



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.



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



Why give kids eggs when we have pure-veg detergent?

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, satel-

CALLS FOR WIDER APPLICATION OF SPACE TECHNOLOGIES



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

lites, 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. **Continued on Page 7**

VIVEKA MURDER PROBE

ED adds money-laundering angle

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has widened and intensified its investigation into the murder of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy, conducting searches at six locations in Hyderabad and Kadapa districts, as part of a separate probe into alleged money laundering linked to the case.

The ED action assumes

- Raids Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy's residences
- Rs 4 crore allegedly changed hands before the murder
- Five ED teams carried out searches in Kadapa dist, Hyd



Y S Avinash Reddy

political significance as one of the searches was conducted at the residence of YSRCP MP YS Avinash Reddy in

Pulivendula and Hyderabad. Officials reportedly seized documents from the premises. **Continued on Page 7**



CM to visit Anakapalli district today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to tour Anakapalli district on Saturday to participate in a host of programmes. As part of his itin-

erary, the Chief Minister will visit A. Koduru village in K Kotapadu mandal of Anakapalli to take part in the Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra programme.

Continued on Page 7



ప్రమాణస్వీకారోత్సవ శుభాకాంక్షలు

అఖిలాండకోటి బ్రవర్తందనాయకుడు,

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BREZZA



Vijayawada aims to become model town for road safety

• District collector Dr G Lakshmisha unveils posters for the project

• The programme will focus on four key areas — engineering, enforcement, education and emergency care

• Traffic regulations will be strictly enforced through zero-tolerance zones as part of the enforcement measures

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DISTRICT collector Dr G Lakshmisha on Friday called for the active participation of all stakeholders to transform Vijayawada into a model town for road safety, stating



Collector Dr G Lakshmisha releasing a poster on Friday

that the Ideal Town on Road Safety Project would play a key role in achieving this objective.

The collector unveiled posters for the project at the Collectorate on Friday. The initiative is being implemented with the support of the Transport and Police Departments, with the Honda India Foundation as the CSR partner and TRAX – Road Safety NGO as the implementing agency. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Dr Lakshmisha said the project aims to reduce road accident deaths and injuries by 10 to 15 percent, while promoting responsible road behaviour among the public.

The programme will focus on four key areas — Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Care. Under the engineering component, infrastructure deficiencies at accident-prone black spots will be identified and rectified. Traffic regulations will

be strictly enforced through zero-tolerance zones as part of the enforcement measures.

Under the education component, road safety awareness programmes will be conducted for nearly 70,000 students in 105 schools and 14 colleges. Special campaigns will focus on the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts, maintaining lane discipline and ensuring pedestrian safety. The emergency care component will focus

on training first responders to provide timely first aid and assistance to accident victims. Dr Lakshmisha said coordinated efforts involving government departments, the police, private organisations, educational institutions, voluntary groups and other stakeholders were essential to reducing road accident fatalities and injuries.

The project seeks to bring all concerned agencies onto a common platform and promote coordinated action to make Vijayawada safer for motorists, pedestrians and other road users. Among those present were representatives of the Honda India Foundation, Vijayawada-NHAI Project Director Vidyasagar, TRAX – Road Safety NGO, Delhi, General Secretary Rajani Gandhi, Regional Programme Officer M Vasu and others.

• Chairman of the Zilla Grandhalaya Sanstha MS Baig says timely availability of financial resources will enable dist and rural libraries to improve services and infrastructure

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MS Baig, chairman of the Zilla Grandhalaya Sanstha for the erstwhile Krishna district, has welcomed the Andhra Pradesh government's initiatives to strengthen and modernise libraries across the State, particularly the proposed direct transfer of library cess funds to Grandhalaya Sanstha and the plan to establish libraries in all 175 Assembly constituencies.

Baig appreciated Education Minister Nara Lokesh for the key announcements made in the Assembly regarding the



MS Baig, chairman of the Zilla Grandhalaya Sanstha

development of the library sector. He described the decision to directly credit funds collected through the library cess into the accounts of Sanstha as a historic and welcome move.

He said the timely availability of financial resources would enable district and rural libraries to improve their services and infrastructure. The proposal to establish libraries in all 175 constituencies and upgrade

facilities in places where libraries already exist would give a new direction to the library movement in Andhra Pradesh, he added.

According to Baig, modern and accessible libraries in every constituency would greatly benefit students, unemployed youth, competitive examination aspirants, readers and researchers. Libraries, particularly in rural areas, play a crucial role in providing access to quality books, newspapers, magazines, digital resources and a peaceful environment for study.

The direct availability of library cess funds would allow all the Zilla Grandhalaya Sansthas to address local requirements and improve infrastructure, including library buildings, furniture, books, computers, digital facilities, drinking water, toilets and reading halls, he said.



Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy inspecting the RTC bus station at Annavaram on Friday

Minister inspects Annavaram bus station

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAKINADA

TRANSPORT Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy inspected the RTC bus station at Annavaram on Friday and reviewed the facilities being provided to passengers. He went around the bus station and checked the basic amenities available for commuters. He also interacted with passengers and sought their views on the implementation of the free bus travel scheme for women under the Stree Shakti scheme. Several women passengers expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the scheme and said it had been

useful for them. At the same time, some women requested the minister to increase the number of Pallevu and Express services and take steps to ensure that buses halt at all authorised stops. Responding to their requests, the minister directed RTC officials to take measures to provide better facilities and ensure that passengers do not face inconvenience at the bus station.

Later, the minister had breakfast with RTC drivers, conductors and other staff at the bus station canteen. The RTC staff brought several issues to his notice, which the minister discussed with them.

Vice-President to visit Eluru dist on Aug 24



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ELURU

VICE President of India C P Radhakrishnan will visit Eluru district on the August 24th. He will leave Delhi in a special flight at 7.15 am and reach Gannavaram at 9.35 am. He will leave Gannavaram by road at 9.45 am and reach Gourmet Popcorn Factory in Musunuru at 10.45 am. He will participate in the launch of new popcorn seeds till 12.15 pm. Farmers will be felicitated. After that, he will leave Musunuru by road at 12.35 am and go to Gannavaram airport.

Special pujas performed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

SPECIAL pujas were performed to Goddess Bhramaramba at Pedakakani temple on Friday on the occasion of auspicious Varalakshmi Vratham. The deity was colourfully decorated with Pasupu Kommulu. A large number of devotees visited the temple and performed pujas seeking blessings of Goddess Bhramaramba to fulfil their wishes. Devotees believe that if they perform special pujas on the occasion of Varalakshmi Vratham, they will be blessed with Aidavatanam. Devasthanam authorities made necessary arrangements for the convenience of the



Women performing Varalakshmi Vratham at Ashtalakshmi temple in Guntur on Friday

devotees visiting the temple.

Similarly special pujas were performed to Goddess Lakshmi Temple in Arundel-pet here. Special pujas were performed to Goddess Lakshmi with various flowers and Kumkum. Deity was colourfully decorated. Devotees visited the temple and

performed the pujas seeking blessings of Goddess Lakshmi.

Similarly, special pujas were performed to Goddess Kalika Devi, Pratyangira Devi at Courtallam Peetham in Pattabhipuram here. Women devotees perform pujas to Goddess Vara Lakshmi at their houses.

Arrest of accused in TDR bond scam sought

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAKINADA

THE BJP has urged the State government to register criminal cases and arrest those held responsible in the alleged TDR bond scam in Kakinada, expressing surprise that no arrests have been made despite a Vigilance inquiry and the submission of a report to the Chief Secretary. In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, BJP leaders alleged that TDR bonds worth around Rs 10,000 crore were issued across the State between 2019 and 2024 during the YSR Congress government in violation of rules. They alleged that in Kakinada alone, TDR bonds worth around Rs 500 crore were issued for acquisition of about 9.5 acres at Dummulapeta, allegedly benefiting private individuals. The BJP alleged that the then Kakinada City MLA, municipal officials and revenue authorities had acted in collusion in the matter. The party said it had lodged complaints through registered post on February 3, 2024, with the then Chief Vigilance and Enforcement Department, Chief Secretary, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Town and Country Planning and Municipal Administration authorities, seeking an inquiry into the alleged irregularities. According to the BJP senior leader Duvvuri Subrahmanyam, the Vigilance Department subsequently conducted an inquiry and submitted its report to the present Chief Secretary on April 20,

2026. The party leaders questioned why criminal cases had not yet been registered against those found responsible. He urged the Chief Secretary to initiate criminal proceedings immediately and take action against all those responsible for the alleged irregularities.

