized T-shirt. In the image, the actress is seen looking at the lens as she posed for a photograph. "A moment to hold, a moment to reflect, a moment to take in life, as I dive into a brand new Vibe. Ting!" she wrote as the caption.

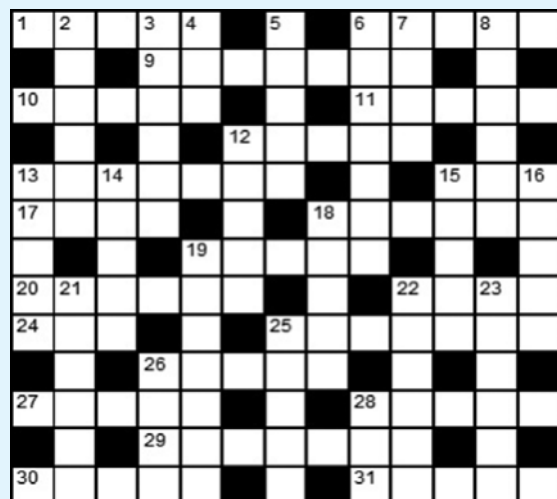
Vibe also stars Kunal Kemmu. The upcoming high-stakes action-comedy film is produced by Kunal Kemmu and Chirag Nihalani under the banner of Drongo Films. "Vibe" is expected to reach the audience on September 18 this year. The project marks the first venture for the production studio. The film is written and directed by Kunal Kemmu. Joining these two, Sparsh Shrivastava will play a crucial role in the movie, along with debutant Vanshika Dhir.

"Vibe" focuses on two inseparable friends whose ordinary lives suddenly turn into an unpredictable, high-energy adventure that pushes their survival instincts and friendship to the limit. "Batwara 1947" is a period drama film co-written and directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, and produced by



Aamir Khan under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions. Set in Lahore against the backdrop of the 1947 Partition of British India and the division of Punjab. The film stars Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Shabana Azmi, Karan Deol, Ali Fazal, Abhimanyu Singh, Khushi Hajare, Kanikka Kapur, Waaseem Rajput, and Isha Sandhir. The film is based on Asghar Wajahat's drama 'Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya, O Janyia E Nai'. It was Zinta's comeback film after an eight-year hiatus.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 City in Gujarat (5)
- 6 Willow twig (5)
- 9 Physicians (7)
- 10 Direction indicator (5)
- 11 Certain to get or have (2,3)
- 12 Slacks material (5)
- 13 Rather old (7)
- 15 In the style of (1,2)
- 17 Changed colour (4)
- 18 South American animals resembling the camel (6)
- 19 Carousal (5)
- 20 Brings about (6)
- 22 TV sports letters (4)
- 24 Label (3)
- 25 Put out again (7)
- 26 Later than (5)
- 27 Shield (5)
- 28 Rub out (5)
- 29 Must (5,2)
- 30 Concur (5)
- 31 Fragrant (5)

DOWN

- 2 Indisciplined (6)
- 3 Much loved (6)
- 4 Tug (3)
- 5 Tingling - desirous (5)
- 6 Crease in the skin (7)
- 7 "Money __ object" (2,2)
- 8 Commotion (6)
- 12 Thunder sounds (5)
- 13 Court order (5)
- 14 Remove errors from (program) (5)
- 15 Gather hoard (5)
- 16 All together (2,3)
- 18 Mechanical bar (5)
- 19 Liberate (3,4)
- 21 Exclaiming in amazement, joy, or surprise (6)
- 22 A written deed placed in the custody of a third party (6)
- 23 Chase (6)
- 25 Prepared (5)
- 26 First-class (1-3)
- 28 UFO pilots (3)



Solution to August 21

SUDOKU



Solution to August 21



Sowcar Janaki leaves behind rich south Indian legacy

SUHAS SISTU

SOWCAR Janaki is a unique figure in Indian cinema history who managed to act in more than seven decades of cinema, performing in over 400 films. From her

debut in 1950 to her recent work in the 2023 Telugu film Anni Manchi Sakunamule, Sowcar Janaki maintained her popularity among moviegoers for many years. The actress was born in Rajahmundry and started

her career by accident. She got married at the age of 16 and was pregnant while preparing for her matriculation exams. Before becoming an actor, she worked as a radio artist at All India Radio in Madras. This job allowed her to develop her acting skills, specifically her speech.

LV Prasad signed her to her first film, a Telugu-language Shavukaru. In the movie, she played the role of a moneylender's daughter, and thereafter, Sowcar became her screen name. Ever since her debut, Sowcar Janaki has starred in all the four languages of South

India. She made her debut in Tamil cinema in 1952 in the film Valayapathi and in Karnataka cinema in 1954 in the film Devakannika. She featured in the 1964 Malayalam film School Master, which marked her debut in Malayalam cinema. Right from her debut, Sowcar Janaki has starred in all south Indian language movies. By the late 1960s, she had become a star in all four South Indian film industries.

She has acted with all the leading actors of her time. In her stardom journey, she has also played comic roles apart from the dramatic roles.