The complaint addressed to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, State Municipal Administration Minister and Chief Sec-

retary was signed by BJP Kakinada district president Bikkina Visweswara Rao, Civil Supplies Corporation director Enimireddy Malakondayya, BJP State spokesperson Yarlagadda Ram Kumar, senior leader Duvvuri Subrahmanyam and others. They questioned why the vigilance report did not hold the then RDO and members of the scrutiny committee responsible.

Mandal-level leadership to strengthen safe drinking water access



Mandal-level workshop on Safe water for all and always at Vissannapet in NTR district on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

WHILE India has made significant investments in drinking water infrastructure, ensuring that safe water systems continue to function effectively requires more than infrastructure alone. Strong local ownership, coordination among departments and frontline workers, and effective accountability mechanisms are essential for translating policy into sustainable access to safe drinking water. In Andhra Pradesh, the mandal or block level is increasingly emerging as a crucial link between district administrations and Gram Panchayats. It is at this level that policies are translated into action, implementation challenges are identified, and locally relevant solutions can be developed.

Through the India Safe Water Programme, Evidence Action (EAI) Advisors), in partnership with the Rural

Water Supply and Sanitation (RWS&S) Department and the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, has been facilitating mandal-level workshops across 10 districts including Krishna, NTR, Kadapa, Annamayya, Vizianagaram, Bapatla, Parvathipuram, Eluru Palnadu and Bapatla of Andhra Pradesh.

Unlike conventional training programmes, these workshops bring together government officials, water supply engineers, Panchayat representatives, ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, ANMs and other frontline personnel. The objective is to collectively identify challenges affecting safe drinking water delivery and develop practical solutions suited to local conditions. The initiative highlights the importance of integrating water quality monitoring into regular mandal and Gram Panchayat review meetings rather than creating parallel systems. It also focuses on

strengthening accountability for the operation and maintenance of In-Line Chlorination (ILC) devices, which play an important role in ensuring the safety of drinking water. Frontline health and community workers, including ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers and ANMs, along with Panchayat representatives, have an equally important role in addressing misconceptions surrounding chlorinated water and building public confidence in safe water systems.

"These mandal-level workshops reflect the Andhra Pradesh government's commitment to strengthening water quality governance right down to the last mile. By bringing together engineers, health workers and Panchayat representatives on one platform, the government is ensuring that operational challenges are resolved quickly," said Manoj Kumar M, AP Programme Lead, India Safe Water, EAI Advisors.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME
I. GUNPE SOBHAN BABU (NEW NAME) maidenName GUNEPI SOBHANA BABU (old name), D. NO. 4-176 DIVAN THOTA, PENGUDURU (V), KARAPA (M), KAKINADA DISTRICT - 533016, AP. Now changed my name from GUNEPI SOBHANA BABU (old) to GUNPEI SOBHANA BABU (new name). Henceforth to I will be called as GUNPEI SOBHANBABU (new name) for all purpose.

CHANGE OF SURNAME
I. PILLALAMARRI SIVA VENKATA NAGA SARADA, W/o DIVI VEERA BHADRA RAO, Resident of House No. 6-554 (6-119/3), Sri Nilayam, 1st Cross, Superwiz Road, Near Girija Neuro Clinic, Chalasani Nagar, Kanuru, Vijayawada (Rural), Auto Nagar, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh - 520007, Hence I have changed, My name from DIVI SIVA VENKATA NAGA SARADA, TO. (New name), Here after my name is known as PILLALAMARRI SIVA VENKATA NAGA SARADA (new name) w/o DIVI VEERABHADRA RAO.

KRISHNA-KKD

DURGAPRASAD-VJA

CHANGE OF NAME
I. AMARAVATHI DESABATTULA, (Old Name) W/o. SATYANARAYANA DESHABATTULA, resident of H.No.1-283, CHURCH STREET PATHAPETA, RAJAVOLU, East Godavari, 533124, Andhra Pradesh, Hence I have Changed My Name To AMARAVATHI DESHABATTULA, (New Name) hereafter My Name is Known AMARAVATHI DESHABATTULA (New Name)

CHANGE OF NAME
I. MALLAVARAPU NAGA SATYA VARAPRASAD S/O Mallavarapu Gururaya R/O 3-27/2, Redla Ramalayam Street, Gopalapuram, VTC - Ravulapalem, Dist. East Godavari, (Andhra Pradesh) - 533274 have changed the name of my minor son Mallavarapu Babu aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as MALLAVARAPU CHANDRAKIRAN.

SRINIVAS GOLD

TM RAO

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Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL), formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of Aug '2026.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :

1. Dumpeti Srinivasarao, S/o Venkateswarlu, Dno. 4-182, Pavuluru (Po), Parchur (Md), Prakasam Dt.
2. Dumpeti Vijaya, W/o Srinivas, Dno. 4-182, Pouluri Post, Parchuru (Md), Prakasam Dt-523333.
3. Pusukuri Srinivasarao, (Died) S/o Lakshmaiah, Dno. 4-646, Shalivahana Nagar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
4. Pusukuri Anjamma, W/o. Late Pusukuri Srinivasarao, Aged About 51 Years, Dno. 4-646, Shalivahana Nagar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt - 522647.
5. Pusukuri Kondalu, S/o. Late Pusukuri Srinivasarao, Aged About 30 Years, Dno. 4-646, Shalivahana Nagar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt - 522647.
6. Pusukuri Gouthami, D/o. Late Pusukuri Srinivasarao, Aged About 26 Years, Dno. 4-646, Shalivahana Nagar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt - 522647.

(Pusukuri Srinivas Rao Was Died And He Was Guranor, No-4 To No-6 Are Legal Heirs Of Deceased Guranor).

Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of Rs. 24,51,606/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Six only). under reference of Loan A/c No: VKNK3TF2109090008 Demand Notice Dated: 10-02-2026

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property DUMPETI SRINIVASA RAO Of You
Guntur District, Narasaraopet Registration District, Vinukonda Municipal Area, Vinukonda, D.No.856/1 an extent of Ac.3.00 cents an extent of 170.3 sq.yds of site out of which after excluding 170.3 sq.yds alienated, the remaining extent being 112.0 sq.yds or 93.643 sq.mts of house site and a RCC roof residential ground and first floor building constructed therein bearing Door No.31-1281/5 and Asst. No. 1131013392 bounded by: East : 25 links wide baazar.24.0 Ft. West : Site of Devineni Gopi. 24.0 Ft. North : Daba House of Yenduri Nageswara Rao. 42.0 Ft. South : 25 links wide baazar. 42.0 Ft. Within the above an extent of 112.0 sq.yds or 93.643 sq. mts of house site and a RCC roof residential ground and first floor building constructed therein bearing Door No. 31-1281/5 and Asst. No. 1131013392 only. (This property corresponds to Doc. No. 7796/2015 of S.R.O. Vinukonda).

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place : Guntur
Date : 19.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM Finance
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Office Address : Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal Office, ShriramEnclave, Annapuram Nagar, 5th Lane, Inner Ring Road, Gorantla, Guntur - 522034.

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The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of Aug '2026.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :

1. Shaik Mastan Vali, S/o Khasim Peera, Dno.21-051, Old Masid Bazar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
2. Shaik Shamim Munnisa, W/o Shaik Mastan Vali, Dno.21-051, Old Masid Bazar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
3. Patta Karimulla, S/o Khasimsaheb, Dno.17-123, Kattakinda Bazar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Palnadu Dt-522647.

Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of Rs. 24,29,417/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen only) under reference of Loan A/c No: VKNK3TF2305250004 Demand Notice Dated: 03-03-2026.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property SHAIK MASTAN VALI Of You
Palnadu District (Previously Guntur District), Narasaraopet Registration District, Vinukonda Sub District, Vinukonda Municipality, Vinukonda Village, D.No.390/1B, Door No.21-51, an extent of 107.85 sq.yds or 90.173 sq.mts of house site along with RCC roof residential building constructed therein bearing Door No.21-51, 51/1 and Asst.No.1131008509 bounded by: Ground Floor, RCC: 720 Sq.ft, First Floor, RCC: 720 Sq.ft, East: Passage of Kundurthi Subhani etc. South: House of Shaik Gouse Peera, Joint wall. West : House of Kundurthi Bada Subhani. North : Municipal Bazaar. Within the above, an extent of 107.85 sq.yds or 90.173 sq.mts of house site along with RCC roof residential building constructed therein bearing Door No.21-51, 51/1 and Asst.No.1131008509 located in Revenue Ward No.9, Kundurthi Bazaar, Vinukonda only. (This property corresponds to Doc.No. 3227/2010 of S.R.O. Vinukonda).

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place : Guntur
Date : 19.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Office Address : Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal Office, ShriramEnclave, Annappurna Nagar, 5th Lane, Inner Ring Road, Gorantla, Guntur – 522034.

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The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **18th day of Aug '2026**.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :
1. G.B.V.N.Kishore @ Kishore, S/o. Narayana Rao, R/o. D.No.11-2-964, 22nd Ward, Rama Talkies Line, Macherla, Guntur District – 522426.
2. K.Ch.Mallaiiah, S/o. Anjaneyulu, R/o. D.No.1-203, near Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Durgi Mandal, Guntur District – 522616.
Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of **Rs. 59,79,692/- (Fifty nine lakhs seventy nine thousand six hundred ninety two rupees only)** under reference of Loan A/c No: **MCRL1TF1212310001**
Demand Notice Dated: **10-12-2025**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property G.B.V.N.Kishore @ Kishore Of You Prakasam District, Markapuram Sub-District, Peda Dornala Panchayat Area, Peda Dornala village, Survey No.125, an extent of 384 sq.yds or 322.56 sq.mts of vacant site **bounded by: East:** Land of Perumalla Yogi Ramaiah, **South:** Land of Perumalla Yogi Ramaiah, **West:** Land of Challa Subbaiah, **North:** Donka Road. **Within the above an extent of 384 sq.yds or 322.56 sq.mts of vacant site only. (This property corresponds to Doc.No.1229/1993 of S.R.O. Markapur).**

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of **SFL** is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of **SFL**.

Place : Guntur
Date : 18.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Office Address : Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal Office, ShriramEnclave, Annappurna Nagar, 5th Lane, Inner Ring Road, Gorantla, Guntur – 522034.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL)**, formerly known as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF)** under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **18th day of Aug '2026**.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :
1. Jupudi. Venkateswarlu S/o J. Gurudev, R/o Kunta Thokapalle, Prakasam(dt).
2. Jupudi. Anasuya W/o J. Venkateswarlu, R/o Kunta Thokapalle, Prakasam(dt).
3. M. Bijja Naik S/o M. Balaji Naik, R/o D no:19-793/1, Hnauman Nagar, Vinukonda, Guntur(dt).

Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of **Rs. 46,66,129/- (Forty Six lakhs Sixty Six thousand One Hundred Twenty Nine Rupees Only)** under reference of Loan A/c No: **VNKN3TF1508250001**
Demand Notice Dated: **23-12-2025**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property Jupudi Anasuya Of You Prakasam District, Markapuram Registration District, Markapuram Sub-Dist., Peda Araveedu Mandal, Tokapalli Gram Panchayat Area, Tokapalli Village, Survey No.2/1, out of 380 sq.yds, an extent of 125 sq.yds or 105 sq.mts of vacant site bounded by: **East :** Site of Biklani Venkata Swamy Reddy . 90 Ft. **South :** Road. 16.2 Ft. **West :** Site of Duddela Venkata Reddy. 95 Ft. **North :** Road. 8.10 Ft. **Within the above extent of 125 sq.yds or 105 sq.mts of vacant site only. (This property corresponds to Doc.No.5790/2011 of S.R.O. Markapuram)**

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of **SFL** is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of **SFL**.

Place : Guntur
Date : 18.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Office Address : Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal Office, ShriramEnclave, Annappurna Nagar, 5th Lane, Inner Ring Road, Gorantla, Guntur – 522034.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL)**, formerly known as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF)** under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **19th day of Aug '2026**.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :
1. Tammisetty Kondalarao, S/o Bikshalu, Dno.33-26,Indira Nagar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
2. Tammisetty Ramayogulu, W/o Bikshalu, Dno.33-26,Indira Nagar, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
3. Bandaru Srinivasu, S/o Venkateswarlu, Dno.34-84, Indira Nagar,2Nd Ward, Vinukonda (Po&Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of **Rs. 22,62,158/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty Eight only)** under reference of Loan A/c No: **VNKN3TF2109300004**
Demand Notice Dated: **23-04-2026**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property TAMMISSETTY RAMA YOGULU Of You Guntur District, Narasaraopet Registration District, Vinukonda Sub District, Vinukonda Municipal Area, Vinukonda, D.No.401/A an extent of Ac.36.50 cents and as per resurvey, D.No.401/2-A out of Ac.3.00 cents, an extent of Ac.0.03 cents or 145.2 sq.yds or 121.968 sq.mts of vacant site situated beside Door No.34-119 bounded by: **East :** Site of Motakalla Bali Reddy. 100 Links (66.0 Ft.). **West :** House of Balladugu Galaiah. 100 Links (66.0 Ft.). **North :** Bazaar. 30 Links (19.9 Ft.). **South :** Site sold by Balladugu Galaiah. 30 Links (19.9 Ft.).
Within the above, an extent of Ac.0.03 cents or 145.2 sq.yds or 121.968 sq.mts of vacant site situated beside Door No.34-119 only. (This property corresponds to Doc. No. 6120/2007 of S.R.O. Vinukonda)

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of **SFL** is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of **SFL**.

Place : Guntur
Date : 19.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

Central Bank holds retail loan outreach camp

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Vijayawada regional office of Central Bank of India organised a retail loan outreach camp here on Friday.

The programme was aimed at creating awareness among customers and members of the

public about the bank's range of retail loan products. Officials provided information on home loans, education loans, gold loans, vehicle loans and other retail credit facilities.

Participants were briefed on the interest rates, simplified loan processing procedures and customer-friendly



Central Bank of India officials participating in the camp

services offered under various loan schemes. Bank officials also explained the eligibility criteria and facilities available to help customers choose loan products based on their financial requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijayawada Regional Head E Venkateswara Rao urged the public to make use of the retail loan facilities offered by the bank for their housing, edu-

cation, vehicle purchase and other financial needs, including loans against gold.

Bank officials appealed to residents of Vijayawada and surrounding areas to approach their nearest Central Bank of India branch for detailed information on retail loan schemes and to avail themselves of suitable financial products based on their individual requirements.



Central Bank of India Regional Head G Ramana Rao and officials participating in the credit outreach programme in Narasaraopet on Friday

Loan sanction letters distributed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NARASARAOPET

THE Central Bank of India of Narasaraopet Branch on Friday conducted a retail credit outreach programme. The aim of the programme is to create awareness among customers about various retail loan products and their benefits. Sanction letters were also distributed to eligible customers during the programme. Central Bank of India Regional Head G Ramana Rao participated in the programme and distributed housing loan sanction letters amounting to approximately Rs 2 crore to customers.

Speaking on this occasion, he explained the key features and benefits of various retail loan products, particularly Housing Loans and Car Loans, and encouraged customers to make use of the bank's attractive loan facilities according to their financial requirements. He also informed customers that, as part of a special festive season offer, 100% waiver of processing charges on Housing Loans and Car Loans is being provided up to December 2026. Eligible customers were encouraged to take advantage of this special offer.