However, what stands out from her stardom journey is her association with the film director K Balachander. Many of his films had female leads in the most progressive roles for women. Sowcar Janaki acted in several of his pictures, including Thamarai Nenjam, Iru Kodugal, and other films.

She acted in films like Cinema Paithiyam, Thee, Thillu Mullu, Vetri Vizha, which marked her new path. In addition to film work, in more than thirty plays, Sowcar Janaki played various roles. Moreover, in the 90s, she began appearing on

television. Even when she turned 80, she continued to act in films and take leading roles. According to rumors, her 400th film was the Tamil comedy Biskoth, in which she acted at the age of 88. In her last film Anni Manchi Sakunamule, Janaki played the role of a grandmother.

She was awarded many prestigious awards, including Kalaimamani, Nandi

Awards, and lifetime achievement. She was awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2022, having celebrated her 90th birthday.

This legendary actress found her niche in the ever-changing Indian film industry. She acted in several Indian languages and remained popular.

Moreover, she portrayed

an equal number of comic and serious roles. Sowcar Janaki starred in Indian films, especially south Indian movies, had a great theater career, and acted in television shows. Therefore, she created a memorable and successful career that made her famous worldwide. Now, as the actress is no more, We miss you Sowcar Janaki.

STARS PAY TRIBUTE

The veteran actress Sowcar Janaki demise led to an outpour of condolences from the South Indian film industry. Several leading stars paid tribute to the departed soul, recalling her legendary work and contribution to the film industry. Tamil Nadu chief minister and actor Vijay expressed his shock and grief over the news of Janaki's death. He further added that her contribution to the film industry over the past seven decades is legendary. He also talked about several

awards such as Padma Shri, Kalaimamani, and Nandi which were received by the actress.

The legendary actor Kamal Haasan paid tribute to Janaki, saying that they have shared a long professional relationship, working together for almost four decades, starting with 'Paarthala Pasi Theerum'. He further called her an incredible talent in the south and worked closely with his guru K Balachander. On the other hand, Jr NTR and Chiranjeevi recounted their time spent with Janaki and

remembered her as one of the Indian cinema's legendary figures. The veteran actor's contribution to Indian cinema has been immense, with Chiranjeevi calling Janaki a natural. Radhika Sarathkumar, Prabhudeva, and Vishnu Manchu also paid emotional tributes to the late actress, calling her an extraordinary talent. Vishnu further expressed his grief in Telugu, referring to Janaki as a legendary personality whose work and elegance will inspire generations in the years to come.

'IRUMUDI' REVIEW: A powerful emotional film

SUHAS SISTU

AFTER a long interval, Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja is back with a film that prioritizes performances and emotional quotient over formulaic potboilers. Irumudi, a directorial venture from Shiva Nirvana, marks Ravi Teja's return to the big screen in style. Starring Priya Bhavani Shankar and Baby Nakshatra in prominent roles, the film combines a devotional angle with family drama and crime elements. More significantly, Irumudi delivers on its promise of being an entertaining showcase of the actor's prowess as a storyteller.

Story
Trinadh (Ravi Teja) is an Ayyappa Swamy devotee and owns a banana plantation in Polluru. He is deeply fond of his daughter Manemma. In fact, Manemma narrates every incident that occurs in her life to her father. But everything changes when she, along with other girls

from the village, goes to a nearby village for her studies. The developments lead Trinadh down a fateful path that eventually takes him on a rollercoaster ride of crime and family drama.

Performances
The highlight of Irumudi is undoubtedly Ravi Teja's performance. As the Mass Maharaja sheds off his larger than life image, the actor displays shades of a multi-talented hero that we have been seeing in rare screens in recent times. Ravi Teja's emotional

RATING: 4/5

range deserves immense applause as he manages to leave an indelible mark on the audiences' minds. The star's pairing with Baby Nakshatra is yet another strong aspect of the film, as both display realistic father-daughter bonding onscreen. Baby's

performance is indeed a standout as she manages to slip into the skin of her character and perform realistically throughout the film. In addition to Baby Nakshatra, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Sai Kumar, Ramesh Indira, and others have excelled in their respective roles.

Technicalities

Shiva Nirvana must be praised for delivering a film that does not veer towards commercialism. In fact, the Ninnu Kori director manages to keep the narrative engaging without deviating from the core theme. The film's emotional and intense sequences are beautifully portrayed, aided by GV

Prakash Kumar's music and background score. Similarly, cinematographer Vishnu Sharma captures the beauty of the locales, especially the hills of Sileru, to perfection. The other technical departments, including production design and editing, are equally impressive.

Analysis
The film's first-half runs on a slightly slower note. Also, the second half lacks in certain areas, which is apparent in the meandering narrative. Additionally, certain developments in the crime and mystery departments seem cliched and predictable. However, such drawbacks are negligible in the larger scheme of things. The father and daughter's equation is portrayed beautifully, as is the emotional quotient in the story. Irumudi is a feel-good film, which delivers what it promises to deliver. Ravi Teja is certainly back in the race with a stellar performance that has the potential to change the perception of him being only a mass entertainer.