Sowcar Janaki: A cinematic legacy with Rajahmundry roots

DEEKSHITULA
SUBRAHMANYAM
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

THE passing of veteran actress Sowcar Janaki in Chennai on Friday has brought back memories of her close association with Rajamahendravaram, the city where she was born and grew up before embarking on a remarkable journey that made her one of the most respected actresses in South Indian cinema. Janaki died in Chennai at the age of 94 following age-related ailments, bringing the curtain down on a career spanning more than seven decades. She acted in nearly 400 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam and remained active in cinema and on stage for several generations.

For Rajamahendravaram, her story has a special significance. Born Sankaramanchi Janaki on December 12, 1931, she belonged to a Kannada-speaking Madhwa Brahmin family. Her parents were T Venkoji Rao and Sachi Devi. Janaki was brought up in Rajahmundry, where her early years were shaped by the cultural atmosphere along the banks of the Godavari. They reside in the Papernmill officers' colony at that time.

Her father, Venkoji Rao, was a paper industry specialist. He studied paper manufacturing and chemical engineering in England and later worked in the paper industry. His professional career brought the family to Rajahmundry, where Janaki spent her formative years. Her mother, Sachi Devi, hailed from Guwahati in Assam. Though the family had links with different parts of the country, Rajahmundry became an important part of Janaki's early life. According to sources, the family lived in the papernmill officers' colony and an old building opposite the Gokavaram bus stand area in the city at that time.

The artistic atmosphere around the family gradually found expression in Janaki. She was drawn to performance from a young age and became associated with radio programmes before entering films. Her younger sister Krishna Kumari too went on to become a celebrated actress, making the family's connection with cinema even more remarkable. Janaki entered the film industry in 1949, and her breakthrough came with the 1950 Telugu film Shavukaru, directed by LV Prasad. She played the female lead opposite NT Rama Rao. The success of the film gave her the name by which generations of film lovers came to know her, Sowcar Janaki.

According to veteran film actor and noted stage musician of Rajamahendravaram, Sripada Jith Mohan Mitra, Janaki's family left Rajamahendravaram for Calcutta in 1948, when she was around 17 years old. He said that she did not return to Rajamahendravaram later for film shootings or stage performances. He expressed his condolences for her. He praised that her contribution was not confined to cinema. She performed extensively on stage and was associated with radio in her early years. Her career spanned more than seven decades.

Her long career brought several honours, including the Kalaimamani award from the Tamil Nadu Government and the Padma Shri from the Government of India in 2022. Janaki's death has been mourned across the film industry, but in Rajamahendravaram the memories are especially personal. The city remembers not only a celebrated actress who went on to make her mark across South Indian cinema, but also the young girl who grew up along the banks of the Godavari before her name became part of Indian film history.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Narasaraopet Branch (00884)
Narasaraopet, Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh-522601

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **State Bank of India, Narasaraopet Branch, Narasaraopet, Palnadu District**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated 01-06-2026** calling upon the **Borrowers: Sri Motapothula Venkata Swamy Gupta S/o Venkateswarlu, Flat No.104, Vamsi Towers, Prakash Nagar, Narasaraopet, Palnadu District – 522601**, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **HTL A/c No. 30368609031 of Rs.1,66,567/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Seven Only)** as on **01-06-2026** within 60 days from the date of the said notice plus you are also liable to pay interest thereon at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.

The borrowers and the guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this **17-08-2026**.

The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India, Narasaraopet Branch, Narasaraopet, Palnadu District** for an amount of **Rs.1,66,567/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Seven Only)** as on **01.06.2026** with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule-A: All the part and parcel of the property at Palnadu District, Narasaraopet Sub District & SRO, Narasaraopet Municipality, Narasaraopet Town, Prakash Nagar, Old C.T.O Office Bazaar, and Present Saphthapadi Kalyana Mandapam Bazaar, Municipal Old Ward No.4, New Ward No.10, Old Survey No.330, T.S No.1796, 1803/1, an extent of 36 Sq.Yds or 30.09 Sq.Mtrs of undivided and unspecified share out of the total extent of 1238.66 Sq.Yds or 1035.67 Sq.Mtrs of site, with an apartment constructed therein, under the name and style of "VIDYA VIHAR". **Apartment Boundaries:** East: Municipal Bazaar-66'8", South: Tiyyagura Suresh Reddy site some extent, Gunda Bhaskara Rao Property-163'6". **West:** Arudala Ramaiah, Boyapati Kamala Devi and T.Veeraiiah-67'3". **North:** Polepalli Subbarao, Mohan Reddy, B.Raja Babu-169'6"

Schedule-B : An undivided and unspecified share of 'A' Shedule site an extent of 36 Sq.Yds or 30.09 Sq.Mtrs of site along with bearing flat no.306, located in the Second floor of "VIDYA VIHAR" with plinth area of 1255 sft (Excluding common area) with One Car Parking. Covered by Regd Sale Deed Doc No.10/2008. Dated: 22.12.2008. and Regd.Rectification Deed Doc No.2526/2008. Dated.03.03.2008. Belongs to **Sri Motapothula Venkateswamy Gupta S/o Venkateswarlu. Flat Boundaries:** East: Common corridor adjacent to stair case and lift. **South:** Common Corridor apart and open to sky. **West:** Open to sky. **North:** Open to sky.

Place : Narasaraopet, Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Narasaraopet Branch, Narasaraopet, Palnadu Dist.
Date : 17-08-2026.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Office Address : Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal Office, ShriramEnclave, Annappurna Nagar, 5th Lane, Inner Ring Road, Gorantla, Guntur – 522034.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL)**, formerly known as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF)** under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **19th day of Aug '2026**.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :
1. Sikakolli Naga Venkata Ramarao, S/o Anjaneyulu, Dno. 1-124, Agnigundala (Po), Ipur (Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
2. Sikakolli Anjani, W/o Naga Venkata Ramarao, Dno. 1-124, Agnigundala (Po), Ipur (Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
3. Sikakolli Yogneswara Rao, S/o Anjaneyulu, Dno. 1-124, Agnigundala (Po), Ipur (Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
4. Yenumala Venkaiah, S/o Yesu, Dno. 2-14, Agnigundala (Po), Ipur (Md), Guntur Dt-522647.
Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of **Rs.21,87,370.77 ps (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy and Seventy Seven paise only)** under reference of Loan A/c No: **VNKN3TF2206290002**
Demand Notice Dated: **20-11-2025**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property SIKHAKOLLI NAGA VENKATA RAMA RAO & SIKHAKOLLI YOGESWARA RAO Of You Item No. 1:- Guntur District, Narasaraopet Registration District, Vinukonda Sub District, Vinukonda Municipal area, Vinukonda , D. no.390/1A7 out of Ac.0.91 cents, near Door No. 29-2574 an extent of 205.0 sq.yds, out of which on the eastern side an extent of 102.5 sq.yds or 85.7 sq.mts of vacant site bounded by: **East :** 20.0 Ft. wide Bazaar. 20.6 Ft. **West :** Item No. 2 site belonging to Sikhakolli Yogeswara Rao. 20.6 Ft. **North :** Site of Konduru Srinivasa Rao etc. 45.0 Ft. **South :** Site of Desu Padmavathi. 45.0 Ft. **Within the above, an extent of 102.5 sq.yds or 85.7 sq.mts of vacant site only. (This property corresponds to Doc. No. 763/2020 of S.R.O. Vinukonda and belongs to Sri Sikhakolli Naga Venkata Rama Rao)**

Item No.2:- Guntur District, Narasaraopet Registration District, Vinukonda Sub District, Vinukonda Municipal area, Vinukonda , D. no.390/1A7 out of Ac.0.91 cents, near Door No. 29-2574 an extent of 205.0 sq.yds, out of which on the western side an extent of 102.5 sq.yds or 85.7 sq.mts of vacant site bounded by: **East :** Item No. 1 site belonging to Naga Venkata Rama Rao. 20.6 Ft. **West :** 20.0 Ft. Bazaar. 20.6 Ft. **North :** Site of Konduru Srinivasa Rao etc. 45.0 Ft. **South :** Site of Desu Padmavathi. 45.0 Ft. **Within the above, an extent of 102.5 sq.yds or 85.7 sq.mts of vacant site only. (This property corresponds to Doc. No. 764/2020 of S.R.O. Vinukonda and belongs to Sri Sikhakolli Yogeswara Rao)**

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of **SFL** is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of **SFL**.

Place : Guntur
Date : 19.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Office Address : Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal Office, ShriramEnclave, Annappurna Nagar, 5th Lane, Inner Ring Road, Gorantla, Guntur – 522034.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL)**, formerly known as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF)** under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **18th day of Aug '2026**.

BORROWERS NAMES AND ADDRESS :
1. Pasupuleti Venkata Siva Teja W/O Anand Kumar Dno. 30-562 To 30-565 Nrt Road, Near Sivayaya Stupam, Vinukonda, Palnadu Dt-522647.
2. Meda Anand Kumar, S/O Narasimha Rao, Dno. 1-84, Veera Reddy Colony, Uppal, K V Ranga Reddy, ap-500039
3. Pasupuleti Rajeswari W/O Ranga Babu, Dno. 30-551, Markapuram Road, Near Vignitable Market, Vinukonda, Palnadu Dt-522647.
4. Kore Ranga Babu S/O Pedda Rangaiah, Dno. 30-551, Markapuram Road, Near Vignitable Market, Vinukonda, Palnadu Dt-522647.
5. Kori Sri Ranga Murthi Natesh S/O Ranga Babu, Dno. 30-551, Markapuram Road, Near Vignitable Market, Vinukonda, Palnadu Dt-522647.
Amount due as per Demand Notice: To pay of **Rs. 59,01,671.21/- Fifty Nine lakhs One thousand Six hundred Seventy One and Twenty One paise rupees only)** under reference of Loan A/c No: **VNKN3TF2203290002 & VNKN3TF2303280005**, Demand Notice Dated: **16-12-2025**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of Property PASUPULETI RAJESWARI Of You Palnadu District,(Present Guntur District), Narasaraopet Registration District, Vinukonda sub District, Vinukonda Municipal Area , as per the Endorsement of town Surveyor, Vinukonda municipality , D.No. 390/3 of vinukonda , on the eastern side of Door No 30-253, an extent of 50 sq.yds or 41.805 sq.mts of site along with RCC roof building therein bearing Old Door no 30-117, New Door No 30-255 and present Door No 30-551/552 Asst no 1131002870 bounded by: **East :** Property of pasupuleti Venkayamma.37.6 Ft. **South :** Bazaar. 12.0 Ft. **West :** Property of Atchayuta venkateswarlu.37.6 Ft. **North :** Property of Pasupuleti Venkayamma.12.0Ft. **Within the above an extent of 50 sq.yds or 41.805 sq.mts of site along with RCC roof building therein bearing Old Door no 30-117, New Door No 30-255 and present Door No 30-551/552 Asst no 1131002870 Only. (This Property corresponds to Doc. No.2783/1997 of S.R.O. Vinukonda).**

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of **SFL** is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of **SFL**.

Place : Guntur
Date : 18.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

Rs 221.67 cr health infra projects on anvil in state

- Tenders called for 12 projects to strengthen healthcare, AYUSH and medical education
- Six 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals and two medical colleges are among the key projects
- Chinturu CHC to be upgraded to a 100-bed hospital; new OPD block planned at Kakinada GGH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government has initiated the tender process for 12 infrastructure projects worth an estimated Rs 221.67 crore to strengthen healthcare services, AYUSH facilities and medical education across the state.

Health, medical and family welfare minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said in a statement here on Friday that the projects include the construction of six integrated AYUSH multi-specialty hospitals, two

medical colleges and additional facilities at existing institutions and infrastructure development at government hospitals.

Of the 12 works, 10 are related to the AYUSH sector, while two projects pertain to allopathic medical services, the Minister said.

Under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), six 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals will be established at Tekkal in Srikakulam district at a cost of Rs 9.98 crore, Rampachodavaram in Polavaram district for Rs



10.57 crore, Nandigama in NTR district for ₹10.52 crore, Tenali in Guntur district for Rs 10.50 crore, Giddalur in Markapuram district for ₹10.58 crore and Tirupati district for Rs 9.99 crore.

The government will also construct a Government Unani Medical College at Proddatur in Kadapa district at an estimated cost of Rs 49 crore. Another Government Ayurvedic Medical College at

Dharmavaram in Sri Sathya Sai district will be established with an investment of Rs 49 crore.

At the Visakhapatnam Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS), a first floor will be constructed above the existing ground floor of the Government Naturopathy and Yoga College at a cost of Rs 9.37 crore. An additional floor and facilities for the clinical department will also

be developed at the 50-bed Integrated AYUSH Hospital in the same campus at a cost of Rs 3.04 crore.

In the allopathic healthcare sector, the 50-bed Community Health Centre at Chinturu will be upgraded into a 100-bed Area Hospital at an estimated cost of Rs 21.99 crore. A new Out-Patient Department (OPD) block will also be constructed at the Government General Hospital, Kakinada, at a cost of Rs 27.13 crore.

The Andhra Pradesh Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (APMSIDC) has initiated the tender process through e-procurement for the proposed works.

Satya Kumar Yadav said the projects reflect the coalition government's commitment to strengthening medical infrastructure and expanding access to quality healthcare and medical education across Andhra Pradesh.

APMDC bags top corporate bond honour

- Wins 'Best State Linked Issuer' for mobilising ₹9,000 cr via secured NCDs
- Award cites strong governance, compliance and financial management under state leadership
- Recognition credited to collective effort of APMDC teams, govt depts and market institutions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC), a state-owned enterprise, has won the prestigious 'Best State Linked Issuer' award at the ASSOCHAM IX National Summit & Awards on Corporate Bond Market held in Mumbai recently.

The award recognises APMDC's successful mobilisation of Rs 9,000 crore through secured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) in the corporate bond market. The fund-raising exercise is considered a major milestone for a state government-linked



organisation.

APMDC credited the achievement to the leadership and guidance of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and thanked the state finance department, industries and commerce, mines and geology departments and other agencies for their support.

Under the leadership of APMDC managing director Praveen Kumar, the corporation successfully raised the funds with the support of the state government. The transaction demonstrated its financial management capabilities, regulatory compliance, corporate governance and systems for meeting debt repayment obligations.

The award selection involved a detailed assessment of governance, compliance, administration, innovation, business performance, strate-

gic initiatives, operational efficiency and overall contribution to industry growth.

After the initial evaluation by ASSOCHAM's Knowledge and Evaluation Partner, shortlisted nominations were examined by an independent seven-member jury comprising experts from the regulatory, financial and corporate sectors. APMDC said the recognition was the result of collective efforts by its board, employees, bankers, arrangers, credit rating agencies, debenture trustee, stock exchanges and other institutions.

The award marks an important milestone in APMDC's efforts to promote financial discipline, transparency, good governance and sustainable development of Andhra Pradesh's mineral sector.



Picture for representational purpose only

Search for missing fishermen intensifies

- Five ships, aircraft have been pressed into the operation
- Alerts sent to Myanmar, Port Blair and Bangladesh coast

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

SEARCH operations for the seven Andhra Pradesh fishermen missing at sea continued on Friday, with the Indian Coast Guard deploying five ships, two Dornier aircraft and a helicopter to locate their boat.

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu said the State government was maintaining constant coordination with the Coast Guard and Navy and would pursue every possible avenue to trace the fishermen and bring them back safely.

Atchannaidu said officials had spoken to Coast Guard Assistant Commanding Officer Ranjit Kumar to review the latest position. Coast

Guard officials informed them that an extensive search was continuing at sea, though the missing boat had not yet been located.