A new singing talent hunt launched in Tamil Nadu



ASPIRING singers from Tamil Nadu are in for a great treat as Sony VIZHA and Sony LIV announced the launch of the first season of Tamil Idol. Music composer AR Rahman will be the super judge of the reality singing competition that will give vocal talents a chance to become playback and independent singers. Tamil Idol is a song competition that will enable young singers to gain exposure and help them make a mark in the playback and independent music industry. It will also enable the participants to perform alongside renowned music directors in a well-organized environment. The singing competition will commence in Velammal Vidyalaya Annexure, Mel Ayanambakkam, Chennai. Young vocal talents aged between 14 and 30 can audition for the reality singing competition that will offer a wide platform for budding singers to exhibit their singing prowess. Besides capturing the essence of the rich tradition and culture of Tamil music, Tamil Idol will also witness the evolution of music while showcasing the different styles of the young singers. The selected candidates will get an incredible opportunity to learn from the best in the business while performing on a big stage. Singers who wish to participate in the competition need to carry their original identity proof on the day of the audition and prepare their desired song repertoire. The young singing sensations can become playback singers if they give their best performance on the day of the final round.

'Dharmasthala Niyojakavargam' locks Sept 4 worldwide release

THE latest Telugu Political entertainer Dharmasthala Niyojakavargam is all set to release globally on September 4th. A press meet was organized recently to create awareness about the film which has a unique political entertainment theme.

The film 'Dharmasthala Niyojakavargam' is directed by Jai Jnana Prabha Thota and produced by Merum Bhaskar under the banner of Moving Dreams India Private Limited. The film stars Suman, Saikumar, Nataraj, Varun Sandesh and Vithika Sheru in lead roles.

The film promises to be political entertainer with an unique twist. The makers believe that the film will entertain the viewers with its theme and stellar cast on board. The film is all set to release across the Telugu states under PVR Cinemas Distribution.



NSV Productions' 'Village Stars' gets a grand launch

A Telugu entertainer named Village Stars' has launched in the presence of chief guest Sameer at the Venkateswara Veeranjanya Swamy Temple in Venkatagiri. The film which is set to mark the production house's debut in the Telugu film industry promises to present a different story line and a young energetic team.

Sameer who was the chief guest at the launch function wished the team all the best for their future projects. The actor also appreciated Narendra's work and said that they are going to see many more successful films from his team.

Starring as the lead pair is Narendra and Lilly Ballu.

The film also stars Srinivas, Syed Abzal, Vijay and others in crucial roles. Whereas, it is Narendra who is set to



make his directorial debut with this film, Nagoor NGR has been signed on for the story.

Narendra requested the people to support Village Stars movie. Hailing from Odisha, Lilly said that she is

elated to make her Telugu debut. She also thanked the viewers for giving her this wonderful opportunity. Jabardasth actor Vasu along with social activist Sampath and actor Radhakrishna also wished the team for their big debut.

Producer SKN launches 'Missing Meghana' teaser

THE teaser of the upcoming film 'Missing Meghana' was unveiled by the successful producer SKN, who added new momentum to the promotional race of the movie. The teaser offers an intriguing concept and has already received excellent feedback from the team and viewers.

The film is directed by Vachaspathi and produced by Panchumarthi Naresh Babu under the banners of First Copy Movies and KD & Co. It stars Ram Karthik,

Ammu Abhirami, Vaidika Senjalya, and Ankit Koyya in the lead roles and Goparaju Ramana, Vempa Kasi, Koushik, Mahipal, and others in the pivotal roles.

At the teaser launch, SKN appreciated the film's innovative concept, saying that modern viewers want fresh content and that Missing Meghana will gather more strength to become a big hit. The film's director, Vachaspathi, thanked the producer for believing in the project. He also thanked VV Vinayak for reveal-

ing the title motion poster and Suresh Babu for releasing the first single, Pilla Pilla Pilla.

Meanwhile, Ram Kartik was delighted by the fabulous response to the promotional campaign, and music director RR Dhruvan noted that the viral song and teaser have already created a great buzz about the film. Sam K Naidu and Dhruvan have created beautiful cinematography and music for Missing Meghana, which will soon captivate the viewers.



Telugu cinema gets major boost with Telangana govt's new GO

THE Telangana Government's latest Government Order (GO) has been received well by many for its intent to promote and safeguard the film industry by creating a healthy ecosystem for the movie makers and workers.

The new policy aims to create a regulated environment for premium films with enhanced ticket prices.

These price hikes will not be automatic and will have to be approved on a case-to-case basis by the government for eligible blockbuster films.

As per the circular, multiplexes and single screen theaters will have to keep 25 percent of the total seats in all categories for cheaper fares in all locations.

Moreover, the policy will allow five shows daily for any big-ticket release, which would help first-time and smaller filmmakers utilize the free slots on the same day.

The circular also proposes an idea for a welfare fund for cine workers. According to Active Telugu Film Producers Guild (ATFPG), the GO will motivate people to invest in films and take the Telugu film industry to greater heights.