Information about the vessel has been shared with Coast Guard authorities in Myanmar, Port Blair and coastal areas bordering Bangladesh, with instructions to remain alert for any sighting or information regarding the boat.

The minister said the search would continue without interruption. Coast Guard officials had also assured the State that the officer taking charge after August 24 would continue the operation until the fishermen were traced. He reassured the families that the government was closely monitoring the search and coordinating with all available agencies.

He appealed to the families to remain courageous and not lose hope, assuring them that the search would continue through every possible avenue until the missing boat and fishermen are located.

Civil services main exams begin peacefully

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Main Examination began peacefully at the Vijayawada centre on Friday, with 120 of the 124 registered candidates appearing for the Paper-I Essay examination.

District collector Dr G Lakshmisha inspected the examination centre set up at SRR and CVR Government Junior College in the city and reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the prestigious examination. The collector examined the facilities provided to candidates and instructed officials to ensure that the examinations are conducted in a peaceful and hassle-free environment. He directed the authorities to continue making all necessary arrangements so that candidates do not face any inconvenience.

Dr Lakshmisha said the UPSC Civil Services Main Examinations would be conducted over five days — August 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30. The



Collector Dr G Lakshmisha inspecting the examination centre in Vijayawada on Friday

examinations will generally be held in two sessions, from 9 am to 12 noon and from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. However, on the first day, the examination was conducted only during the morning session. A total of 124 candidates were registered to appear at the Vijayawada examination centre. On the first day, 120 candidates attended the Paper-I Essay examination, while four remained absent.

The collector said com-

prehensive arrangements had been made at the examination centre, including uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, medical facilities and adequate security. Special public transport arrangements were also made from various areas to help candidates reach the examination centre on time. Additional security measures have been put in place to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the examinations.

RTC clerk misuses Rs 31 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

AN alleged Rs 31 lakh financial irregularity at the Ramachandrapuram RTC bus depot came to light, with vigilance officials conducting inspections for the past three days. According to depot sources, depot clerk APK Rao, who had been working in the post for the past five years, allegedly misled senior officials and diverted funds. He is suspected of creating additional-duty documents for extra duties performed by

conductors and using them to misappropriate approximately Rs 30 lakh. Another Rs 1 lakh, collected as advance payments from people who had booked RTC buses for marriages and other functions, was also allegedly diverted.

Vigilance personnel from Vijayawada, Kakinada and Amalapuram have been examining the records and financial transactions at the depot to ascertain the exact amount involved and the manner in which the funds were allegedly diverted. Rao is currently absconding, according to depot officials.

Krea varsity to host regional partnership summit on Oct 26

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

A regional investment conference ahead of the CII Partnership Summit 2026 will be held at Krea University in Sri City on October 26, with a focus on attracting investment and showcasing the industrial potential of the region. As part of the preparations, MSME Development Corporation CEO M Viswa held a virtual meeting with Tirupati District Collector Dr S Venkateswar on Friday. The officials discussed arrangements for the Regional Partnership Summit, which will focus on sectors including tourism and allied areas, electronics, semiconductors and advanced materials, automotive, space and footwear.

The CEO directed officials



District collector Dr S Venkateswar

to set up 30 stalls at the summit to display products developed by MSMEs and startups associated with RTIH. A separate MSME programme will also be organised in Tirupati by September 10 as part of the preparations for the summit. The district administration has appointed the Project Directors of MEPMA and DRDA as nodal officers to coordinate the programmes and ensure their smooth

conduct.

The September 10 MSME programme is expected to bring together around 500 participants, including MSME promoters, startup founders and members of self-help groups. Officials from the concerned departments were asked to work in coordination and complete the preparations well in advance. The meeting was attended by GM-DIC G Chandrasekar, ZM-APIIC Vijay Bharat Reddy, Project Directors of DRDA and MEPMA and other officials.

The regional summit is part of a series of pre-summit conferences being organised across the state ahead of the main CII Partnership Summit 2026 scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam during November 12-13.

Tenant farmers seek ₹2 L unsecured crop loans

- Appeal for unsecured KCC loans up to Rs 2 lakh for RMGs/JLGs with good repayment records
- RBI norms ignored despite permission for collateral-free loans; many farmers still stuck below Rs 1 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association has demanded that tenant farmers, Rythu Mitra Groups (RMGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) with a good loan repayment record be provided unsecured crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh through Kisan

Credit Cards. Association state committee secretary M Haribabu and Farmers' Association state president V Krishnaiah submitted a representation to agriculture department principal secretary B Rajasekhar, urging the government to intervene and ensure easier access to institutional credit for tenant farmers.

The association leaders said members of RMG and JLG groups were not receiving crop loans according to the prescribed scale of finance. They pointed out that despite Reserve Bank of India guidelines permitting unsecured agricultural loans up to Rs 2 lakh, the facility was allegedly not being implemented effectively in Andhra Pradesh.

According to the association, earlier guidelines allowed unsecured crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh.



Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association leaders submit a memorandum to agriculture special chief secretary B Rajasekhar in Vijayawada on Friday

However, with the rising cost of cultivation, the scale of finance for various crops has increased. The association said the limit for agricultural loans without collateral requirements has also been enhanced from Rs 1.6 lakh to Rs 2 lakh.

The leaders argued that the benefits should be extended to all eligible tenant farmers. They expressed concern that even farmers and group members who regularly repay their bank loans were facing difficulties in obtaining crop loans

exceeding Rs 1 lakh.

Haribabu and Krishnaiah urged the agriculture department to hold discussions with State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) officials and ensure that eligible RMG and JLG members receive unsecured crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh.

They further requested that farmers requiring higher credit limits should be provided crop loans of up to Rs 5 lakh, subject to the submission of necessary sureties or guarantees.

Responding to the representation, agriculture special chief secretary Rajasekhar reportedly assured the association leaders that he would take up the matter with SLBC and bank officials and make efforts to facilitate the sanction of crop loans to eligible tenant farmers and group members.

AEE recruitment exams from tomorrow

●The Computer-Based Test will be held in two shifts each day

●The morning session will be from 9 am to 12 noon, while the afternoon session will be from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Computer-Based Test (CBT) for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) in Andhra Pradesh's state power

utilities will be conducted from August 23 to 27 with all arrangements in place to ensure a fair, transparent and rule-based examination process.

APCPDCL chairman and managing director P Pulla Reddy said the examinations would be conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and security protocols, ensuring equal opportunity for all eligible candidates.

The CBT examinations will be held in two shifts each day. The morning session will be conducted from 9 am to 12 noon, while the afternoon session will be held from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

Candidates have been in-



structed to carry their original hall ticket along with any one valid photo identity proof, including an Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter ID, passport or driving licence.

As part of the security arrangements, candidates will undergo face verification and screening through metal detectors before entering the

examination centres. Mobile phones, smart watches, calculators, electronic devices, books, papers and other unauthorised materials will not be allowed inside the examination halls.

Pulla Reddy cautioned candidates against intermediaries or individuals making false promises of securing em-

ployment. He advised aspirants not to fall prey to such fraudulent claims and to rely only on official notifications and information issued by the concerned State power utilities. The APCPDCL CMD said the recruitment process would be conducted on the principles of fairness, transparency and merit, with strict adherence to the prescribed procedures.

"All necessary measures have been taken to ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of the examinations," he said, adding that the power utilities were committed to maintaining the integrity of the recruitment process and providing a level playing field for all eligible candidates.

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.

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 al-



Rahul Gandhi at the Parliament Street Police Station

leged 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.

CITING 'POLITICAL' ANGLE...

Centre denies permission for CM Revanth's US visit



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

▶ Trip to UK okayed; officials will proceed to America

▶ Revanth will take return flight from London on Aug 23

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE official Telangana Rising delegation, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, has been forced to cancel their visit to the United States of America (USA), after the Union Ministry of External Affairs, citing "political" angle, denied the CM 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.

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 said. 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 has 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 has instructed the officials to go ahead with the US trip and conclude all the MoUs and

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. 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.

partnership agreements.

Revanth Reddy will continue, as per the scheduled program, 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.

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 the 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. "The Rs 200/ question is refunded to the candidate whose challenge is upheld. The fee exists to discourage frivolous challenges, not to profit from genuine ones," the agency said. "So if you have identified a genuine error and raised it, if found correct will not only be refunded but one accurate challenge from any candidate can correct the record for lakhs of others," it added.

SPLIT WIDE OPEN

Sack & expel Surekha, chorus Cong legislators

Some demand action against Rajgopal Reddy, Chinna Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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. Some of the legislators also demanded immediate action against Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy and Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna 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 Il-



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

laiah, Vemula Veeresham, and Venkat Balmoor, along with MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy, Balu Naik, Chikkudu Vamshi 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 Ilaiiah said criticism from opposition parties was expected, but criticism of the party leadership from within the Congress was unacceptable. He questioned the criticism directed at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stat-

ing that the Chief Minister had worked hard to bring the Congress to power and had been consistently strengthening the party. Ilaiiah demanded that Konda Surekha respond to the remarks made by her daughter and criticised those making allegations against the Chief Minister. Ilaiiah 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.

CM to visit Anakapalli district today

Continued from P1

Five days later, Naidu is likely to visit Araku Valley to flag off the pilot project of 'Sanjeevani'. The project aims to build robust health services in the tribal region, enhancing quality medical service for the tribals. According to sources, the Chief Minister is visiting Araku Valley on August 27 for the launch of the Sanjeevani. Meanwhile, District Collector Vijaya Krishnan,

Visakha Range IG Gopinath Jatti, Superintendent of Police Tuhin Sinha along with other officials examined the arrangements made for the CM's visit on Saturday. As many as 1,200 police personnel have been deployed for security purposes. The Chief Minister will land at the helipad opposite MPP School in A. Koduru before reaching the venue to participate in the Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra programme.

ED adds money-laundering angle

Continued from P1

The ED registered a separate case based on findings emerging from the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the murder, including information that Rs 4 crore allegedly changed hands before the

murder. The agency is examining the source of the money, the recipients, and the persons allegedly behind the transaction. Five ED teams reportedly carried out the searches simultaneously. When officials reached Avinash Reddy's Pulivundula residence in the

morning, they found the house locked. They waited before summoning his uncle, Manohar Reddy, who opened the premises. Manohar Reddy said the officials examined documents relating to various assets. The ED officials seized Rs 24 lakh unaccounted mon-

ey from the premises of Avinash Reddy and seized keys of two bank lockers.

Searches were conducted also at the residences of Sunil Yadav and Devireddy Siva Shankar Reddy, both accused in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. Another search was carried out at the residence of Erra Gangi Reddy at T. Thummalpalali in Thondur

mandal. The ED also questioned Dr Chaitanya Reddy, son of Siva Shankar Reddy. He was reportedly summoned from Kadapa and questioned over allegations surrounding his visit to Kadapa Jail, where he allegedly intimidated approver Dastagiri, then lodged there as a remand prisoner, under the pretext of conducting a medical camp.

National GST meeting

AP govt's AI-powered GST model draws wide attention

Legal-AI Officer Asst trained on GST laws, 22,000 judgments

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh has successfully showcased its pioneering GST administration model, based on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), at the sixth National Coordination Meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday. The tech-driven model, appreciated widely, now has potential to emerge as a benchmark and replicable model for GST administration across the country.

The meeting, chaired by the Union revenue secretary, was attended by the GST Council Secretariat, CBIC and senior tax officials from States and Union Territories. Andhra Pradesh's presen-

tation, titled "Use of AI/ML and Automation in GST Tax Administration - From Case Selection to Litigation," was included as a dedicated agenda item. The Commercial Taxes Department explained how AI-based systems are being used for case selection and allocation, return scrutiny under Section 61, audit under Section 65, inspection under Section 67 and litigation before the First Appellate Authority, GST Appellate Tribunal and High Court. The system integrates data from four sources and uses 19 analytical reports and a 35-parameter risk matrix to identify and classify cases before they reach officers. High-value cases are routed for additional scrutiny through statutory mechanisms. The

department also demonstrated its Legal-AI Officer Assistant, trained on GST laws and about 22,000 judgments from courts and tribunals. It has been extended across three litigation forums and is assisting officers with drafting instructions, para-wise remarks, and replies for more than 13,700 cases.

The department presented data comparing AI-assisted operations with the earlier manual system. During six months of AI-driven return scrutiny, revenue detection reached Rs 743.43 crore, compared with Rs 365.75 crore during the comparable legacy period. Detection per case also rose sharply to Rs 27.63 lakh, against Rs 3.08 lakh under the earlier process.

The department stressed



that AI does not replace statutory decision-making. It generates drafts and analytical inputs, while officers take decisions and digitally sign notices and orders, ensuring traceability.

The presentation received strong interest from participating States. Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Assam and Meghalaya have sought details of the system and are planning visits to Andhra Pradesh to study its architecture and workflow.

The Revenue Secretary commended AP's initiative as a model that other States could consider adopting.

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. It is therefore not yet known how much the fees could increase, which H1B petition would be affected or when any changes will take effect.

PM pitches for India as global space hub

Continued from P1

The CEOs said the government's decision to open the space sector to private participation had generated 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.



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.

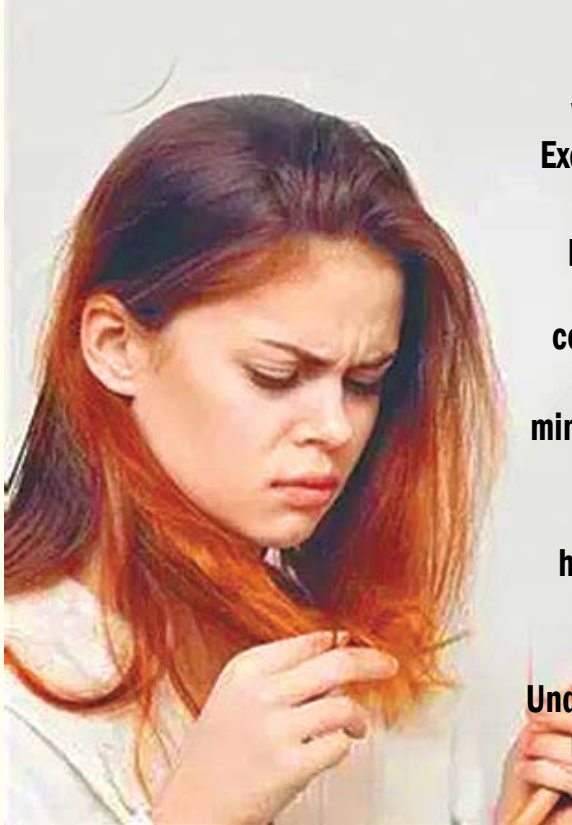
Warmth and moisture can also contribute to flaking and itchiness. Wet hair takes longer to dry during humid weather, whether it becomes soaked in the rain, damp after a shower or moist from sweat.

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



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



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



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 1!" she wrote as the caption.

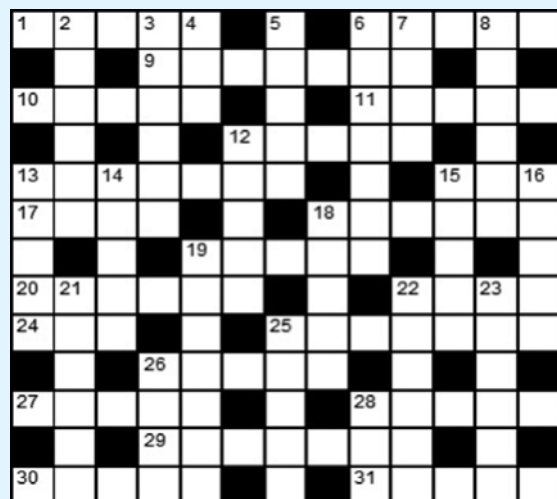
Vibe also stars Kunal Kemmu. The upcoming high-stakes action-comedy film is produced by Kunal Kemmu and Chirag Nihalani under the banner of Drongo Films. "Vibe" is expected to reach the audience on September 18 this year. The project marks the first venture for the production studio. The film is written 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, Wa-seem 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)



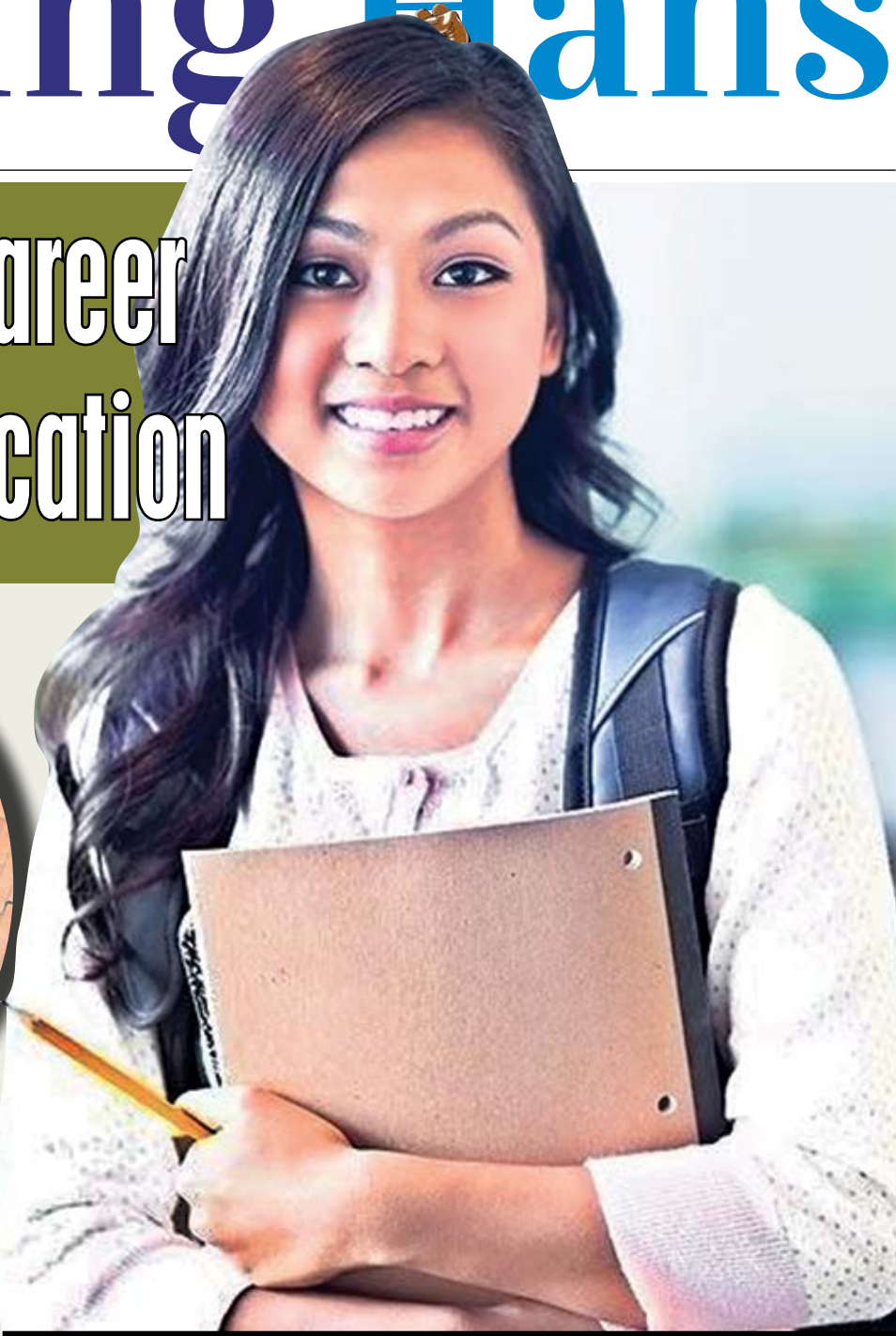
Solution to August 21

SUDOKU



Solution to August 21

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.



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

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.

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 Joymalaya 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 1, 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 Krishi 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.

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

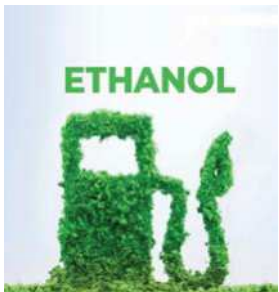
CENTRE SAYS AMPLE STOCKS ARE AVAILABLE AND WARNS AGAINST HOARDING, BLACK MARKETING AND UNJUSTIFIED EX-MILL PRICE HIKES

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.

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...".

Gold, silver rally to multi-month highs on weak dollar

NEW DELHI

GOLD and silver prices surged to more than three-month high levels in the national capital on Friday, extending their gains for a second straight session as a weak US dollar and firm global trends drove investors towards precious metals.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,63,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), up from the previous close of Rs 1,62,300 per 10 grams, according to local traders.

The precious metal was



last quoted around these levels on May 19, when it had stood at Rs 1,63,600 per 10 grams.

Silver also mirrored the bullish trend, jumping Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,50,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all

taxes), its highest level in 15 weeks. The white metal had settled at Rs 2,45,000 per kg on Thursday and gained Rs 15,000 over the last two sessions.

It was last seen near these levels on May 4, when the price was quoted at Rs 2,49,500 per kilogram.

"Gold extended its rally on Friday's session and is heading for its third consecutive weekly gain, while silver also remained strong, supported by a weaker US dollar and falling longer-term Treasury bond yields," Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.



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

Sowcar Janaki leaves behind rich south Indian legacy

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

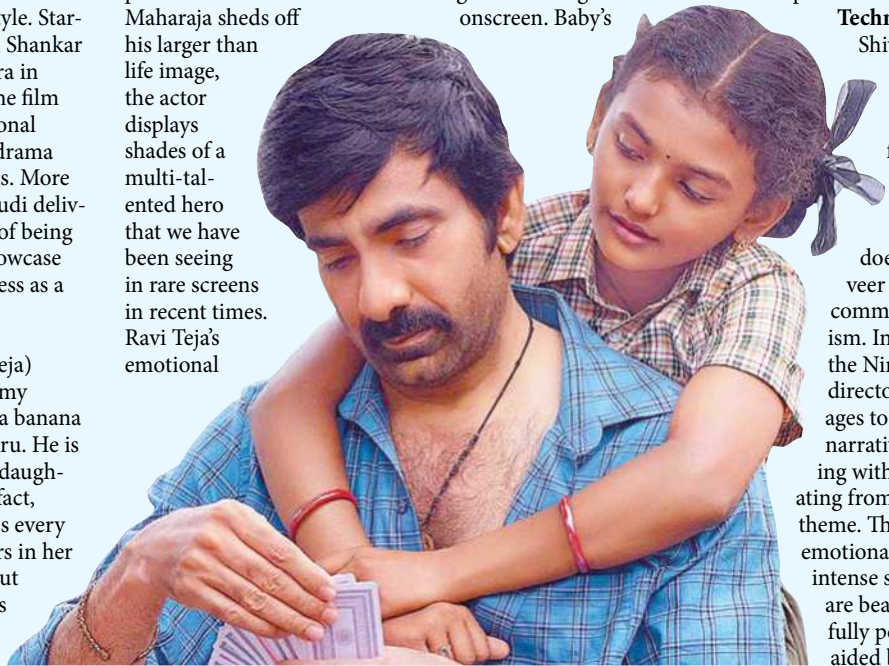
Shiva Nirvana must be praised for delivering a film that does not veer towards commercialism. In fact, the Ninnu Kori director manages to keep the narrative engaging without deviating from the core theme. The film's emotional and intense sequences are beautifully portrayed, aided by GV

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



A SPIRING 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.



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.

'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.

